

CALL FOR PAPERS: Drawings Of... Drawings By... and Drawings With...

Art, Materiality and Representation

Royal Anthropological Institute / British Museum / SOAS

1-3 June 2018

<https://www.therai.org.uk/conferences/art-materiality-and-representation>

<https://nomadit.co.uk/rai/events/rai2018/conferencesuite.php/panels/6059>

Panel Convenor: Ray Lucas, Head of Architecture, University of Manchester

Inscribing marks into surfaces remains a relevant form of creative practice in this digital age. Drawings and other inscriptive practices are, however, often dismissed in a variety of ways: relegated to the status of images or objects of study rather than representing an understanding of the world in their own right. The status of drawing and other inscriptive practices in producing alternative forms of understanding remains contested, even in supposedly friendly disciplines such as architecture.

Interest in drawing within anthropology is a minor, but consistent concern. Recent work by Ingold, Causey, Schwanhäuser, Taussig, and Lucas revives this interest methodologically and theoretically, asking what it is to know through a practice. Further experimentation by Hodson and Clarke demonstrate the potential of inscriptive practices amongst other forms of inquiry from within a practice.

This renewed focus on creative practices within anthropology offers an alternative to art-historical modes of inquiry which, whilst important and useful, do not tell us everything about a drawing, notation, diagram or map, often neglecting the very making of the thing.

This panel is proposed in order to investigate a range of aspects of drawing. More broadly considered as inscriptive practices, drawing remains a crucial component of a number of creative practices from architecture through to fine art. The panels invite accounts from both practitioners and anthropologists, particularly when the practitioners are anthropologists.

What methodological approaches are appropriate to the understanding of drawing? What anthropologies are made possible through inscriptive practices?

It is envisaged that the panel will consist of three sessions: (1) Drawings Of; (2) Drawings By; and (3) Drawings With. Part 1 will focus on drawings made by the contributors, discussing what they are drawings of: be that their own bodily capacity, studies of material culture, movements or costumes; Part 2 discusses methods and approaches towards the drawings made by others, and how to better understand them. Finally, Part 3 involves the practice of making drawings: live demonstrations and practical workshops.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- The relationship between gesture and drawing.

- Trace as a component of drawings.
- Knowledge production in inscriptive practice, and how it differs from text.
- Collaborative practices and co-production of knowledge.
- The relationship between notation and performance.
- Challenging ideas of legibility and how a drawing might be read.
- The role of stable conventions within some drawing practices such as architecture.
- Field drawing and the affordances of in-situ and post-situ drawing.
- Calligraphy, print-making and other inscriptive practices which lie between categories.
- Materiality of drawing, enthusiasm for materials and surfaces.
- Geometries of drawing.
- Hand drawing, mechanical drawing, CAD drawing, and algorithms.
- Temporality of inscriptive practice.
- Phenomenology of, and by way of drawing
- Disciplinary perspectives: art, architecture, design, craft.
- Dwelling perspectives: inhabiting drawing.

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: 8 January 2018

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