Decolonizing Book History.
A roundtable discussion on the concepts, challenges, and strategies of decolonizing book history.

Date:
June 15 2020, 5pm CET

Host:
Melanie Ramdarshan Bold, SHARP’s Director of Awards

Panelists:
- Jean Lee Cole (Loyola University Maryland),
- Marina Garone Gravier (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México),
- Priya Joshi (Temple University),
- Andrea Reyes Elizondo (Leiden University),
- Kinohi Nishikawa (Princeton University),
- Derrick R. Spires (Cornell University)

Keywords:
Colonisation, Decolonisation, Indigenisation, Race Politics, Social Justice, Social Equity, Book History, Teaching Practices, Collection, Archival, Curation, Database, Catalogue
17:07:44 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: Welcome to SHARP in Focus everyone!

[...]

17:13:06 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: n.b. CHAT WILL BE SAVED FROM HERE ON OUT

17:15:45 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: Marina: First of all, I would like to thank Melanie for the invitation to express some of my ideas. From a conceptual point of view, as well as from academic pragmatism, I associate the idea of colonialism with that of "imperialism", since colonialism is a particular type of imperialist strategy, historically situated. Thinking in terms of imperialism in book history makes much clearer a set of actions of domination, discrimination and subordination that have happened before and now. I also believe that, in Latin America, colonialism is almost indissolubly mixed with other manifestations of "domination, discrimination and subjugation": I am referring to machismo, racism and xenophobia. Specifically, in my research I have been interested in historical subjects that, 15 or 20 years ago, had been barely treated in regional book history: specifically, women printers and Indian calligraphers and printers during the colonial period.

17:15:46 From Megan Peiser (she/her): We can see the English transcript! Thanks!

17:15:56 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: Great, thanks!

17:16:03 From Brian: we can see the titles now :) thank you all!

17:16:23 From Lisa Conathan (Williams College): The option “view full transcript” works from the closed caption button.

17:16:33 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: Please do answer the question, thinking about your own practices

17:16:50 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: What does decolonising book history mean in your own practice?

17:17:35 From Lisa Conathan (Williams College): Developing a more inclusive concept of curatorial authority

17:19:37 From Priya Joshi: Kinohi: “Movement beyond archives; and beyond center and periphery.” Nice!

17:19:47 From katherineharris: I realized 2 years ago that in British Romanticism courses, I was still teaching from the colonizers’ pov and shifted my classes entirely to eschew the idea that in Calcutta that authors and poets in the 1830s were writing in resistance to English colonizers/printers/publishers. But, instead, as Priya writes about A LOT (so good) that there was a new ideology about print culture developing (that’s not hybrid or subaltern). It came directly from discussions with the #bigger6 on Twitter and reading Manu Chandler’s work
17:19:59 From Teresa Zackodnik: Yes! Thanks for this Derrick!

17:20:46 From katherineharris: Until I found Priya's work, it was very difficult to find print culture analysis about India in the early 19th-century. (A lot of work done by Indian scholars is not available here in the U.S. - I'm having to search far and wide to get copies of books & articles beyond my library's ILL)

17:22:54 From Priya Joshi: Jean's point of editorial work is key to addressing Katherine Harris' concerns about “finding” work on print culture that is carried out in the Global South.

17:23:54 From Lisa Conathan (Williams College): I find all of Jean's comments about editorial practice to be 100% relevant to library curation as well! Thank you.

17:23:57 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold:

17:24:06 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: “There is no document of civilization which is not at the same time a document of barbarism.”

17:24:28 From katherineharris: Priya, yes — I even emailed authors of a collection and they don't have copies to share either. Book is out of print.


17:26:12 From Zachary Lesser: Ha, I didn’t know my offhand random choice of virtual background would become a Benjaminian interpretation!

17:26:31 From Marian Toledo: “How we read” is very important in decolonizing the field!

17:27:29 From Shannon Supple (she/her): Preach, Professor Nishikawa!

17:27:43 From Marian Toledo: ^yes!

17:27:56 From Sara Schliep: ^yes!

17:27:58 From Julie Rak: Can I ask more about how to think of editors as both gatekeepers and more radical "helpers" of knowledge. This is in line with the now quite old work of Homi K. Bhabha about the Janus-faced nature of colonial discourse, and postcolonial theory and criticism as an act of reading differently.

17:28:45 From Priya Joshi: Thanks, Julie, about your comment. Postcolonial studies, which seemed headed to demise, has some very significant resources to offer in this moment.
17:29:53 From Julie Rak: @Priya That's really true! PoCo seems ready to leave but what does it have to say about meaning generation in this moment...

17:31:17 From Matthew G. Kirschenbaum: Omg, no, not years!!

17:31:33 From Javier: lol

17:31:38 From Danielle: Also, to echo Derrick's very important centring of ethics, 'how we read' the archive might also involve understanding the archive and what is 'recorded' there as still violent towards the peoples whose land was stolen, whose ancestors were enslaved... A 'repository' is not always as 'static' as it might seem (from a white, Eurocentric POV) but a living body of objects which can continue to inflict suffering if we don't centre ethics, epistemologies in the way that Derrick eloquently articulated. (Writing from Treaty 6)

17:31:50 From Zachary Lesser: I love what all of you are saying about the importance of tracing the itineraries of how what we see has come down to us, or not.

17:33:07 From Cait Coker: As an archivist one of the recurrent problems in the field is its current and historical status as a predominantly white profession and the tensions inherent in that. (see the multiple fraught issues that came out of the Society of American Archivists last year.)

17:33:32 From Zachary Lesser: YES! Metadata!

17:34:12 From Mary Erickson: I can't hit the clap emoji fast and often enough

17:34:29 From DEVIN FITZGERALD: Exactly @Andrea - the focus on the 'unofficial archive' is not available in many parts of the world. In premodern China people routinely burned their papers - so that "sub-altern" archive just doesn't exist.

17:34:33 From Priya Joshi: Great point by Andrea: archival silences are what Laura Mulvey calls "an inscribed absence." These are exactly the resources that book historians have used to read history against the grain (a Benjamin quote). Consider Carlo Ginzburg, Elaine Showalter, others.

17:34:55 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Really important point, Danielle. My hope is that by attesting more to our routes to and beyond the archive we make explicit arguments about the need to recognize the "movement" (to quote Derrick) in those repositories. (This could be super-useful for revising finding aids, for example.)

17:35:05 From Marian Toledo: Wow, I hadn't thought about the impact of cataloguing here! Thank you for bringing this up!

17:35:37 From jlcole: Yes, Derrick!
17:35:38 From Shannon Supple (she/her) : This is a massive issue in libraries and archives, Dr. Spires. Metadata choices are choices and are embedded with meaning and context in metadata standards and in human decisions.

17:35:46 From Andrea : Cataloguing is definitely political

17:36:00 From Shannon Supple (she/her) : And constant under-funding and under-staffing

17:36:01 From Kathryn James : I'd love this point on thinking more about cataloguing as an inherited and changing set of practices, that also needs to be observed, centered, critiqued.

17:36:06 From Katie Birkwood : Yes, a lot of my practice (as a rare books librarian) is trying to talk about what we have in the library and why, and what we *don't* have, and why, (and what we have, but don't have the metadata to easily discover, and why) and relating that to institutional history and historical power structures.

17:36:28 From jcole : If only there was metadata for what's missing!

17:36:38 From Shannon Supple (she/her) : Yes, Kathryn!

17:36:44 From Julie Rak : In Canada, the imperial archive is most concentrated within the Ministry of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. It's almost completely without finding aids and uncatalogued, like a colonial attic. I am part of a project with Indigenous scholars which is literally stopped by this situation. So I think cataloguing and its politics are central to the work of decolonization.

17:36:52 From Daniels : Shout out here to the Canadian librarians working on the decolonizing catalogues projects both here at the UOA and

17:36:56 From Danielle :

17:36:56 From Derrick R. Spires : I continually return to folk like Dorothy Porter, who reconstructed the catalogue.

17:37:02 From Sarah Schmidt : The ability (or inability as the case most often is) of archivist and librarians to revisit metadata created decades ago is incredibly problematic. Description that was acceptable 20 years ago is know longer adequate.

17:37:03 From Sarah Werner : I do think this is something that archivists and librarians are increasingly focused on in a critical way--this is a great opportunity for book historians and library/archives workers to come together

17:37:15 From Emma Sarconi : +1 to Sarah
17:37:23 From **Sarah Werner**: and to convince funding agencies to support this work!!

17:37:33 From **Shannon Supple** (she/her): My heart sings when scholars like Drs. Nishikawa and Spires acknowledge the agency (sometimes very bad!) of library and archives workers and institutions over time.

17:37:39 From **Brian**: I really appreciated Kinohi's point about archives and how the institutions are part of systems. I'd love to hear more about the archivists and the people *in* the archive. In British Columbia a bunch of historians wrote to the govt about how upset they were that archives were closed and they needed to be reopened—totally ignoring and not mentioning the workers in those archives

17:37:49 From **Gail Chester**: Sandford Berman has done a huge amount of work on cataloguing on Loc but is widely applicable.

17:38:15 From **Andrea**: Three actions to decentralize the curriculum are the following. 1) Expand the ideas of the usual diachrony of book history to incorporate the manifestations of different written traditions [e.g., the pre-Hispanic codices]. 2) Challenge preconceived ideas about the "natural" chronology of the inception and adoption of some specific graphic technologies (printing, lithography, linotype, computer, etc.); each culture has its own "tempo" that should not be compared with that of the central traditions. 3) To teach other ways of looking at and describing the materiality of Latin American bibliographical objects, beyond the dominant parameters.

17:38:37 From **Marian Toledo**: Melanie's point is excellent: I'm a woman of color, Hispanic, doing Scottish book history and historiography. Lacking the British imperialistic mentality has helped a lot of my research on interpreting Scottish historiography in the middle ages.

17:39:03 From **Gail Chester**: Also at Feminist Library in London we are working on updating our classification atm. Would be good to be in touch with others who are interested in this.

17:39:18 From **Priya Joshi**: Perhaps we might also talk about what counts as “adequate evidence” when one encounters archives that are empty, incomplete, or otherwise not “fulsome.” Medievalists seem to have made their peace w/ how much evidence is “adequate.” What about book historians.

17:39:21 From **Emma Sarconi**: I wonder if part of decolonizing Book History work is moving away from a top-down or authoritarian approach to archival description. Our repositories (Special Collections Reference Librarian here), contain multitudes of stories, but our infrastructure doesn't do a good enough job of encouraging or acknowledging that.

17:39:49 From **Anne Peale**: Cataloging priorities have a huge impact on researcher access. Cataloging, whether for books or manuscripts, is often a process that starts with the bookselling community. As a librarian working in a collection that acquires by purchase as well as by donation, it’s exciting to see a significant minority of booksellers moving towards decolonization in the way they catalog and prioritize the material they offer for sale.
From Megan Peiser (she/her): Yess, Emma. Top-down structures are colonialist. Horizontally located systems of connection are key.

From Christine Jacobson: +1 Emma

From Kinohi Nishikawa: The last line of inquiry usefully takes us to the possibility of decolonizing metadata and cataloguing. As Derrick says, Dorothy Porter’s work stands out in this area. For more on Porter, I recommend Laura Helton’s essay, which includes her (Laura’s) archival itinerary to the Moorland-Spingarn. 

From Joshua Kruchten: Marina, I love your thoughts here-especially your first suggestion!

From Brian: Laura Helton’s essay is fantastic and well-recommended. There is a lot of discussion on twitter on this on #critcat hashtag

From Brian: there’s also a TON of discussion on this in the library/archive/spec coll fields that is often not well referenced or discussed in humanities/historical fields

From Sarah Werner: +1 to Brian's point

From Stevie Marsden: Fabulous points @Andrea! I was nodding A LOT

From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: We read this in an undergraduate class a few weeks ago, also a good intro to Porter: https://www.historians.org/publications-and-directories/perspectives-on-history/december-2018/cataloging-black-knowledge-how-dorothy-porter-assembled-and-organized-a-premier-africana-research-collection

From DEVIN FITZGERALD: @emma top-down structures are dangerous to some extent - but one problem is that as a field we have not done an adequate job look at multiple hierarchies that challenge Euro-centric ideas of colonization. For example, what does a top-down history of the book look like from the perspective of Safavid Iran, Tokugawa Japan, etc.? Exploring this in comparative and connected contexts would change how we think about the creation of Anglo-European power structures, but still be top-down

From Danielle: Sharon Farnel at U of Alberta is part of the Decolonizing Description team and her focus is metadata. More about the project and its methods here: http://bit.ly/2xfMkGU ^M

From Shannon Supple (she/her): Yeeeeees, Dr. Spires!

From Kinohi Nishikawa: “How did we get here?” — one of my abiding scholarly _and_ personal-professional questions. Provenance and pipeline (and many things besides). But getting at structure being key.
17:44:48 From Lindsey O’ : Here is a long bibliography brought to you by the Cataloging Ethics Steering Committee (ethics draft in progress). Much of this is relevant to the cataloging discussion: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1bHtghhSL54PFleklwnmHpF9O_2KR_GMq5GWIBqNL KDg/edit

17:44:49 From Emma Sarconi : @devin, absolutely - I was thinking of primarily Anglo-European structures and didn’t make this explicit, which is my mistake in thinking and doing. Thanks for pointing this out and offering alternatives.

17:45:34 From Ellen : Me too my first SHARP attendance

17:45:54 From Sarah Werner : We at SHARP would LOVE LOVE LOVE for you all to find a home with us!

17:46:09 From Brian M. Watson (they/m) : what Sarah said!!!

17:46:11 From Lisa Gitelman : Welcome all!

17:46:26 From Sarah Werner : We are really committed to expanding what is considered "book history" and to offering lots of support and engagement!

17:46:33 From Teresa Zackodnik : me too, my first SHARP attendance and I work on historical Af Am newspapers and Black feminism in them.

17:46:38 From Zachary Lesser : Yes, it’s a question I’ve been thinking about: how much does the term “book history” obscure? Many fields have long been doing work that is recognizable as “material texts” or “book history” but those terms do largely derive from an Anglo-American white-canonical tradition…

17:47:00 From Swati Moitra : First SHARP for me as well. S Asian book history.

17:47:08 From Julie Rak : I think it's very important to recall too that book history (and colonialism) is global. This panel reflects that, and I'm glad to see that.

17:47:16 From DEVIN FITZGERALD : Yes!

17:47:26 From jcole : Hi Teresa :-) It was the call for this panel that got me to SHARP, so thank you all for the welcome!

17:47:42 From Teresa Zackodnik : Hi!!
From Megan Peiser (she/her) : Kate Ozment's great article on Rationale for Feminist Bibliography talks about these things, and the history of this field as related to gender and our scholarship.

From Bianca F.-C. Calabresi : RaceB4Race = Medieval/Early Modern; Ayanna Thompson, Kim Hall, lots and lots more.

From Ellen : Me too this panel got me in. Spec coll librarian for decades.

From Gail Chester : And class, please

From Sarah Werner : Zack, your point is really good--I worry too about how the phrase "book history" pushes out so much of what can be done.

From Corinna Zeltsman : Just to piggyback, I’m co-convening a workshop on print in comparative colonial perspective that folks may be interested in: https://networks.h-net.org/node/23910/discussions/6163749/cfp-rethinking-politics-practices-print-comparative-colonial

From Sarah Werner : the name of SHARP itself is a bit better--history of authorship, reading, and publishing--but still hides the sort of material text study that I do and that many of us do.

From Lisa Gitelman : “authorship, reading, and publishing” are only part of the story too.

From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : We have had a lot of discussions around this in Germany, where "Buchwissenschaft" at least signals an openness beyond "history" as a discipline.

From Sarah Werner : lol Lisa, yes, jinx.

From Sara Belasco : I think that a lot of the lessons from work that’s been done trying to define “digital humanities” can be transferred to “book history.” In that, there is no one right way to do it or define it.

From Susana Sanchez-Gonzalez : I am new to SHARP as well, and I am trying to bring book history to book exhibitions...!

From jlcole : Yes, Lisa!

From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : @Lisa: yes, last year we hat discussions about "distribution"! missing from S H A R P

From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : *had
17:50:17 From katherineharris: One element I find *very* disconcerting about Book History is the penchant to simply accept the history as written by previous scholars and then cite it over and over. So many articles and books articulate that the first printing press was brought to Calcutta and then created this massive dissemination of English-language materials. But, this is patently not true, as Priya Joshi writes about. I had to go back and mark out everyone who cited the original dude who wrote this. And now, we need to re-write and over-write these ideas. It’s maddening to see someone cited in a dissertation when the advisor could have asked the student to go back and find a different way of thinking about colonial print culture. But, that’s the way it gets built. So how do we overcome this with citation justice?

17:50:25 From Marian Toledo: It’s only been recently that I actually do book history and not just historiography…

17:50:52 From Shannon Supple (she/her): Yes, Lisa and Zach! “Book history” is an anchor term but a limiting one. I prefer “material texts” but those outside of certain circles don’t know what that means.

17:50:58 From Anne Coldiron: On “book history” as a problematic term: our program, founded in 2006, is called History of Text Technologies, specifically to decolonise and include.

17:51:33 From Sarah Werner: just a reminder that we will specifically be talking about material texts on Wednesday in the pedagogy session; not sure if it's full yet, but I hope to see lots of you there

17:52:00 From Ellen: Many cultures record their histories and core narratives visually...

17:52:07 From Matthew G. Kirschenbaum: Kate Hayles and Jessica Pressman have offered comparative textual media, which is a bit of a mouthful but inclusive, it seems to me

17:52:08 From Kinohi Nishikawa: A reflexive, always-in-transit study of the matter of knowledge is a possible future for SHARP (book history).

17:52:31 From Priya Joshi: “Material Texts” is pretty capacious—though it does make me wonder how to include born digital texts. D.F. McKenzie include “cassettes, DVDs, other texts to be discovered” in what he includes as “book.”

17:52:43 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: And also another reminder to continue the discussions on Twitter via #SHARPinFocus please

17:52:46 From Andrea: Prepare your list for Santa, kids :)

17:52:54 From Claire Battershill: I love that way of putting it, Kinohi!

17:53:11 From Danielle: Andrea: thank you for your amazing translation work today!
17:53:14 From Brian M. Watson (they/m) : Santa?? I'm loading my local bookshop’s website right now!

17:53:23 From DEVIN FITZGERALD : @priya - I've been very struck by thinking about your comment in terms of your own work not having a natural home - I think the racist structures of western 'Oriental studies' meant that the vibrant book histories of India - in Sanskrit, Persian, etc. had no room for work like yours. ^MOn a personal note, I've wanted to expand our vic lit collection at UCLA to have more SA imprints of British lit, and dealers are very confused

17:53:25 From Zachary Lesser : @Priya — Matt Kirschenbaum would (I think!) say that those born-digital texts are still very material!

17:53:25 From Lisa Gitelman : recommend Stanford conference going on now Before and Beyond Typography. Tom Mullaney et al

17:53:31 From Julie Rak : I wish I could stay but I can't. Thanks Mel and Danielle, and all of you.

17:53:32 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : And if you're still around at 10 pm Central European Time please join us for the SHARP News rollout tonight

17:53:33 From Sarah Werner : @Priya, I go back to McKenzie a lot--but I also point to Matt Kirschenbaum's work to discuss how to include digital in the material

17:53:36 From Lisa Conathan (Williams College) : If you're a librarian at a US PW University, work to support peer-to-peer relationships with your local Native tribe and with one or more HBCUs.

17:53:42 From Teresa Zackodnik : Awesome re representation and demographics!
17:54:44 From Teresa Zackodnik : much worse in Canada - only 1.9% professoriate is Black


17:55:25 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : Germany does not have these figures, I can confirm that


17:55:42 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : the data bias is highly problematic
From Priya Joshi: Jean: a real obstacle: lack of representation. Need to attend to the actual bodies doing the scholarship. Some statistics: In 2017, nationwide population of school-age children in the US is at the "majority minority" tipping point (51% White, 14% Black, 25% Hispanic, 5% Asian, 4% "two or more races," 1% Native American, <1% Pacific Islander; but only 10% of university faculty in the US are Black or Hispanic (despite several decades of documented diversity initiatives). Only 6% of university faculty at the full professor rank are Black, in contrast to making up 15% of the university student population. Things are exponentially worse in the UK, where only 140 of 21,000, or less than 7 tenths of one percent, of Professors identify as Black, 6% as Asian, 85% as white, 9% unidentified or other ethnic background. Numbers are not available in some countries, such as Germany, because non-white faculty are simply not counted. (The problem thus remains invisible and ignorable.

From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=61

From Kinohi Nishikawa: Very cool, Lisa. Just looked up the conference: https://www.bbtypo.com/

From Lisa Gitelman: great format too: recorded talks, comment, then zoom

From Marian Toledo: This discussion is so important, esp for those of us who are minorities.


From Teresa Zackodnik: pretty awesome firehose!

From Lisa Conathan (Williams College): Mentoring wields the power of influence. Effective.

From Emma Sarconi: twitter thread Prof. Nishikawa is referring to: https://twitter.com/HopeWabuke/status/1271076878745505794

From Brian M. Watson (they/m): I am loving this discussion SO much.

From Katie Middleton: Thanks Emma!

From katherineharris: One element about the naming of this broad field is how to evaluate it in the professional advancement arena — this includes publishing and teaching. Getting committee members to think about book history/media studies/digital humanities means that there needs to be a way to define it easily for them to understand why it’s important. (The old adage I still keep hearing is discouraging grad students from creating an edition or doing bibliography work, which is one step away from discouraging them from doing print culture/book history studies). How do we shift this conversation culturally? And
how do we invest undergraduates in this? (I'm sure Sarah will get to this later in the week with pedagogy!)

18:00:08 From DEVIN FITZGERALD : *vomit*

18:00:11 From Brian M. Watson (they/m) : oh my god

18:00:18 From Marian Toledo : Gross.

18:00:27 From Emma Sarconi : Yeah, it's REALLY BAD

18:00:32 From Hannah D Wiepke : Yes, *vomit*

18:00:59 From Ellen : The "I've been here longer than you have so I know" is pervasive. See also #BlackintheIvory

18:01:12 From Tatjana Takseva : if this was mentioned earlier, my apologies, but will the recording of this panel be made available to attendees?

18:01:22 From jlcole : Yes, Ellen, thank you for mentioning #BlackintheIvory

18:01:25 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : Not only to attendees
18:01:39 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl : We are planning to upload and add subtitles to make this more accessible

18:01:41 From katherineharris : We have a HUGE problem in the MLA Scholarly Editions committee and deciding who gets the seal - submissions are primarily for single authors who are white and male. I'm finishing up my stint on this committee, but we've been struggling for years to open this out (not because other editions aren't invited but because they're just not getting submitted...including digital editions)

18:01:44 From Danielle : Saw this on Twitter yesterday... yes, gross. For Canadian context, follow @WordsandGuitar (Alicia Elliott) who has been trying to bring Canadian writers, publishers and 'gatekeepers' into this debate/hold people to account

18:01:48 From jlcole : I love this chat discussion btw

18:01:53 From Emily Spunaugle (she/her) : Hear, hear

18:02:00 From Tatjana Takseva : great thanks

18:02:03 From DEVIN FITZGERALD : This also reminds me of an important convo in the
library world - on the "whiteness of practicality"
https://atrium.lib.uoguelph.ca/xmlui/bitstream/handle/10214/11619/Hudson_Whiteness_Of_Practicality_IR_r1.pdf?sequence=6&isAllowed=y

18:02:04 From Zachary Lesser: This gatekeeping, I believe, is particularly pervasive (and tempting?) for bibliography/book history scholars, because these are fields that rely on some technical knowledge. And so there are many people who want to use that technical knowledge for exclusionary purposes. Oh, you don't even know the difference between French and English case lays? We as a field need to be particularly vigilant about this, I think.

18:02:05 From Lisa Gitelman: yes, agree!

18:03:02 From Ellen: Personally, as someone "Here" in special collections for a while. I am reexamining my own proclivities to gatekeep training needed in Special Collections.

18:03:20 From Teresa Zackodnik: Thinking that the differences between conceptualizations of "the material" in book history is one way to come at this gatekeeping. Material isn't only about the physical book, it's about all of these things currently being discussed?

18:03:23 From Zachary Lesser: Me too, Ellen, as someone who teaches bibliography.

18:03:49 From Lisa Gitelman: knowledges . . .

18:03:52 From Marian Lefferts: Can we work with libraries to ensure that we bring prospective students and collections that need to be critiqued and need to be subject to counter discourse together? I am happy to see so many spec coll librarians here

18:04:13 From Ellen: Use your tenure to call out your institution. They are watching, listening and may respond. I got a surprising response from something I said on social media last weekend.

18:04:19 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Exactly! Material isn't only about the physical book. I'm reminded of the Native literacies that were woven into the fabric of SHARP 2019 in Amherst.

18:04:19 From Will Hansen: If you haven't seen it yet, also worth looking at the letter & list of demands to the Poetry Foundation from poets of color and allies: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4u5Ns8Blz0gutuanOHF6I026Xi0dE9IT36HQtqt5pDKeT5uQ/viewform

18:04:46 From Ellen Barth: Some of the real obstacles that many Latin American colleagues have observed and that make it difficult to establish more equitable relations with hegemonic academies are:
1. The very generalized lack of awareness about book studies made in Latin America. When it is known what is being done in the region, there are practices of "invisibilization": texts are not cited, nor are they explicitly incorporated into research and teaching.
2. The difficulty to imagine the concrete limitations in which book history is carried out in Latin
America: problems of systematization of documentary sources, access to archives and libraries, limitations to consult updated bibliography, etc.

3. The restrictive linguistic and financial policies of some organizations in the area, which are a barrier to the effective incorporation of many Latin American scholars, especially the younger ones, into the international academic discourse. A concrete example of these policies is that only books published in English can participate in the DeLong Book History Prize.

18:04:48 From Andrea: Marina: Some of the real obstacles that many Latin American colleagues have observed and that make it difficult to establish more equitable relations with hegemonic academies are:

18:05:18 From Andrea: Marina - 1. The very generalized lack of awareness about book studies made in Latin America. When it is known what is being done in the region, there are practices of "invisibilization": texts are not cited, nor are they explicitly incorporated into research and teaching.

18:05:35 From Andrea: Marina - 2. The difficulty to imagine the concrete limitations in which book history is carried out in Latin America: problems of systematization of documentary sources, access to archives and libraries, limitations to consult updated bibliography, etc.

18:06:03 From Lisa Gitelman: agreed

18:06:09 From Marian Lefferts: Marina is so right

18:06:21 From Marian Toledo: Marina is on point.

18:06:42 From Andrea: Marina - 3. The restrictive linguistic and financial policies of some organizations in the area, which are a barrier to the effective incorporation of many Latin American scholars, especially the younger ones, into the international academic discourse. A concrete example of these policies is that only books published in English can participate in the DeLong Book History Prize.

18:07:16 From Andrea: Marina - 4. Insufficient diversity in the editorial committees of some academic journals, especially the English speaking ones. As an example, it is enough to see that there are no Latin Americans on the board of the Book History Journal.

18:07:48 From Marian Toledo: YES to everything Marina is saying.

18:07:54 From Andrea: Marina - In order to produce a book history more inclusive and decentralized, we must critically consider the ways in which we organize ourselves in research, teaching and communication to wider audiences.

18:07:57 From Priya Joshi: Aaah, prizes! Jame English: _The Economy of Prestige_ a must read in this convo.

18:08:11 From Andrea: Marina - A concrete project that aims to break the academic fragmentation and isolation, and question the dominant discourse of book history around the national State, is the Latin American Network of Graphic Culture, created in 2017. This network, which I coordinate together with Ana Utsch from Brazil, brings together more than
300 academics from more than 10 countries and aims to think and work in a transnational and multilingual way, which had not been applied concretely in book studies. We hope that the committed participation of the members, as well as the strategic alliances with other organizations, will allow the obstacles described above to be modified.

18:08:36 From Zachary Lesser: +1 to Jim English’s book on prizes

18:08:43 From Devin Fitzgerald: We need more credit for translation work - especially junior scholars - but that, for some reason, is not seen as ‘academic’ labor.

18:08:50 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: As SHARP’s (new) Director of Prizes, it’s definitely something that I’m thinking about!

18:08:57 From Anne Coldiron: Yes! To Devin about translation!

18:09:08 From Kinohi Nishikawa: So are you, Priya!

18:09:35 From Ellen: In my first semester of library school I chose to research paper topics on non western 'book' history - it was the first step in the course of my scholarly career toward studying non western cultures. It was not in my undergrad training.

18:10:04 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: As SHARP's (new) Dir of Publications, I would like to point out the translation work that SHARP has been supporting here to support international diversity and visibility: https://www.sharpweb.org/linguafranca/.

18:10:12 From Marian Lefferts: @cerl.org is really keen to work with libraries in Lat America to build up the HPB database to show case their collections and make them more accessible (hpb.cerl.org)

18:11:00 From Erika Mary Boeckeler: Also there are significant financial barriers in to getting to physical archives.

18:11:19 From Devin Fitzgerald: @corinna fantastic! Really excited about this

18:11:20 From Zachary Lesser: YES to a renewed and expanded idea of “bibliography” as cultural studies

18:11:32 From Anne Coldiron: @Corinna, yes SHARP is much better than many orgs about this, but getting credit for translation and for analytic work about translation is not easy. That’s an “out there” problem.

18:11:52 From Andrea: @Marian Leffers, does this include budget for coupling this access? Because often some collections are already lacking budget for running normal services.
18:11:56 From Jose Guerrero: You can read more about the Bibliographical Society of America’s award and fellowship opportunities here: [https://bibsocamer.org/awards/fellowships/](https://bibsocamer.org/awards/fellowships/) The New Scholars Program (applications open now!) supports scholarship by early career scholars.

18:13:09 From Alan Galey: ^yes to Zack — goes back to the question about technical knowledge, too; that knowledge often helps us understand labour that would otherwise be invisible or considered ephemeral.

18:13:11 From Marian Lefferts: @Andrea - there is a CERL Grants programme to connect people and collections. And we are as supportive as we can be in connecting data and database.

18:13:22 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Fantastic, Jose. A real opportunity for SHARP and BSA to tackle this structural lacuna in tandem.

18:13:23 From Andrea: Thanks @Marian!

18:14:28 From Danielle: yes, Derrick. Also by saying 'make pathways' I am thinking about sustaining scholars through their careers and not just focussing on 'individual' stars (who become overburdened as you rightly say). Prizes have a lot of capital within the colonial academy but don't create permanent pathways for younger scholars to follow.

18:14:37 From Lisa Gitelman: ^Alan, yes, labour/labor focus in bibliography.

18:14:50 From Douglas Clark: Thank you, Derrick!

18:14:51 From Shannon Supple (she/her): Such important parsing of so much context, Dr. Spires!

18:15:10 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): yes!

18:15:39 From Melanie Ramdarshan Bold: I’d love to open things out to the audience, if you’re willing to stay!

18:15:49 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Would love to hear from the audience.


18:16:28 From Emma Sarconi: Lol “lovely liberals”

18:16:57 From Teresa Zackodnik: lovely liberals and slow academia go together.
Same thing happens in hiring committees as well
We haven't talked about hiring at all

Remember: as Hope Wabuke reminds us, what gets “seen” even at the level of publication has ALREADY gone through a gauntlet of privileged exclusion.

In hiring AND in grants.

jlcole: @jlcole @kinohi oh yes…

Exactly right, Derrick Spires!

I'm really sorry that I have to run, I wish I could stay to hear the rest. This has been a wonderful discussion. I've learned a lot, and I'm really grateful to SHARP and to all the panelists.

Thanks, Zack! Great to see you. Great to see so many colleagues and new friends.

Audience— we’d love to hear from you. Feel free to use chat if it’s preferable and one of us can read out? This is a collective project. Thanks.

Post your questions here:

Totally agree Derrick & Priya: and not just content. Prize committees I've served on regularly critique a “style” they see as problematic or as a sign of “lack of excellence” as a way to reject works.

Academic "Stars" are a burden to those who actually do the work in academic spaces. Many of these academics who pick up the daily work of these "stars" are women and/or POC.

YES to Bianca and Derrick. What does “best work” mean?

Thank you all so much for this discussion—this was an incredibly useful and important session.

Thanks Melanie, Danielle, and panelists. Have to go to another meeting. Appreciate the translation, Andrea, and the accessibility of captions, too.

Would love to discuss (during Wednesday's session?) how we can open these doorways to undergraduate teaching. How can we use the brief interactions we often have with undergrads to encourage *future* early career scholars? The library and archives field has robust conversations about pedagogy
(Rare Book School and Dartmouth’s Librarians’ Active Learning Institute are great examples) but we still often fall back on anglocentric teaching when we introduce students to book history.

18:21:54 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: SHARP will be offering virtual events on a very regular basis, we have a lot in the pipeline! And please reach out to the EC if you have ideas.

18:22:10 From Matthew G. Kirschenbaum: Thank you all so much.

18:22:14 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): thank you all so much.

18:22:15 From Emily Spunaugle (she/her): YAHHHS.

18:22:16 From Claire Battershill: Thank you so much, everyone! Wonderful session.

18:22:16 From Katie Middleton: Thank you everyone!!!

18:22:16 From Gail Chester: Derrick and Marina touched on money - this is so important,

18:22:16 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Thanks, Matt!

18:22:16 From Joshua Kruchten: Thank you all so much!

18:22:16 From MM: Burn it all down

18:22:17 From Lisa Gitelman: Thank you all,

18:22:18 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): absolutely stunning

18:22:18 From Will Slauter (France): Thanks so much to all of you!

18:22:18 From Jeremy B Dibbell: Thanks to you all - really really fabulous.

18:22:20 From Kadin Henningsen: Huge thank you to everyone on the panel.

18:22:20 From Emma Sarconi: Thank you!! This was awesome

18:22:23 From Hannah D Wiepke: Thank you!!!!

18:22:24 From Johanna Skurnik: Thank you for this great panel - such great discussion!!
18:22:24 From Derrick R. Spires : Thanks Everyone!

18:22:25 From Cait Coker : Thanks to everyone!!!!

18:22:25 From Shannon Supple (she/her) : Thank you all for this wonderful, just the top of the iceberg discussion. So much to discuss under the waters. Thank you, all!

18:22:25 From MM : Thank you everyone

18:22:25 From Maggie Cusick : Thank you, all!

18:22:26 From Chloe : thank you everyone!

18:22:27 From Marieke Van Der Steenhoven : Thank you, this was amazing

18:22:28 From Megan Peiser (she/her) : Thank you everyone! Burn it all down! #bookhistory

18:22:28 From Valerie Wayne : Thank you so much to everyone! Great discussion!

18:22:29 From Kinohi Nishikawa : THANKS FOR COMING EVERYONE!


18:22:31 From Kathryn James : Thank you so much for this panel--it is has been such an exciting discussion.

18:22:33 From Colleen Barrett (she/her) : Thank you all so so much

18:22:33 From Ellen : Thank you so much, looking forward to becoming a SHARP member soon.

18:22:34 From Jenny : Thank you so much - this was revelatory and full of resources!

18:22:34 From Kristine Greive : Thank you all for this wonderful discussion!

18:22:35 From ashleyshifflettmcbayne : Thank-you!

18:22:35 From Maureen Maryanski : This was absolutely brilliant! Thank you so much!!

18:22:35 From Alex : Great discussion!
18:22:36 From sarah salter: Thank you all so so much. This was such an exciting and fabulous session.

18:22:36 From Amy Sopcake-Joseph: Thanks to all of you for this great panel!

18:22:36 From amara: Really enjoyed the panel!

18:22:36 From Alan Galey: Thank you all!

18:22:37 From N W: thanks all! Very inspiring! X

18:22:40 From dalbello: Thank you panelists, panel organizers, and the audience, wonderful panel!

18:22:40 From Asha Rogers: This has been excellent thank you.

18:22:42 From Anne Peale: Thanks to everyone!

18:22:43 From Melanie Wisner: As an archivist, I was doubtful, but this has been the most relevant session in years for me. First time SHARP, too.

18:22:44 From amara: Thank you very much for organising and to all the speakers!

18:22:46 From Sal Robinson: Thank you!! Really amazing

18:22:49 From Charlotte Hoare: Thank you all so much, I've learnt absolutely loads here!

18:22:50 From Tanvi M: Thank you for the session and the wonderful discussions! Learned a lot and got a lot to think about.

18:22:51 From Elaine Harrington: Thanks to all!! It was amazing.

18:22:52 From Stevie Marsden: Thank you SO MUCH everyone, fantastic and really important session.

18:22:52 From Alex: rose

18:22:53 From Bianca F.-C. Calabresi: Truly wonderful!

18:22:55 From Sarah Horowitz: Thank you so much for this wonderful discussion!

18:22:59 From Claire Squires: Thanks all, great conversation and good to see people....
18:23:00 From Greg Guderian: This was great! thanks all

18:23:01 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): YES PLEASE

18:23:01 From Sarah Pyke: My first ever SHARP, thanks to all for a brilliant panel

18:23:02 From Valerie Wayne: Terrific roundtable. Thank you everyone!

18:23:03 From MM: to anyone interested, we’re having a session on anti-racist cultural heritage work in the last week of June/first week of July

18:23:04 From Erika Mary Boeckeler: Everyone in academia needs to have heard this session.

18:23:04 From Eve Lacey: Thank you so much, this was brilliant!

18:23:14 From Ellen: I wish I were in Amsterdam right now

18:23:15 From Stephanie Meek: Thank you so much for such a refreshingly honest discussion!

18:23:16 From Eileen Horansky: Thank you everyone!

18:23:17 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): this was incredible

18:23:19 From leocadogan: Thank you very much. It was very interesting.

18:23:20 From Teresa Zackodnik: thanks so much everyone!

18:23:21 From Brian M. Watson (they/m): make all conferences this panel forever

18:23:22 From Laura Dietz: Thank you to all the panellists and organisers for a wonderful conversation!

18:23:23 From Laura Ntoumanis - Uni Münster: Thank you so much for this discussion!

18:23:27 From MM: Thank you!

18:23:30 From katherineharris: Awesome!

18:23:30 From Vijeta Saini: thank you so much for this discussion!!
18:23:45 From Tatjana Takseva: thank you!

18:23:49 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Wow, this has been the best Zoom experience I've had all spring!

18:23:54 From Andrea: Thank you Ellen for your help

18:24:02 From katherineharris: The Twitter conversation was also terrific. Thank you all.

18:24:05 From Danielle: Thank you, thank you, thank you

18:24:24 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: Thank you Danielle!

18:24:38 From Lisa Maruca: The best SHARP session I've ever attended, f2f or virtually! Thanks for organizing, Melanie, and thank you all panelists!

18:24:47 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Professor Wayne, I went to school with your talented daughter!

18:25:03 From Tatjana Takseva: can you please send over email a note re where the recording can be found

18:25:22 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: Everything will be available via the website
18:25:38 From Corinna Norrick-Rühl: But please give us a few days to get everything sorted out :-)

18:25:58 From Tatjana Takseva: thanks

18:28:06 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Frances Smith Foster

18:28:16 From Derrick R. Spires: Frances Smith Foster

18:30:24 From dalbello: Thursday DEI Coffeehouse as well!

18:30:43 From MM: bye thank you everyone!

18:30:44 From Kinohi Nishikawa: Aloha!