Brooks, Ethel

Fraught Intimacies: Entwined Histories of the (post) Holocaust

In this paper, I will draw from the Visual History Archive of the USC Shoah Foundation, on familiar histories and archives, and on auto-ethnography. In my examination of these sources, I consider the complicated intimacies of Holocaust and post Holocaust lives, with a focus on Jewish, Romani and German women. How do we understand the problematics of intimacy, of identity formation and conflict, of gendered narratives that go beyond the victim-bystander-perpetrator triad, and of that which is left out of dominant narratives of the Holocaust and its long aftermath? What are the possibilities that open up in considering the intimacies of war, genocide, the camp and the ghetto, and the *longue-durée* of everyday life in their wake? What kinds of familial, familiar, intimate, gendered and generational analyses are possible? What do these analyses produce with regard to politics?

This paper is part of a larger project that explores memory, intimacy and the possibilities of commemorative (counter) practice.

Ethel Brooks is a professor in the Departments of Women's and Gender Studies and Sociology at Rutgers University, and the Undergraduate Director in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Brooks is a Tate-TrAIN Transnational Fellow, and was the 2011-2012 US-UK Fulbright Distinguished Chair, at the University of the Arts London. Brooks is the author of *Unraveling the Garment Industry: Transnational Organizing and Women's Work*, winner of the 2010 Outstanding Book from the Global Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems and has contributed articles to a number of books and journals, including *We Roma, Nevi Sara Kali* and *International Working Class History, Sweatshop USA* and *Sociology Confronts the Holocaust*, as well as editorials for *The Guardian*.