12th ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, 27th July to 12th August, 2017
Central European University, Budapest, Hungary
Course Description Form[1] - 1st week course (15 hrs) (31st July -4th August)

1. Course title

Evidentiary and Documentary Work in the Archives: Theory and Practice

2. Instructor details

First name, last name: István Rév
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Institution: Central European University
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3. Short Bio (ca. 50-70 words):

István Rév is Professor of History and Political Science at the Central European University, Budapest, and the Director of the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives. He was a founding member of the Danube Circle environmental organization in 1984, and is a past winner of the Right for Livelihood award (the alternative Nobel Prize) of the Swedish Parliament. He has been a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a research fellow at the Getty Center in Los Angeles and at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. In 1995, he was the recipient of the New Europe Prize. He is a member of the Open Society Foundations Global Board. His scholarly interests include historical amnesia, memory, historical anthropology, and documentary traces of the past. His many publications include *Retroactive Justice: Prehistory of Post-Communism* (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 2005).
https://people.ceu.edu/istvan_rev

Csaba Szilágyi is a senior human rights archivist responsible for the human rights collections, education and public programs, and the Acting Chief Archivist of the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives. He is also a content specialist for the Parallel Archive and one of the instructors on the Archives, Evidence and Human Rights course and the Archival Specialization at CEU. He worked as an archives consultant for the Open Society Institute and Human Rights Watch (1999-2000), and was the first curator of the Center for Human Rights Documentation and Research at Columbia University (2005-2006) in New York. He is currently interested in how technological advancement informs the collection, archiving, dissemination and visualization of human rights records, and in the representation and memorialization of mass atrocities in the archival space. He studied Hungarian literature, and holds an MA in American Studies.

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[1] *Disclaimer: the information contained in this course description form may be subject to subsequent adaptations (e.g. taking into account new developments in the field, specific participant demands, group size etc.). Registered participants will be informed in due time in case of adaptations.*

4. Prerequisite knowledge

Note from the Academic Convenors to prospective participants: by registering to this course, you certify that you possess the prerequisite knowledge that is requested to be able to follow this course. The instructor will not teach again these prerequisite items. If you doubt whether you possess that knowledge to a sufficient extent, we suggest you contact the instructor before you proceed to your registration.

The course does not require any specific prerequisite knowledge.

5. Short course outline (150 words)

This course is especially useful for academic researchers and instructors using primary archival sources in their research, writing and teaching, or trying to archive and manage their collected documents and information. It aims at familiarizing participants with the theoretical and practical aspects of evidentiary and documentary work, and research methods in the archives.

During the course, we will discuss the notions of Archive, documents, data, information, knowledge, facts and objectivity, as well as of evidence in the archives (vis-à-vis evidence in history, law and forensics). We will look at ways of connecting, contrasting and contextualizing documents. We will review standards of analyzing the probative value of archival evidence, and methods of turning them into legally interpretable evidence. Finally, we will discuss how constructing of historical, political and human rights narratives, and performing memory practices are possible by recontextualizing primary sources and representing them in the archival space.

Participants will be guided through the archival infrastructure: databases, catalogs and (analog and digital) repositories. They will also learn about the latest developments in archival information systems. The course heavily builds on workshops and hands-on exercises, where participants will work on archival sources taken from a political archives of the recent past, and discuss methods of research, and critical approach to and analysis of these sources.

6. Long course outline (800 to 1200 words)

What we talk about when we talk about archives? How are archives constructed and what does this tell us about social phenomena? How do we interpret and connect our findings once we are finished with "combing through the archives?" Are we comfortable with gaps, silences, or accidental discoveries? What is evidence in the archives, history, social sciences and law, and how does the forensic turn in witnessing affect its perception? How can archives be repurposed by reusing and recontextualizing documents within its holdings? This complex introductory course, based on archival theory and practice seeks to answer these fundamental questions, while it strives to keep focus on methods of research, analysis and argumentation in the archives and beyond.

The course is divided into three main parts. The **first one** focuses on the notion of archives, Archive, data, and evidence and their interpretation in a contemporary political (Cold War history and human rights) archive, as well as related research questions and methods. The **second part** largely offers hands-on practice with the documents from this archives, including authentication, evaluation, critical analysis and testing the probative value of such sources in different environments. At the same time, practical reviews of data handling issues are also offered, including search, discovery and designing of data infrastructure, as well as access and privacy. The **third section** of the course looks at ways of using documents beyond their primary purpose of creation, and the new archival models resulting from it. In addition, participants will have a course-long group assignment to be presented in the finale of the course, as well as daily individual assignments to be submitted by the next morning.

In the first part of the course (**days 1 and 2**), we will explore histories of the Archive, and definitions of and relationships between document, record, data, fact, knowledge, proof and evidence, along with analyzing their materiality and changing formats. They key to understanding these notions in practice will be offered through a structured physical and online experience with Blinken OSA, during which

the multiple and interrelated layers of such a contemporary archives consisting of institutional and private collections will be revealed. We then take these notions and experience to explore documentary and evidentiary practices in the two main topical areas of the archives: the history of the Cold War and of human rights movememtns and violations. We will look at the data gathering and research methods, and archival and rhetorical practices of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), as a constructed frame ("Cold War mentality") for interpreting and explaining social phenomena. We will move on to explore the nature and guiding principles of human rights archives, paying special attention to forensic documentation. Based on these two concrete types of archives, we will discuss the representational nature of documents, the micro-macro relation (or as posited by the philosopher of science, Bruno Latour: "The whole is always smaller than its parts.") through archival sources and data, as well as constructing persuasive arguments based on our sources. Finally, we will wet archival sources from an evidential point of view, and discuss means by which archival evidence can be turned into legal evidence, especially in the light of the forensic turn in human rights investigations, witnessing and presentation of public truth. Daily assignments will include individual practice based on the theoretical groundwork of the first two days.

The middle section of the course (**days 3 and 4**) builds on extensive hands-on exercises under the guidance and with the cooperation of the instructors. They include case studies that are typical of the two previously introduced thematic archives: propaganda photos and films and/or media and opinion research and analysis produced by RFE/RL, and (mostly) forensic documentation of the Srebrenica genocide coming from a variety of sources. Participants will work in groups on pre-selected sets of "original" documents (text, still and moving image, and sound), and perform various tasks: analyzing the authenticity and informational and probative value of documents, as well as their usability in constructing historical, social, human rights and legal narratives. In each of the workshops, expert colleagues will offer practical guidance on data handling issues, and will discuss problems of data infrastructure, metadata and the beauties and challenges of search and discovery in various datasets, as well as questions of managing personal information with regard to access, privacy and the right to be forgotten. Daily assignments will consist of short self-reflexive assessments of the workshops to be submitted by the next morning.

In the final part of the course (**day 5**), we apply our theoretical and empirical knowledge from the previous days in an experiment on repurposing the archives, primarily by reshuffling, reusing and recontextualizing its records, in order to create a new archival model, which could be expanded to accommodate external collaboration and participation from non-archival actors. Starting from examples of existing curated collections, where the insider knowledge of curators, input from researchers and wider research interests met and resulted in special thematic collections, we will brainstorm on the possibilities of creating a new archival model, keeping in mind the relevant principles emerging from current archival thinking. This model will strive to incorporate material from "official archives" and "counter-archives", as well as crowdsourced, user generated content from the 'subjects' of such archives, allowing private or local community contributors to inform the various steps in the process of creation of this archives. Finally, we will discuss how this new model could be used in public history projects or by post-conflict communities to rebuild, reconnect and reconcile. The second part of the last day will be dedicated to the presentations of the course-long assignments, when participants will get feedback on their work both from the instructors and their peers.

7. Day-to-day schedule (Monday 31st July - Friday 4th of August)

	Topic(s)	Details
Day 1	**What we talk about when we talk about the Archive?** **Seminar: Documents and Evidence** (István Rév) 65 min	This seminar introduces the notion, the nature and the histories of the Archive from Dust to Databases, and the materiality, functions, uses, changing nature and (symbolic) meanings of documents. Through a set of examples taken from traditional and

		alternative archives, the differences between and relations of document, data, information, fact, knowledge, proof and evidence will be presented.
	Interlude 25 min	Film screening: Biography of Paul Otlet (1998)
	Introduction to the Archives: Blinken OSA (István Rév, Csaba Szilágyi) 70 min	The case study of Blinken OSA is presented in a structured, self-reflexive manner, from inside out: how the creation of the archive and successive policy decisions and curatorial activities influenced the classification and relatedness of records within its holdings. Online and on-site access, tour of stacks and exhibition space (as extensions of the archives.)
	Course-long assignment 20 min	Consists of group work (pending on the number of participants) involving three relevant archival activities: attribution, source analysis, and creation of curated collections. Participants will have the opportunity to present their projects during the last day of the course. Discussion, distribution of tasks. Group 1: Information reuse and the possibilities of crowdsourced cataloging Group 2: Information Items Group 3: Witness testimonies
	Daily assignment	Participants will have to find and list archival sources relevant to their research interests in the holdings of Blinken OSA. Results and search methods will be discussed the following day.
Day 2	**Documentary and evidentiary practices** **Seminar: The Cold War archives and the micro-macro relationship through archival documents and data** (István Rév) 90 min	The research, archival and rhetorical practices of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) are presented as constructed frames for both interpretation and explanation of social phenomena. The difficulties of data gathering ("small data") and the representational nature of the archival documents are demonstrated on sources covering topics such as propaganda, samizdat, dissent, and censorship. What happens when there is "just one witness"? We learn how to connect individual archival documents and build convincing arguments based on them.
	Seminar: The human rights archive and evidence in social sciences and in the courtroom (István Rév, Csaba Szilágyi) 90 min	We will discuss the types and nature of human rights archives, with emphasis on the increasing role of forensic documentation and aesthetics. We will look at the different meaning, function and nature of evidence in the human rights archive and in legal practice. We will review specificities of the forensic archive and explore how to turn documents into legal evidence. The relationship between

		witnessing, archiving, persuasion, and producing legal evidence will be demonstrated.
	Daily assignment	Short presentation of a Cold War and a human rights topic (half-page each) from an archival perspective.
Day 3	**Workshop in the Cold War archives**	
	Search and Discovery: **Challenges of building an online catalog** (József Gábor Boné) 90 min	Blinken OSA Case study: From legacy systems to an integrated catalog interface. Metadata challenges, data normalization. Archival management system: workflow design, goals, implementation. What makes a catalog effective? (Lessons learned.) Catalogs of the future: ideas and brainstorming.
	Case study (István Rév) 90 min	Hands-on exercises with documents from Blinken OSA's holdings: RFE production photographs and propaganda films OR files from RFE's media and opinion research and analysis.
	Daily assignment	Participants will write a short (half-page) report on the hands-on exercises of the day.
Day 4	**Workshop in the human rights archives**	
	Access, privacy and the right to be forgotten (Iván Székely) 90 min	Methods of handling personal information in the context of human rights archives. Balancing between two competing demands: the right to information and the right to privacy. Practical solutions to observe both. The right to be forgotten and what archives have to do with it.
	Case study (Csaba Szilágyi) 90 min	Hands-on exercises with documents from Blinken OSA's holdings: the Srebrenica genocide files. We will evaluate and analyze the probative value of archival sources, with special focus on forensic records and examples introduced as evidence before the International Criminal Tribunal on the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).
	Daily assignment	Participants will write a short (half-page) report on the hands-on exercises of the day.
Day 5	**Reconstructing the archives**	
	Seminar: Curated collections, new archival models (Csaba Szilágyi) 90 min	Methods of repurposing and expanding the archives by re-contextualizing and re-using archival sources; introducing user generated content (UGC) and participatory archival models (Case studies: Europeana 1989, Yellow Star Houses of Budapest)
	Workshop: Project presentations 90 min	Participants make class presentations of their course-long archival projects, discuss each other's work and get feedback from the instructors.

8. Day-to-day reading list

Mandatory reading

	Readings (please list at least the compulsory reading for the scheduled day)
Day 1	Vismann, Cornelia, *Files: Law and Media Technology* (Stanford University Press, 2008) Chapter 3: From Documents to Records, pp. 71-102. Porter, Theodore M, "Reforming Vision: The Engineer Le Play Learns to Observe Society Sagely." In Lorraine Daston and Elizabeth Lunbeck (eds.) *Histories of Scientific Observation* (Chicago University Press, 2011), pp. 281-302.
Day 2	Paul Erickson, Judy L. Klein, Lorraine Daston, Rebecca Lemov, Thomas Sturm, and Michael L. Gordin, *How Reason Almost Lost Its Mind: The Strange Career of Cold War Rationality* (Chicago, 2013), Chapter 4: "The Situation in the Cold War Behavioral Sciences", pp. 107-132. Lemov, Rebecca, "Filing the Total Human: Anthropological Archives from 1929-1963." In Charles Camic, Neil Gross, and Michèle Lamont (eds.): *Social Knowledge in the Making* (Chicago, 2011), pp. 119-150. Bruno Latour, Pablo Jensen, Tommaso Venturini, Sébastian Grauwin and Dominique Boullier. "'The whole is always smaller than its parts' – a digital test of Gabriel Tardes' monads." *The British Journal of Sociology*, (2012) 63:590-615. Schuppli, Susan, "Entering Evidence: Cross Examining the Court Records of the ICTY." In Forensic Architecture (ed.) *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth* (Sternberg Press, 2014), pp. 279-316.
Day 3	Magia Ghetu Krause and Elizabeth Yakel, "Interaction in Virtual Archives: The Polar Bear Expedition Digital Collections Next Generation Finding Aids." *The American Archivist* (2007) 70:282-314. Wendy Duff and Verne Harris, "Stories and names: Archival description as narrating records and constructing meanings." *Archival Science* (2002) 2:263-285. Mink, Andras, "Records of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: The Archives in Munich." In Pudlowski, Leszek and Ivan Szekely, *Open Society Archives* (OSA at CEU, 1999), pp. 39-49.
Day 4	Szekely, Ivan, "The right to be forgotten and the new archival paradigm." In Alessia Ghezzi, Ângela Pereira and Lucia Vesnic-Alujevic (eds.), *The Ethics of Memory in a Digital Age: Interrogating the Right to Be Forgotten* (Palgrave, 2014), pp. 28-49. Popović *et al*. (IT 05-88) "Srebrenica", Judgment Summary, June 10, 2010 http://www.icty.org/x/cases/popovic/tjug/en/100610summary.pdf Wagner, Sarah, "Technological Innovation." In *To Know Where He Lies: DNA Technology and the Search for Srebrenica Missing* (University of California Press, 2008), pp. 82-122. "Material Witness" (excerpt from a documentary film produced by Susan Schuppli in 2014) https://vimeo.com/93826545
Day 5	Anne J. Gilliland-Sue McKemmish, "The Role of Participatory Archives in Furthering Human Rights, Reconciliation and Recovery." *Atlanti* (2014) 24:79-88.

	Caswell, Michelle, "Toward a survivor-centered approach to records documenting human rights abuses: lessons from community archives." *Archival Science* (2014) 14:307-322. "Room Without a View: Inside the Processing of Yugoslav Television Broadcasts" (a documentary film produced by the Yugoslavia Archive Project team of Blinken OSA in 2016) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bk7f4mGl6e8&index=5&list=PLW16VxGg82nWDBBluXZu3B1229qpvYp6r

9. Software and hardware requirements

[The usage of any commercial software must be discussed in advance and we expect instructors wishing to use such software to participate in negotiations with sellers. In order to keep fares low we try to avoid such software as much as possible. SPSS licences are available at CEU, as well as R and STATA in one lab]

9.1. Software programme

None

9.2. Hardware requirements

None.

10. Literature

Suggested reading

Day 1

Farge, Arlette, *The Allure of the Archives*. (Yale University Press, 2013)

Szekely, Ivan, "The Four Paradigms of Archival History and the Challenges of the Future." In Mika Merviö (ed.) *Management and Participation in the Public Sphere* (IGI-Global, 2015), pp. 1-37.

Cook, Terry, "Archival Science and postmodernism: new formulations for old concepts." *Archival Science* (2001) 1:3–24.

Ketelaar, Eric, "Tacit Narratives: The Meanings of Archives." *Archival Science* (2001) 1:131–141.

Pudlowski, Leszek and Ivan Szekely, *Open Society Archives* (OSA at CEU, 1999), Chapters I. and II.

Day 2

Paul Erickson, Judy L. Klein, Lorraine Daston, Rebecca Lemov, Thomas Sturm, and Michael L. Gordin, *How Reason Almost Lost Its Mind: The Strange Career of Cold War Rationality* (Chicago, 2013), Chapter 5: "World in Matrix", pp. 133- 158.

Kafka, Ben, "The Disciplined State" In *The Demon of Writing: Powers and Failures of Paperwork* (Zone Books, 2012), pp. 19-50.

Lemov, Rebecca, "Anthropological Data in Danger 1941-1965." In Fernando Vidal and Nélia Dias (eds.) *Endangerment, Biodiversity and Culture* (Routledge, 2016), pp. 87-112.

Ginzburg, Carlo, "Checking the Evidence: The Judge and the Historian." *Critical Inquiry* (1991) 18:79-92.

Caswell, Michelle, "Khmer Rouge archives: accountability, truth, and memory in Cambodia." *Archival Science* (2010) 10:25–44.

Keenan, Thomas and Eyal Weizman, *Mengele's Skull: The Advent of a Forensic Aesthetic* (Sternberg Press, 2012)

Keenan, Thomas, "Getting the dead to tell me what happened: Justice, prosopopoeia, and forensic afterlives." In Forensic Architecture (ed.) *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth* (Sternberg Press, 2014), pp. 35-55.

Day 3

Pariser, Eli, *The filter bubble: What the Internet is hiding from you* (Penguin Press, 2011)

Mayer-Schönberger, Viktor and Kenneth Cukier. *Big Data: A Revolution That Will Transform How We Live, Work and Think* (John Murray Publishers, 2013)

Day 4

Mayer-Schönberger, Viktor. *Delete: The virtue of forgetting in the digital age* (Princeton University Press, 2009)

John Hagan, "The Srebrenica Ghost Team", in *Justice in the Balkans: Prosecuting War Crimes in The Hague Tribunal* (University of Chicago Press, 2003), pp. 132–175.

Isabelle Delpla, Xavier Bougarel, and Jean-Louis Fournel, "The Judge, the Historian, the legislator." In Isabelle Delpla, Xavier Bougarel, and Jean-Louis Fournel (eds), *Investigating Srebrenica: Institutions, Facts, Responsibilities* (Berghan Books, 2012), pp. 1-22.

Day 5

Harris, Verne. "Antonyms of Our Remembering." *Archival Science* (2014) 14:215-229.

Szilagyi, Csaba. "Re-archiving Mass Atrocity Records by Involving Affected Communities in Postwar Bosnia and Herzegovina" In Sandra Ristovska and Monroe Price (eds.), *Visual Imagery and Human Rights Practice* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming in 2017)

11. Lecture room requirement

All seminars and workshops will be held in the research room of Blinken OSA.

12. Preferred time slots

We prefer to teach in the morning.

13. Other recommended courses (before or after this course)
The following other ECPR Methods School courses could be useful in combination with this one in a 'training track'. NB this is an indicative list.

Before this course:

	Course title	Summer School	Winter School
1			
2			
3			

4			
5			

After this course:

	Course title	Summer School	Winter School
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Note:
Please prepare this outline very carefully. A non-negligible minority of participants has an extremely consumptive perspective on the ECPR Methods School. In the – fortunately rare – case of discontent, mismatch between expectations and actual events turns out to be the main reason. Hence please be as clear as you can to give indications about what participants can expect.