

CYCLE DE CONFERENCES

Archives photographiques du monde tibétain pour la recherche en sciences humaines

JEUDI 5 JANVIER 2023 DE 17H30 A 19H00 (CET)

A L'AUDITORIUM DE L'HUMATHEQUE

CAMPUS CONDORCET - AUBERVILLIERS (FRANCE)

PR. CLARE HARRIS FBA

SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MUSEUM ETHNOGRAPHY AND
THE PITT RIVERS MUSEUM, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Unpacking and Animating the Archive: Some reflections on ways of working with Tibet photographs

Photographs famously contain an excess of information. Once archived in museums, libraries and other institutions, their potential to act as sources for all kinds of research far exceeds the intentions of their creators or the contexts in which they were originally produced. In the case of the photographic imaging of Tibet, archives around the world are now home to vast quantities of prints and negatives that document a crucial period in Tibet's history from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. Each of those thousands of photographic objects overflows with potential to reconstruct and revisit many aspects of the past and to activate their resonance in the present but until relatively recently, the value and importance of that archival excess has often been overlooked. In this talk, Clare Harris will explore some of the concepts and methods that she has worked with since 2003, when the first of her projects engaging with historic photographs of Tibet appeared in the form of the Pitt Rivers Museum exhibition 'Seeing Lhasa'. Since then, she has created digital projects, published several books, collaborated with Tibetan artists, photographers and researchers, and continued to unpack the contents of photographic archives with the hope of making them more 'knowable and visible' (Bhabha) to all who seek to reanimate Tibet's history and heritage.



The Chikyak Khenpo at his residence, Lhasa, 17th May 1921. Glass plate negative.

Photographer: RabdenLepcha/Charles Bell.

Pitt Rivers Museum accession number:
1998.285.100.1



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