

Call for Papers: Department of Anthropology,
Johns Hopkins University

invisibilities:

Addressing the Question of the Unseen

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2010

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: ROSALIND MORRIS Department of Anthropology, Columbia University

As researchers, how do we capture aspects of the empirical and the everyday that are unseen, vanishing, forgotten, hidden, intangible, "not yet", or invisible? As ephemeral and peripheral phenomena come into central focus in ethnography and the social sciences, we wish to interrogate the ways in which we give presence to the elusive in our own work. Ought phenomena that are difficult to capture and describe take alternate forms in writing and representation? Would such phenomena be better captured in forms other than the text, and if so, how? How do we make the absent present in our work? How can we learn from other disciplines' engagement with elusive phenomena or materials?

The graduate students of the Johns Hopkins Department of Anthropology invite fellow graduate students in the humanities and social sciences to reflect on these and other possible questions in a daylong conference setting. We welcome papers addressing the unseen from multiple perspectives as well as submissions that take non-traditional forms such as film, portraits, performance art, and sound pieces.

Paper topic examples and literatures of reference may include but are not limited to -Unknown histories -Ghosts, haunting, traces, and the spectral -Witnessing -Imaging or simulating scientific phenomena -Ruins and uninhabited spaces -The question of the unknown addressee -Possession, trance, magic, and the occult -The lives of virtual texts -Robotics, cloning, and interactive technologies -Everyday soundscapes -Death and excess -Slippages and residuals -Problems of translation -Alternate modes of sensory uptake (3rd sense/6th sense)

*The deadline for submissions of abstracts, clips, or excerpts is **Tuesday, December 1st**. For all submissions that will take a form other than a written paper (such as films and audio), please send a sample of no longer than 10 minutes as well as a brief abstract explaining the nature of your research, your choice of the particular medium, and any special technical requirements. Abstracts should be no more than 500 words, and should be emailed to invisibilitiesconference@gmail.com*

