‘PERFORMING’ THE PAST: MULTI-PLATFORM TELEVISION AS CULTURAL MEMORY

Berber Hagedoorn, MA
Utrecht University
The Netherlands

Wednesday, 17 October
2 - 3pm
Flinders University
Function Centre

Abstract

Institutional, technological and cultural developments have profoundly transformed the practice of ‘watching TV’ in the last decade. Internet convergence and multi-platform storytelling have become important preconditions for television programming. At the same time, national viewing cultures are becoming increasingly individualistic. In this age of convergence, broadcast images and archival footage are increasingly repurposed by positioning these images in new historical and televisual contexts, on various platforms and screens. Hagedoorn will discuss how participatory, cross-media television programming can offer new spaces of participation in which cultural memory is reproduced, circulated and made sense of in the current media landscape. This practice is exemplified in the Dutch TV documentary series In Europe (2007-2009, rebroadcast in 2011). In Europe portrays significant events and individual stories in the history of Europe in the twentieth century through a constellation of dynamic (screen) practices, varying from television, internet and radio to tourism. By means of an analysis of main examples of multi-platform TV in the Netherlands, Hagedoorn will demonstrate the role of television today as a more dynamic agent in the ‘performance’ of memory.

Biography

Berber Hagedoorn, MA
is a lecturer and researcher in Media and Culture Studies at Utrecht University, the Netherlands. Hagedoorn researches multi-platform television, cross-/trans-media storytelling, cultural memory and the re-use of archival footage in a variety of media platforms, particularly documentary and historical programming. She has published in amongst others Studies in Documentary Film and the Dutch academic journal Tijdschrift voor Mediageschiedenis (Journal of Media History). She is a guest editor together with Jérôme Bourdon of VIEW: Journal of European Television History and Culture (2013). Hagedoorn is currently a researcher for the project ‘EUscreen: Exploring Europe’s Television Heritage in Changing Contexts’ and is writing a dissertation on the topic of ‘Repurposing Television’s Past: Re-screening, History and Memory in the Multi-Platform Era.’