

OVNI 2016
Observatory Archives

VIDEOS, TALKS, DEBATES
March 2 - 6
free admission

The Border as Centre. [MIGRA AND COLONIALITY]
Zones of being and Non-Being.

IMAGE: EDWARD CURTIS


www.desorg.org

CCCB Centre de Cultura
Contemporània
de Barcelona
C/ Montalegre, 5, Barcelona

Observatory Archives - OVNI 2016
The Border as Centre. Zones of Being and Non-Being
[migra and coloniality]

The border has a tendency to spread: it explodes into outsourcing to third countries, and implodes as domestic borders, control devices, detentions and disappearances...; in other words, it tends to occupy the entire system, becoming centre. In the shadows of the border-as-system, where control is out of control, the prototype of a totalitarian society is assembled.

Around the subject of migration there are a series of crucial lapses or 'forgettings', which not only hinder in-depth reflection but also fuel exclusionary visions. The first of these is the colonial lapse - we have forgotten the close ties between migration and coloniality, and its global mutation. The second lapse springs from limiting our reflections on the phenomenon of migration to the spheres of politics, policing, economics, demographics and humanitarian action... but rarely considering it in terms of knowledge and wisdom, of which we are truly in need. A third lapse consists of labelling people "immigrants", creating the corresponding imaginary and confining them within it... failing to remember that all of us in fact migrate between different territories, spaces, times, and forms of knowledge.

VIDEOS _ TALKS_DEBATES_OPEN SESSIONS

March 2 - 6, 2016

CCCB

Free admission

WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH

6pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Sahara Chronicle, Ursula Biemann, Switzerland, 2007, 50min.

Transit migration through the Sahara is a large-scale collective experience that is perhaps best understood in its systemic dimension. Highly adjustable, these movements have generated prolific operational networks, systems of information and social organization among fellow migrants as well as interaction with local populations. The long-term video research *Sahara Chronicle* (2006-2009) works with a notion of geography both as social practice and organizing system. The project is an open anthology of videos on the modalities of migration across the Sahara. It introduces the migration system as an arrangement of pivotal sites, each of which have a particular function in the striving for migratory autonomy, as well as in the attempts made by diverse authorities to contain and manage these movements.

Sahara Chronicle involved field trips to the transit migration hubs in Agadez and Arlit in Niger, in the Libyan desert, on the Algero-Moroccan border, Mauritania and the Western Sahara as well as the harbor where clandestine boat passages leave from Senegal to the Canary Islands.

Sahara Chronicle is part of the collaborative art and research project *The Maghreb Connection - Movements of Life across Northern Africa*.

7pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

The Border as Centre. Zones of Being and Non-Being,
Compilation video-essay, 2014, 75min.

In global capitalism, the movement of bodies through borders takes the form of asymmetrical dualism. One side of the border acts as a retaining wall – a knife that cuts through territories, bodies, and genders. It is not driven by a desire to block access to the central zones of capital, but to bureaucratically manage the legality of the migratory flow, forking it into being and non-being. The other side of the border adopts a flexible interface, expanding endlessly in the space of the “other”, while preserving the impermeability of knowledge and identities.

The border has ceased to be a peripheral space, it is becoming-centre. Its implosion is expressed in a whole range of institutions, security devices, and parallel agencies that fill our cities, forming an expanding inner border. The logic of the border is now spreading to all systems of political and cognitive power. In this sense, we can speak of borders as laboratories for a new totalitarian system. Proclamations that were once the domain of openly racist sectarian groups are now being absorbed into governmental and media discourse.

Colonialism is also a state of the soul, based on alterity in constant opposition. It is always about an “other” to criticise, occupy, conquer... never about loving contemplation or dialogue for the transformation of being... being without borders.

8.15pm CCCB Hall. Panel discussion:

Zones of Being and Non-Being in Barcelona. Mohammad Alsharqawi, Áurea Martín, Natali Jesus.

A supposed city-refuge that decides to prioritize the persecution of immigrants who survive by working in the informal economy. Barcelona's Immigrant Detention Centre (CIE), a zone of non-being par excellence, is

closed for renovations and due to reopen. Good migrant, bad migrant. Refugees (only) welcome? The lines of power that run through the city will soon be exposed.

9.45pm CCCB Hall. Talk:

The West: A Media Fortress, Zemos 98. Pedro Jiménez and Lucas Tello.

Over the last few years, Fortress Europe has been toughening its migration control devices in a desperate attempt to curb the failure of the project of modernity. In *The West: Media Fortress* we reflect on the productive and reproductive function of its organs of propaganda: the mass media. In their totalising operation, we are outraged by the arrest of firefighters on the island of Lesbos, as the bodies of children wash up on the beaches against a background of “likes”, banners, and ads exhorting us, “don’t go away, we’ll be back in six minutes”. How can we imagine new narratives if they can only spring from beyond the fortress? In other words, how can we create new epistemologies?

THURSDAY 3 MARCH

11am Aula 1 CCCB.

Open conversation with Pedro Jiménez and Lucas Tello (Zemos98).

An informal, small-scale gathering to pick up where the previous day’s discussion left off, continue to explore some of the aspects that were raised, and introduce new ones.

[limited capacity]

6pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Los Muros de Europa, Fotomovimiento, with the collaboration of Jumping Films, Spain, 2015, 25min.

Chronicles of the journey of refugees through Hungary, Croatia, and Serbia, September 2015

www.fotomovimiento.org/

Neither Here nor There, José Colón, Guillem Valle, Joan Roig, Spain, 2015, 11min

In a bid to reach a better life, hundreds of Moroccan kids sneak into Melilla, a Spanish enclave in the north of Morocco.

This is the story of Said, a deaf Moroccan boy stuck in this Spanish portion of Africa, awed by a false sense of prosperity, tries to jump into one of the many boats that will take him to the peninsula and eventually to the fulfillment of his European dream.

memo-mag.com/es

www.josecolon.net

www.cromagnontv.com

Lettre à la République, Kerry James, 5min.

A letter to the republic

To all those racists with hypocritical tolerance

To all those who built their nations on blood

Now portraying themselves as preachers

To all those wealth looters

Murderers of Africans,
All those colonialists
Torturers of Algerians,
This colonial past is yours
It was you who intertwined our stories
Now you must be held responsible for your actions
You smell like blood, even if you bathe in perfume
We are not here by accident
Each arrival has its own departure.

You developed a taste for immigration
But now you suffer from indigestion. (...)

7pm CCCB Hall. Talk:

Migration Control System, Whiteness and Eurocentrism, Daniela Ortiz.

Generally speaking, public discussion, research studies, and news reports regarding migration processes focus on exhaustively counting, analysing, describing, and questioning the migrant population. The camera spotlight, newspaper headlines, and political debates portray the migrant population as a problem to be resolved through integration, persecution, and forced expulsion, thus normalising the violence of the migration control system.

This talk approaches the current situation from a different perspective, exploring the legal systems created by European governments to regularise violence against the migrant population. It also looks at the exaltation and unremitting defense of pro-colonial symbols and narratives as a means of supporting racialized structures, and the role of Europe's human rights and charity industry within the framework of systematic violence.

Daniela Ortiz lives and works in Barcelona. Through her work, she generates spaces of tension in which the concepts of nationality, racialization, social class and gender are explored in order to critically understand structures of inclusion and exclusion in society. Her recent projects and research revolve around the issue of migration control, its links to colonialism, and its management by European-white states and societies. At the same time, she has produced projects about the Peruvian upper class and its exploitative relationship with domestic workers. Daniela gives talks and participates in discussions on Europe's migration control system and its ties to coloniality in different contexts.

<http://daniela-ortiz.com/>

8.30pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Tarajal: Desmuntant la impunitat a la frontera sud, Xavier Artigas , Xapo Ortega, Metromuster , Observatori DESC, 2016, Spain, 85min.

Tarajal: Dismantling Impunity on the Southern Border is a documentary research project produced by Metromuster – which previously produced the influential activist documentary Ciutat Morta – and commissioned by Observatori DESC, which is collaborating in the research process. Tarajal is based on statements from migration experts, journalists, lawyers, police spokespersons, and activists, as well as official declarations from the Interior Ministry, edited together to reveal the many contradictions in the accounts of the events leading to the death of 15 migrants at Tarajal. Above all, it suggests that the events may not have simply been a matter of police negligence, but part of a strategy designed for the application of migration control policies.

<http://metromuster.cat>

9.45pm CCCB Hall. Panel discussion:

What's Behind the Blankets? Invisible walls in Barcelona.

Lamine Sarr [spokesman for the Popular Union of Street Vendors] and Jezabel Goudinoff [member of Tras la manta].

The Popular Union for Street Vendors seeks to become a political lobby to defend the claims and needs of Barcelona's street vendors against persecution, discrimination and racism. The situations that street vendors find themselves in on a daily basis require a quick, organised response and first-hand communication with political authorities and the media, in their own voice.

sindicatomantero@gmail.com

Tras la manta is a network of local residents, street vendors, activists, and people committed to human rights, created to fight the criminalisation and racist and classist violence against street vendors in Barcelona.
<https://traslamanta.wordpress.com/>

FRIDAY 4 MARCH

11am Aula 1 CCCB.

Open conversation with Daniela Ortiz.

An informal, small-scale gathering to pick up where the previous day's discussion left off, continue to explore some of the aspects that were raised, and introduce new ones.

[limited capacity]

6pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Iskay Yachay: Los dos saberes, Maja Tillmann, Rodrigo Otero, Perú, 2005, 30min.

This video brings us the voices and minds of farmers from Cusco, Peru. They explain what kind of school they want for their children, what education is needed for life to flourish and for the strength of ancestral times to be carried over to new generations. Over the past decade, the Group for Andean Cultural Affirmation CEPROSI has been working with groups of rural teachers and parents in Cusco in order to reach an understanding of education and cultural diversity. Their reflections on the way in which Andean children learn about both the Western and Andean worlds lead them to unexpected conclusions that deserve to be listened to and taken into account.

Nawpa [0.1], Xavier Hurtado, Ecuador, 2005, 10min.

In Ecuador, the indigenous movement has one of the longest and most intense traditions of resistance in the history of modern Latin America. César Pilataxi, a Kichwa man from the Andean region, explains the reasons behind the confrontation between his community and Western interests.

Le Naufrage Negro-Liberal, Bakary Sanon, Burkina Faso, 2006, 9min.

Those in power, who see any original idea as a potential seed of disruption and subversion, do not encourage the discussion of ideas or the return to our own values in order to arrive at more humane forms of development.

7pm CCCB Hall. Lecture:

The Multiple Colonial Dimensions of Europe. Boaventura de Sousa Santos.

Based on the epistemologies of the South, Boaventura de Sousa Santos will examine six forms of colonialism in Europe, and six possible paths to decolonisation.

Boaventura de Sousa Santos is Professor of Sociology at the University of Coimbra (Portugal), and Distinguished Legal Scholar at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He earned an LL.M and J.S.D. from Yale University and holds the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, by McGill University.

[In French with consecutive translation into Spanish]

<http://www.boaventuradesousasantos.pt/>

8.30pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Slave-Trade, 6min.

Short animated history of the slave trade.

Port Trade Portrait, David Batlle, Spain, 2014, 36min.

Port Trade Portrait is a portrait of the old Barcelona cargo port, which has been transformed into a tourist leisure area. Today, tourists step around Africans who are trying to make a living in the face of the constant threat of persecution and detention, right on the same docks from which the slave ships that enriched distinguished families set sail not so long ago.

¿Qué son los CIE?, Jordi Homs, Àngel García, Spain, 5min.

“The only crime that the inmates of Migrant Detention Centres (CIE) have committed is to cross some border or other, to be poor, and to be black, that’s all. Remember that these people are the grandchildren of the slaves who were hunted down like animals and loaded onto ships...” Lamine Sarr

“Nobody sees the reality of Migrant Detention Centres, it’s a hidden reality.” Aziz Faye
www.lemure.cat

9.15pm CCCB Hall. Panel Discussion:

From decolonial theory to practice on the streets of the Raval. Espacio del inmigrante.

Espacio del inmigrante is a self-managed space created by and for migrants. A space for gathering, reflection, and action. Drawing on “migrant” knowledge and putting forward their own racialised bodies, its members seek to generate new forms of resistance, empowerment and defense of migrant persons as political subjects.

<https://espaciodelinmigrante.wordpress.com/>

SATURDAY 5 MARCH

11am. Aula 1 CCCB:

Open conversation with Boaventura de Sousa Santos.

An informal, small-scale gathering to pick up where the previous day's discussion left off, continue to explore some of the aspects that were raised, and introduce new ones.

[limited capacity]

5pm CCCB Hall - Auditorium. Screening:

Le problème algérien et l'économie française, Jean Pierre Gambarotta, 5min.

A French government report explaining the reasons why it was impossible to accept Algeria's independence.

Octobre à Paris, Jacques Panijel, 1962, Francia, 70min. V.O.S.E.

17 October 1961. The war in Algeria is in progress. In Paris, Algerians take to the streets to protest against the curfew. The police go after the demonstrators and a peaceful demonstration ends in a bloodbath. When this film was to be shown in Cannes, the theater was evacuated by the police and all copies were confiscated. Half a century later, in October 2011, it was screened for the first time in Paris.

<http://www.lesfilmsdelatalante.fr/>

6.15pm CCCB Hall. Talk:

Integration or Liberation?, Houria Bouteldja [indigènes de la République].

A reflection on the glamour and deadlock of integration in the framework of an imperialist nation state. Thoughts towards an alternative decolonial Western modernity.

Houria Bouteldja is a founding member of the Party of the Indigenous of the Republic, the first anti-colonial party in France. She has written numerous articles on political strategy and on topics including decolonial feminism, intersectionality, and structural racism.

[In French with consecutive translation into Spanish]

<http://indigenes-republique.fr/>

7.45pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

Concerning Violence, Göran Hugo Olsson, Sweden, 2014, 85min.

Concerning Violence is both an archive-driven documentary covering the most daring moments in the struggle for liberation in the Third World, and an exploration of the mechanisms of decolonization through excerpts of Frantz Fanon's *The Wretched of the Earth*. This landmark book, written over 50 years ago, is still a crucial tool for understanding and shedding light on the neocolonialism that is happening today, as well as the violence and reactions against it.

<http://desorg.org/titols/concerning-violence/>

9.15pm CCCB Hall. Panel Discussion:

We are all in danger (*) Boaventura de Sousa Santos, Houria Bouteldja, Daniela Ortiz, Abu Ali.

- "It's hard to come to terms with the fact that the supposedly civilised society that you fled to, seeking refuge, is so brutal."

- "People say: "get civilised". But when you get civilised you realise that it's the worst thing they could have taught you. Do you know what they mean by "getting civilised"? Have money, go shopping, spend money, and always keep in your head: I want more, more, more... Consume."

- the persistence of Eurocentrism in European dissidence.

(*) Title of Pier Paolo Pasolini's last interview.

SUNDAY 6 MARCH

11am Aula 1 CCCB.

Open conversation with Houria Bouteldja [indigènes de la république].

An informal, small-scale gathering to pick up where the previous day's discussion left off, continue to explore some of the aspects that were raised, and introduce new ones.

[limited capacity]

5pm CCCB Hall – Auditorium. Screening:

La France est notre patrie, Rithy Panh, 2014, Cambodia, France, 75min.

The story of a failed encounter between two cultures with different sensibilities and fantasies. This clash led to colonisation marked by brutality, despite the fact that wars, chaos and destruction could have been avoided. Based on archival footage, the film echoes infinitely through time and space: "France is our homeland".

<http://www.cdpproductions.fr/>

6.15pm CCCB Hall. Talk:

The Perfumed Colonization. The loving experience of Cheikh Ahmadu Bamba (1853-1927), Serigne Assane Fall, Ababacar Thiakh, Jo Expósito.

At the height of French colonial expansion in West Africa, Cheikh Ahmadou Bamba (re)created a theoretical and practical model of submission to the Real that provided an effective alternative to the power structure, which limited and was limited by the colonial invader. The model or path founded by the Sheikh (the Muridiyya) is based on an Islamic premise according to which knowing is an act of love for each and every thing in creation and for the relationships between them: this is why not the heart, not the brain, is the organ of knowledge.

Now, the echoes of Bamba's loving experience migrate through his followers, the Mourides, who came from African lands and now live among us, perfuming this space, opening us up, and activating memory within us, inviting us to travel along the path of presences towards the One and Only.

To migrate is thus to return to oneself.

Serigne Assane Fall is the grandson of Mame Cheikh Ibrahima Fall, who was a disciple of Bamba. He is currently spokesman for the Baye Fall community as well as secretary to the General Caliph of the Baye Fall Serigne, Cheikh Dieumbe Fall. He is the author of the book *Fier d'être Baye Falle*, in which he explains his grandfather's philosophy and his relationship with Bamba.

Ababacar Thiakh is a historian and researcher whose work focuses on immigration. He is also actively involved in social work with several associations in Catalonia.

Jo Expósito is a photographer and photo editor.

Dhikr ceremony [Remembrance]

To conclude, the Baye Fall community invites us to attend and participate in a Dhikr ceremony. The remembrance of Allah (Dhikr or Zikr) is the main task of Sufi schools. "Recordar", the Spanish word for remembering, comes from the Latin recordari and in some places it means to awaken, to stop sleeping and journey back through the heart (cor), to summon something to mind and invoke somebody's presence.