Catching Ephemerality: One Decade of Digital Video Activism from Brazil

GUEST SPEAKER:
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MODERATOR:
Marian Thorpe, PLAS Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton University

The ubiquity of smartphones and social media in the early 2010s triggered an explosion of video production worldwide. Videos capturing police violence against protesters taking to the streets as well as smartphone recordings of police killing black teenagers in Rio de Janeiro’s favelas multiplied. The local appropriation of the globalized technologies for video making became the subject of Jacob Geuder’s research on video activism, which he studied in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Cape Town, South Africa. In his central case, Brazil video activist collectives emerged rapidly during the 2013 protest wave of the Jornadas de Junho, making Rio one of the global hubs for video activism amongst cities such as Cairo, Hong Kong, and Istanbul. Almost ten years after the Jornadas de Junho protests swept over Rio de Janeiro, there are pressing questions that Geuder’s current project of the Urban Video Archives aims to address in collaboration with academics and activists. Video activism has shifted how marginalized peoples and communities are seen in a media landscape that often renders them invisible. These tectonic shifts have been studied from various angles, including social movements and media studies; however, there are still lingering questions that we will pursue during this talk.

Weds., Feb. 9, 12pm, 219 Burr Hall* & Zoom | Register HERE
*In-person attendance for PU ID holders only. “To-Go” lunches will be available.

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Video activists filming a street demonstration in Rio de Janeiro on October 4, 2015. Photo by Jacob Geuder.