

HRTS 3640/5351.001 / DMD 3640/5998.006

Human Rights Archives I: Documenting & Curating Community Memory

Professor: Catherine Masud

Fall 2025: Fridays 12:20 – 3:20pm, Storrs



This is the first part of a two-semester practice-based unit. Designed to introduce students to the use of human rights archival materials in documentary storytelling, Human Rights Archives Part I will focus on methods and best practices of collecting and managing digital visual and audio-visual archival assets. Students will engage with existing human rights-related archival collections, both private and institutional, to develop an appreciation of the “living” archive and its importance both as a repository of witnessing and memory and as a vehicle for the continuous retelling of history in the present moment. A series of relevant readings, films, and short storytelling exercises will help to provide context and connections. Later in the semester, students will apply what they’ve learned about human rights archives, digital asset management, and storytelling by filming oral history interviews and collecting digital archival assets relating to the Bosnian Genocide (1992-95) and the subsequent International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) held at The Hague. The interviews and archival assets collected through this collaborative project will form the basis of an important new collection that students will be involved in processing, organizing, and cataloguing. This collection will be a primary resource for the visual storytelling work in the second course of the unit. Part I, however, is not considered a prerequisite for Part II.

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