December 10th (18:00-19:30) in Eichstätt, Kap 210

Prof. Tim Cresswell  Northeastern University, Boston

Assembling Place: The Case Maxwell Street, Chicago

The lecture explores the process of creating archives through an exploration of a range of archival sites in Chicago, Illinois. These sites contain objects believed to be of value that were once located in or referred to the area of the Maxwell Street Market, once the largest open air market in North America. The lecture contributes to discussions of the geography of archives and archiving on the one hand, and the processes of evaluation that give objects value on the other. It does so by examining how different objects are given contrasting and competing values by different people in different places. These places include the formal archives, the place itself, a collection of objects stored for a possible museum in the future and a private residence in the city. Following an introduction to the area and a discussion of the nature of archives, three sets of gleaners are examined: journalists and photographers whose accounts and images can be found in the Chicago History Museum, the members of the Maxwell Street Historic Preservation Coalition and the Maxwell Street enthusiast and activist, Steve Balkin. The conclusion considers the different ways in which objects are valued in these different archives and demonstrates how archives are leaky places produced through a contested set of valuations concerning which objects count as worthy and significant.

Tim Cresswell holds the position of a Professor of History and International Affairs at Northeastern University, Boston. His research is focused on the areas of Spatial Theory, Cultural Geography, Place, Mobility and Urban Cultures. Key publications include: Geographic Thought: A Critical Introduction (Blackwell 2013), Geographies of Mobilities: Practices, Spaces, Subjects (Ashgate 2011, co-edited with Peter Merriman), On the Move: Mobility in the Modern Western World (Routledge 2006), Place: A Short Introduction (Blackwell 2004), Mobilizing Place, Placing Mobility: The Politics of Representation in a Globalized World (Rodopi Editions 2003, co-edited with Ginette Verstraete), In Place/Out of Place: Geography, Ideology and Transgression (University of Minnesota Press, 1996).

Please contact michael.huth@ku.de at the Department of Economic Geography for any comments, suggestions or questions regarding the Lecture series.