issues in collection & representation

Because language shapes how we experience, understand, and order reality, the ways that people have written about and represented 'culture' give us insights into the values, assumptions, and social identities of the documenters. Students in ENGL 2367.05H have explored fieldnotes, photo logs, essays, and exhibits archived at the American Folklife Center of the Library of Congress; their presentations investigate social hierarchies and point to relationships of power that fracture along lines of race, gender, age, region, class, credentials, and other factors.

- Why do people collect and display vernacular expressive culture?
- How do they do so?
- What are the consequences?

ENGL 2367.05H • The U.S. Folk Experience • Student Poster Exhibition

"Avoiding Bias: Learning from the Lomax Southern Mosaic Ethnographic Collection"
- Liberty Brigner (Forestry, Fisheries, and Wildlife) & Melissa French (Anthropology)

"Beautiful Roots: Zora Neale Hurston, Ethnography, and Redefining African American Culture as Art"
- Sophie Shiloh (International Studies)

"Preserving Paradise: Cowboys Revalue Everyday Life through Art"
- Rachel Armstrong (History, Int'l Studies) & Tyler Eldridge (Aeronautical Engineering)

"Contesting Stereotypes: Pow wow Competition and the Display of Differential Identity"
- Chris Kozlowski (Pre-veterinary) & Mitch Richert (Neuroscience)

"Commemorating a Cultural Landscape: The Cardboard Cemetery as Activist Art in Big Coal River Valley"
- Sarah Beall (Marketing) & Claire Staveski (Health Sciences)

Left: Zora Neale Hurston and children in Eatonville, FL, June 1935, during a research trip with John Lomax. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs, LC-DIG-ppmsc-00675.

Above: Dan Martinez and Bob Humphrey branding cattle, NV, 1978; Fancy dancers prepare in camp area, Macy, NE, 1983. Photos by Carl Fleischhauer, in American Folklife Center Paradise Valley and Omaha Indian Music collections.

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

April 18, 2013 • 2:30 to 3:30 pm
143 University Hall