

Materializing Culture: Home life

An exploratory workshop

7th March 9am-5pm

ICOSS, University of Sheffield



The Materializing Culture group, based at the University of Sheffield, explores the materialization of culture: how people now and in the past have engaged with, used and made culture, and how we as practitioners research and represent culture. We define 'culture' broadly, to include, material, visual, textual and spatial representations and cultural practices. We are particularly concerned with the embodiment and enactment of cultural practice and the material practices of everyday life. Grounded in the cross-disciplinary challenges of how we study and represent culture, its remit is to share experience, knowledge and skills from among a wide academic constituency including academics, museums, heritage industry and other professional groups.

The current focus of the group's activities is home life. This reflects existing research interests and networks in the fields of childhood, death and gender studies; social identities; and material culture, from historical, art historical, literary, and sociological perspectives, amongst others. We believe the concept of 'home life' holds historic significance, but also contemporary resonance; it also foregrounds 'home' as a place created in physical and imaginary ways, but 'life' as an embodied experience. 'Home life' is thus created at the levels of the real, imaginary and virtual. Home life provides a locus for routine and ritualised practice in everyday life, for the production of self and social relations from birth to death and beyond, practices that are materialized, embodied and represented in the space of the home.

This workshop is designed to facilitate exchange of ideas, informally present work in progress and discover future funding opportunities. We welcome contributions on any themes around Materializing Culture: Home life from all relevant disciplines.

Potential presenters are invited to submit abstracts (of not more than 250 words) by the deadline of **Monday 4th February 2008** to Clare Wydell at c.wydell@sheffield.ac.uk.

We also warmly welcome to the workshop participants not giving presentations. Should you wish to register for the event please email c.wydell@sheffield.ac.uk by 22nd February 2008.

For more details about this event and other activities of the Materializing Culture group please visit www.shef.ac.uk/matcult/events.html