LGBTQ+ Memory and Archives: Power, Community and Intersectionality in Difficult Times

JORDI PADILLA-DELGADO

Until very recently, public institutional archives have been unable to include the voices of women and minorities in archival theory and daily practice. Archives reflect in their organization and mechanisms those of the political power. For many years, community-based archives have substituted the institutional archives inaction on this point. So, at first, relationship with the archival institution starts from mistrust. Fortunately, the situation has evolved through the years and the numerous studies carried out on the subject have contributed not only to normalize relations, but have also led to new opportunities for collaboration, learning and exchange between the two areas and in both directions.

This work tries to approach different points of interest about the dialectic process that is established between institutional archives and community-based archives while looking for the lost memory of the LGBTQ+ community in both. It wonders about the genesis of the sexual dissidence documentary collections and the differences in the treatment and projection. The study pays attention to some examples of good practices in national & municipal archives, and states also a fluid taxonomy on community-based archives. Finally, all that dialogue is materialized defining an intersectionality program to be run at a small municipal archive.

This presentation is only a taste of a wider research study developed in the joint framework of the postgraduate course Archives, Human Rights and Gender Perspective at Archival Science & Records Management School, University Autònoma Barcelona (ESAGED-UAB), and the program Intersectionality & Archives by Lloret de Mar Municipal Archive (SAMLM), in Spain.

About the author:

Jordi Padilla-Delgado works as Records Manager at Lloret de Mar Municipal Archive (SAMLM; Catalonia, Spain). He's also developing some research lines on Sex-Affective & Gender Diversity lost memory at Archival Science & Records Management School, University Autònoma Barcelona (ESAGED-UAB).