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A house performs

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Degree

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Department

Communication Studies

Document Type

Dissertation

Abstract

This study analyses and performs a series of histories about a Victorian house located in downtown Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It explores the house as a site of Ulmer's inter-discursive and inter-subjective process of history-making as a way of viewing and doing research. Mystery allows for multiple and diverse perspectives of professional, popular and personal history-making that activates the pleasures and problems of knowledge production and creative expression. Significance is discovered in less obvious, more localized, ways of knowing that avoid fixing the house in traditional "historic" values. Material culture and archives like the San Francisco discussed in Chapter Three are viewed as active or performing.

affect and are affected by the shifting circumstances of h
partialities of all language forms function as miniatures o
Texts and performances are constructed through bricolag
gathered. These metonymic expressions call attention to
eliding or ignoring others, and are essential to the knowlec
produced from them. In constructing 310 Convention on th
understand performance in Richard Schechner's terms as
action or expression that draws on and refers to its past. I
Heidegger's notions of dwelling and building as fundamen
experience through which we learn about the world around
it, and understand our place(s) in it. Gaston Bachelard furt
impulse with topophilia, or the desire to protect and prese
in imagination. Jacques Derrida provides ways to structure
chora, the spacing of text upon the page, and also contrib
site that overflows with excess through its collection, con
Through these and other discourses, I discover and produ
"insignificant" house differently by acknowledging its man
recognize how performance on the page and stage, alreac
through what cannot be restored, reflects the possibilities
metonymic expression.

Date

2008

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