

Spring 3-25-2004

Revisiting Intersections of Performance and Ethnography

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Recommended Citation

Wylam, Lisa, "Revisiting Intersections of Performance and Ethnography" (2004). *ICS Fellow Lectures*. 51.
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Professor Lisa Wolford Wylam

Theatre, American Culture Studies, and ICS Fellow

Thursday, March 25 at 11 AM

Room 207 Union

Revisiting Intersections of Performance and Ethnography

Why are ethnographic methodologies especially useful for documenting and analyzing artistic processes of cultural production?

How can the methods of the participant-observer challenge neocolonialist fictions and make visible the contributions of those whose artistic and cultural forms are appropriated as raw material for performance?

In the artistic and intellectual climate of the 1970s, the conjunction of Theatre + Anthropology came to signify artistic and academic practices involving privileged European male impresarios mining the performance traditions of Asian and African others for what they could contribute to Western knowledge and artistic production. Dr. Wylam's talk revisits the vexed territory of intercultural performance, drawing on contemporary trends in ethnography that reflect the influence of feminist and postcolonial thinkers. Her examination focuses on issues relating to authorship, attribution and intellectual property in performance collaborations.

Dr. Lisa Wolford Wylam is Associate Professor of Theatre and American Culture Studies at BGSU. She is the author of *Grotowski's Objective Drama Research* (Mississippi 1996) and co-editor, with Richard Schechner, of *The Grotowski Sourcebook* (Routledge 1997). Wylam also serves as resident dramaturg for Wishhounds theatre, as well as for Guillermo Gomez-Pena and Pocha Nostra. Currently an ICS Fellow, she is at work on her newest book, *Studying Live Performance*, for Cambridge University Press.

Special thanks to the College of Arts and Sciences and to the Graduate College & Vice Provost for Research for supporting this work.

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