

ANNUAL REPORT: Germany-Berlin Visual Anthropology 2015 FIELD SCHOOL

Director: Dr. Damani Partridge, University of Michigan



Filming of Theatstück: GentrifiHÄÄ? GentrifiDiche Selbst?

From the beginning, I was excited about the opportunity to run a field school in Berlin. I have been conducting research in this city since 1995 and had looked forward to engaging students in a dynamic and stimulating environment that is also my primary research site. I chose to work with the Youth Theater Office of Berlin and the Berlin-based filmmaker Ayla Gottschlich, because I had been impressed by their work and thought that they would have a great deal to offer students. In addition, as a cultural anthropologist, my sense was that interrogating the future of noncitizen lives from Berlin in collaboration with participants who live in Berlin and are themselves confronted with what it means to be (or to be thought of as) a noncitizen would be invaluable.

Film would be a way not only to document this interrogation but also a medium through which participants would immediately be able to engage a broader audience. For IFR students, film would also be a form through which they could continue to share and reflect on their experience with others long after the field school experience was over. The final screening would be a way for all participants to see and engage each others' conclusions in conjunction with a broader public. Needless to say, in the final screening, the theater was filled to capacity

with many guests having to stand or sit on the floor. Many from the audience asked for additional screenings. These are now it the works.