Department of English, TAIPEI TECH

Academic Seminar (106.1, Fall 2017)

**Life and Writing: Roland Barthes and His Obsession with Writing Tools**

**生命與書寫:** 羅蘭**巴特的書寫工具偏執**

Abstract:

Roland Barthes (1915-1980) was one of the greatest literary critics of the late 20th century Europe. In his posthumously published lecture-series *How to Live Together*, he explored “idiorrhythmic” life forms, i.e. how we organize our lives through a rhythm of isolation and participation. Barthes’ and also Michel Foucault’s turn to the study of life and living represented a radical break with structuralist and certain textualist trends in French theory. My lecture will explore Barthes’ own idiorrhythmic life which circled around the habit of writing and reading. How did he organize his habits, why was he so obsessed with writing tools, and how does it relate to his late poststructuralist text theory? In view of the late lectures, we see more clearly how Barthes’ habits were connected to an ongoing commitment to an ethics of writing. Texts to be discussed include Barthes’ *How to Live Together: Novelistic Simulations of Some Everyday Spaces* (2002, 2013), *Roland Barthes by Roland Barthes* (1975, 1977), and

Markus Krajewski’s *Paper Machines: About Cards & Catalogs, 1548-1929* (2002, 2011).

Speaker:

Dr. Eivind Røssaak (Associate Professor, Department of Research and Collections, National Library of Norway)

**羅愛文博士，挪威國家圖書館研究與典藏部副教授**

Chair:

Dr. Louis Lo (Associate Professor, Department of English, TAIPEI TECH)

**勞維俊博士，臺北科技大學英文系副教授**

Date: 25 September 2017 (Monday)

Time: 13:10 – 15:00

Venue: Room 714

Speaker’s Bio:

Eivind Røssaak, Associate Professor at the Department of Research and Collections, National Library of Norway, Oslo. He was invited as Visiting Associate Professor at Taipei Tech’s Department of English, University of Chicago, and Nordland College of Film and Art, and Fellow at the Cinema Department, New York University and USC, Los Angeles. He has published books on film, new media, literature, archival experiments and critical theory, among others, *Memories in Motion* (2016), *Between Stillness and Motion: Film, Photography, Algorithms* (2011), *The Archive in Motion* (2010), *The Still/Moving Image: Cinema and the Arts* (2010), *Selviakttakelse: En tendens i kunst og litteratur* [On Observations of the Self in Art and Literature] (2005) and *Sic. Fra litteraturens randsoner* [Margins of Literature] (2001).

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