

Participatory Archiving

Collective Process of Creating
Deborah Barndt's Photo Archive (2022)

Defining My Photographic Practice



Artist



Activist



Academic

Photographs have been integral to my work as an artist, an activist and an academic, and have often combined all three purposes.

Researching Photo Archiving Projects

- Consulted with 44 photographers and archivists
- Secured interns from TMU's photo preservation program
- Decided to work with York University Archives



Consulting with York Archives





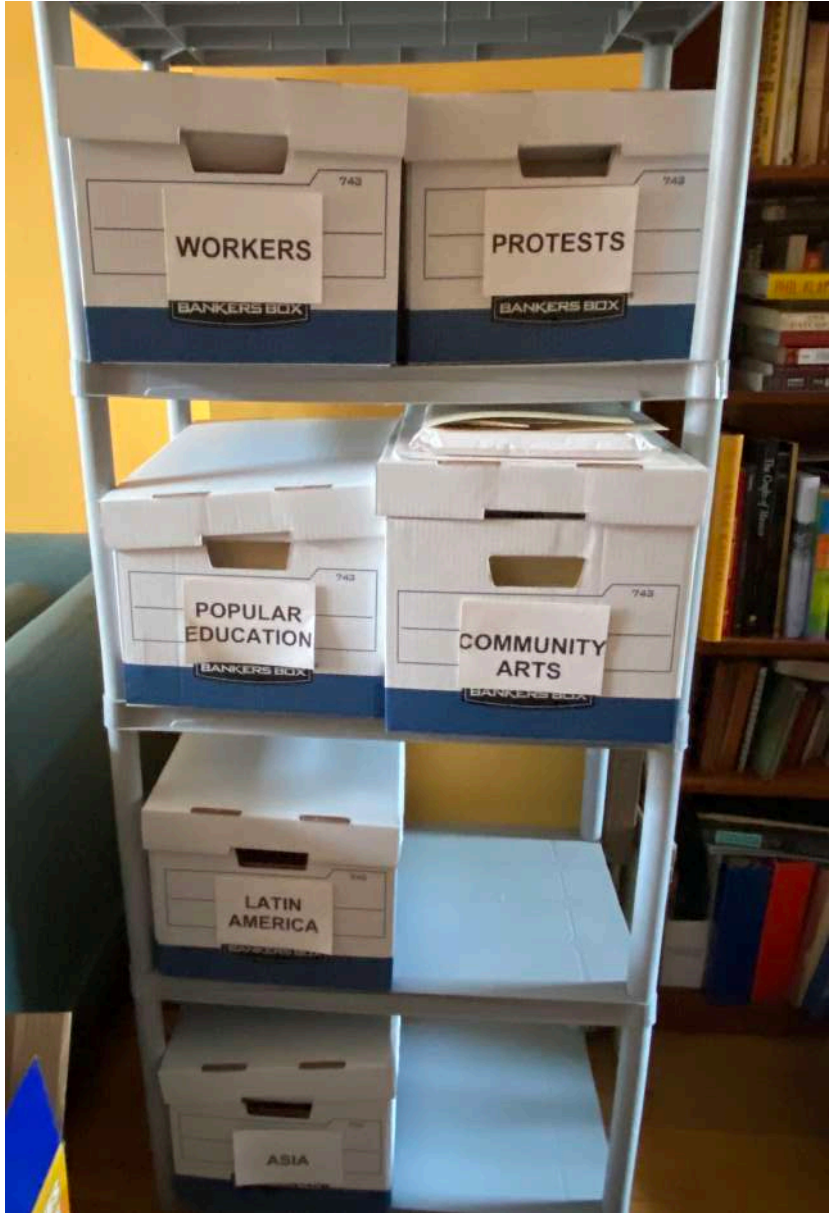
Gathering exhibits and archiving supplies



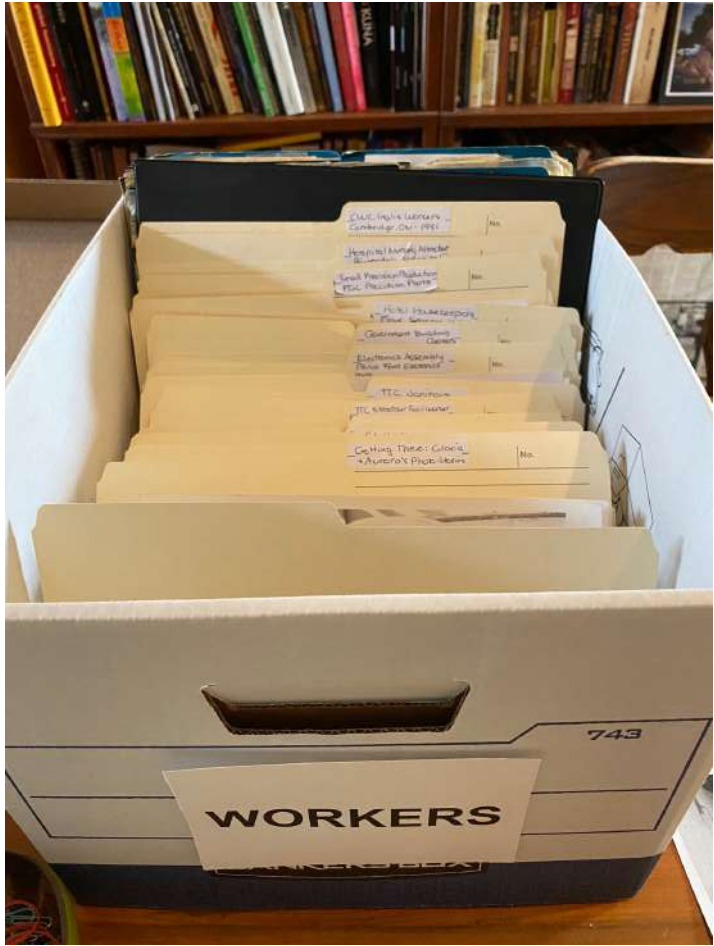
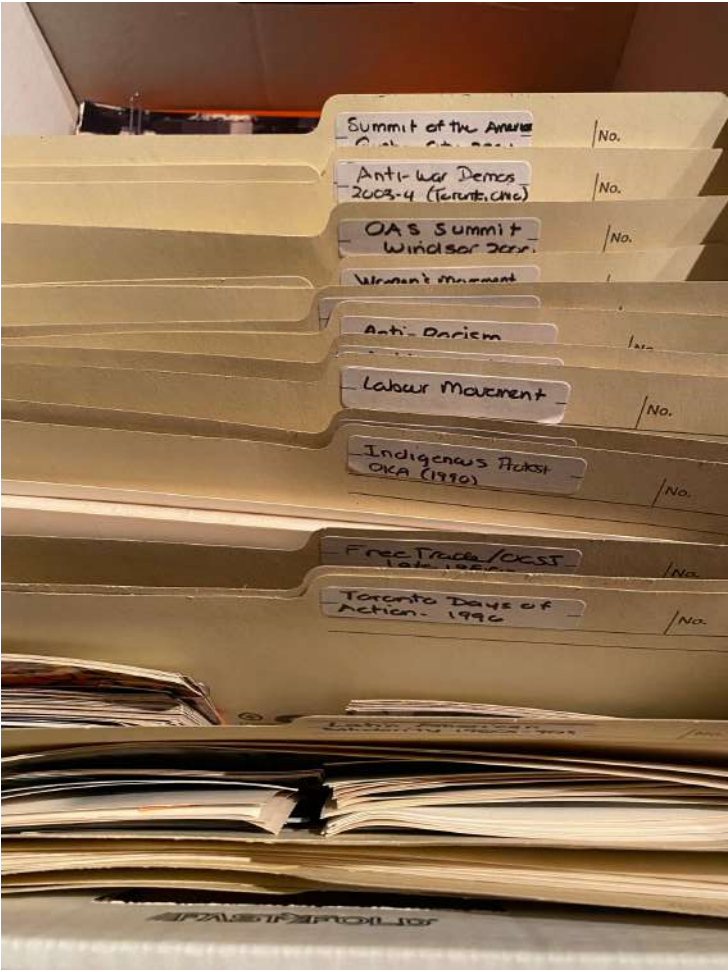
Retrieving Unorganized Photos from Attic



Creating Boxes for Major Themes



Creating Rough Files in Sub-Categories



Building a Photo Archive Team



2 TMU photo preservation interns (Connor Buck and Melissa Mourez) and 3 Legacies Project volunteers (Maria Cappelletti, Diego Lopez, Hana Takagi)

Nurturing a Collective Process



Diego: I've never been in a workplace where I could take naps..!



Connor: The luxury of sharing a meal together was what really solidified us as a group.

Dividing Tasks among Team Members



Creating an Accessible Catalogue



The screenshot shows a Google Sheets spreadsheet with the following data:

Series (box name)	Category (cluster of folders)	Sub-category	Filename (folder name)	Year of negative
Popular education	organizations		participatory research group of International Council for Adult Education (ICAE; Toronto)	[between 1977 and 1980]
Popular education	organizations		International participatory research network, Toronto and Yugoslavia	[between 1977 and 1980]
Popular education	organizations		Doris Marshall Institute (DMI)	between 1985 and 1995
Popular education	organizations		Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario (IMDEC) Founder Carlos Nuñez and staff	[between 1984 and 1996]
Popular education	organizations		Instituto Mexicano para el Desarrollo Comunitario (IMDEC) - popular communication workshop	[between 1984 and 1996]
Popular education	organizations		ALFORJA - network of popular education centres in Central America (CUSO participatory evaluation contract)	1984
			Participatory Evaluation of Latin American	

Sharing Stories behind the Photos



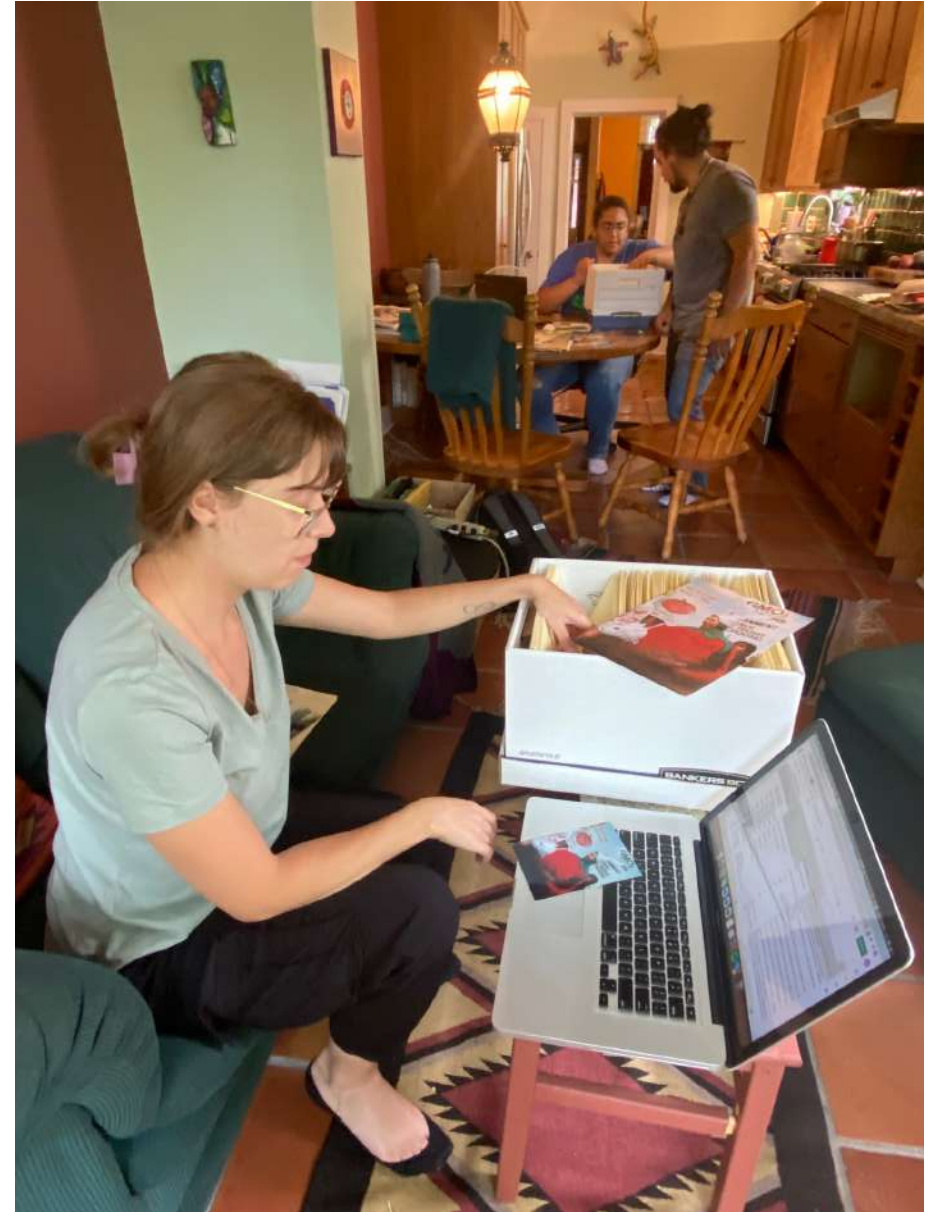
Examining Black-and-White Negatives



Identifying Photos from Contacts & Negatives



Selecting the Best Photos





Pitching Duplicates!

Reconstructing Photo Stories



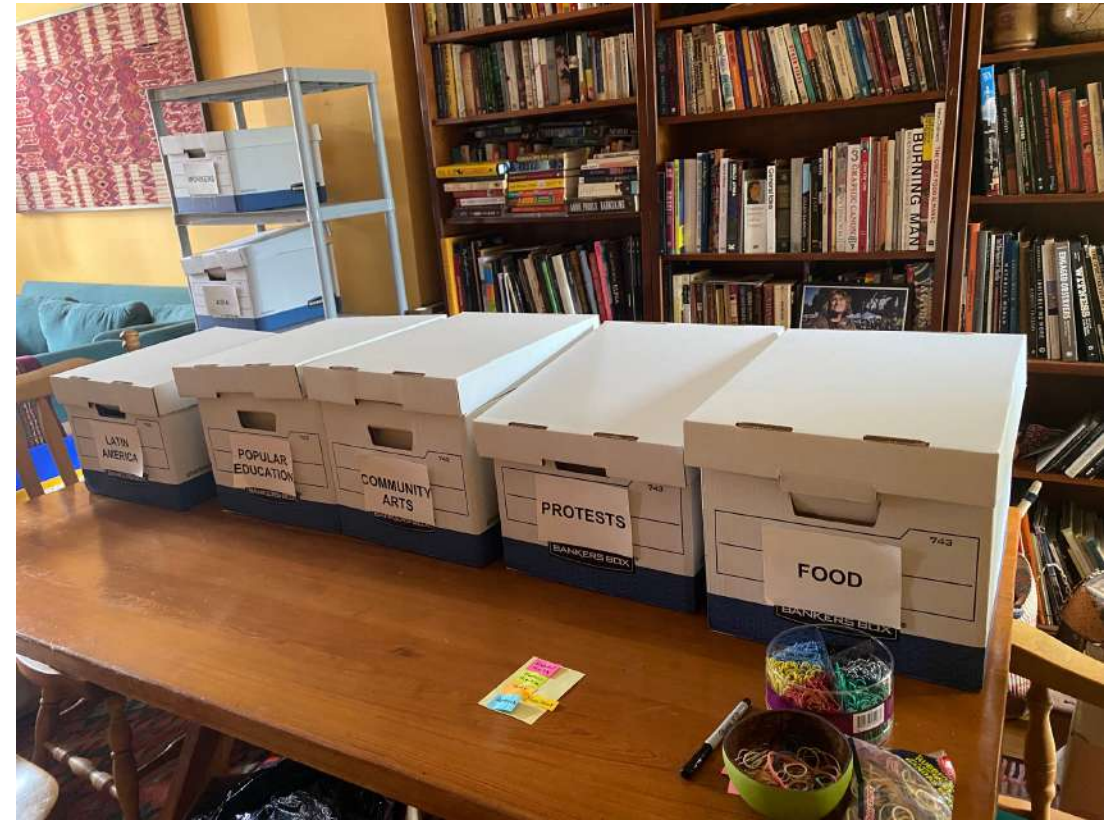
Reviewing Old Exhibits



Photographing Exhibits



From Chaos to Order...!



Reflecting critically on contexts, content, and processes



Seeking Advice from Guest Photographers & Filmmakers



Vince Pietropaolo & Min Sook Lee



Discussing
the politics
and ethics of
photography

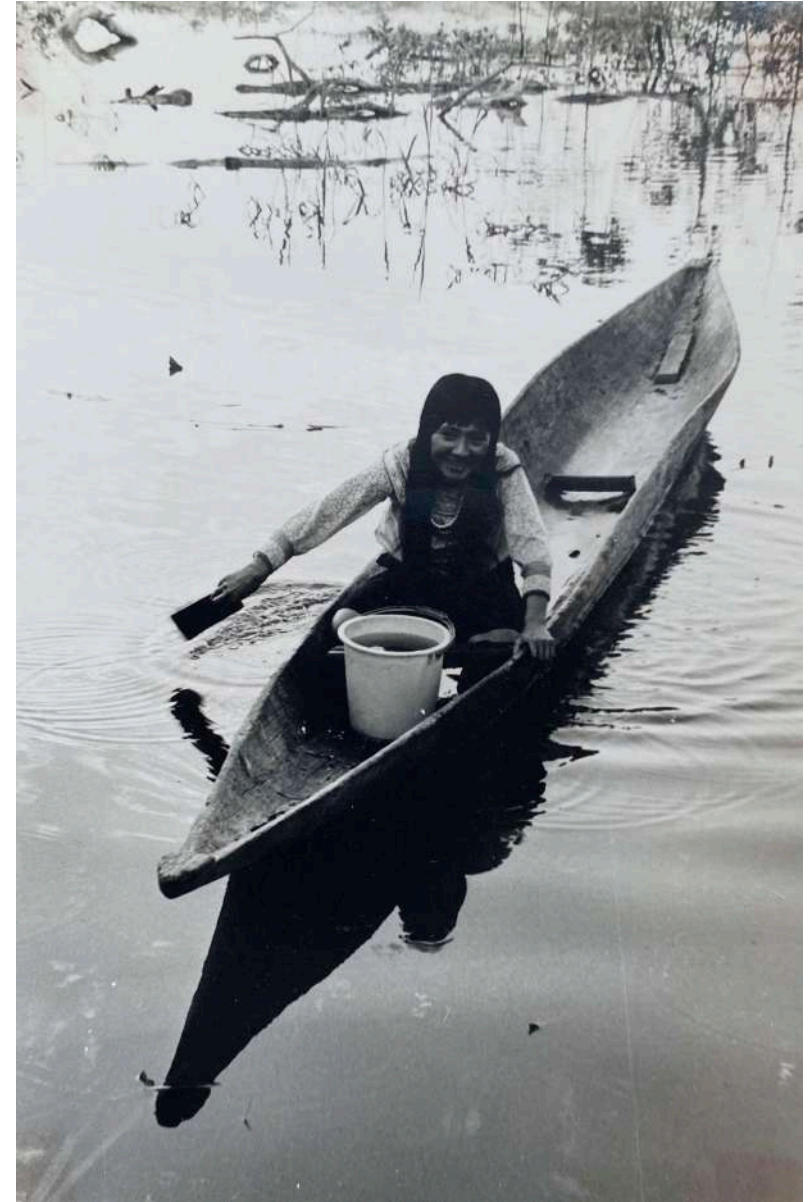


Jennifer LaFontaine

Rematriating Photos to their Source



Maju Tavera



Peruvian Amazon - 1976



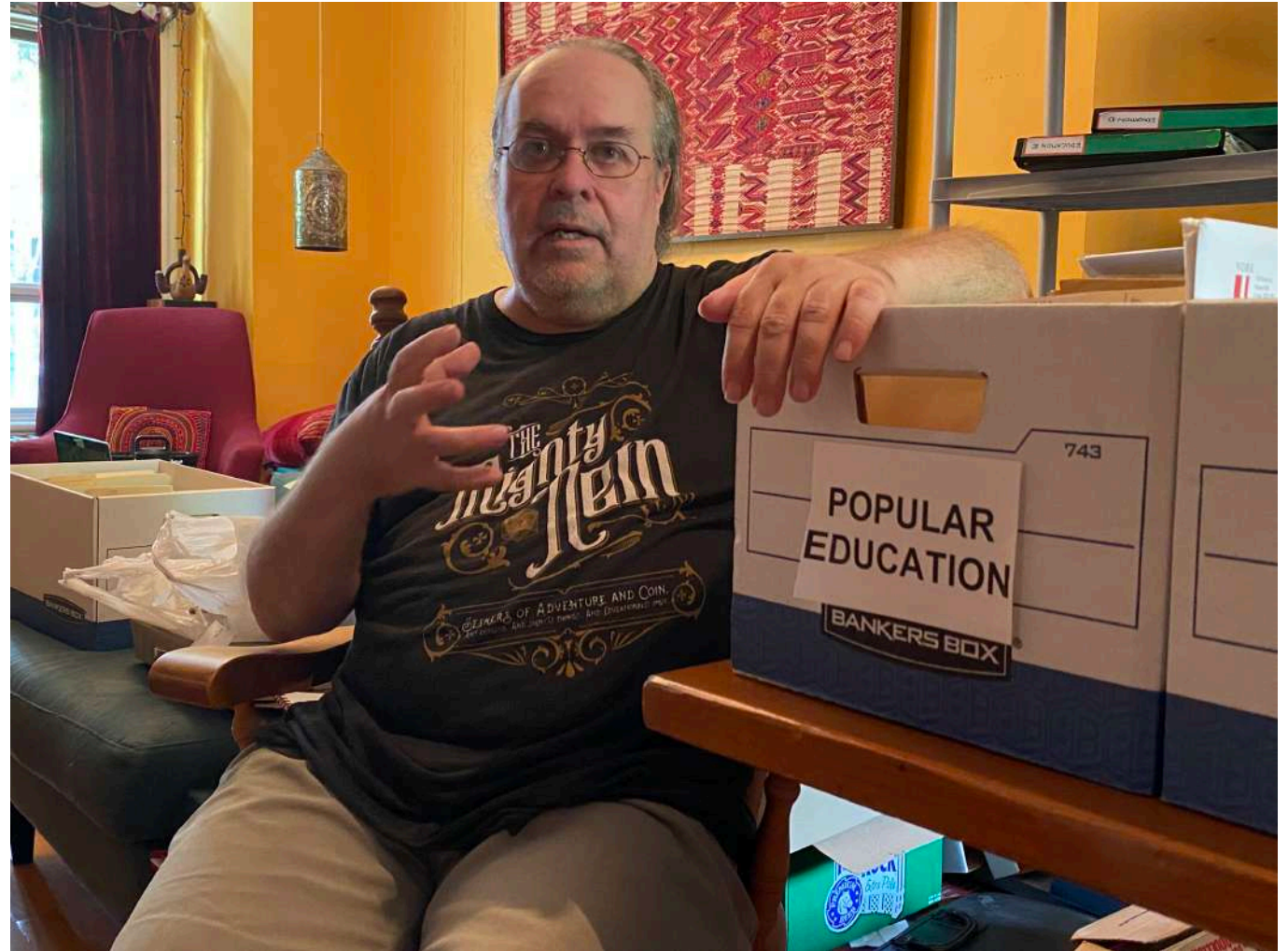
Team with Miguel Gonzalez & Lola Figueroa



Dora Maria Tellez

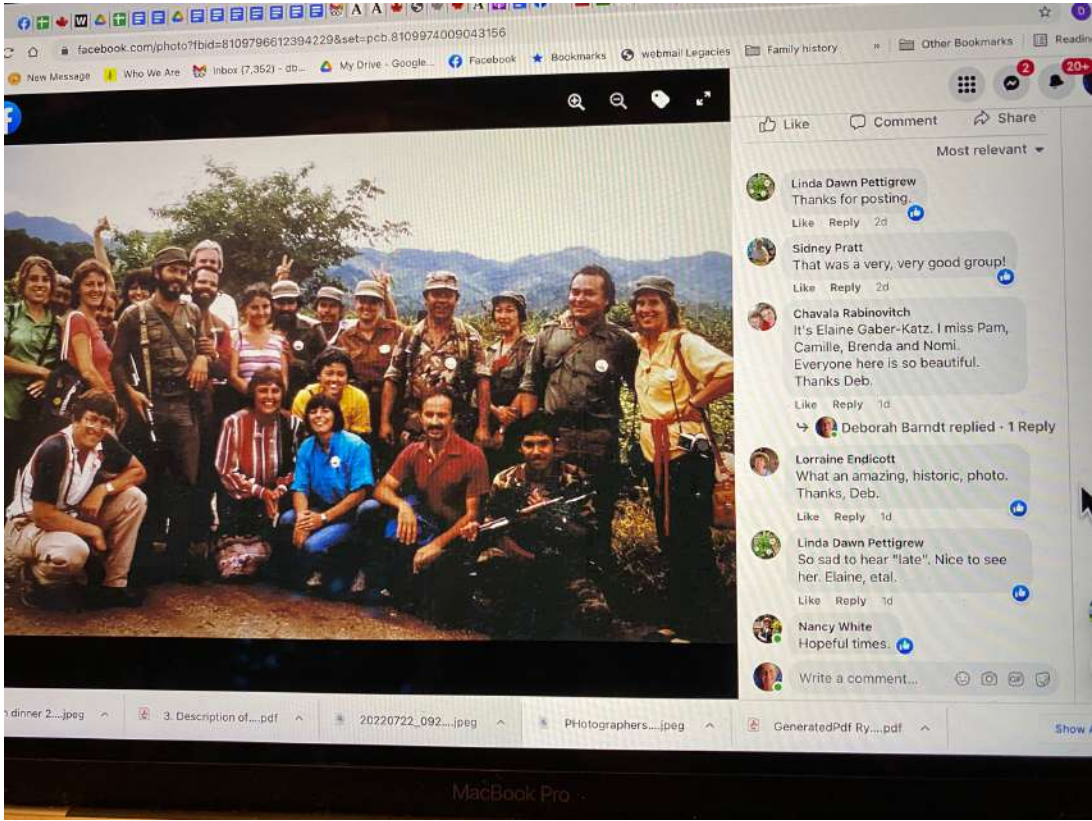
Delaying Rematriation in Volatile Nicaragua

Sharing Archive with Popular Educators



Chris Cavanagh

Posting Weekly Syntheses on FaceBook





Disassembling Framed Photos

Removing Photos from Backing





Trimming Photos

Sleeving and Filing Photos

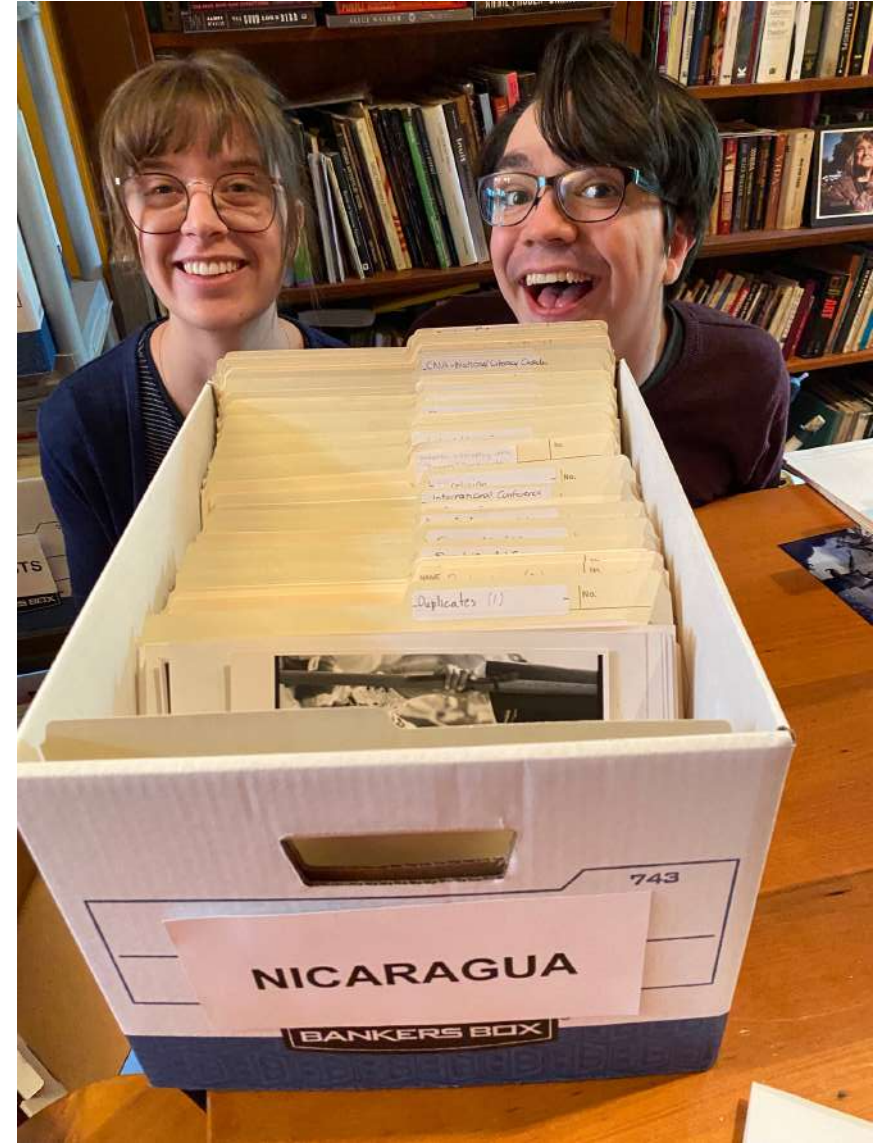


Gia Ysabel Ochoa



Diego Lopez and Maria Cappelletti

Celebrating the
Completion
of Each Box



Melissa Mourez and Connor Buck

Filming the Collective Process



Alexandra Gelis

Scanning Contact Sheets





*Visiting the Philippines
in 1970 and in 2022*

Catalyzing Memoir Writing



Creating a Box of Gift Photos



Making Collages with Kids



Repairing Frames for Exhibit



Delivering the Archives to York



RECKONING AND REIMAGINING:

DEBORAH BARNDT
ENGAGED USE OF PHOTOGRAPHY

EXHIBIT OPENING
MAY 31, 12:30-1:30 PM



*Community Photography for Social Change Workshop,
The Moment Project, Toronto, 1989-1993*

PHOTO EXHIBIT

2ND FLOOR ATRIUM OF SCOTT LIBRARY YORK UNIVERSITY
MAY 27 – AUGUST 31, 2023

Based on Deborah Barndt's photo archives in the Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections at York University Libraries, this exhibit traces her use of photography for social change in popular education programs in Toronto and Latin America: Peru (1970s), Nicaragua (1980s), Mexico (1990s-2000s).

York University is hosting the 2023 Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences the largest academic gathering in Canada, from May 27 to June 2. Barndt revisits her photographs through the lens of the Congress theme: Reckoning and Reimagining, asking how the archive can be activated.

*Shipibo woman reviews Barndt's photos
of her village in Peruvian Amazon (1976)*

Activating the Archive

An invitation to researchers and educators, activists and artists to use the archive for their own critical and creative work.

libraries | YORK U

LEGACIES
EARTH
TO
TABLES

environmental &
urban change | YORK U

Thanks to York Archivist and Summer Archiving Team!



Jennifer Grant



Deborah with Diego, Connor, Maria, and Melissa

EXPANDING AND ACTIVATING THE ARCHIVE

Are you an artist, activist, researcher or educator interested in using images from this archive for your own work?

Or would you like to work on the next stages of archiving my photos (slides, super 8mm film, videos, colour prints and digital images)?

Contact me at dbarndt@yorku.ca