**Innovations in Mapping**

**Short Term 2015**

**Historypin Lab**

Due Monday, May 23 at 10am

Partners:

Jon Voss and Kerri Young, Historypin (historypin.org)

Photogrammar (<http://photogrammar.yale.edu/>)

Historypin is a platform where anyone can upload and create collections of historical photos, videos and sounds by pinning these objects to the Historypin map. Historypin emphasizes the social nature of this work, and prioritizes building connections between people in their local communities, especially those who may be isolated.

Photogrammar is a web-based platform presenting 170,000 photographs from 1935-1945 created by the US Farm Security Administration and Office of War Information. The website’s interactive map locates about 90,000 photos at the county level. With help from Historypin and communities around the country, the Photogrammar researchers hope to add more detailed geographic information as well as other kinds of information about the photos.

Objective:

In our session with Historypin on May 18, we will brainstorm ideas for how to organize the events where community groups work with the Photogrammar photographs. The Historypin team is interested in developing materials that will allow teachers, librarians, community leaders, or others to lead these events. The goals for these events include:

* mapping the photos based on clues
* identifying buildings or locations from the photos
* identifying and interviewing people still in the community that may have a connection  
  telling the stories of change from then until now

We’ll start out by looking at the photos of Androscoggin County.

1. What kinds of questions can we ask about them?
2. Why are these questions important?
3. What will people remember?
4. How can we narrow down these questions?

Thursday 10-12 Session Workflow:

Complete this workflow with 1 partner. Turn in your answers to these collaboratively-answered questions.

Pick a photo either from Maine or another part of the country that you or your partner are familiar with.

1. Can you identify its location?
2. If yes, copy the image URL from the Photogrammar website and pin it in Historypin (when you add a pin there is a field for the URL). Be sure to add your pin it to the “Bates College Photogrammar Contributions” Collection (<https://www.historypin.org/en/bates-college-photogrammar-contributions/geo/44.100351,-70.214776,13/bounds/44.050219,-70.25752,44.150441,-70.172033>)
   1. In the tags for your pin include: photogrammar
3. If you don’t recognize a photo, that’s ok! Pick a photo from Maine and continue with the following steps.

With your photo, whether it is pinned or not, answer the following questions:

1. What are the clues in this photo that would help you locate it?
2. What kinds of questions do you have about the photo?
3. What kinds of people might know more about the photo? (Local historical society? Your grandmother? City planner?)
4. What kinds of strategies would you use for getting in touch with them?
5. What kinds of questions would you want to ask a person who can identify the location of the photo?
6. How can these photos help us to discover how communities have changed since the New Deal era to today?
7. Come up with one idea about who to contact to find out more about your photo, and reach out to them today (by phone or email).
   1. If you are able to connect: Ask courteously for their help in identifying a photo from their community. Introduce yourself and explain where the photo comes from. Let them know that you are interested in learning about local history from community members.
   2. If not, your trail ends here.
8. If they are willing to talk to you, keep careful notes and write up the following information:
   1. What questions did you ask?
   2. What did your contact know about the photo?
   3. What questions did your contact have about the photo?
   4. Did your contact suggest other people who might know the location or other info about the photo?
   5. What did you learn about how that community has changed since the New Deal era?
9. Are you now able to pin your photo with knowledge gained from speaking to others? Do you have updated information about your photo that you pinned earlier? Go to Historypin and either add a new pin or update your existing pin.

What to turn in:

1. Thursday workflow answers
2. Individual contribution. Answer one of the following questions:
   1. How does this kind of community engagement decenter knowledge production and facilitate conversations between university researchers and local communities?
   2. How does this change what kinds of histories we can write about the photography or the 20th c. US?