

Frank Speck's Lantern Slides

Guiding Questions

- Speck assumed he was documenting cultures that were vanishing. How do these photographs help dispel that notion?
 - How does this practice connect to other ideas seen in popular culture, then and now?
- Frank Speck, by his own admission, considered the Unnui people more “primitive”, yet this idea was formed by his own preconceived notions about another culture.
 - How do you think Speck's own misconceptions about Indigenous cultures played into his documenting process?
 - Look up the anthropology concept “cultural relativism” and compare and contrast that to Speck's practices
- Do you think Speck staged any of these photographs to appeal more to a white audience and their ideas about Indigenous cultures?
 - Why does representation matter? How can representation combat ideas like those of romanticism?

Classroom Activities

- Explore the digital collections (<https://diglib.amphilsoc.org/islandora/graphics/mssmscoll126-lantern-slides>) and find slides that were not included in the exhibition. Find three slides that represent both Indigenous culture and modernity and explain why they are a good representation of the two.
- Find ways that Indigenous folks today are preserving their customs and communities through utilizing modern technology to sustain and create awareness around their cultures. These can be podcasts, clothing lines, films, social media, etc. Use these resources to learn more about Indigenous cultures today. Share your findings with others!