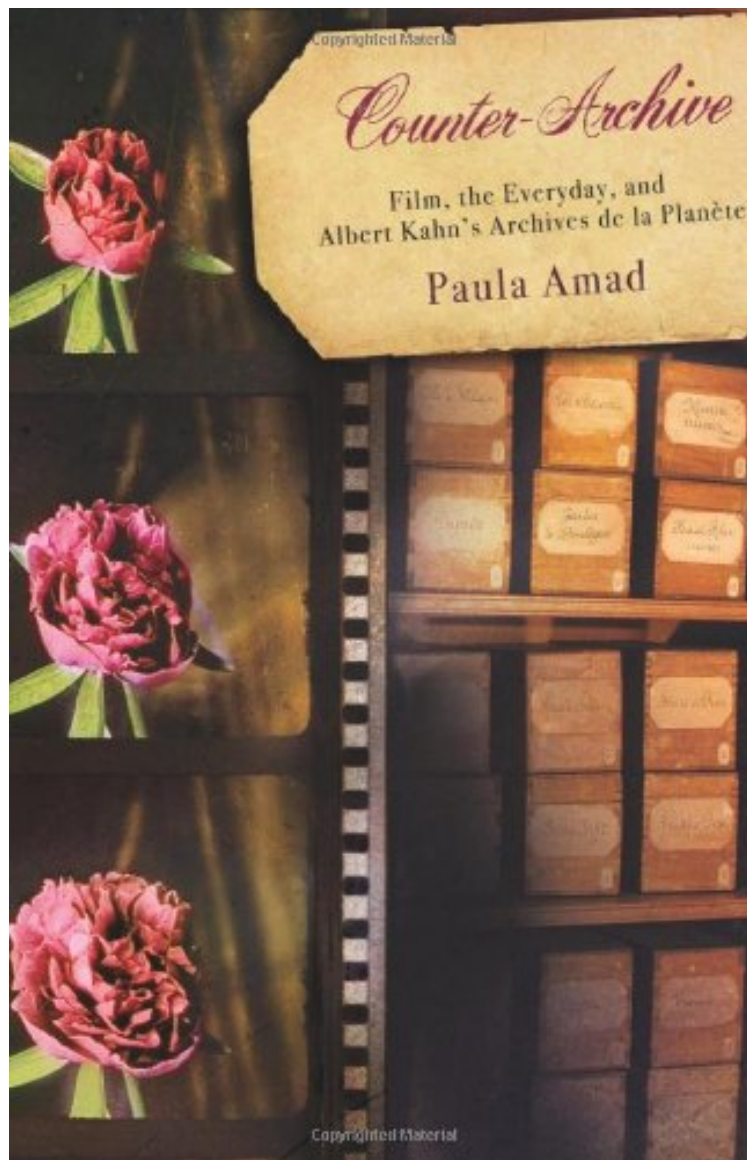


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## Counter-Archive: Film, the Everyday, and Albert Kahn's Archives de la Plante (Film and Culture Series)

*Paula Amad*

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**Paula Amad : Counter-Archive: Film, the Everyday, and Albert Kahn's Archives de la Plante (Film and Culture Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Counter-Archive: Film, the Everyday, and Albert Kahn's Archives de la Plante (Film and Culture Series):

1 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Unimaginative and uninforming  
By Erin Murphy  
Don't get suckered by what Paula Amad's friends have said. This book is nothing special at all -- not groundbreaking in the least, and containing inaccuracies as well. Hardly the scholarly masterpiece that Amad's friends were clearly pressured by her to call it. You'd be best reading something else if film study is your thing.

Tucked away in a garden on the edge of Paris is a multimedia archive like no other: Albert Kahn's Archives de la Plante (1908-1931). Kahn's vast photo-cinematographic experiment preserved world memory through the privileged lens of everyday life, and Counter-Archive situates this project in its biographic, intellectual, and cinematic contexts. Tracing the archive's key influences, such as the philosopher Henri Bergson, the geographer Jean Brunhes, and the biologist Jean Comandon, Paula Amad maps an alternative landscape of French cultural modernity in which vitalist philosophy cross-pollinated with early film theory, documentary film with the avant-garde, cinematic models of temporality with the early Annales school of history, and film's appropriation of the planet with human geography and colonial ideology. At the heart of the book is an insightful meditation upon the transformed concept of the archive in the age of cinema and an innovative argument about film's counter-archival challenge to history. The first comprehensive study of Kahn's films, Counter-Archive also offers a vital historical perspective on debates involving archives, media, and memory.

Counter-Archive is a groundbreaking, original and scholarly book, which is indispensable to a full understanding of the early and present history of the cinema and its relationship to the archive and the everyday. (Barbara Creed H-France)an ambitious and compelling book which elegantly ties meticulous archival detail to astute theoretical challenges, and its conceptual hook may well inspire further critical attention. (Tara Blake Wilson New Formations)A work of exceptional scholarly merit. (Jan Baetens Biography)...rich and endearing study... (Lisabeth During and Deborah Levitt Years Work in Critical and Cultural Theory)About the AuthorPaula Amad is an Australian-born Lebanese academic and Associate Professor of cinema and comparative literature at the University of Iowa. She has taught at universities in Australia, France, and the United States and is the recipient of a J. Paul Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship.