

Fields of Vision: Thinking Field Photography and Digital Imaging across Disciplines

Monday 15th October 2018

Art History & World Art Studies, Sainsbury Research Unit, University of East Anglia

Digital technologies have profoundly altered how field images are made, how they circulate, and how they generate meaning. Meanwhile, advances in imaging present new possibilities for the production of visual knowledge of the material world. These changes have had profound effects upon the study of visual and material culture. This colloquium aims to train the spotlight on the rapidly shifting terrain of field photography, exploring its significance for the establishment, definition, and development of such interrelated disciplines as archaeology, anthropology, art history, heritage and museum studies.

Historically, photography has offered a means through which field sites and subjects were constructed, communicated, and conceptually reinforced. This was often predicated on assumptions of distance, objectivity, and the atemporal. Given recent theorizations and reappraisals of visual media, we ask how disciplines are critically harnessing photography and digital imaging as methodological tools for the twenty-first century. Key questions to be explored will include:

- What implications do new technologies have for the ways places of fieldwork are created and agency operates?
- How is 'the field' conceived and contained in an age of increased connectivity?
- How do new forms of imaging (such as 3D reconstruction) influence theoretical potential and disciplinary boundaries in useful ways?
- What new ethical considerations arise from the surge in the (re)production and dissemination of both contemporary and historical images?

This colloquium aims to be interdisciplinary, embracing photography and imaging as a methodological and theoretical tool in the study of material culture. Papers are invited that relate to these questions in and across the following disciplines:

- Archaeology
- Anthropology
- History of Art and Architecture
- Museum Studies
- Cultural Heritage Studies
- History

Presentations will be 20 minutes in length with an additional 10 minutes for questions. Papers from postgraduate researchers are particularly encouraged. The day will conclude with a plenary panel and final discussion with contributions from **Dr Christophe Moulh rat** (Mus e du Quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Paris), **Dr Helen Anderson** (African Rock Art Image Project) and **Dr Kelley Wilder** (De Montfort University, Leicester).

The colloquium is free to attend; unfortunately, there is no funding assigned to cover travel costs. Proposals for papers should include an abstract of 250 words, the name and affiliation of the speaker and a small biography, and be emailed to fieldsofvision2018@gmail.com before the **1st of August 2018**.