



VISUAL **PRAXIS**
COLLECTIVE



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Mission Statement

We are a crossdisciplinary research cluster that explores forms of visual practice and theory in research, pedagogy, and public scholarship. At a time when imaging technologies occupy an increasingly prominent position within the academy and culture at large, critical and engaged inquiry into the use of visual media is vital to contemporary scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. However, most forms of academic production and evaluation continue to privilege text-based work. This research cluster seeks to address this gap by cultivating a space where scholars can investigate the practical and theoretical implications of this visual turn. We examine how visual work can add to the scholarly record, contribute to theoretical debate and development, lead to research innovation, enhance teaching, and engage diverse audiences in research.

Collective Members and Interests

The collective consists of graduate students and faculty from across the humanities and social sciences, including Anthropology, Art History, Asian Languages and Literatures, Cinema Studies, Comparative Literature, English, History, Museology, Slavic Studies, Social Work, and Women Studies. We welcome colleagues from related fields who share an interest in visual theory and practice to join the research cluster.

Collective members approach visual praxis from a variety of directions and are engaged in projects that include but are not limited to: critical analysis of a broad range of visual materials from cinematic images to drawing and painting; ethnographic and documentary photography and video; participant-driven and dialogic forms of image production such as photovoice; GIS and other mapping technologies; and curatorial practices of archiving, exhibit design, and display.

Current & Planned Collective Activities

- Hold monthly meetings to discuss visual projects by VPC members
- Discuss theoretical and practical aspects of images and cultural production
- Curate quarterly thematic public programs
- Coordinate with the UW Libraries Media Center in film and video acquisitions
- Develop online resources and archives
- Hold instructional workshops to strengthen members' technical skills
- Design and create innovative on-campus exhibit spaces for visual projects
- Foster links with local organizations and nationwide university programs
- Develop ideas for future research and collaborations



Founding Faculty Members:

Francisco Benitez (Comparative Literature), Yomi Braester (Comparative Literature & Cinema Studies), Danny Hoffman (Anthropology), Susie Kim (Asian Languages & Literature), James Tweedie (Comparative Literature & Cinema Studies), and Sasha Welland (Anthropology & Women Studies)

All brochure photographs were taken by members of VPC.

