

Please forward to interested colleagues

Second announcement and call for papers and presentations, deadline June 15, 2007.

Through the Image:
Using the visual to investigate, analyze, create and present

Stockholm 25-27 October 2007.

The meeting is arranged by the Nordic network for visual social science, together with Department of Sociology, Stockholm University, and in connection with Department of Journalism, Media and Communication (JMK), Stockholm University, Nordiska museet and others doing visual work in Stockholm. The meeting will take place at the conference centre at Hässelby slott, which is about 40 minutes by Metro from the middle of the City. Costs of participation (travel tickets, accommodation and meals during the meeting) will be met by funds kindly provided by the Nordic Council of Ministers through NordForsk.

The meeting will present and discuss Nordic work in the area of visual social science in a broad sense, and together with leading researchers discuss key problems in visual studies. The meeting will also include short workshops on visualizing contemporary consumer culture as well as exploring visual documents and memories in archives.

The keynote speakers are almost settled: Joan Schwartz, Queen's University, Canada, Sarah Pink, Loughborough University, England, and Faye Ginsburg, New York University, and hopefully Marianne Gullestad, Institute for Social Research, Oslo, (see more information below).

We invite all Nordic social scientists (broadly defined) to present their work (as films, papers, multimedia presentations, exhibits, etc). Papers or full formal presentations are not required but we hope for an abundance of visual material. Please send short descriptions/abstracts – not more than 500 words - before the deadline to

paul.fuehrer@sociology.su.se

Doctoral students are particularly encouraged to participate. Send us a short description (max 500 words) of your research and a few words from your supervisor to the same address before the deadline.

Like our previous conference “A Closer Look” held in Roskilde in November 2006, this meeting “Through the Image” summarizes different concerns and forms of visual practice. Visual knowing or the making of visual knowledge is manifested in many different research activities, qualitative and quantitative, from photographing people to asking them to photograph, from using archived images to creating representations of research results, from documenting the material traces of human relationships to emphasizing the fleeting character

of social interaction. This range of perspectives is further aimed at empowering subjects by making visible both the views and viewpoints of studied persons, and incorporating these standpoints in a reflected and critical manner into research design.

Possible themes for presentations include, for instance:

The role of the visual in social interaction and integration of groups and communities

Visualisation in boundary work, niche definitions and social exclusion processes

Visual objects as interaction foci, sharing images and relating to them in other ways

Visual phenomena vs visual study of various (indeed any) social phenomena

Art and other imaging, including “documentary” images of different kinds

“Aesthetic” versus “scientific” photography/film as working material

“Hidden history” revealed through photography/film

Visual fictions and discourses of fact and truth (in journalism and media).

We have contacted the following about keynote presentations:

Faye Ginsburg is a visual and cultural anthropologist, who has integrated cultural activism, politics, film and cinema into theoretical anthropology. She has received many awards and fellowships and has established the Center for Media, Culture and History at New York University, where she is Director. The Center is an interdisciplinary program that trains graduate students in the study of ethnography and film. Her own works focuses on cultural activism in different contexts, from right to life women in the abortion debate to the work of indigenous filmmakers. She has also done continual research on Australian Aborigines and their use of media.

Marianne Gullestad is Senior Researcher of the Institute for Social Research in Oslo. Her main current interests are visual anthropology, postcolonial studies and images of Africa. She is author of *Kitchen-Table Society* (1984/2002) and *Plausible Prejudice: Everyday Practices and Social Images of Nation, Culture and Race* (2006). Her current project is based on photographs made by Norwegian missionaries in Cameroon from 1922 onwards. It studies the kind of knowledge the public in Norway were invited to share, and the role of films and photographs in this process.

Sarah Pink is reader of Social Anthropology and Director of the Sociology Program at Department of Social Sciences at Loughborough University. Among her main themes are visual and media anthropology and applied anthropology, but also the senses and slow living. Her viewpoint is that visual research methods should be rooted in a critical understanding of local and academic visual cultures, the visual media and technologies being used and the ethical issues they raise. See for example her book *Doing Visual Ethnography* (second edition 2006).

Joan Schwartz is Adjunct Research Professor at Queen’s University in Kingston, Canada. She has broad experiences of doing research in photo archives, specially the National Archives of Canada, where she has been chief of photography acquisition and research. Among her research interests: photography as a tool of the geographical imagination, photography and the making of early modern Canada, theoretical and interpretive approaches to photographs and other non-tradition primary sources for geographical inquiry.

Welcome to Stockholm in October!

On behalf of the network steering group:

Karin Becker, Árni Sverrisson, Annette Rosengren

This and other information will be posted at <http://visual.sociology.su.se> and <http://groups.google.com/group/nordic-visual-studies>