



Credit: Photo by M. Mash & S. Lama 2022, website "Home?" presented at the conference

DGSKA AG Visual Anthropology

CFP Interim Conference, October 28 – 29, 2022 (Münster University)

Location: conference room "Festsaal", address: Schlossplatz 5, 48149 Münster

Time: Oct. 28, 1 pm – Oct. 29, 2:30 pm

Caught in the crisis? Doing audio-visual ethnography in times of crisis.

The powerful social role of visual practices and the relationship between image production and civil society in times of crisis (A. Azoulay) is evident.

From an (audio-)visual anthropologist's perspective, we would like to explore the question, how anthropologists can develop (audio-)visual narrative strategies to represent, what crisis means to people, how it resonates in people, and how it feels to people? How could representations in film, photography or audiovisual installations help to convey „feelings of crisis“ in a local context? How can a particular camera movement, soundscape creation or editing techniques convey how a crisis is experienced?

Crises are manifold, they arise as climate or financial crises, as natural disasters or pandemics, as human-caused ones such as war or terrorist attacks. They can affect entire countries or specific regions, they can have long-term global consequences or short-term impact on individuals and their social environments. In particular when a crisis is recognized as an ongoing state (H. Vigh 2008) that forces people "to make lives in fragmented and volatile worlds rather than waiting for normalization and reconfiguration" (Vigh, 2008, p. 8), anthropologists study the effects of crisis on societies, everyday practices or activism. Especially in the field of visual cultural practices, anthropologists are concerned with questions such as: How do people create (audio-)visual forms to respond to, cope with or remember crises? How do minority groups use visual, social and multimedia storytelling to show solidarity in crisis situations, raise their voices and become visible in public discourse? What influence can an aestheticization of crisis and catastrophe have on the practice of meaning-making in such times?

In this context, we would like to explore the intersections between media and visual anthropology in this workshop. Subject-generated images and those disseminated via social media present both a challenge and a potential for anthropological film- and media production. Can we relate and position our own media representations to the images produced by amateurs and subjects, or possibly mediate and incorporate such material, keeping in mind ethical issues and questions of collaborative or joint authorship?

Visual anthropologists also face the challenges that a crisis can bring to their studies. How should one respond when natural crises disrupt access to particular communities or regions of interest? What methodological adjustments are necessary to capture sudden and catastrophic changes in a social context?

For the interim-conference of the DGSKA Visual Anthropology Working Group (October 28-29, 2022 at the Anthropology Institute in Münster), we are interested in how audio-visual anthropology happens in or about crisis situations.



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Program

Friday October 28

1.00 pm

Welcome and Introduction, Cathrine Bublatzky and Thomas John

1.15 pm

Sanderien Verstappen (Vienna)

"Editing visual landscapes of a global crisis" (online) (25 min + 20 Min discussion)

2.00 pm

Thomas John (Berlin & Münster)

"Making the private public: Audio-visual articulation of personal struggle" (Münster)
(Screening of audio-visual materials, presentation + 20 min discussion)

3.35 pm

Coffee Break

3.50 pm

Martin Tscholl (Berlin)

"Photography and the non-human" (Münster) (25 min + 20 min discussion)

4.35 pm

Shisang Lama and McCall Mash (Münster)

"Home?" Presentation of an interactive audio-visual web-documentary project +
Discussion (Münster)

5.15 pm

Coffee Break

5.45 pm

Laurent Van Lancker (Brussels)

„Kalès” (online) Film (63 min) + 20 min discussion

7.15 pm

End

Saturday October 29

10.00 am

Simone Pfeifer (Cologne)

„Archival Screens Collecting, Saving, and Ordering Obscure Material”
(Münster) (film 10 min)

10.45 am

Andrea Graf (Bonn)

„Wie die Schützenbruderschaft Keyenberg der tagebaubedingten Umsiedlung und der Corona-Pandemie begegnet” (Münster), related film project “Das letzte Fest – Die St. Sebastianus-Schützenbruderschaft Keyenberg siedelt um”, 2021 Film 60 Min.,
(Directed by Andrea Graf)

11.45 am

Lunch Break

12.45 pm

Hansjörg Dilger, Kristina Mashimi & FU Berlin students: Martina Bernasconi, Zofia Janiszewska, Theresa Thuß, Svenja Holzhausen, Tom Lagodny
Film protagonist present: Precious Chukwukezie

“Building Lives in the Context of Forced Migration: A Collaborative Film Project in Berlin”, (Münster) presentation & screening of two short (15 min) films + discussion

2.15 pm

Concluding remarks + fine