

Visual Sociology -Expressions of the Visual in the Dynamic Continuum of Identity; Natives and Foreigners

(six sessions)

Chair: Simon Kagan

Visual Sessions were first introduced to the IIS Congress in Krakow 2001 in collaboration with The National Film, Television and Theatre School (PWSFTviT), Lodz, Poland. This time we collaborate with The University College of Film, Radio, Television and Theater, the Dramatiska Institute (DI), Stockholm, Sweden; The film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune, India, in conjunction with the Centre International de Liaison des Ecoles de Cinema et de Television (CILECT); and the Human Rights Festival, Venice Biennale.

In one of her last publications, entitled: “Visual Anthropology in a Discipline of Words” (1974), Margaret Mead expressed her regrets that scholars were not sufficiently aware of the advantages that filming offers for their research work. Of course, this was also true of neighboring fields, and particularly of sociology. After more than 30 years, not only has her vision yet to be realized; there has been an inversion of the relationship between the key variables. Nowadays, the emphasis should not be put on visuals in disciplines of words, but rather on words in disciplines of the visual. Social science scholars should note that cinema and television are taking over, and adapt by throwing open the gates to all such Frontiers.

This pioneering will happen at the 37th IIS World Congress, on an even larger scale. It is high time for these changes, while it is quite easy to catch up with and follow the technical progress, as we all apparently do manage to manipulate the tools, immersed in pictures and icons at every step. Even when we are invaded by these images at every click of the mouse, we adapt. Technologies evolve appropriately to fit our needs, and the *Kino-Eye*, envisioned by Dziga Vertov and the *Caméra-Stylo*, envisioned by Alexandre Astruc, seems ready to be used. We are certain to soon find ourselves communicating in dynamic images, without even noticing the transition. After years of being entertained by movies that confine us to the narrow choice between horror films and musicals, it is time we take advantage of these new facilities for the benefit of instruction. In the following sessions, we will examine different aspects of the visual contribution to the written accounts in the study and research of the social sciences.

This program includes homage to:

Marcel Mauss, Jean Rouch, Edgar Morin and Georges Dumézil.

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