

Seminar at GSA 2024 (Atlanta, 26–29 Sep 24)

Atlanta, GA, Sep 26–29, 2024

ArtHist.net Redaktion

48th German Studies Association Conference (GSA).

[1] Operational Images: Vision and Media across German Studies.

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From: Mimi Cheng

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Deadline: 23 Feb 2024

This seminar examines the operational image, a concept that can be traced to the work of the filmmaker Harun Farocki. Instead of strictly representing things or ideas, these are image-types that belong to machinic processes not intended for human eyes, such as retinal scans. The concept of the operatives Bild has since been used by scholars including Volker Pantenburg, Thomas Elsaesser, and most recently, Jussi Parikka, to think through the role of images beyond their symbolic meaning and toward their actual application in technologized regimes of state power and social control. This seminar seeks to gather and analyze operational images across a broad historical range within German visual culture and examine how they perform, circulate, and choreograph action. Under what conditions are they produced and seen? What forms of viewership do they construct and deconstruct? How can the concept expand and complicate the study of art objects and media artifacts?

Format: Participants will present one example of an operational image for collective study and discussion, alongside any background reading (10 pages maximum), ultimately working toward a compendium of images. As preparation, participants will view 2-3 short films and read approximately 50 pages of text, which will be circulated one month prior.

Additional information and application instructions:

<https://www.thegsa.org/blog/cfa-seminar-participant-applications-gsa-2024>

Please contact the conveners with any questions:

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Reference:

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