

The Invisible Image: Photography and the Unseen (Liverpool, 18–19 Jun 26)

Liverpool, UK, Jun 18–19, 2026

Michelle Henning

The Invisible Image: Photography and the Unseen

A single-stream 2 day International Conference hosted by the Centre for Culture and Everyday Life, School of the Arts, University of Liverpool in collaboration with Open Eye Gallery

Programme

DAY 1: JUNE 18

9.-9.30 registration and coffee

9.30 Welcome

KEYNOTE 1 Jordan Bear, 'Lurking Unsuspected': Visibility and Purity in Photography's Media

Panel 1 Archival Absences

- Tom Allbeson, Picture Post at home & abroad: Seeing and not seeing imperial citizens in post-war British photojournalism
- Patricia Hayes, Unseen: the underworld of unprocessed photographs from the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa (1980s)

Panel 2 Concealment and Public Space

- Annie Rudd, Invisible Photographers: Walker Evans, Candid Cameras, and "Vanity"
- Godehard Janzing, An invisible Shooting Scene? Daguerre's "Boulevard du temple" and Fieschi's "infernal machine"
- Donald Weber, Infrastructural Walking: Photography as Residual Registration

1.45 lunch break

Panel 3 Latent Sensitivities

- Aindreas Scholz, Invisible Botanies: Anna Atkins's Cyanotypes, Chemical Latency and Climate Change
- Ellen Yiwei Wang, Unseen Images and Latent Media: Thoughtography and Spirit Photography in Japan
- Sarah Edith James, Atomic Images: An Ultraviolet Art History of Afterlives?

3.45 tea break

Panel 4 Strategies of Recognition

- Laura Love, Using vernacular photography to ground an art historical approach to trans bodies in the UK
 - Antonia Deus, Aesthetics of Image Censorship: Artistic Strategies of (In)Visibility in Contemporary Iranian Portrait Photography
 - Emily Beswick, An archive of hybridity: photographs of mixed individuals and communities in early 20th century Liverpool
- drinks reception for 6pm, followed by optional conference dinner at 7.30

DAY 2: JUNE 19

9.30-10 coffee

KEYNOTE 2 Estelle Blaschke, Entangled Invisibilities in AI Photography

Panel 5 Archives and Coloniality

- Erin Pauwels, Invisible Backdrops and Archival Afterlives: Recovering Agency in Indigenous American Delegation Photographs
- Anne Cross, From Slave Auction to Art Auction: Disappeared Tintypes of the 'Princess Madia' and the Politics of the Unseen

Panel 6 Law Enforcement and Institutional Images

- Donna West Brett, Photographic Anxiety: Surveillance and the Unseen
- Kylie Thomas, Shallow Abyss
- Clara Trivellato, A Game of Hide-and-Seek: Microdots and Latent Images in the Stasi's Cold War Operations

1.30 lunch

Panel 7 Images and Infrastructures

- Ángeles Donoso Macaya, Against "shadows of imprecision": elucidating the "invisible" visual infrastructure of women peasants' organizing against pesticides in Chile (1985 – present)
- Mi Zhou, Material Infrastructure of Personal Photography in the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976)
- Thale Elisabeth Sørli, Uncovering an invisible and profound integration of photography in modern infrastructure

Panel 8 Technology and Invisibility

- Franziska Barth, Capturing the RAW
- Yanai Toister, Potential Picturability
- Isabelle Lynch, Seeing Beyond Fifty Meters Deep: Photography, Electric Light, and the Rapture of the Deep

5pm end

Conference full fee: £90

Unwaged/ PhD students: £45

Fee includes lunches and refreshments across both days and a drinks reception. We are unable to offer fee waivers.

Registration booking link at <http://www.ccel.uk/invisible-image-programme> (bottom of page)

Reference:

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