

# HOW HISTORIANS WORK WITH VISUAL SOURCES

## HISTORY AS AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SPACE

Convenors: Paul Betts (St Antony's, Oxford)  
Elissa Mailänder (Sciences Po, CHSP / Nuffield College)

**17 February 2023**

European Studies Centre,  
St Antony's College

The 20th century is often described as the Age of the Image, given the saturation of mass media and visual information of all kinds in people's everyday lives since the late 19th century. But for a range of reasons, historians are often reluctant and even averse to integrating visual sources into scholarship. This workshop is designed to probe the interface of history-writing and visual artefacts, and to explore the ways in which visual sources can enrich and challenge historical understandings of the past from a variety of perspectives.

This event is sponsored by the History Faculty's OXPO  
(Oxford-Sciences Po Paris) Exchange

**9:00-9:05 Paul Betts (St Antony's, Oxford), Welcome**

**9:05-10:30 Panel 1: Desire and Spectacle**

**Elissa Mailänder** (Sciences Po/History), *Cruising Europe in WWII: Epistemological Challenges of German Vernacular Trophy Photography*

**Annebella Pollen** (University of Brighton/Visual and Material Culture), *Voluptuousness and Photographic Impurity: Methodological Reflections on Mutable Meanings in the Jean Straker Archive*

Chair: **Paul Betts** (St Antony's, Oxford/History)

10:30-11:00 Coffee/Tea Break

**11:30-01:00 Panel 2: Intimacy and Presence**

**Guillaume Piketty** (Sciences Po/History), *Intimacy at stake in a concentration camp: what does a portrait tell us, or not?*

**Elizabeth Edwards** (Oxford/Anthropology), *Excavating Presence*

Chair: **Ruth Harris** (All Souls College, Oxford/History)

1:00-2:00 Lunch in College

**2:00-3:30 Panel 3: Judgment and Ruins**

**Claire Andrieu** (Sciences Po/History), *The Nazi eye - our view of continental Europe in WW2?*

**Tom Allbeson** (Cardiff University/Media History), *PhotoHistory: Historical Imagination, Photojournalism & Postwar Europe*

Chair: **Elissa Mailänder** (Sciences Po/History)

3:30-4:00 Coffee/Tea Break

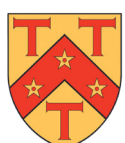
**4:00-5:30 Panel 4: Faces and Technology**

**Margaret Hillenbrand** (Wadham College, Oxford/Visual and Chinese Studies), *Sketching from Life? Photography and Facial Recognition Technologies in China*

**Natalya Vince** (University College Oxford/History), *Personal photographs and meaning (re)making in oral history Interviews*

Chair: **Elizabeth Edwards** (Oxford/Anthropology)

7:30 Dinner for Speakers at All Souls Dining Hall



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