

Getting a better picture: the use and scope of visual methods in geography and social science

Date: Wednesday 24th June 2009
Time: 12.30-3.30pm
Venue: L/T B (Room 1057) Shackleton Building (Building 44)
Speakers: Dr Michael Crang, University of Durham and Professor Les Back, Goldsmiths, University of London
Organisers: Dr Roberta Comunian, School of Geography, & Dr Paul Sweetman, School of Social Sciences, University of Southampton

Despite growing interest in and use of visual methods across the social sciences and in geography, such methods are not always utilised as fully or in such an informed way as more 'traditional' methods of research. This seminar, sponsored by the National Centre for Research Methods, is an opportunity to learn more about the use and scope of visual methods in contemporary social science and their potential for developing innovative research within the disciplines concerned.

Programme:

12.30 – 12.40 Introduction

12.40 – 1.40 **Dr Michael Crang**, Reader in the Department of Geography, University of Durham: *"Seeing Places, Doing Tourism, Watching Tourists: the challenges of visual methods"*

1.40 – 2.00 Tea and Coffee

2.00 - 3.00 **Professor Les Back**, Professor in the Department of Sociology, Goldsmiths, University of London: *"Portrayal and Betrayal: Photography and Sociological Craft"*

3.00-3.30 Discussion and conclusion

Attendance is free but spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please email Roberta Comunian R.Comunian@soton.ac.uk by the 20th of June if you wish to attend the seminar.

All academic staff and postgraduate students from the University of Southampton are welcome. Students and academics from other institutions should contact Roberta Comunian to see if spaces are available.

Dr Michael Crang is Reader in the Department of Geography, University of Durham. His interest in visual methods began with on the one hand thinking of urban heritage and photography in memorialisation. He has continued to work on both the visual as topic, in terms of landscape and identity and more lately with photography, aesthetics and waste. The two approaches recent collided in work on the consumptions of Kefalonia as a touristed and filmic landscape.

Professor Les Back is Professor of Sociology at Goldsmiths. He is the author of *The Art of Listening* (Berg Publishers, 2007) and the convenor of the 'Live Sociology programme' an ESRC funded project to train researchers in the use of multimedia.