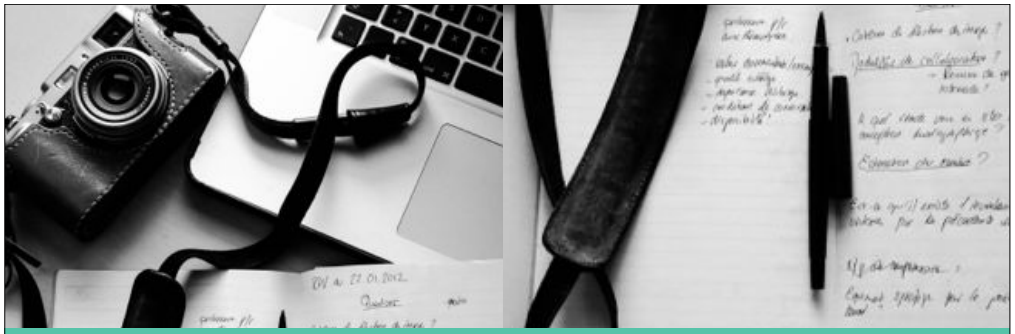
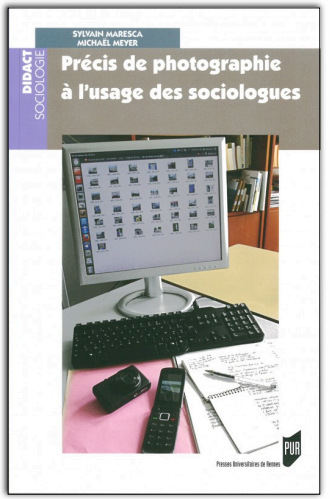


LA PHOTOGRAPHIE EN SCIENCES SOCIALES : DE L'OBJET A L'OUTIL

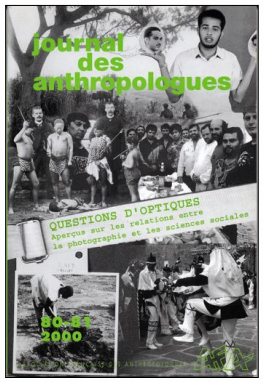
Rencontres Méthodes et Recherche - FORS - UNIL - 2 décembre 2014

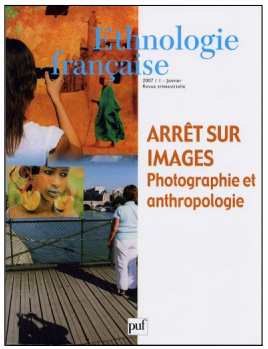
Sylvain Maresca, Michaël Meyer
Précis de photographie à l'usage des sociologues
PUR, 2013

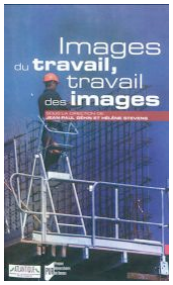


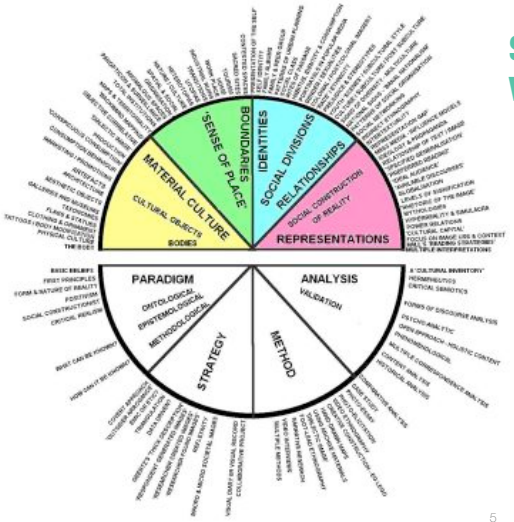
- Sociologie **sur** les images
- Sociologie **avec** les images
- Sociologie **en** images

Des questions de principe… aux questions de méthode





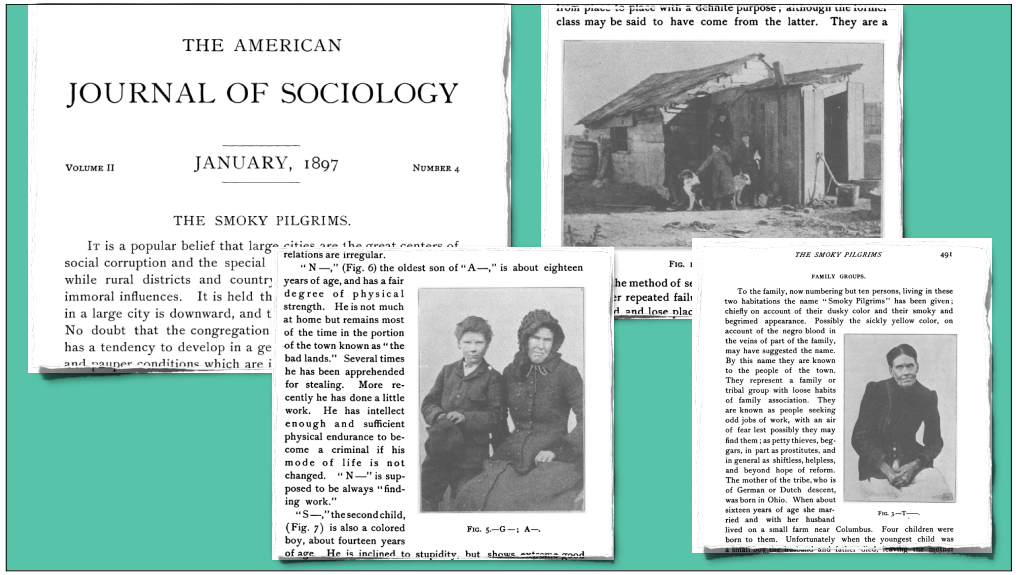




SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF VISUAL RESEARCH

Extrait de Stephen Spencer, *Visual Research Methods in Social Sciences*, 2010

PROCESSES OF VISUAL RESEARCH



THE AMERICAN

JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY

VOLUME II — JANUARY, 1897 — NUMBER 4

THE SMOKY PILGRIMS.

IT is a popular belief that large cities are the great centers of social corruption and the special while rural districts and country immoral influences. It is held th in a large city is downward, and t No doubt that the congregation has a tendency to develop in a ge and pauper conditions which are i

class may be said to have come from the latter. They are a

relations are irregular.

"N—," (Fig. 6) the oldest son of "A—," is about eighteen years of age, and has a fair degree of physical strength. He is not much at home but remains most of the time in the portion of the town known as "the bad lands." Several times he has been apprehended for stealing. More recently he has done a little work. He has intellect enough and sufficient physical endurance to become a criminal if his mode of life is not changed. "N—" is supposed to be always "finding work."

"S—," the second child, (Fig. 7) is also a colored boy, about fourteen years of age. He is inclined to stupidity, but shows extreme good

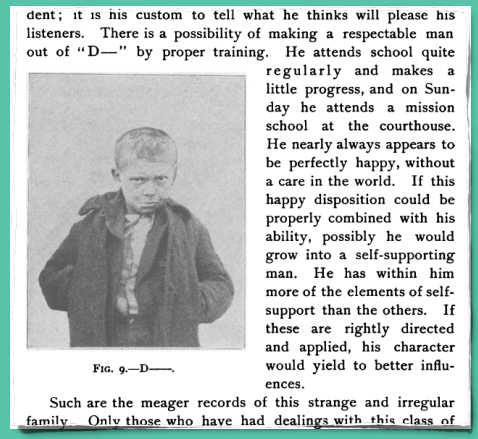
FIG. 5.—G—; A—.

THE SMOKY PILGRIMS 491

FAMILY GROUPS.

To the family, now numbering but ten persons, living in these two habitations the name "Smoky Pilgrims" has been given; chiefly on account of their dusky color and their smoky and begrimed appearance. Possibly the sickly yellow color, on account of the negro blood in the veins of part of the family, may have suggested the name. By this name they are known to the people of the town. They represent a family or tribal group with loose habits of family association. They are known as people seeking odd jobs of work, with an air of fear lest possibly they may find them; as petty thieves, beggars, in part as prostitutes, and in general as shiftless, helpless, and beyond hope of reform. The mother of the tribe, who is of German or Dutch descent, was born in Ohio. When about sixteen years of age she married and with her husband lived on a small farm near Columbus. Four children were born to them. Unfortunately when the youngest child was

FIG. 3—T—.

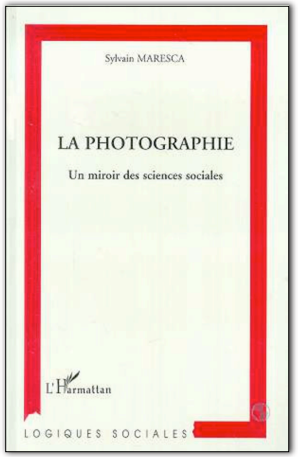


dent; it is his custom to tell what he thinks will please his listeners. There is a possibility of making a respectable man out of "D—" by proper training. He attends school quite regularly and makes a little progress, and on Sunday he attends a mission school at the courthouse. He nearly always appears to be perfectly happy, without a care in the world. If this happy disposition could be properly combined with his ability, possibly he would grow into a self-supporting man. He has within him more of the elements of self-support than the others. If these are rightly directed and applied, his character would yield to better influences.

FIG. 9.—D——.

Such are the meager records of this strange and irregular family. Only those who have had dealings with this class of

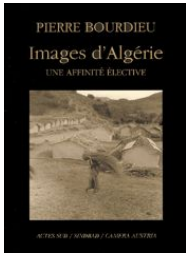
«The second child, "D--" (Fig. 9) is bright and interesting. Being photographed was an important occasion in his life, and in posing for his picture he somewhat distorted his usually bright countenance by an attempt to look serious. The other photographs are true to life. Indeed the one of " D -" is not a bad representation of him when his temper is on » (p.497-498)



- Photographie documentaire et le portrait (années 1930)
- Chercheurs s'interdisent de «penser aussi avec les yeux»
- Décloisonner art et science

«le caractère *aveugle* des sciences de l'homme»

« En fait, le souci d'être sérieux scientifiquement m'a porté à refouler la dimension littéraire: j'ai censuré beaucoup de choses (...) Or il m'arrive souvent de regretter aujourd'hui de n'avoir pas conservé de traces utilisables de cette expérience (...) Oui, c'est vrai, il faudrait que j'essaie un jour avec un magnétophone de dire ce qui me revient à l'esprit en regardant les photos »



P. Bourdieu, *Images d'Algérie. Une affinitié élective*, Actes Sud, 2003 :42

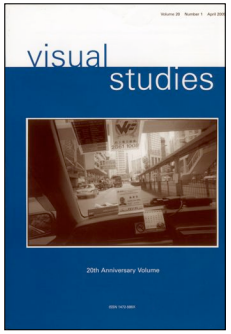
une pratique "refoulée" ?

Trois temps épistémiques de l'usage de la photographie en sciences sociales

1. Un scientisme originel : «impartialité mécanique»
2. L'émergence de la question de la «perturbation» : stratégies de neutralisation des techniques d'enquête
3. L'analyse réflexive des situations d'enquête avec une instrumentation (audio)visuelle

Un tournant «visuel» en sociologie

- La double invitation : Howard Becker, «Photography and Sociology», *Studies in the Anthropology of Visual Communication* 1, 1974 : 3-26.
- International Visual Sociology Association (IVSA)



Revue « Visual Sociology », dès 1986 ; devenue «Visual Studies» dès 2002

Un tournant «visuel» en sociologie

« l'usage de la photographie, du film et de la vidéo pour étudier la société, et l'étude des artefacts visuels d'une société »

Douglas Harper,
«Visual sociology : Expanding Sociological Vision»,
The American Sociologist, 1988, p.54

Usages de la photo en situation d'enquête

La photographie comme outil de documentation

- Images trouvées et analysées (*found data*)
- Prise de notes et aide-mémoire visuel
- La photographie réflexive : le journal visuel du chercheur

La photographie comme relation d'enquête

- La relation avec les enquêtés photographiés (impliquer les enquêtés)
- L'impact des techniques d'enquête ("perturbation")
- La photographie comme support d'entretien : susciter la parole

La photographie comme mode de restitution

- La photographie comme preuve
- La photographie comme outil de la communication scientifique
- La «photo-voice» : recherche-action par les images

Systématiser et densifier l'observation

Voir sans (déjà) savoir

Photographier : une posture d'observation

Observer en plusieurs temps

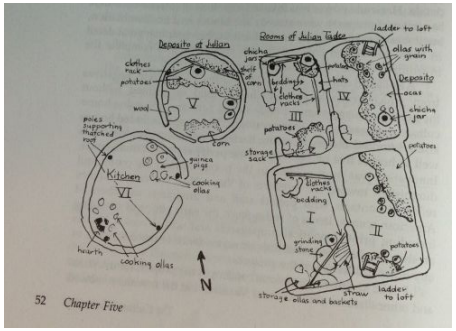
Douglas Harper
Good Company
The University of Chicago Press,1982

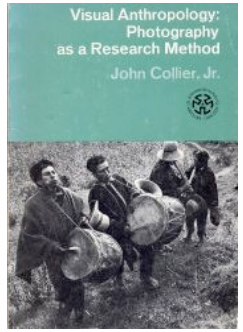
- Entrée en matière
- Guide pour l'attention
- Restitution qui mêle discours des acteurs et images de leurs pratiques

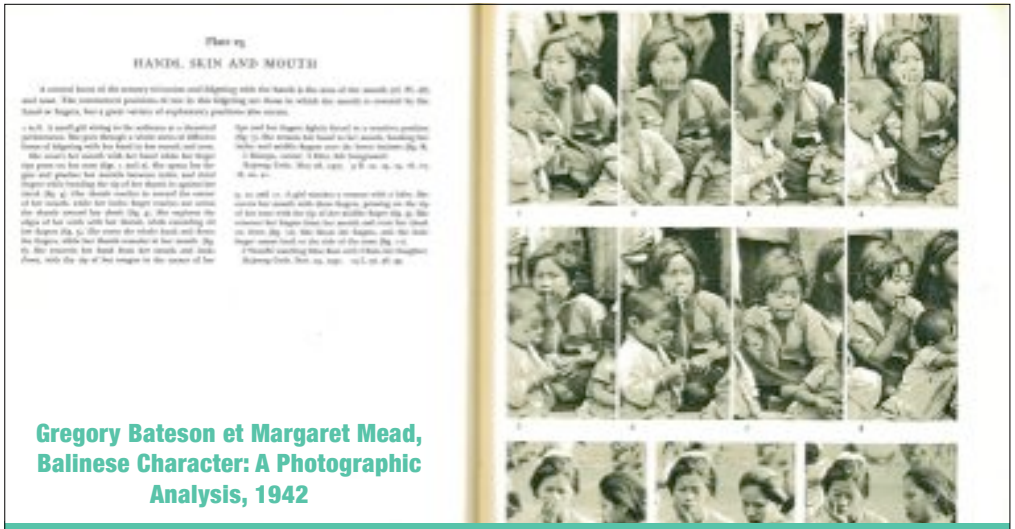
«inventaire visuel de comportements typiques dans des lieux qui le sont aussi» (Harper, 1988:179)

«cultural inventory» (chap.5)

John Collier Jr, Visual Anthropology: Phography as a Research Method, 1967

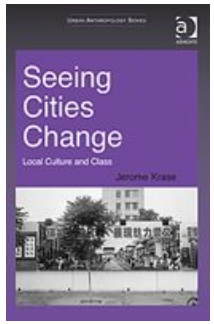






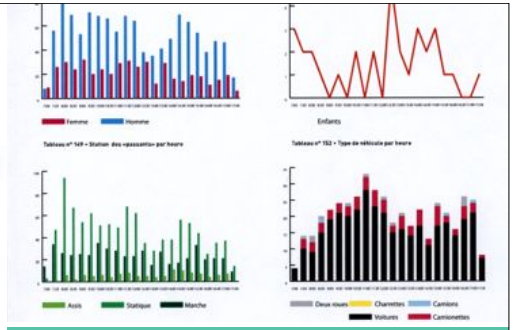
Gregory Bateson et Margaret Mead, Balinese Character: A Photographic Analysis, 1942

- Stratégie de récolte de données issue de la photographie documentaire
- Un ensemble de directives pour les prises de vue (liste de thèmes, objets, personnes ou lieux)
- Un ensemble de questions auxquelles les photographies devront répondre



«shooting script»

- Charles S. Suchar, «Grounding Visual Sociology Research In Shooting Scripts», *Qualitative Sociology*, vol.20, n°1, 1997
- Jerome Krase, *Seeing Cities Change. Local Culture and Class*, Ashgate, 2012



Comptage

Jérôme Chenal, *La ville ouest-africaine. Modèles de planification de l'espace urbain*, Genève, Métispresse, 2013

La photo comme support d'entretien

Echanger et confronter les «vues»

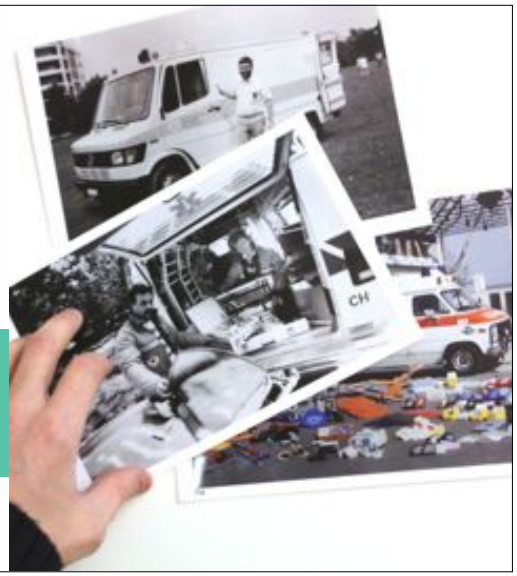
Bousculer l'«aire du photographiable»

«Photo-elicitation interview»

John Collier Jr, Visual Anthropology: Phography as a Research Method, 1967

- Echange verbal facilité
- Maintien d'une posture non-directive
- Introduire des thèmes de recherche sans avoir à les formaliser
- Capacité à stimuler la mémoire
- Emergence de commentaires spontanés
- Renversement de l'expertise

Mémoire orale du métier d'ambulancier en Suisse romande



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Douglas Harper, Changing Works: Visions of Lost Agriculture, The University of Chicago Press, 2001

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Patrizia Faccioli et Douglas Harper,
The Italian Way: Food & Social Life,
The University of Chicago Press, 2009

27

28

Elisa Bignante,« The use of photo-elicitation in field research. Exploring Maasai representations and use of natural resources », EchoGéo [En ligne], n°11, 2010.

Sylvaine Conord,
« “On va t’apprendre à faire des affaires…”. Echanges et négoces entre une anthropologue-photographe et des juives tunisiennes de Belleville »
Journal des anthropologues, n° 80-81, 2000 : 91-116.

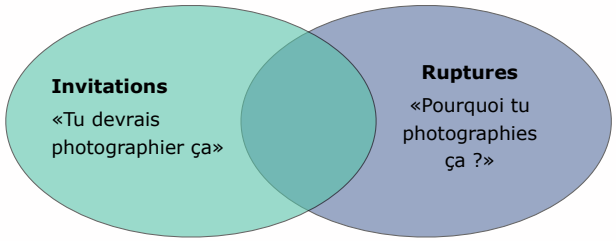
«Je n’ai pas eu à regretter ce nouveau positionnement : il me propulsait en quelque sorte au sein de modes relationnels vécus jusque-là en observatrice extérieure. Vendre, négocier, marchander, se valoriser, faisait partie de leur quotidien» (p.113)

l’«aire du photographiable»

Photographiable : ensemble des sujets photographiques permis, autorisés et valorisés par un groupe social

Photographié : ensemble des prises de vue effectivement réalisées par le chercheur sur le terrain d’enquête

Christian Papinot, «Le malentendu productif», Ethnologie française, 37(1), 2007: 79-86



Collaborer avec des photographes

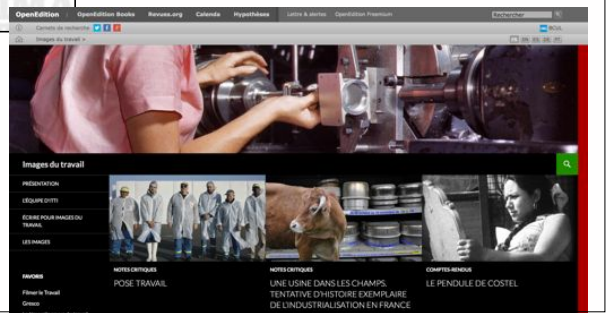
Elargir la palette des techniques d'exploration et de restitution

Confronter les manières de faire (≠ de se penser)

Outiller les chercheurs // Densifier les travaux des photographes

David Desaleux, *Etat des lieux, les lieux de l'Etat*, 2012

Laurent Kaczor, *17 Police*, Ed. Arléa, 2005

Arnaud Théval, *Moi le groupe*, Ed. Zédélé, 2009

http://itti.hypotheses.org