

Call for papers and proposals

Visual frictions and their futures

12-13 February 2015 a final workshop will be held in Stockholm, sponsored by the Nordic Network of Digital Visuality. The aim of this concluding workshop is twofold:

- First, to present and discuss papers for inclusion in a themed journal publication, summarizing the work of the network, and
- Second, to discuss proposals for continuing and/or expanding the collaboration begun during the three-year period of this network.

Visuality is an increasingly contested phenomenon. Rarely stable and never "pure", the visual is always intertwined with other senses and expressive forms, and is often implicated in multiple power relations. Whether as part of social and cultural practices, or as utilized in social scientific inquiry and investigation, the visual exerts a power that continues to challenge and be challenged by other ways of knowing. This is especially apparent when we consider visuality in its digital manifestations; as visually-based media expand their purview across social, cultural and geographic space we find they are often in "friction" with established norms, structures and modes of expression. Such "frictions" arise both in scientific inquiry and in everyday life, as visuality continues to assert a claim to dominance – seeing is believing, isn't it? – even in the face of contradictory claims.

For Day 1, we invite papers that address points of friction between visuality and other ways of knowing, in particular where the visual is in digital form. If you have presented at a previous NNDV event, we encourage you to revise your papers for this workshop. Following the aims established for the network, we particularly welcome papers discussing "frictions" and foreseeable futures in areas

1) where visuality and digital media intersect in everyday life; this includes contemporary social practices in which digitized visual media are integrated; social contexts framing digitally mediated visual expression; multimodal communication and interaction, both past and present;

2) where visual and multimodal research methods have been employed; this would include methodological and epistemological reflections on visual and multisensory methods of scientific inquiry; problematizations of visuality, particularly in its relation to other senses; and discussions of experientially and sensory-based research designs to create new forms of knowledge production and presentation;

3) where digital diversity is evident, desirable, or problematic, as in comparative studies of digital visuality in different social, cultural and historical contexts; global distribution and stratification of digital media; or social, cultural, historical and political aspects of digital divides between and within societies.

The first day will conclude with a "postnote" speaker, discussing the papers and how they fit together, with an eye toward publication.

For Day 2, we invite proposals for continued collaboration following or re-imagining the theme of the NNDV network. This may be a proposal for a working group in an international organization, for a research project or program, for a network or research exchange. While we do not expect a full-fledged research application (as submitted to a funding agency, for example), it is important to make your proposal both concrete and realistic, with suggestions of appropriate collaborators, possible institutions and funding agencies, including deadlines for any applications. The aim of the session is to work through several concrete alternatives and develop time-lines for implementation.

To present a paper: Send an extended abstract, maximum 1 A4 page, to Karin Becker (karin.becker@ims.su.se), no later than December 1. Include your home institution and position. If accepted, you agree to submit and circulate a completed article, of 6.000 words no later than 1 February 2015. You may also submit a completed paper that fits the workshop criteria – perhaps one that you have “in the drawer”. Note that any paper accepted for the workshop will also be submitted to a double-blind peer-reviewed open-access journal for a themed issue with the working title, “Visual frictions and their futures.”

To present a proposal: Send a description of a proposal to extend or expand the network, to Asko Lehmuskallio (asko.lehmuskallio@hiit.fi). Include your home institution and position. The proposal should be approximately 1 A4 page in length, and you have the possibility of expanding on the proposal (following the guidelines above) until 1 February 2015, on which date it will be circulated to workshop participants.

Whether submitting a paper or a proposal, you are encouraged to review the report from the spring 2014 network conference, “Beyond the Frame”, for common areas of interest and other points of entry into the workshop theme. See: <http://research.jmk.su.se/nndv/news-and-activities/2014/04/23/nndvs-beyond-the-frame-concluding-discussion/>

Deadlines:

December 1: Paper Abstract (or full paper) submission. To be sent to Karin Becker (karin.becker@ims.su.se)

December 1: Network proposal submission to be sent to Asko Lehmuskallio (asko.lehmuskallio@hiit.fi)

December 15: Notification of acceptance to the workshop.

January 15: Deadline for booking travel. If your paper or proposal is accepted, costs for a round-trip plane or train fare, meals and lodging will be covered by the network.

February 1: Deadline for distributing completed papers and network proposals to all workshop participants.

Finally, in order to encourage discussion, the number of participants in the workshop is limited. However, there may be space for a few participants who wish to contribute to the discussion without presenting a paper or proposal. If you wish to participate, please send a brief motivation to Karin Becker. You will be notified by January 15 and, if accepted, costs for your travel and lodging will be covered by the network.