

Call for Papers

## **Beyond Representation: Photography, Humans & Computers**

24—25 May 2012

Centre for Media & Culture Research, London South Bank University  
in association with the journal *Philosophy of Photography*

Keynote Speaker: Ariella Azoulay

**Extended Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2012**

**Notification of acceptance: 15 February 2012**

The Early Bird Rate will be available from 15 February 2012, when registration opens, until 31 March 2012, after which the standard rates apply.

Individual papers: 500 word abstract.

Panel proposals: 500 word abstract of the panel's theme with details of the panel's chair and possible contributors.

Please send abstracts to Daniel Rubinstein ([Daniel.Rubinstein@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:Daniel.Rubinstein@lsbu.ac.uk)).

Blog: <http://beyondrepresentation.wordpress.com/>

Selected papers will be published in a special edition of *Philosophy of Photography*

There is a pressing need to reframe photographic theory to account for the radical reorientation of image production brought about by computer networks. In a world where air-conditioned server-farms create the real landscape, and where reality is augmented on screens, what do these organizational systems tell us about the ways images operate in network ecologies? As images circulate in the network, acquiring new contexts at each instance, how are we to approach the ontologies of the digital image?

*Beyond Representation* considers the current fate of photography in digital culture and aims to advance our understanding of the contemporary state-of-play through a call for transdisciplinary contributions that will help to reconsider approaches to photography within networked cultures.

The conference considers whether there is a need to rethink spatiality and temporality in light of new strategies for mediating the world through photography. Furthermore it asks whether there is a need to examine the paradigm of representation in the face of digital code and computer metadata. We are calling for

new speculations, theory, analysis and provocations to help reframe photographic theory and our understandings of the utility, temporality and circulation of digital images.

This conference aims to locate new ways of interrogating the relationship of theory and technology. It makes an open call for contributions that enlarge our understanding of photography and address the question of the materiality of the online image. Cutting across disciplinary borders, we welcome papers from scholars, researchers, research students, academics, practitioners and curators working in any of the areas below. The organizers are keen to encourage transdisciplinary approaches and welcome abstracts from unexpected places of enquiry.

The conference seeks to establish transdisciplinary connections between photography and the following fields of study: Geography, Law, Economics, Criminology, Performance Studies, Cultural Studies, Visual Culture, Image Studies, Sonic/Aural Culture, Philosophy, Computer Science, Science and Technology Studies, Software Studies, Art History, History of Media, Media Archaeology, Post-colonial Studies, Literary Studies, Anthropology.

Themes and topics that might be addressed include, but are not limited to:

- Connections between philosophy, critical theory and photography
- Research methodologies for post-digital image
- Digital photography and curatorial practices
- Tagging and metadata
- Synthetic imaging
- Ethics and politics of the digital image
- Viral images and memes
- Photography and data mining
- Image capitalism
- Photography and interface culture
- Non-representational image theory
- The public life of the image

All papers will be considered for publication.

### **Registration**

#### Full Conference

Early Bird Rate: £150/£75 concessions

Standard Rate: £200/£100 concessions

#### Single Day

Early Bird Rate: £80/£35 concessions

Standard Rate: £120/£55 concessions