



Course Code & Title	LISS2136 Photovoice Research; Intro. to Participatory Methods through Creative Mediums				
Convenor(s)	Chana Rose Rabinovitz				
Institution	QMUL		Department	Sociology, Politics, and IR	
Academic Year	2025-26	Term	Spring		
Number of sessions	4		Length of session(s)	2 hours	
Type of training	Specialist Course				
	Day, Date		Start – End		Location
	6/5/2026 13/5/2026 20/5/2026 27/5/2026		15:00-17:00		GC2.03, Queen Mary, University of London
Enrolment Links:	Available to book on SkillsForge from 2 March 2026 . Click the course link to log in and register. Questions? Visit our Training FAQ here: Frequently Asked Questions - LISS DTP (liss-dtp.ac.uk)				

Course Description

Photovoice is a participatory qualitative research method that engages participants as knowledge producers through photography and focus groups. This course engages with the theory behind photovoice as a method for qualitative research, asking; *what is photovoice research and how can it support social movement knowledge production?* This course offers hands-on opportunities for students to engage with photovoice, both as a participant and facilitator. Upon completion of this seminar, students will have an understanding of when and how to best use photovoice as a method for data collection, and a detailed draft of a research plan for their specific project.

Session 1

Theory: In the first session students will engage with theoretical materials examining the benefits and challenges of using participatory research methods through creative mediums, particularly in the context of academic research. Students will consider with peers how photovoice can advance their research goals and challenges that might arise.



Students will complete the preparatory readings indicated in the Reading List ahead of this session.

Session 2

Critical Approaches and Research Design: This session will compare different designs for Photovoice research projects. Students will be given an opportunity to consider their research questions and come up with their own prompts, which a small group of classmates will respond to ahead of the next session.

Students will complete the preparatory readings indicated in the Reading List ahead of this session.

Session 3

Practice: This session will focus on putting the past two sessions into practice with students facilitating focus groups with their classmates.

Students will capture photographs responding to their classmates' prompts in preparation for this session. Students will prepare discussion questions to facilitate a practice focus group ahead of this session.

Session 4

Analysis and Reflection: This session will consider methods of analysis relevant to data collected through Photovoice, including discussion of what analysis method they anticipate using.

Students will complete the preparatory readings indicated in the Reading List ahead of this session.

Reading list

Session 1, Introduction to PAR and Photovoice

Essential

- Wang, C. C., & Burris, M. A. (1997). Photovoice: Concept, methodology, and use for participatory needs assessment. *Health Education and Behavior, 24*, 369-387.
- Payne, Y. A. (2017). Participatory Action Research. *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, 1–15.

Optional

- Freire, P. (2007). *Education for critical consciousness*. (Rev. ed.). New York, NY: Continuum.
- hooks, b. (1981). *Ain't I a woman: Black women and feminism*. Boston, MA: South End Press.
- Spivak, G. C. (1988). Can the Subaltern Speak? In C. Nelson, & L. Grossberg (Eds.), *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Urbana/Chicago: University of Illinois Press.
- Ewald, W. (1985). *Portraits and dreams: Photographs and stories by children of the Appalachians*. New York, NY: Writers and Readers Publishing.
- Hubbard, J. (1994). *Shooting back from the reservation: A photographic view of life by Native American youth*. New York, NY: The New Press.



Session 2, Critical Approaches and Research Design

Essential

- Shankar, A. (2016), Auteurship and Image-Making: A (Gentle) Critique of the Photovoice Method. *Vis Anthropol Rev*, 32: 157-166.
- Johnston, G. (2016). Champions for social change: Photovoice ethics in practice and ‘false hopes’ for policy and social change. *Global Public Health*, 11(5–6), 799–811.
- Tilley, L. (2017). Resisting Piratic Method by Doing Research Otherwise. *Sociology*, 51(1), 27-42.

Optional

- Prins E. (2010). Participatory photography: A tool for empowerment or surveillance? *Action Research*, 8(4), 426–443.
- Harley, A. (2012). Picturing Reality: Power, Ethics, and Politics in Using Photovoice. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 11(4), 320-339.

Session 3, Practice

Essential

- Take photographs in response to classmates’ prompts; bring one photo per prompt
- Prepare facilitation questions for focus group simulation

Optional

- Rutgers Photovoice Facilitation Guide

Session 4, Analysis and Reflection

Essential

- Capous-Desyllas, M., & Bromfield, N. F. (2018). Using an Arts-Informed Eclectic Approach to Photovoice Data Analysis. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 17(1).
- Tsang, K. K. (2020). Photovoice Data Analysis: Critical Approach, Phenomenological Approach, and Beyond. *Beijing International Review of Education*, 2(1), 136-152.

Optional

- Switzer S, Flicker S. Visualizing DEPICT: A Multistep Model for Participatory Analysis in Photovoice Research for Social Change. *Health Promotion Practice*. 2021;22(2_suppl):50S-65S.



London Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Partnership

Advanced Research Methods in Social Sciences

Eligibility

Doctoral Students in the process of designing Participatory Action research projects will get the most out of this course; recommended for first and second-year students.

Pre-course preparation

Participants will be required to complete some readings and activities outside of the seminars. Please see the Reading List and Course Description for information on when each preparatory reading or activity is required.

Number of students

Minimum number required to run: 5

Maximum number of places available: 25