

LEARNING MATERIALS

The Image Complex: Photography, Vision, and Belief in South Asia

Facilitated by Aastha D and Impart

Session 3

Whose Images? Representation, Visibility, and Rights

August 25, 2026 | 7:00 pm IST

With Abhidha Niphade, Suchitra Vijayan, and Tanvi Mishra

These learning materials are intended to support and enrich your insights and takeaways from the upcoming lecture. They include resources that the co-facilitator and guest speakers may draw upon during the session, as well as recommended readings, and a reflective prompt. While not necessary, we encourage you to engage with these materials prior to the session. For a broader range of references on the themes and ideas we explore throughout this series, scroll down to the 'Further Resources' section.

Read

1. Azouley, Ariella. Introduction to *The Civil Contract of Photography*. Zone Books, 2008.
<https://jpgenrgb.blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ariella-azoulay-the-civil-contract-of-photography.pdf>
2. Fuentes, Marisa J. "Attending To Black Death: Black Women's Bodies in the Archive and the Afterlife of Captivity." *Diacritics* 48, no. 3 (2020): 116–129.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/27280177>
3. Hartman, Saidiya. "Venus in Two Acts." *Small Axe* 26, vol. 12, no. 2 (June 2008): 1–14.
https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/history/research/centres/blackstudies/venus_in_two_acts.pdf
4. Mishra, Tanvi. "Visibility and Refusal: Ruminations on Photography's Entanglement with Historical Record, Evidence and Futurity." *Foam Magazine* 67 (2025): 41–45.

LEARNING MATERIALS

<https://courses.imp-art.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/Visibility-and-Refusal.pdf>

5. Vijayan, Suchitra. “Kashmir: Records of Repression.” In *Midnight’s Borders*. Context Books, 2021.
6. Weizman, Eyal. Introduction to *Forensis: The Architecture of Public Truth*. Sternberg Press; Forensic Architecture, 2014.
<https://content.forensic-architecture.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Forensis-interior-FINAL.pdf>

Watch

1. De Sousa, Ana Naomi. “Rebel Architecture - The Architecture of Violence.” Posted September 2, 2014, by Al Jazeera English. YouTube, 25:00.
https://youtu.be/ybwJaCeeA9o?si=eTX1-GGz1bw_kau5
2. Mishra, Tanvi. “Visibility and Refusal: Ruminations on Photography’s Entanglements with Historical Record, Evidence and Futurity.” Keynote address, Future Memories Symposium. Posted May 14, 2025, by Rijksmuseum. Vimeo, 29:00 (from 00:59:20 to 01:28:40).
<https://vimeo.com/1084145200/b81a0cc66f?fl=pl&fe=sh#t=59m22s&end=1h28m40s>

Listen

1. Vijayan, Suchitra. “Suchitra Vijayan, ‘Midnight’s Borders: A People’s History of Modern India.’” Interview by Nicholas Gordon. Posted July 15, 2021. Asian Review of Books, 37:43.
<https://asianreviewofbooks.com/podcast-with-suchitra-vijayan-author-of-midnights-borders-a-peoples-history-of-modern-india/>

LEARNING MATERIALS**Think**

Take a look at the photographs in today's newspaper — without reading the captions. Are you able to make sense of the subjects portrayed here? Can you still identify which subjects are victims? Read through the captions and reflect on your interpretations.

Feel free to share your response with the rest of the learning community on our [Discussion Forum](#).

Further Resources

1. Anthony, Theo. "ALL LIGHT, EVERYWHERE - Official Trailer." Posted May 18, 2021, by Super. YouTube, 2:12.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luHmSqY0Xsk>
2. Anthony, Theo. "Documentary: All Light Everywhere." Posted August 4, 2025, by Incarcerated Nation Network INC Media. YouTube, 01:55:43.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEY2MHvDMcY>
3. Azouley, Ariella. Introduction to *The Civil Contract of Photography*. Zone Books, 2008.
<https://jpgenrgb.blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ariella-azoulay-the-civil-contract-of-photography.pdf>
4. Azouley, Ariella. "Citizens of Disaster." In *The Civil Contract of Photography*. Zone Books, 2008.
<https://jpgenrgb.blog/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/ariella-azoulay-the-civil-contract-of-photography.pdf>
5. Berger, John. "Ways of Seeing by John Berger." <https://www.ways-of-seeing.com/>

LEARNING MATERIALS

6. Berger, John, and Mike Dibb. "John Berger / Ways of Seeing, Episode 1 (1972)." Posted July 27, 2020, by Enlight Studies. YouTube, 30:04.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-4LwAuTw7k>
7. Campt, Tina. "Imagine Otherwise: Tina Campt on Listening to Images." Interview by Cathy Hannabach. Posted May 16, 2018. Ideas on Fire, 27:10.
<https://ideasonfire.net/63-tina-campt/>
8. Campt, Tina. "The Sound of Defiance." Interview by Brian Wallis. *Aperture*, October 25, 2017.
<https://aperture.org/editorial/tina-campt-conversation-brian-wallis/>
9. Edwards, Elizabeth, and Janice Hart. "Introduction: Photographs as Objects." In *Photographs Objects Histories: On the Materiality of Images*. Routledge, 2004.
[https://yale.imodules.com/s/1667/images/gid6/editor_documents/yacol/ycba_readings/week 6 elizabeth edwards and janice hart introduction to photographs objects histories.pdf?sessionId=853c3754-3ece-442a-92ec-f75cb01e1bc9&cc=1](https://yale.imodules.com/s/1667/images/gid6/editor_documents/yacol/ycba_readings/week%206%20elizabeth%20edwards%20and%20janice%20hart%20introduction%20to%20photographs%20objects%20histories.pdf?sessionId=853c3754-3ece-442a-92ec-f75cb01e1bc9&cc=1)
10. Edwards, Elizabeth, and Janice Hart. "Mixed Box: The Cultural Biography of a Box of 'Ethnographic' Photographs." In *Photographs Objects Histories: On the Materiality of Images*. Routledge, 2004.
11. "Keynote: The Rise of Techno-Authoritarian Control - Safiya Noble in Conversation with Gina Neff." Posted April 25, 2025, by Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy. YouTube, 31:58.
https://youtu.be/Y9tydzKE2lE?si=bExDgQcFR8WVd1__
12. Paglen, Trevor. "Invisible Images (Your Pictures Are Looking at You)." *The New Inquiry*, December 8, 2016.
<https://thenewinquiry.com/invisible-images-your-pictures-are-looking-at-you/>
13. Papa, Stephanie. "Stories Behind Revolutions." *Magnum*, April 3, 2026.
<https://www.magnumphotos.com/newsroom/the-stories-behind-revolutions/>

LEARNING MATERIALS

14. "PARI - People's Archive of Rural India." PARI. <https://ruralindiaonline.org/>
15. Pinney, Christopher. Prologue to *Camera Indica: The Social Life of Indian Photographs*. University of Chicago Press, 1997.
https://books.google.co.in/books?id=CVzqAQAAQBAI&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false
16. Sekula, Allan. "The Body and the Archive." *October* 39 (Winter 1986): 3–64.
https://monoskop.org/images/6/65/Sekula_1986_The_Body_and_the_Archive.pdf
17. Steyerl, Hito. "In Defense of the Poor Image." *e-flux Journal* 10 (November 2009).
<https://www.e-flux.com/journal/10/61362/in-defense-of-the-poor-image>

This document is part of the lecture series 'The Image Complex,' facilitated by Aastha D and Impart. Click [here](#) to start learning.

© 2026 Impart, all rights reserved.

Impart is an online platform that encourages greater engagement with South Asia's art and cultural histories. We are a unit of the Art & Photography Foundation, and an institutional partner of the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP), Bengaluru.