

LEARNING MATERIALS

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

Facilitated by Aastha D and Impart

Session 6

Beyond Institutions: Photography's Expanded Relations

September 8, 2026 | 7:00 pm IST

With Alakananda Nag and Varun Gupta

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. Extract from 'Exhibition: The Public Life of Women, A Feminist Memory Project.' Curated by Diwas Raja KC and NayanTara Gurung Kakshapati. Nepal Picture Library; FLA Network.
<https://fla-network.com/exhibitions/exhibition-the-public-life-of-women-a-feminist-memory-project/>
2. Haacke, Hans. "Museums, Managers of Consciousness." *M+ Magazine*, February 23, 2018. First published in *Art Museums and Big Business*, edited by Ian North. Art Museums Association of Australia, 1984.
<https://www.mplus.org.hk/en/magazine/museums-managers-of-consciousness/>
3. Nag, Alakananda. "The Armenians: Interview with Alakananda Nag." By Zainab Mufti. *PIX*, April 30, 2020.
<https://www.enterpix.in/feature/personal-paradigms/the-armenians/>

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1. "In Conversation with Varun Gupta | Live Streamed on ASAP Connect." Posted April 2, 2021, by ASAP Connect. YouTube, 19:06.

<https://youtu.be/PzpXahSOpTk?si=WR6nA7KyoIUjWywn>

Think

In what spaces can you engage with photography? Outside of museums and galleries, where do you observe photographs having an impact? How does the space in which a photograph is encountered affect your impression of it?

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://jppenrgb.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.

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<https://jppgenrgb.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/>
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>

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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/>
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=CVzqAOAAOBAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_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.

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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.