

Department of International Relations Inaugural Lecture

VIP: Visual International Politics

Professor William A. Callahan

Professor of International Relations, LSE

Professor Chris Brown

Chair, LSE

Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: **#LSEVIP**

LSE events



Visual International Politics: or, what can images 'do'?

Inaugural Lecture, March 16, 2015

Professor William A. Callahan

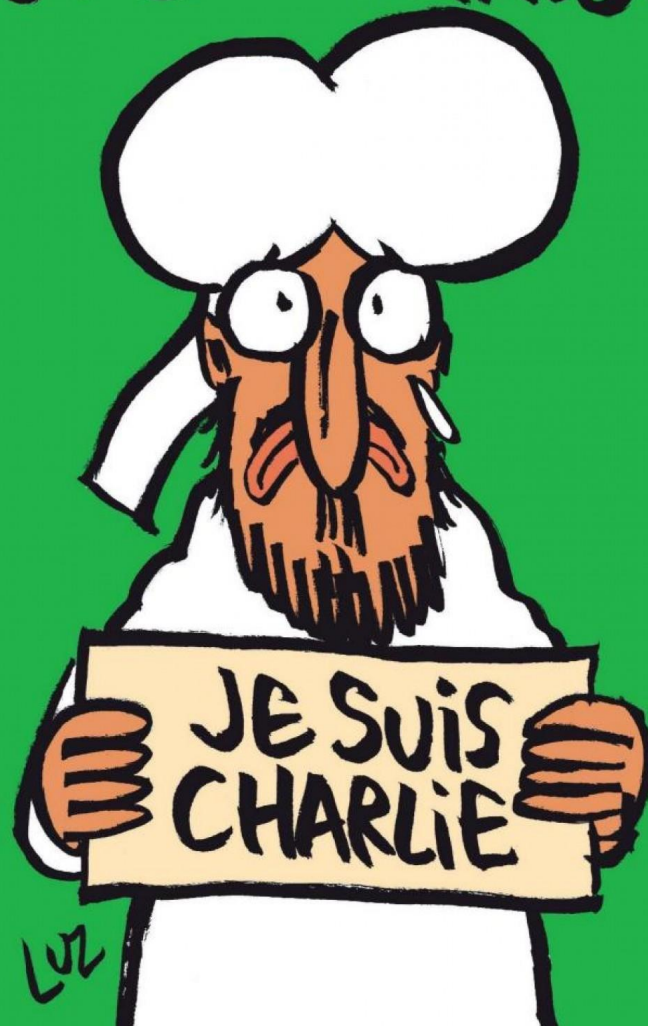
Chair: Professor Chris Brown

CHARLIE HEBDO

JOURNAL IRRESPONSABLE

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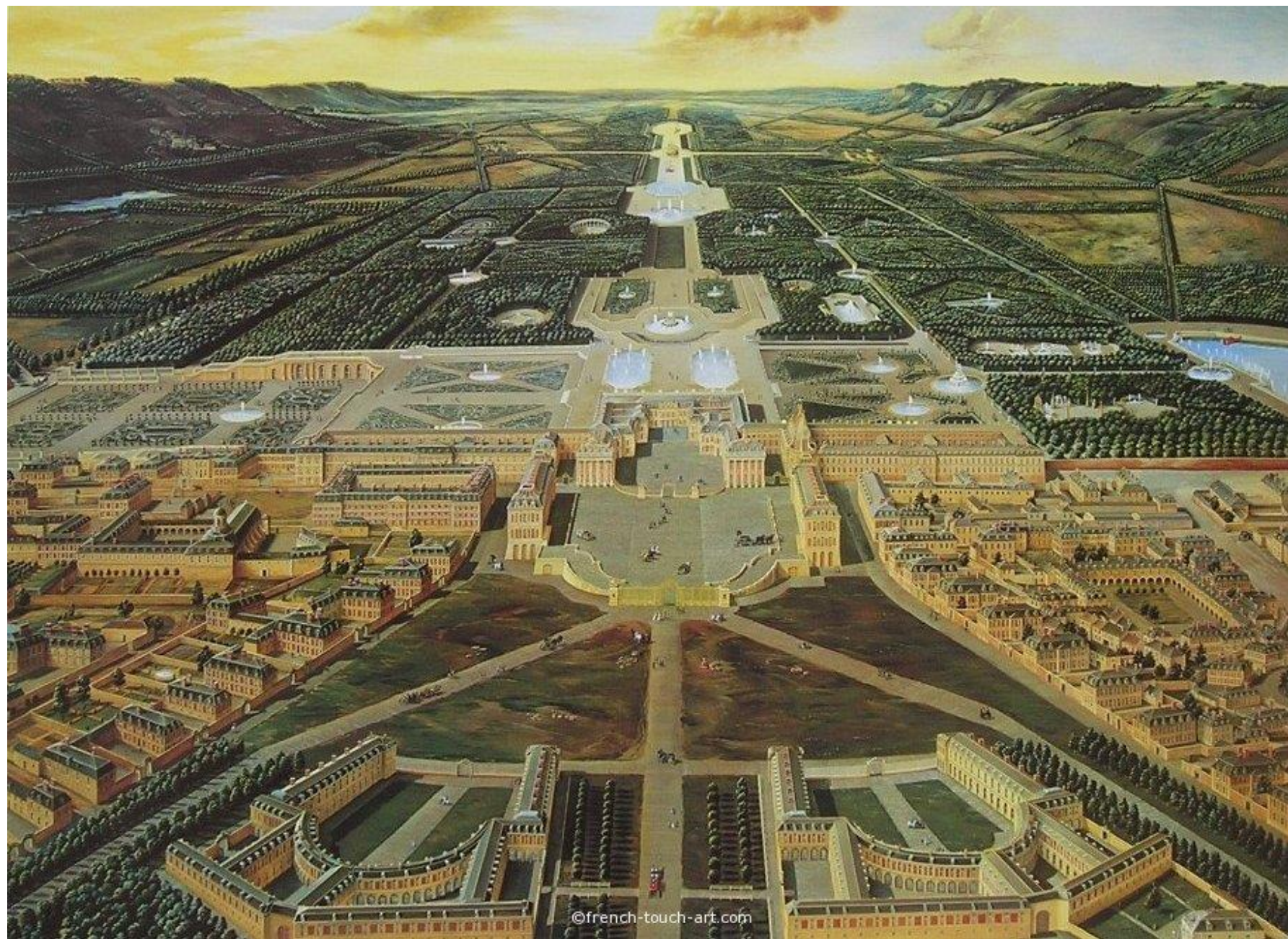
Visual International Politics topics

- 1. The visibility of war: Photos, films, art
 - Intermezzo: Enlightenment and the veil
- 2. Maps: Sovereignty and space
 - Intermezzo: Cinematic leadership: Ronald Reagan meets Kim Jong-Il
- 3. Gardens: Violence, world order and the environment
- 4. Development and race: 'Africa' as a scopic regime
 - Intermezzo: Artists rebuild China-India relations
- 5. Gender and capital: Global political-economy of beauty pageants
 - Intermezzo: Walls and hospitality
- 6. Surveillance: Panopticon, Great Firewall & PRISM
- Conclusion: Soft/hard power and visual int'l politics









Qianlong Emperor's 'Garden of Perfect Brightness' in Beijing



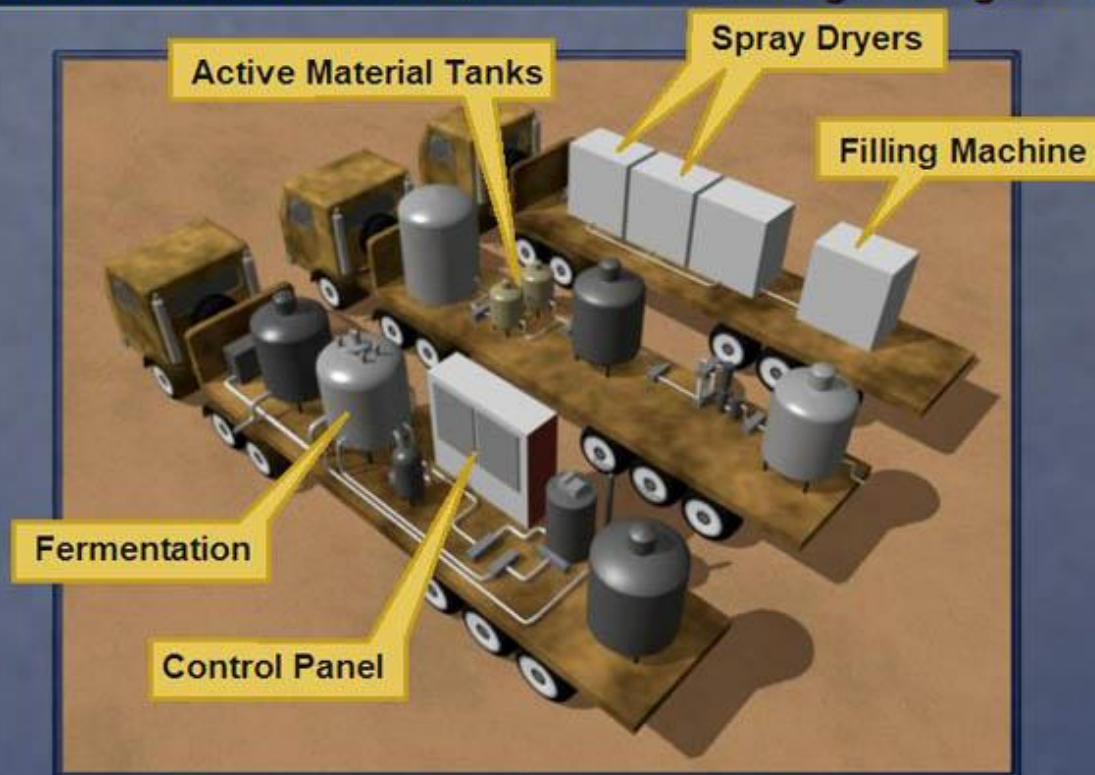
'Thoughts on pruning'

Mao Zedong (1935):
'Executing people is
not the same as
cutting garlic chives.
Chives grow back after
you've cut them,
people's heads can't
be put back on once
they've been lopped
off.'





Mobile Production Facilities For Biological Agents



Darfur





Student films





Wannapa
went in 1995

I just get nervous that the maggots will jump up to my ass.



Komkam went
in 1973

A pig came and pushed at my bottom.

Aims & objectives

- explore how visual images are caught in binary distinctions:
 - Word/image, true/false, fact/value, essence/contingency, science/aesthetics, quantitative/qualitative, rules/norms, identity/difference, inside/outside, West/China, Orientalism/Occidentalism, fact/feeling, ideology/affect
- Don't reverse binary oppositions, but appreciate the dynamic tension: facts and feelings, China and the US
- 4 goals: 1) write a book, make films
- 2) integrate film production more into teaching
- 3) organize interdisciplinary Visual International Politics research group
- 4) promote VIP: e-journal, film festival

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