VIP: Visual International Politics

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Professor of International Relations, LSE

Professor Chris Brown
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Suggested hashtag for Twitter users: #LSEVIP
Visual International Politics: or, what can images ‘do’?

Inaugural Lecture, March 16, 2015
Professor William A. Callahan
Chair: Professor Chris Brown
TOUT EST PARDONNÉ

JE SUIS CHARLIE
Visual International Politics topics

1. The visuality of war: Photos, films, art
   – Intermezzo: Enlightenment and the veil
2. Maps: Sovereignty and space
   – Intermezzo: Cinematic leadership: Ronald Reagan meets Kim Jong-II
3. Gardens: Violence, world order and the environment
   – 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
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.’
Darfur
I just get nervous that the maggots will jump up to my ass.

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
Department of International Relations Inaugural Lecture

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