



VISUAL WORKSHOP.info

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Seeing Like a Drone

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One of the important aspects of modern life is not only how we observe and make record of the visible and note the invisible, but also how our presence and movements are being observed by the agents of power in the city, from the sky and at the borders. We are not only being seen and recorded continuously via media presence and surveillance technology, but we can be potentially recorded and gazed at any times by the mobile eyes - surveillance airplanes, drones and satellites. Drones have become everyday objects, not only used by the military, but by the tourists, by the activists, by radical militants and news media. How can the boundaries of the seeable and watchable be established? Visual Sociology has always attempted to address the issues beyond the picture and beyond the frame. The new practices of surveillance will engender new practices and geographies of invisibility, and the new regimes of gaze will engender new techniques of resisting the gaze. The dynamic struggle between the visibility and staying beyond the scope of the seeing eye will define the future inquiry of visual sociology.



Image 1. Miki Kratsman, Targeted Killing, 2010,

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. **Gary Bratchford**, Senior Lecturer in Photography, University of Central Lancashire. Gary sits on the board of the International Sociological Association (ISA) Visual Sociology Working Group (WG03), co-editing their twice-yearly publication and is a member of the scientific committee for the annual, Contemphoto Conference, Istanbul, Turkey. Gary is the lead researcher on the 2017 Halton Community Cultural Shifts project in association with the Open-eye Photography Gallery, Liverpool. Gary's research specialisms are the visual production of contested spaces, community engagement, social movements and research methods, specifically visual methods and online ethnography. Gary has published his research in a number of peer-reviewed journals as well as presenting his work internationally.

Dr. **Dennis Zuev**, holds a degree in Chinese Studies from Siberian Federal University, Russia, he is co-founder of Working Group 03 Visual Sociology and vice-president of research (2010-2018) and co-editor of Visual Methodologies journal. Dennis Zuev has been involved in an ESRC funded project Low Carbon Innovation in Urban Mobility in China (2013-2016) and has published on the issues related to low-carbon transition in China in the field of urban transportation and urbanization. Dennis also worked as a consultant for Atheneum Partners, Berlin in the area of low-speed electric mobility for European cities. He organized several stakeholder workshops in Shenzhen and Beijing in 2015-2016 in the area of sustainable urban mobility. He conducted fieldwork in China in the period of 2014-2016 in Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing and Shandong province. He is the member of the working group the futures of mobility at the Institute of Social Futures, Lancaster University, UK. Dr. Zuev co-edited the book *Sociology of Visual Sphere* published by Routledge in 2013, and authored several dozen peer-reviewed journal publications and book chapters in the areas of visual and urban studies and Chinese studies.