

## Keeping in touch with The Family Camera Network

### Spring Update

The Family Camera Network embarks on its 3rd and final year of the SSHRC Partnership Development Grant. To date, we have collected over 17,000 photographs, 56 albums, 37 home videos, 40 interviews, and almost 800 other objects. In the past six months, we co-organized an exhibition and public panel on *Queering Family Photography*. We engaged in exciting partnerships with Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, Stephen Bulger Gallery, Ryerson University's F+PPCM Program, and the Ryerson Image Centre. Through courses, media interviews, our website, and new video works, we continue to explore new ways to share our research with broad audiences. Finally, we have been thrilled at the ongoing participation and interest from our participants. In 2018-2019, we will focus on completing final interviews, cataloguing, and making our collection accessible. Our collecting period ends in December 2018.

### Recent Events & Activities



#### *Queering Family Photography—Exhibition & Roundtable*

Stephen Bulger Gallery (Apr. 21–May 26, 2018)

Presented by The Family Camera Network and the Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives  
Curated by: Elspeth Brown (lead) and Thy Phu, with the assistance of Sajdeep Soomal, Richard Fung, Mark Kasumovic, Tori Abel, Lucie Handley-Girard, and Sarah Parsons

*Queering Family Photography* explored the work that queer, trans, and two-spirited family photos do in documenting and creating queer modes of belonging, and how our emotional attachments to queer family photographs have also sustained LGBTQ2+ lives. The show traced how queer, trans, and two-spirited people draw on photography to redefine family to include queer kinships outside the heteronormative, nuclear family model. It considered the social, political, and technological factors that structure queer kinship, and the ways that LGBTQ2+ communities creatively reimagine family, linking public and private spheres together. The images on display captured fleeting moments of love and desire, as well as generational bonds, which are often fractured by a normalizing state and culture. The exhibition featured over 100 photographs, as well as oral histories, collected through The Family Camera Network. It also included loans from the CLGA and from the Two-Spirited Collection at the University of Winnipeg Archive. It was organized by The Family Camera Network and the CLGA, with the support of Western University, Stephen Bulger Gallery, and York University. It was a featured exhibition in the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival and was presented in conjunction with artist Sunil Gupta's exhibition, *Friends and Lovers – Coming out in Montreal in the 70s*.



*Queering Family Photography* reached large audiences as one of the featured exhibitions of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival, as well as through outreach and media engagements. Around 300 people visited the gallery during the opening event and the show saw between 25 to 50 visitors a day during its run. The Family Camera Network also hosted a *Queering Family Photography* roundtable on April 26th, 2018, a free public event that drew an audience of over 60 people. Richard Fung moderated the panel, which included prominent two-spirited activist Albert McLeod, artist Sunil Gupta, and curators Elspeth Brown and Thy Phu. *Queering Family Photography* was hailed as a "must-see" exhibition of the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival in *Canadian Art* and the *Toronto Star*. There were also interviews with lead curator Elspeth Brown were on *Metro Morning* and *CBC Arts*.



#### *"Soon we were en route again": The Margaret Corry Albums (1947-1963)*

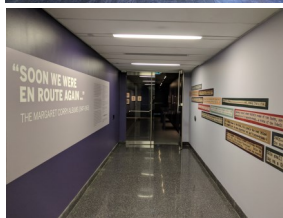
Ryerson Image Centre (Jan. 24–Apr. 8, 2018)

Presented by F+PPCM Program and RIC featuring materials from the Royal Ontario Museum collection, courtesy of The Family Camera Network

Curated by: the Exhibitions and Publications course, part of Ryerson University's Film & Photography Preservation and Collections Management (F+PPCM) program  
Course instructors: Gaëlle Morel (RIC) and Sophie Hackett (AGO)

On January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, *"Soon we were en route again": The Margaret Corry Albums (1947-1963)* opened at the Ryerson Image Centre. This exhibition featured albums from the ROM collection, which were acquired as part of The Family Camera Network project. The exhibition explored a collection of family albums that were compiled by Canadian Margaret Corry, as she travelled the world with her husband, who worked for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in its early years. It explored how the photos and narratives in the albums connect to geopolitical and colonial change during this time. For example, the selected photos visualized Europe after WWII, Iran before the revolution, and India directly after the end of British colonialism.

This exhibition was the culmination of a course offered in the F+PPCM MA program at Ryerson University, co-instructed by Gaëlle Morel (RIC) and Sophie Hackett (Art Gallery of Ontario), with further guidance provided by members of ROM staff and The Family Camera Network team. Students produced an exhibition, a publication and a [digital project](#) ([enrouteagain.ca](#)).



Visit our [Visual Stories](#) blog @ [familycameranetwork.org](#) for more information about these exhibitions!

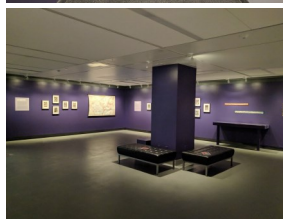


Image credits—Top Right: *Queering Family Photography* (M. Kasumovic, 2018); Left column (top to bottom): *Queering Family Photography* (© Scott Poborsa / Courtesy of Stephen Bulger Gallery); *Queering Family Photography* (© Scott Poborsa / Courtesy of Stephen Bulger Gallery); *Queering Family Photography* roundtable (M. Kasumovic, 2018); *Soon we were en route again* (J. Orpana, 2018); *Soon we were en route again* (J. Orpana, 2018); *Soon we were en route again* catalogue (I. Kohan-Harpaz, 2018)



#### SSHRC PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT

##### Co-Applicants

Thy Phu (PI)  
Sarah Bassnett  
Elspeth Brown  
Deepali Dewan  
Sarah Parsons

##### Collaborators

Nadine Attewell  
Lily Cho  
Julie Crooks  
Silvia Forni  
Richard Fung  
Donald Goellnicht  
Sunil Gupta  
Sophie Hackett  
Peter Leonard  
Laura Levin  
Gaëlle Morel  
Gabrielle Moser  
Vinh Nguyen  
Abdelkader Ouda  
Kamran Sedig  
Sharon Sliwinski  
Shawn Michelle Smith  
Linda Steer  
Laura Wexler  
Kelly Wood

##### Partner Institutions

Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives (CLGA)

The Royal Ontario Museum (ROM)

Ryerson Image Centre

Ryerson University's Film + Photography Preservation & Collections Management Program (F+PPCM)

Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival

Western University

Yale University

#### ACTIVE TEAMS & COMMITTEES

##### Steering Team

Thy Phu (PI)  
Sarah Bassnett  
Elspeth Brown  
Deepali Dewan  
Sarah Parsons

##### Collecting Team

Deepali Dewan (Lead)  
Nadine Attewell  
Sarah Bassnett  
Elspeth Brown  
Julie Crooks  
Silvia Forni  
Richard Fung  
Donald Goellnicht  
Gabrielle Moser  
Vinh Nguyen  
Jennifer Orpana  
Thy Phu  
Sajdeep Soomal

##### Videographers

Manuela Accarpio  
Celio Barreto  
Blanche Joslin  
Annette Mgaard  
Katie Micak

##### Digital Archive Team

Elspeth Brown (Lead)  
Celio Barreto  
Deepali Dewan  
Lucie Handley-Girard  
Blanche Joslin  
Mark Kasumovic  
Jennifer Orpana  
Julienne Pascoe  
Kelly Wood

##### CLGA Curatorial Committee

Thy Phu  
Elspeth Brown  
Richard Fung  
Mark Kasumovic  
Sajdeep Soomal

For more information & updates visit our website: [familycameranetwork.org](#)  
Follow us on social media:

@FamCamNetwork #FamCam  
#CLGAFamCam #ROMFamCam

## Keeping in touch with The Family Camera Network

**FamCam Media Highlights**—Check out "[In the Media](#)" at [familycameranetwork.org](http://familycameranetwork.org)!

Baskar, Sukanya and Rahaab Allana. "[Collecting Family Photographs.](#)" *Pix*. 31 March 2018. (Interview with Deepali Dewan).

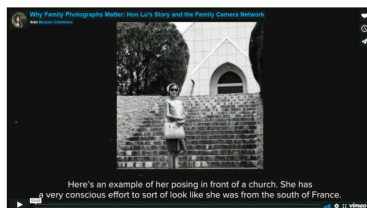
Curcio, Tony. "[Ryerson Image Centre presents a compelling series of experimental shows starting January 24.](#)" *Graphic Arts*. 4 January 2018.

"[Metro Morning: New photo exhibit on queer family photos.](#)" *CBC News*. 20 April 2018. (Interview with Elspeth Brown)

Talbot, Adela. "[Project develops understanding of photography, family.](#)" *Western News*. 24 May 2018. (Interview with Thy Phu)



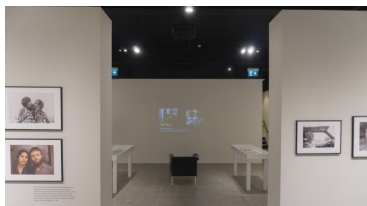
## Video Works



### **Why Family Photographs Matter (2018)**

Produced by Maryam Golafshani

This three-minute video was created by Western University MA candidate Maryam Golafshani, and it features The Family Camera Network and the story of the Lu-Thai family photos (in both the ROM and the CLGA FamCam archives). It is accessible via the [Visual Stories blog](#).



### **Queering Family Photography (2018)**

Directed by Thy Phu

Edited and animated by Mark Kasumovic and Maryam Golafshani

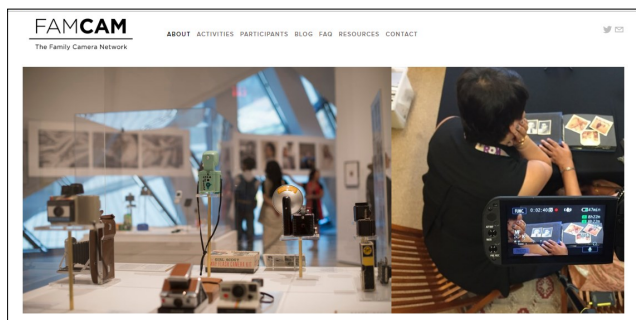
This video was presented as part of the *Queering Family Photography* exhibition and it draws from interview footage in the FamCam archive at CLGA. It is accessible via the [Visual Stories blog](#).



## Upcoming Events

### **Website Re-launch—August 2018**

Our website, [familycameranetwork.org](http://familycameranetwork.org), has been under development over the past several months as new content has been added to reflect our many activities. This summer, we will add a new section to the website, featuring several participant profiles. We look forward to doing a re-launch of the site, and inviting all our collaborators and participants to see how it has developed since its inception of spring 2016. **If you would like an update made to your bio, please email Jennifer Orpana at [jorpana@rom.on.ca](mailto:jorpana@rom.on.ca).**



### **Important dates:**

- December 2018—End of collecting period
- March 21, 2019—Opening of Deanna Bowen exhibition @ McIntosh
- May 2019—End of project

### **Special Issue: Trans Asia Photography Review:**

#### **Family Photography—Fall 2018**

Guest Edited by Deepali Dewan

This special issue explores the production, consumption, and circulation of family photographs within the many geo-political spaces of Asia. It strives to put particular emphasis on the visual dimensions of family photography. These might connect with image making practices from the past or be shaped by new visual sensibilities. This issue acknowledges that, given the interconnected nature of photographic history, some of the ways in which family photographs are made and acquire meaning may overlap across different global geographic locations. Yet it also gives space to the ways in which family photos might operate in different ways based on particular technical, aesthetic, and semiotic circumstances. This special issue is meant to be more than simply additive to the study of family photography; it aims to contribute to a fuller understanding of local and transnational histories of photography broadly.

### **Upcoming Exhibition—Deanna Bowen, *We Are From Nicodemus***

**McIntosh Gallery @ Western University, London, Ontario**

**March 21 to April 27, 2019**

We are also pleased to announce that, in spring 2019, Deanna Bowen will be bringing her work to Western University, FamCam's lead institution, as part of our project's capstone event. We hope that you will join us. More info will follow.

Image Credits—Top R: Screenshot of Elspeth Brown in interview at CBC for Metro Morning (CBC/D. Guadagnolo, 2018); Middle L, top to bottom: Screen shot of *Why Family Photos Matter* (M. Golafshani, 2018); *Queering Family Photography* (M. Kasumovic, 2018); Middle R: Dennis Findlay poses with his video footage at *Queering Family Photography* for a photograph (M. Kasumovic, 2018); Bottom L: Screenshot of [familycameranetwork.org](http://familycameranetwork.org) (2018).