

Keeping in touch with The Family Camera Network

Spring Update

It's our first anniversary! In Spring 2016, we received the exciting news that SSHRC would fund FamCam from 2016-2019. In just one exhilarating year, we have collected over 10,000 photographs and video-recorded over twenty interviews. We are now completing post-production of these interviews, as well as processing this substantial collection of photos and videos at our collecting institutions, which involves digitizing, cataloguing, and exploring how to make the images available online.

Recent Events & Activities

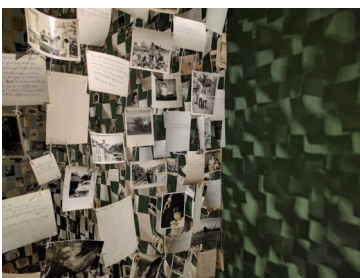


The Family Camera—One Exhibition, Two Venues

ROM: May 6th-October 29th, 2017

Art Gallery of Mississauga: May 4th-Aug 27th, 2017

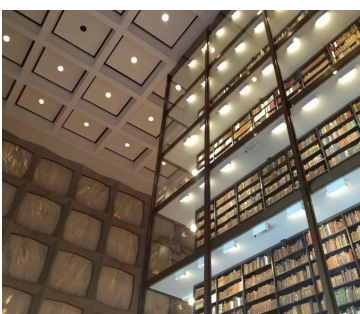
We are thrilled to announce the opening of The Family Camera, an exhibition that explores how family photographs mediate experiences of migration. This exhibition was organized by the Royal Ontario Museum with the support of The Family Camera Network and is presented concurrently at the ROM and the Art Gallery of Mississauga. It was curated by Deepali Dewan (lead), Jennifer Orpana, Thy Phu, Julie Crooks, and Sarah Bassnett, with the assistance of Sarah Parsons and Silvia Forni. This show is part of the ROM's special programming in honour of Canada 150 and a primary exhibition in the Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival. The Family Camera features over 200 objects, mostly photographs and stories collected through The Family Camera Network. It also includes loans from private and public collections, and new works by artists Jeff Thomas, Deanna Bowen (both at ROM), and Dinh Q. Lê (at AGM). An installation has also been created by OCADU Digital Futures students. This piece is called The Living Room and is on view at the ROM for the run of the show. The Family Camera has been listed as a must-see exhibit by *blogTO*, *Canadian Art*, and the *Globe and Mail*, and has been featured on CBC News.



THE STATE OF THE ALBUM SYMPOSIUM

Yale University, April 13th-14th, 2017

We sponsored this exciting two-day event, which was co-convened by Thy Phu and Laura Wexler, as a partnership between FamCam and Yale's Photographic Memory Workshop and Digital Humanities Lab. Held at multiple venues, including the renowned Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscripts Library and the Yale University Art Gallery, this symposium offered participants the opportunity to view treasures from special collections, including prints by Julia Margaret Cameron, an original copy of Mathew Brady's *Illustrious Americans*, among many other stunning objects; to engage with cutting-edge research by emerging and senior scholars on diasporic domestic images; to examine highlights from the oeuvre of keynote speaker, Thomas Allen Harris, an acclaimed documentary filmmaker who has drawn on his extensive collection of family photographs to explore questions of race, sexuality, and transnational communities; and to consider how advances in neural networks provide powerful new research tools that expand how we look at and analyze family photographs.



Photos (top to bottom): Installation view of *The Family Camera* (ROM); Detail of Dinh Q. Lê's work on view at the AGM; and Interior view of the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscripts Library.

Publications & Presentations

Photography and Culture Special Issue on "Family Photography" (Summer 2017)

Keep an eye out for a special issue of *Photography & Culture* co-edited by Sarah Parsons and Jennifer Orpana. It will feature writing by Elspeth Brown, Deepali Dewan, Thy Phu, Julie Crooks, Shawn Michelle Smith, Laura Wexler, Jeff Thomas, LiLi Johnson, Iyko Day, Gil Pasternak and Marta Zietkiewicz.

Mikinaakominis/Transcanadas: Literature, Justice, Relation (May 2017)

Nadine Attewell, Lily Cho and Thy Phu will present papers on a panel devoted to "Race and Refuge: Photography and Making Stories," which was organized by Cho.

American Studies Association (November 2016)

Elspeth Brown, Laura Wexler, and Shawn Michelle Smith presented on an ASA roundtable entitled, "Keywords in Family Photography."

SSHRC PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT GRANT

Co-Applicants

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

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
Andrea Noble
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

Sarah Bassnett
Elspeth Brown
Deepali Dewan
Sarah Parsons
Thy Phu

Collecting Team

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

Digital Archive Team

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

ROM Curatorial Committee—

The Family Camera
Sarah Bassnett
Julie Crooks
Deepali Dewan (Lead)
Silvia Forni
Jennifer Orpana
Sarah Parsons
Thy Phu

For more information & updates
throughout the year, visit our website:

familycameranetwork.org

Follow us on social media:

@FamCamNetwork

#FamCam

#CLGAFamCam

#ROMFamCam

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Introducing New Team Members

New CLGA Videographer: Blanche Joslin is pursuing her MA in the Film + Photography Preservation and Collections Management program at Ryerson University. She previously worked on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines as a Head Broadcast Technician and as a Digital Content Producer with a photography company in Florida.

New CLGA Digital Archivist: Lucie Handley-Girard has joined the project as a part-time Digital Archivist for one year. Lucie has been a volunteer at CLGA and last year was hired in the summer through the Canada Works program. She is also about to graduate from the UofT iSchool's MA program in archives.

New CLGA Collecting Team Member: Sajdeep Soomal is a writer, researcher, and public programming specialist working at the South Asian Visual Arts Centre. He is currently completing a three-year oral history project about the Toronto-based South Asian arts festival *Desh Pardesh* (1988-2001) with the launch of a digital archive, podcast series, and educational guide.

Pedagogical Initiatives

Ryerson University—Film & Photography Preservation and Collections Management Program

Our partnership with this program enables us to provide hands-on training opportunities for interns and graduate student assistants in photography and film preservation. Interns are an integral part of the FamCam team and we would like to acknowledge the hard work of Celio Barreto and Tori Abel, who have contributed immensely to the project. Thanks Celio and Tori!

OCADU—Digital Futures Graduate Program

Under the supervision of Martha Ladly (course director), Jennifer Orpana (curatorial instructor), Julie Crooks (curatorial instructor), and Immony Men (technical director), the "Family Camera at the ROM" course offered students the opportunity to develop an installation for The Family Camera exhibition. This course culminated in an immersive art installation called, "The Living Room," which explores the living room as a site for sharing stories and photographs. Three students in the course also developed a participatory media project, "Lost Photographs," which is on display at both the ROM and the AGM.

York University—Photography in Contemporary Art course

Sarah Parsons offered a course this semester that explored how contemporary artists investigate notions of family through photography. The seminar surveyed artists whose works incorporate found photographs, use the model of the family portrait or album, and/or consider the biological and social constructs of family and kinship through photography. In discussions and in their research papers on artists as diverse as Jeff Thomas, Nan Goldin, Jason Lazarus, LaToya Ruby Frazier, and Carrie Mae Weems, the students skillfully built on and critically examined their personal insights about the power of photography in building and communicating understandings of family.

Yale University—Visual Kinship: Touching, Feeling, Telling, and Listening to Family Photographs in Context

Thy Phu co-developed a new course with Laura Wexler that provided an exploration of the multisensory modalities of domestic images. The course website includes audio-guides to "index-images," which are fine art photographs installed in the teaching gallery of the Yale University Art Gallery exclusively for the course. These audio-guides were written and narrated by students. You can browse the course [website](#).

Upcoming events!

Monday, July 10th—Oral History Workshop II

Rm. 208N, Munk Centre, University of Toronto, 9AM-3pm

The first morning session of this workshop will be facilitated by Luis Van Isschot (University of Toronto) and Grace Dyer Jalea (Ward Museum), and will expand last year's introduction to the principles and ethics of oral history interviews to consider issues relating to the sharing of "difficult stories" that arise from our specific project. The afternoon session will be facilitated by Elspeth Brown and Thy Phu and will focus in particular on emotions as a potentially generative mode of engagement. We will share our experiences as interviewers and discuss challenges that arise in oral histories. This will give us the opportunity to reflect and to consider new strategies moving forward.

All members of the Collecting Team are expected to attend and participate in this mandatory training session, so [please save the date](#). Please note that our second phase of collecting begins summer 2017 and ends December 15th, 2017. We will not be collecting materials in 2018-2019.

Summer 2017—Filmmaking & Photography Workshop

Location, Date and Time TBD

This event will introduce FamCam team members to the innovative video set-up for the project and will provide basic training in setting up technical equipment, optimizing lighting, framing shots, and testing for audio-quality.

September 21-23, 2017—Reframing Family Photography Conference Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto

The program for this three-day event is now up on [our website](#). If you wish to register for this event, please [click here](#).

Fall 2017—Exhibition: Ryerson Image Centre and the Film & Photography Preservation and Collections Management Program (FPPCM)

In Fall 2017, Gaele Morel and Sophie Hackett will co-teach a FPPCM course on curation at the Ryerson Image Centre. Students will work with The Family Camera Network archives held at ROM to curate a special exhibition, which will open in the student gallery at RIC in January 2018.

If you would like to contribute a blog post, please contact info@familycameranetwork.org.