

Keeping in touch with The Family Camera Network

Winter Update from PI, Thy Phu

Happy Holidays! 2017 has been an incredibly productive year for The Family Camera Network. Through collecting activities we have collected over ten-thousand photographs and almost thirty interviews. We curated an original exhibition, presented at the Royal Ontario Museum and the Art Gallery of Mississauga, and we organized a major conference, which sought to reframe family photography. Additionally, through public talks, tours, and panels, we shared our research endeavors and our collection with the public. This newsletter offers a snapshot of a successful and enriching year and it highlights some things to look forward to in the New Year. Thank you everyone for all of your efforts and warm wishes this holiday season.

Recent Events & Activities



The Family Camera

Royal Ontario Museum (May 6 – Oct. 29) and Art Gallery of Mississauga (May 4 – Aug. 27)
Curated by Deepali Dewan (lead), Jennifer Orpana, Thy Phu, Julie Crooks & Sarah Bassnett, with Silvia Forni & Sarah Parsons

The Family Camera explored the relationship between photography and the idea of family, and it looked at family photographs as a cultural practice through the lens of migration. With nearly every photograph featured in this exhibition coming from a Canadian home, *The Family Camera* shed light on how family photos reflect and shape our sense of self, family, community, and nation. The exhibition featured over 200 objects, mostly photographs and stories collected through The Family Camera Network. It also included loans from private and public collections, works by artists Jeff Thomas, Deanna Bowen, and Dinh Q. Lê, and an immersive installation created by students in OCAD University's Digital Futures program.



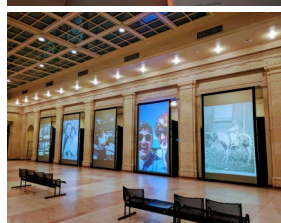
We are thrilled with the tremendous response that *The Family Camera* generated and the wide range of audiences that it reached. In six months, the exhibition welcomed over 90,000 visitors. Our free public programming and access initiatives engaged thousands of people. We led exhibition tours for ROM members, the Photographic Society of Canada, community groups such as the Collecting Personal Archives project, university students, and museum professionals. We presented talks and panels at the ROM, the AGM, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Chartwell Retirement Residence in Mississauga, the iSchool at University of Toronto, and Blackwood Gallery at UTM. We also welcomed international scholars to the exhibition as part of the Reframing Family Photography Conference. Finally, our *Nuit Blanche* activations at the ROM (*Missing Chapters Revisited*) and Union Station (MomentO presents *The Family Camera: On the Move – Toronto*) gave people free access to the exhibition and to its themes through a public panel and two displays of large image projections.



Reframing Family Photography Conference

Royal Ontario Museum and The Munk School of Global Affairs (Sept. 21-23, 2017)
Organizers: Thy Phu, Elspeth Brown, Sarah Bassnett, Sarah Parsons, Melanie Wilmink, and Sajdeep Soomal

Our conference brought together over 120 scholars, practitioners, curators and students from Canada, the U.S., Europe, Australia, India, Korea, and South Africa. The first day of the conference kicked off at the ROM, with an artist panel moderated by curators Sarah Bassnett and Jennifer Orpana, featuring artists Jeff Thomas and Deanna Bowen, as well as the work of Dinh Q. Lê presented by Thy Phu. This was followed by a viewing of *The Family Camera* exhibition and a reception in the C5 Restaurant Lounge. The next two days were held at the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. The first plenary session was moderated by Thy Phu and Elspeth Brown, and it included leading scholars in the field of family photography: Marianne Hirsch, Martha Langford, Deborah Willis, Laura Wexler, and Gayatri Gopinath. Additional plenary sessions examined family photographs in relation to Indigenous Kinships (featuring Richard Hill and Carol Payne, moderated by Sarah Parsons), Collecting and Archiving (featuring Fiona Kinsey, Luce Lebart, Mark Sealy and Rahaab Allana, moderated by Elspeth Brown and Deepali Dewan), and Colonial and Carceral Contexts (featuring Tina Campt and Nicole Fleetwood, and moderated by Julie Crooks). Over the course of these plenary sessions and an additional 12 panel sessions, the conference explored and historicized family photographs in the contexts of violence, migration, and dislocation. We hope that this conference sparked further collaborations and conversations about "reframing family photography."



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
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

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

Image credits—Top Right: *The Family Camera* (J. Orpana, 2017); Left column (top to bottom): *The Family Camera* (B. Boyle, 2017); *The Family Camera: Missing Chapters* at AGM (T. Hafkenscheid, 2017); Reframing Family Photography conference (M. Kasumovic, 2017); Missing Chapters Revisited panel (D. Dewan, 2017); *Nuit Blanche* projections at ROM (J. Orpana, 2017); *Nuit Blanche* projections at Union Station (J. Orpana, 2017)

For more information & updates visit our website: familycameranetwork.org
Follow us on social media: @FamCamNetwork #FamCam #CLGAFamCam #ROMFamCam

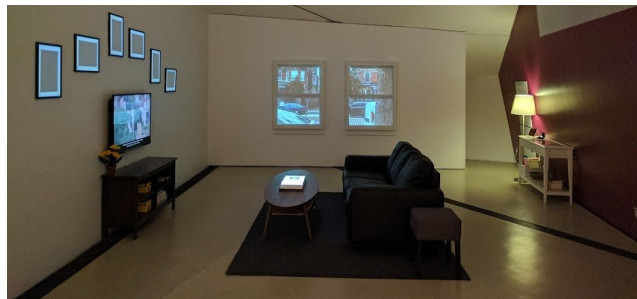
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New Logo

Thanks to designer Anne Cibola, The Family Camera Network has a new logo! Anne also designed many of the materials produced for the Reframing Family Photography conference.

FAMCAM

The Family Camera Network



Select Panels and Presentations

The Family Camera: Missing Chapters Revisited

Nuit Blanche, ROM (Sept. 30, 2017)

Organized and Moderated by: Jennifer Orpana

Panelists: Elspeth Brown, Thy Phu, Mudit Ganguly, and Hon Lu

This free public panel began with a behind-the-scenes look at the work of The Family Camera Network and the making of *The Family Camera* exhibition. This presentation was followed by a panel that explored family photography through stories of loss, absence and recovery.

The Making of an Exhibition

iSchool, University of Toronto (Oct. 18, 2017)

Panelists: Deepali Dewan, Jennifer Orpana, Thy Phu, and Elspeth Brown

This free public panel was part of the Museum Talks Series at U of T and focused on The Family Camera Network and *The Family Camera* exhibition. It was hosted by the Master of Museum Studies program at the Faculty of Information (U of T), in collaboration with the Museums and Public History Group (Jackman Humanities Institute).

Reframing Family Photography: Care Work & Visual Kinship

Blackwood Gallery, UTM (Nov. 1, 2017)

Organized and Moderated by: Jennifer Orpana

Panelists: Sarah Parsons, Sajdeep Soomal, and Celio Barreto

This free public panel explored family photography through the themes of care work and visual kinship. The presentation began with a brief talk on The Family Camera Network and *The Family Camera* exhibition. This was followed by a panel that explored questions such as: What preservation and "care work" is involved in The Family Camera Network activities? What are the affective dimensions involved in working with family photographs? How do contemporary artists and curators approach work with family photographs?

Family Photography at Home

American Studies Association, Boston MA (Nov. 19, 2017)

Organized by: Thy Phu; Chaired by: Shawn Michelle Smith; Panelists: Laura Wexler and Elspeth Brown

This roundtable featured contributions from some of our FamCam collaborators. Chaired by Shawn Michelle Smith, this session included papers by Laura Wexler ("The State") and Elspeth Brown ("Trans*"), as well as a paper by Leigh Raiford ("Diaspora").

Upcoming events!

Exhibitions: "Queering Family"

& an exhibition featuring the work of Sunil Gupta

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

Presented by Canadian Lesbian & Gay Archives, with The Family Camera Network

Curated by: Elspeth Brown and Thy Phu, with the assistance of Richard Fung, Mark Kasumovic, and Sajdeep Soomal

This exhibition explores how queer, trans, and Two-Spirited people have navigated family photographs, broadly defined, to create diverse forms of queer kinship. The show will open at Stephen Bulger Gallery as a Featured Exhibition at Scotiabank CONTACT Photography Festival 2018, in coordination with an exhibition featuring work by the internationally acclaimed contemporary photographer Sunil Gupta. The exhibition draws from material within the Canadian Lesbian and Gay Archives' archival holdings, material on loan from the Two-Spirited Collection at the University of Winnipeg, and from newer materials collected by The Family Camera Network.

Exhibition: "Soon we were en route again..."

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: Students of the Exhibitions and Publications course (PP8111), part of Ryerson University's Film & Photography Preservation and Collections Management (F+PPCM) program
Course instructors: Gaëlle Morel (RIC) and Sophie Hackett (AGO)

This exhibition investigates a collection of photographic albums compiled over seventeen years by Margaret Corry, a well-travelled Canadian expatriate. Relocating from one country to the next with her husband, a United Nations representative, Corry assembled the photographs she made of landscapes, architecture, archeological sites, social events, and portraits into a compelling personal narrative, set against a backdrop of complex geopolitical and colonial change. "Soon we were en route again..." will also have a catalogue and a digital component.

Important dates:

- **Jan. 24, 2018, 6pm:** Opening event for F+PPCM student exhibition, "Soon we were en route again..." at the Ryerson Image Centre, 33 Gould St., Toronto
- **Jan. 24—Apr. 8, 2018:** "Soon we were en route again..." exhibition on view at the Ryerson Image Centre, 33 Gould St., Toronto
- **Apr. 21-May 26, 2018:** CLGA exhibition & Sunil Gupta show on view at Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1356 Dundas St W, Toronto
- **Thurs., Apr. 26, 2018:** Public talk featuring artist Sunil Gupta, Albert McLeod (Co-Director, Two-Spirited People of Manitoba, Inc.) and members of the curatorial team (time and venue, TBA).
- **Sat., Apr. 28, 2018, 3pm-5pm:** Exhibit openings for CLGA and Sunil Gupta exhibitions at Stephen Bulger Gallery, 1356 Dundas St W, Toronto