

MA Photographic History

Induction Activities and Bibliography

Dear Photographic History Students

I would firstly like to extend a warm welcome from myself and the other teaching staff delivering the Photographic History MA Programme.

On the following pages, you will find some activities that have been designed to acquaint you with the subject of the Programme before teaching begins. Right at the end, you will also find a short bibliographic list.

The activities have been included with a view to enabling you to become familiar with your teaching staff and some of the research resources available at DMU for writing on photography and its history.

Similarly, the list of books is not exhaustive. It has been compiled to provide you with an overview of the subject and give you an understanding of its intellectual scope and main themes.

None of the activities or readings are mandatory. But, because the Photographic History MA Programme is a distance-learning course, you can investigate the books and undertake the activities in your own time and at your own pace.

The team and I very much look forward to meeting you and hope you both enjoy and prosper during your time with us at DMU.

Best wishes,
Gil

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Activity 1

Learn about your teaching staff and their main activities

- Find out who teaches on the Programme and what their areas of expertise are:
 - [Prof Gil Pasternak](https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/gil-pasternak/gil-pasternak.aspx)
<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/gil-pasternak/gil-pasternak.aspx>
 - [Prof Kelley Wilder](https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/kelley-wilder/kelley-wilder.aspx)
<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/kelley-wilder/kelley-wilder.aspx>
 - [Dr Beatriz Pichel](https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/beatriz-pichel/beatriz-pichel.aspx)
<https://www.dmu.ac.uk/about-dmu/academic-staff/art-design-humanities/beatriz-pichel/beatriz-pichel.aspx>
- All your MA teaching staff are also members of the Photographic History Research Centre (PHRC). You may want to become familiar with its key interests and approaches to photography by exploring the web and blog pages [HERE](#).

Activity 2

Learn about research resources at DMU

- [DMU Library \(https://library.dmu.ac.uk/DMU \)](https://library.dmu.ac.uk/DMU)
DMU Library not only holds a large collection of books and journals on photography, its history and theory, but you will also have access to e-books and e-journals. You may want to familiarise yourself with the website, using the search and advanced search options to find some book and journal titles of relevance to your current interests.
- [DMU Library – Databases A-Z \(https://library.dmu.ac.uk/databasea-z \)](https://library.dmu.ac.uk/databasea-z)
In addition to its books and journals, DMU Library hosts a large number of electronic databases, which will prove vital for any primary source research materials such as newspapers like *The Times* and the *Guardian* (ProQuest Historical Newspapers) as well as British newspapers from the 19th century and UK Press Online. Another useful search engine is “Arts and Humanities Full Text”.
- [DMU Archives and Special Collections \(https://library.dmu.ac.uk/specialcollections \)](https://library.dmu.ac.uk/specialcollections)
DMU’s Archives and Special Collections holds a growing photographic history archive including YMCA "Snapshots from Home" League, National Art Slide Library, Kodak Ephemera Collection, Edith Barlow Slide Collection, and more. You may want to explore the Catalogues link and the one leading to the Photographic History Catalogue in particular.

Activity 3

Articulate your current research interests

Whether you are joining the Programme to obtain an academic qualification or only a few of the modules as part of your personal / professional development, it is always a good idea to try to identify some specific areas you are most interested in specialising in. It will help you fulfil your aims more easily, and it will equally allow you to find out which of the modules on offer may be most relevant to your interests.

Moreover, those of you intending to gain the MA degree will need to write a dissertation (or implement a heritage project in real-world conditions, following consultation with your module leaders). Some students embark on their MA with a very clear project in mind; while others find it much later in the course. Either way, the dissertation will eventually creep up on you, so it is never too early to think about the topics you may want to focus on when time comes.

Whether for one or more of the reasons above, you may want to write out 2 or 3 100-word proposals for future research-based essays or, indeed, for your dissertation. The intention is merely to get you thinking about your current research aims and what primary source materials you might use to inform your writing on a particular topic. It is unlikely that either of these will be a finished proposal, and that's absolutely fine at this stage. However, engaging with this activity will certainly help you begin the process of thinking about viable topics, and just as importantly, it will help you realise what topics are not.

If you choose to complete this activity, please keep the proposals for your own records. Look at them for inspiration from time to time during the course, especially when you are asked to write on open topics, be it as part of module activities or as part of summative assessments.

Selected Introductory Bibliography

- Bate, David. 2020. *Photography: The Key Concepts*. London: Routledge.
- Bull, Stephen. 2020. *A Companion to Photography*. Hoboken, NJ Wiley Blackwell
- Burbridge, Ben, and Annebella Pollen. 2018. *Photography Reframed: New Visions in Contemporary Photographic Culture*. London, United Kingdom: I.B. Tauris.
- Edwards, Elizabeth, and Janice Hart. 2010. *Photographs Objects Histories on the Materiality of Images*. London: Routledge.
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- Edwards, Steven. 2007. *Photography: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Marién, Mary Warner. 2021. *Photography: A Cultural History*. London: Laurence King Publishing.
- Pasternak, Gil. 2020. *The Handbook of Photography Studies*. Abingdon: Routledge.
- Wells, Liz. 2021. *Photography: A Critical Introduction*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York: Routledge.
- Wells, Liz. 2019. *The Photography Reader History and Theory*. Abingdon: Routledge.