Taking a visual approach to research

Dr Suzanne Goopy

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• Why take a visual approach to research?
  – The inspiration
• What considerations are needed?
  – The theoretical
  – The pragmatic
  – The unknown
Taking inspiration

Mary Douglas
David MacDougall
Sarah Pink
...and principals of the documentary method

Pictures have been generally treated as self-referential systems
Distinguish a form of understanding about pictures from an understanding through pictures

A philosophical and pragmatic journey

"understanding" is achieved by shifting perspective from the question of what is in pictures to how pictures show.

Pictures relate to a social space of experience
An example - My Home My History

After three weeks or four weeks, we arrived here, they already wrote letters and said, "Oh, when do you start [to] send money back?" So, what could we say? We cried.
...they wanted people that were willing to work, that were strong, healthy...now my children are carrying on the business
Taking a visual approach to research

Are all visual projects the same?
When we were youth: Remembering youth culture in Queensland 1942-1955, a pilot study

Do you remember the 1941–1945 'Friendly Invasion' of Queensland by American GIs?

Do you have memories of music, fashion, or youth life that were influenced by the 'Friendly Invasion'?

Were you born between January 1935 and December 1935 and did you live principally in Queensland (metropolitan and/or regional) during the period 1942–1955?

Would you like to share your stories, memories, photographs?

If the answer is YES then...

WE WANT YOU!

...to participate in a research project conducted through Griffith University's Centre for Cultural Research and aimed at the creation of a dynamic archival resource that includes both written and audio-visual documentation of the development of youth and the impact of American GIs on Queensland youth.

For more information on the project please contact:

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