



# VISUAL METHODS IN THE FIELD

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR  
THE SOCIAL SCIENCES



TERENCE HENG

ROUTLEDGE



# Visual Methods in the Field

## Photography for the Social Sciences

*Terence Heng*

First published 2017  
by Routledge  
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4RN

and by Routledge  
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

*Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business*

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*British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data*

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

*Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data*

Names: Heng, Terence, 1978- author.

Title: Visual methods in the field : photography for the social sciences / by Terence Heng.

Description: 1 Edition. | New York : Routledge, 2016.

Identifiers: LCCN 2016018289 | ISBN 9781138810327 (hardback) |

ISBN 9781138810334 (pbk.) | ISBN 9781315749594 (ebook)

Subjects: LCSH: Social sciences—Research. | Photography in the social sciences. | Qualitative research.

Classification: LCC H62 .H377 2016 | DDC 300.72/1—dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2016018289>

ISBN: 978-1-138-81032-7 (hbk)

ISBN: 978-1-138-81033-4 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-315-74959-4 (ebk)

Typeset in Bembo  
by RefineCatch Limited, Bungay, Suffolk

Printed and bound in Great Britain  
by Bell and Bain Ltd, Glasgow



This beautifully crafted volume teaches us to see photographically and sociologically at the same time. An exemplary contribution to Visual Sociology, it teaches photographic and post-production techniques at the same time as it shows what can be achieved intellectually and aesthetically by working with social issues through the lens.

**Caroline Knowles**, *Professor, Centre for Urban and Community Research,  
Goldsmiths, University of London*

This is the 'go to' book for visual researchers. Terence Heng brings together a wealth of practical know-how with a comprehensive methodological knowledge of visual ethnography. Written in an accessible, engaging and dynamic narrative style, this insightful text will be an invaluable resource for novice and experienced researchers across the arts, humanities and social sciences.

**Elaine Campbell**, *Professor of Criminology, Newcastle University*

A well-written, practical resource, Heng guides the social scientist through the technical and social processes required to create meaningful, impactful photographs.

**Helen Lomax**, *Professor of Health and Wellbeing,  
University of Northampton*

# Visual Methods in the Field

The use of images, particularly photography, has been steadily gaining popularity in academia, but there has not yet been a book that deals with the act and process of photo-taking in the field. Drawing upon 21 years of photographic experience and sociological research, Terence Heng's immersive and narrative style will:

- 1 introduce photography as a qualitative method;
- 2 discuss the intricacies of, challenges in and opportunities for using a camera in the field;
- 3 explore common themes and topics in social science research, including photographing rituals, space, people and objects;
- 4 advise on navigating the always evolving technological landscapes of traditional, digital and mobile photography.

*Visual Methods in the Field: Photography for the Social Sciences* is a photography guide written for researchers by a researcher. Using in-depth ethnographic case studies from research done in various urban environments, this book will act as a crucial bridge for students in geography, sociology, education, media studies and other social sciences to incorporate photography into their research repertoire.

**Terence Heng** is an Assistant Professor at the Singapore Institute of Technology, and received his PhD in Visual Sociology from Goldsmiths, University of London. Working on the intersections between creative practice and sociological research, Terence investigates the making of ethnic identities amongst Chinese individuals through everyday rituals and geographies, and was the inaugural winner of the International Visual Sociology Association's Prosser Award in 2015. His research has been featured in journals like *The Sociological Review*, *Geographical Review*, *Cultural Geographies* and *Visual Communication*.

*For E-Ping*

# Acknowledgements

Special thanks to my teachers, lecturers, professors and mentors over the years who have influenced my academic journey. Most importantly, Caroline Knowles at Goldsmiths who saw me through all the ups and downs of my PhD in Visual Sociology. Wyn Morgan at Nottingham who started me on the path of academia. Sue Dopson at Oxford, who first planted in me the idea of photography as a way to do research. Les Back and Paul Halliday at Goldsmiths, Miri Song at Kent, Liew Kai Khiun at Nanyang Technological. Deepest thanks too to Hui Yew-Foong at Hong Kong Shue Yan, who gave me the opportunity to be part of the Bukit Brown Documentary Project, and whose advice about academia and publishing proved invaluable. Thanks, too, to my colleagues at my current university, the Singapore Institute of Technology, and especially Provost Loh Han Tong who chose to take a chance on me. Karen Hong, Mervyn Tan, Charles Carroll, Jiow Hee Jhee and Jeanette Ng for their support and encouragement.

I would also like to thank individuals at UniSIM and the UniSIM Centre for Chinese Studies (UCCS) – Foo Tee Tuan, Tan Soo Yean and Linda Chiu, who all in one way or another contributed to the creation of this book – especially through the UCCS Small Research Grants programme and travel grants programme that allowed me to continue my research even as an adjunct. Thanks as well to Gerhard Boomgaarden



and Alyson Claffey at Routledge, who have worked to give this book a home and have guided me over the last two years to its completion.

My deepest thanks to my family – my wife E-Ping, who has endured all the late nights, vacations and weekends spent writing and researching. My sister Deborah and her family – Lutfey, Aaryan and Ishaan, my parents-in-law Ngoh Bah and Emily, my mother Jenny, and my late father Ivan, who all have shaped and continue to shape my meandering paths. And, of course, to God for courage and comfort.

Finally, thanks to my informants and collaborators in the field, who are too many to be named exhaustively, but some I must specially mention. All the couples who allowed me to be both photographer and researcher at their weddings and Ng Chin Leng from Singaporebrides.com who started me on my professional path. Angela Goh, Martina Yeo and Ip Pik Ching from the Bukit Brown Documentary Project. Victor Yue, Nicholas Fu, Kervin, Lim Kim Hui, Jonathan, Bosheng, Joseph, Jave Wu and the worshippers at *Xuan Jiang Dian*, *Fu Tian Dian*, *Shan Wei Tan* and *Bao De Gong* for their incredible patience and tolerance.



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*The thematic list of contents lists selected topics in this book in a more traditional sequence when teaching photography.*

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