

Feminist Visual Methodologies: ARTivism and Body Mapping in Liminal Spaces

EWIS2025 – Call for Papers, Krakow, Jagiellonian University, 2-4 July 2025

Workshop Convenors

María Martín de Almagro, Ghent University, maria.martindealmagroiniesta@ugent.be

Priscyll Anctil Avoine, Swedish Defence University, priscyll.anctilavoine@fhs.se

This workshop focuses on visual power in IR and the centrality of feminist contributions to the contestatory power of liminality. It fosters an interdisciplinary dialogue on feminist visual methodologies – such as body mapping, artivism, and other creative tools – and how they can capture the nuances of contemporary violent conflicts, and open paths for transformative solidarity in “in-between” spaces. Following post/decolonial approaches, the workshop understands liminality not as a transitional event but as a structural condition, a metaphor for perpetual precarity, and a condition of possibility. With this, we challenge conventional frameworks, inspire new perspectives, and advance feminist approaches to visual research in IR. We take liminality as an analytical device and visuality as a method to uncover and blur the multiscale, multidimensional, and embodied boundaries between war/peace, truth/falsehood, and state/non-state actors. Through visual liminality, we explore “in-between worlds”, but also the points where “structures are dislocated” (Mälksoo 2012, 481) and their potential for the collective rethinking of research on violence, political power, and translocal solidarities. Crucially, the workshop seeks to study visuality as a powerful framework for examining alternative ways of knowledge production, and artistic practices as forms of creativity and critical epistemological inquiry, and imagining alternative feminist futures. With the participants, we wish to analyze and experience “in-betweenness” in research, and foster “*grietas*” [cracks] (Walsh 2017) in IR knowledge production, acknowledging “the potential of art as a transformative force for social justice, change, and liberation” (Serra et al. 2018, 109).

Key Themes:

1. **Hybridity, Liminality, and “In-Between” Spaces:** How do visual methods capture fluid identities and negotiated meanings within hybrid, liminal spaces? How does body mapping help understand spatialities, temporalities, and emotionalities “in-between,” exploring the intersections of conflict, identity, and belonging?
2. **(Anti)Border Work and Translocal Solidarities:** How do feminist visual and artistic research address (anti)border work, translocality, and translocal solidarities? How does it foster work and alliances across borders and against geopolitical fragmentation?
3. **Artivism and Visual Research in Action:** What is the role of “artivism” in addressing international conflicts through visual tools, pushing beyond the academic to embody change and solidarity? How is visual research contributing to feminist activism, social justice and translocal human rights advocacy?
4. **Visuality, Art, and Political Violence:** How do the feminist approaches to the visual allow for examining political violence, (non)state armed conflicts, and genocides? What is the power of visual methods in representing complex phenomena such as Russia, Gaza and beyond?
5. **The Visual as Feminist Methodology:** How does the visual work as an analytic possibility for feminist research on violence, armed conflicts, and resistance? How do the visual articulate findings, enable accessibility, and push engagement beyond academia?
6. **Reversing Hierarchies and Power Structures:** What possibilities feminist visual methods offer to challenge conventional power dynamics and amplify silenced voices and stories? How is body mapping a transformative method for subverting traditional narratives around conflict, identity, and agency?

We invite a variety of formats, including academic papers, visual essays, and hybrid submissions (text and images). Abstracts should be 250 words, outlining the paper’s theme, methodology, and contributions to feminist visual methodologies. We encourage interdisciplinary perspectives that engage with feminist critiques of geopolitics, knowledge politics, and the body as a site of resistance and agency.