

VII Academy 12-week Seminar on Photojournalism and Documentary Photography

This 12-week seminar aims to equip you with the necessary methodological and practical tools for the research and production of photo essays suitable for publication in an editorial context. You will progress from the shooting of single pictures to the construction of short, journalistically driven photo essays, while exploring the relevant technical, aesthetic and journalistic aspect of photography. The seminar will also address issues of generating ideas, research, caption writing, and picture editing. You will be required to produce an extended, in-depth body of photojournalistic or documentary work that explores a story in detail.

Sequence

Each week will commence with a lecture on a relevant concept in photojournalism and documentary practice. This lecture will be given by the tutor or a guest with high-level experience in the topic being discussed.

After this lecture, the tutor will brief you on the weekly assignment that you will have to work on. The assignments will represent key subjects and approaches in narrative photojournalism and documentary photography.

During the week, you will work individually to produce photographs within weekly deadlines.

At the end of the week, during the weekly feedback tutorials, you will present your work for discussion with tutors and other students. Each group member will learn from the feedback for each student's body of work. Everyone is expected to contribute to the discussion. You will also be encouraged to work in pairs or small groups outside of the feedback tutorials to edit and critique each other's work.

The first weeks are tightly structured with regular assignments and feedbacks on your work. In the second half of the program, you will begin to shoot short photo essays of a few images, building up towards a longer essay, and then a final extended project to be photographed and submitted at the end of the program.

You will need to identify and research ideas for these short and longer projects that should be local to you and allow for repeated access through the program. You will search out subjects that really fascinate you and make sure that you can get ac-

cess to. The more engrossing you find the subjects you photograph, the better your pictures will be.

Key takeaways

This seminar will develop your ability to work on short photo essays in an editorial context. It will help you to:

- * Respond professionally and creatively to photojournalistic briefs;
- * Shoot single documentary pictures and picture stories or series;
- * Edit your work;
- * Work to a deadline;
- * Professionally present yourself and your work to an editor;
- * Develop the social skills needed to get access to people at work and leisure and get permission to photograph them;
- * Understand the visual potential of ideas / situations you are researching.

Adaptations to Covid-19

Tutors will adapt the above program to the various Covid-19 lockdown situations that the participants are going through in their respective countries and communities.

Not knowing at this time who our students are, where they live, what their current Covid-19 situation is nor how their respective situations will evolve over the coming weeks and months, we have thought of various assignments and essays that can be developed in full quarantine as well as in less rigid lockdown situations. Whatever the briefs, they will enable you to finish the seminar with the methodological and practical tools that we've promised to bring you.