VISIBILITY, VISUALITY AND THE ETHICS OF SHOWING

I ABSTRACT

I Based on a discussion of the sociology of visibility, this seminar stresses the pragmatic power and deictic dimensions of news-media discourse. It analyses the practices involved in attention-management, the creation of visibility, and the process of showing. Within a « paradigm of monstration » influenced by Searle, Austin & Boltanski, six models of media performance will be discussed:— (Censor, Chorus, Teacher, Host, Cartographer, Witness).

II The monstration paradigm will be used in analysis of an actual example; that of of a collective dramaturgy or « social drama »(Victor Turner). Situated in regard to « Genres » such as « scandals », « affairs », « differends » this specific example will be discussed both (a) the object of a monstration, and as (b) an instrument of monstration.

III The second part of the seminar addresses the issue of « showing » from an ethical standpoint. It focuses on such themes as: showing the other (Silverstone); the ethics of recognition (Honneth); the ethics of visibility (Voirol); the nature of « proper distance ». (See also the book by Couldry, Pinchevsky, Madianou).

IV The Issues discussed in the context of an ethics of visibility will be applied to a a specific example, and serve as a vantage point for the textual analysis of a genre fiction film. (The silence of the lambs)

II SYLLABUS

Each week will be devoted to a given issue through (1) a theoretical lecture (2) an empirical lecture & discussion.

Week 1 —Pragmatics of news media: Towards a monstration paradigm

1 Theory: pragmatics, deictics, monstration acts, visibility and visuality

2 Analysing genres of performance: Censor, Chorus, Host, Teacher (cartographer, identity entrepreneur, witness)

Week 2 —Showing controversies: theoretical & dramaturgic models

4 A case study: The al dura case as a french « Social Drama »

**Week 3 -- The Ethics of newsmedia**

5 Visuality, Visibility. Honneth & the issue of recognition.

6 Silverstone, Arendt, mediapolis and ethical monstration: Showing THE other or showing others? The issue of « proper distance »

**-Week 4 The Ethics of monstration & Genre cinema**

7 Art history & the Silence of the Lambs: focussing on Rembrandt, Goya, Bacon

8 The Silence of the Lambs and the ethics of Showing

**III BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**LECTURES I & 2 PRAGMATICS OF NEWSMEDIA**

**Required papers**


--Dayan, Daniel “Conquering Visibility, Conferring Visibility” International Journal of Communication 7 (2013), (on line)

**Suggested papers**


--Dayan, Daniel “ A la conquête de l’Olympe “, Communications, N° 91 2012; special Issue: Passages en Revue

**Recommended books**


**LECTURES 3 & 4 : SHOWING CONTROVERSIES : THEORETICAL & DRAMATURGIC MODELS**

**Required papers**

Soreliennes
--Bourdon, Jérôme. « Qui a tué Mohammed al Dura? Ou de la mise en doute électronique d’un fait journalistique ». *Hermès* 47, pp 89-98 [see also documents] --


**Suggested papers**


**Recommended books**


**LECTURES 5 & 6 MEDIA & ETHICS**

**Required papers**


**Suggested papers**


**Recommended books**

--Couldry, N ; M. Madianou & A. Pinchevski *Media and Ethics* Palgrave & Mac Millan 2013

**LECTURES 7 & 8. THE ETHICS OF MONSTRATION & GENRE CINEMA**

**Required papers**

De Armitt, Pleshette. “Kofman’s lesson on death ". *Parallax*. 2011

**Suggested papers**


**Recommended books**

--Barthes, R: *S/Z*  

**-Other**

-- Students are invited to prepare a bibliography of existing papers on the *Silence of the lambs*. 
IV DOCUMENTS & FILMS

Documents on the Al dura affair:
--Newspaper articles.
--The « Muhammad al-Durrah incident” Wikipedia compilation.
--Accounts of successive trials intended to P Karsenty, Cl Weill Reynal
see also
Huber, Gérard: Cont’expertise d’une mise en scène Paris, Raphael 2003

Documentary Films

--Amedeo Ricucci. War, Lies & Television (rai educational) 2010