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# Ubiquitous Media Conference - Tokyo

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Ubiquitous Media Conference

13-16 July 2007

Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo

The Ubiquitous Media conference was organized by Theory, Culture & Society, an Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, The University of Tokyo, under the direction of Shunya Yoshimi (University of Tokyo), Mike Featherstone (Nottingham Trent University), and Scott Lash (Goldsmiths College, University of London).

Amanda Beech, Jaspar Joseph-Lester, and Matthew Poole organised and gave papers at a panel alongside delegates from across the world. They also organised a show-reel of video works that were exhibited in the Hongo Campus Gallery during the conference.

## Conference Outline:

Today media are increasingly ubiquitous: more and more people live in a world of Internet pop-ups and streaming television, mobile phone texting and video clips, MP3 players and pod-casting. The media mobility means greater connectivity via smart wireless environments in the office, the car and airport. It also offers greater possibilities for recording, storage and archiving of media content. This provides not just the potential for greater choice and flexibility in re-working content (tv programmes, movies, music, images, textual data), but also great surveillance (CCTV cameras, computer spyware, credit data checking and biometrics). The media, then, can no longer be considered to be a monolithic structure producing uniform media effects. Terminology such as 'multi-media,' and 'new media,' fail to adequately capture the proliferation of media forms. Indeed, as media become ubiquitous they become increasingly embedded in material objects and environments, bodies and clothing, zones of transmission and reception. Media pervade out bodies, cultures and societies.

For more information about the conference, please visit: [www.u-mat.org](http://www.u-mat.org)

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Theory Culture and Society, 25th Anniversary Conference

Ubiquitous Media

Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo

13th-16th July 2007

Panel submission

Episode: The pleasure and persuasion of lens based media

Convenor: Dr Amanda Beech

Papers:

Amanda Beech, Chelsea College of Art & Design

"We Never Close - Democracy and The Technology of Justice"

Jaspar Joseph-Lester, Sheffield Hallam University

"Spectacle and its Fragmentation"

Matthew Poole, University of Essex

"Objects that won't go away"

This panel was part of a wider research project that included a touring exhibition of lens based media art entitled "Episode". This was shown at Temporarycontemporary Gallery, London, Leeds Met Gallery, Leeds, and South Florida Arts Centre, Miami, USA, over 2005-6.

Panel Stream 1: The Mediated Image

A familiar theorisation of media-culture is that it is constituted by fragments, that its images are differentiated and temporal: that documentaries don't tell the whole truth and cameras are not the key to a 'real' Taking this pluralism as its starting point, this panel examines how media images produce and generate truth within the context of this 'episodic field'.

A key point of discussion for this panel is the relationship between media-culture and lens based artwork, something that is increasingly relevant when artworks can be seen to share the same experiential field, using and producing a media-culture. Here we focus on the experiential affect of contemporary artworks and media culture and their power to contribute to a wider production of fictions and their consequent mutation into and reception as fact.

Concentrating on the forces of both pleasure and persuasion in lens based media, papers in this panel discuss: heroic realism - the scientific lens as justice-maker; the determination and locus of 'spectacle' in news media; spatialized media and the exchange of experiential affects; and criticality and distraction: the erotics of display in curating video.

By examining the relationship between experiential affect and political effect this panel discusses how media-culture and artworks produce and reform the naturalised and assumed realities of everyday praxis.

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Main Lecture Theatre, Hongo Campus, University of Tokyo