



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA
DIPARTIMENTO DELLE ARTI

Monday February 27 2023

From 1:15 to 2:30 pm

AULA C
Via Azzo Gardino 23

*All welcome**

***The Visual Communication of War:
From Iconic Images to Smartphone Witnessing***

Images of war and conflict offer some of the most demanding, shocking and upsetting portrayals of human experience in extreme circumstances. They also conjure powerful symbolism of heroism, sacrifice and patriotism. This often contradictory and ethically problematic nature of conflict imagery has attracted a rich array of scholarship. This lecture focuses on the key debates in this area; how visual imagery has been understood in terms of its communicative and rhetorical power when it comes to picturing distant conflicts, as well as how those living in areas affected by war and insecurity are documenting their own experiences. Digital media technologies have opened up the possibilities for new actors, such as soldiers, citizens, terrorists and activists, to disrupt the mainstream media's dominance in portraying war. In this lecture Katy Parry will draw on a range of examples to chart the shift from scholarly attention to 'iconic' images, often framed through a journalistic lens, to the diverse ways of seeing war and conflict in the digital age.

Speaker: Katy Parry is Associate Professor in Media and Communication at the University of Leeds. Her work focuses on visual politics and activism, images of war, and media representations of (post-)military experience. Her books include *Visual Communication: Understanding Images in Media Culture* (SAGE, 2020), co-authored with Giorgia Aiello, and *Spaces of War, War of Spaces* (Bloomsbury, 2020), co-edited with Sarah Maltby, Ben O'Loughlin and Laura Roselle. She is a co-editor of the journal *Media, War & Conflict* (SAGE).

*This lecture will be held in the context of Prof. Giorgia Aiello's MA course "Visual Communication".