

Western University, Department of Visual Arts
Seminar in Photography: Photography & Social Change
AH 4650G / 9594B / 9694B - Winter 2020
TUESDAYS 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM
JOHN LABATT VISUAL ART CENTRE, ROOM 247

Gilles Peress, USA. NYC. 9/11/2001. FDNY paramedics near the Brooklyn Bridge walk toward the scene of the attack of the World Trade Center.

Professor Sarah Bassnett

OFFICE – VAC 219

OFFICE HOURS – Wednesdays 2:30 – 3:30pm and by appointment

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Many of the social and political upheavals of the late 20th and early 21st centuries are familiar to us through photographs: the Vietnam War, the civil rights protests of the 1960s, 9/11 and the subsequent war in Iraq, the war on terror, and global migration. Focusing on modern conflict, social movements, and changes brought about by globalization, this seminar explores the diverse ways photography has been used to negotiate social transformation. In the process, we look at different practices of photography – from portraiture and photojournalism to contemporary art. We discuss recent scholarship on issues such as spectatorship and the ethics of witnessing, photography as a form of encounter, and the role of iconic images in public memory. Seminar participants will develop their own research on some aspect of photography and social change.

