The Graduate/Professional Certificate in the Transdisciplinary Study of Visual Cultures is intended for master’s degree students (usually MFA and terminal M.A. candidates) from across the university who desire training in the study of visual cultures. This transdisciplinary field analyzes the social construction of the visual as well as how the visual creates our social world. Visual culture studies differs from other related disciplines in two ways: first, its field of inquiry includes an expansive array of visual cultural artifacts and practices; and, second, its methodologies focus on the constitution of power relations through visual markers of race, gender, disability, and nationality. As the world continues to become increasingly understood through, and reliant on, the visual (the Internet, films, television, scientific graphs, data visualization, video games, and advertisements), the need for people trained with the ability to critically interpret, create, and evaluate those mediums is essential.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Understand the history, methodology, and potentials of Visual Culture as a field of study including cultural studies, art theory, and theoretical frameworks as they are practiced in the field of Visual Cultures.
2. Have ability to discuss concepts, ideas, and theoretical questions in a clear and understandable manner when engaging both specialized audiences and the wider community.
3. Develop theoretically informed critical methodologies for the analysis and interpretation of visual culture, literary texts, and cultural formations.
4. Develop archival research skills and other evidence-gathering techniques with the aim of furthering historical and cultural knowledge of specific fields.
5. Develop critical writing skills necessary for constructing cogent and original arguments following protocols consistent with existing scholarship in visual cultures.

**PEOPLE**

**CVC DIRECTOR**

Paola Hernández (Spanish and Portuguese)
STEERING COMMITTEE 2018–2019

• Faisal Abdu’Allah (Art)
• Mercedes Alcalá-Galán (Spanish and Portuguese)
• Jill Casid (Visual Culture/Art History)
• Christine Garlough (Gender and Women’s Studies)
• Eric Hoyt (Media and Cultural Studies/Communication Arts)
• Adam Kern (Visual Culture/East Asian Languages and Literature)
• Michael Jay McClure (Art History)
• Sarah Ann Wells (Comparative Literature)
• Keith Woodward (Geography)

PROGRAM ASSISTANT:
Sara Champlin (Art History)

A list of affiliate faculty may be found here (https://cvc.wisc.edu/people/affiliate-faculty).