

HONORS THESIS INFORMATION AND CONSENT

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Hello,

Thank you for considering participation in this research study about crisis photography. This study is for my senior year thesis for the Honors College, and conducted through the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication at Washington State University. It has been approved by the WSU Institutional Review Board under certification of exemption #10296.

The purpose of this letter is to give you the information you need to decide whether you want to be a part of the study or not. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the purpose of the research, the interview questions, the possible risks and benefits, your rights as a volunteer, or anything else about this form that is unclear. By responding to the interview questions you imply consent that your answers be used in my research study.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

I am a senior communication and political science major at Washington State University, and through my own reporting experience I've become interested in the relationships between journalist, subject and public. My research question is: How should journalists balance concern for subjects, the public, themselves and truth in crisis photography?

I am defining crisis photography as a subset of documentary photography that includes war, famine, natural disaster, or any critical situation that puts a large number of lives in jeopardy for a prolonged amount of time. More simply, the photographs that are difficult to look at.

PURPOSES AND BENEFITS

To gather expert opinions and stories to find patterns and seek guidelines for ethical conduct.

PROCEDURES

The attached interview questions regarding personal experiences and opinions should take approximately 10 minutes to one hour to complete. You may choose to not answer any question for any reason. Responses cannot be included if they are received later than April 1, 2008.

RISKS, STRESS, OR DISCOMFORT

Interview questions regarding traumatic experiences or professional decisions may cause discomfort or emotional distress. Do not answer a question if you are uncomfortable with it.

If you have the time and consent to these research procedures, your insight and contribution will be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or my adviser, Beth Hindman, who can be reached at ehindman@wsu.edu. You can also access updates on my blog at <http://lisawaananen.wordpress.com> with posts labeled "thesis."

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1. What is the first photograph that comes to mind when you think about crisis photography?
2. How do you view the role and duties of a visual journalist, either personally or generally?
3. How do you consider your loyalties as a visual journalist? To whom or what are you loyal?
4. How do you prioritize those loyalties?
5. Does this prioritization or emphasis change if you are in a crisis situation?
6. What guides your decisions when you face an ethics decision regarding visual journalism (such as professional codes of ethics, religion, instinct, etc.)?
7. Do you ever worry about the people you photograph? Do you ever do anything about it?
8. Please describe a scenario you've faced or heard about regarding a difficult decision in crisis photography. If it's your own story, explain your decision. If it's someone else's story, please include whether you think it was the best decision.
9. Do you think there are photographs that should not be taken?
10. Do you think there are photographs that should never be published?
11. Excluding digital manipulation, do you think evolving technology will change the ethical dilemmas faced by visual journalists?