

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR VISUAL WALKS

by Martin Gruber

## Making Sense!

Entering the Field of Sensory Studies.



**Joint Module organized by  
University of Bremen and University of Eastern Finland  
for YUFE**

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### **Coordination:**

**Institute for Anthropology and Cultural Research, Faculty 9, University of Bremen:**

PD Dr. Cordula Weißköppel, Prof. Dorle Dracklé

**Department of Cultural Studies, Faculty of Humanities, University of Eastern Finland:**

Prof. Dr. Jaana Vuori, Prof. Dr. Helmi Järviluoma

**Syllabus (14 weeks, autumn term at UB: October - January)**

PD Dr. Cordula Weißköppel, Dr. Javier Gago Holzscheiter

### **Sub-Units of the Module**

Smell Trek: PD Dr. Cordula Weißköppel, UB

Sound Trek: Dr. Javier Gago Holzscheiter, UB

Visual Trek: Dr. Martin Gruber, UB

**Cited as: [https://blogs.uni-bremen.de/makingsense/files/Gruber\\_Visual\\_Walk.pdf](https://blogs.uni-bremen.de/makingsense/files/Gruber_Visual_Walk.pdf)**

# Visual walk

This exercise deals with visuality. By exploring an urban area, we want to experiment with visual perception. It does not matter if you know the neighbourhood or not because you will come across new things either way.



**2 hours**



**the area will be announced  
in the seminar**



**1 - 2**



**this handout,  
notebook,  
pen or pencil,  
smartphone or photo camera**

## Find a place



To begin with, take a walk. Take your time and try to be more perceptive than you would be as a passer-by. Walk around until you find an interesting place or an assemblage.

“Interesting” in this context may entail eye-catching and exciting places as well as hidden and quiet ones. Ideally, the place should be compact in order for you to keep an overview. It can be anything like a shop, a busy square, an area with trees, an abandoned building, a corner with a vending machine...



## Look at your surroundings



When you found a place of interest, rest for a while. Before you start documenting, try to grasp what the place does to your visual perception and how it feels to be there.

Observe what is going on around you. What can you *see*? What is it that makes this place visually interesting? Architecture, infrastructure? People, plants, animals? Shops, signs, benches or other objects? Colours, patterns, lights, reflections?

Vary the **scale of your observations\*\***. Move further away to get an overview and see connections between things. But also get closer and pay attention to details, surfaces, materiality.



## 1. Notes



Document what you see and what you experience through your visual perception. Write down associations, make lists of things or highlight important aspects in writing. Use this sheet and any free space here, if you like.

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## 2. Drawings and Mental Maps



It may help to draw a map of your surroundings. Focus on the things that you look at anyway and how they are related to each other locally. Or draw something you find interesting. Again, feel free to use this sheet.



## 3. Photographs



Take photographs that document the place and your experience with it. Think about your photographic subject. What should be photographed and how do you depict it?

Experiment with various kinds of images. Try out different angles and walk around to vary your perspective. Consider the lighting, colours, composition.

Translate the **\*\*scales of observation** into frame sizes: long shots provide visual context; medium shots help to highlight specific areas and close ups allow you to focus on details.