

VISUAL HISTORY NOW: using photographs to study the history of gender, sexuality and space

Tampere University, 8-9th October 2026

Day 0 Wednesday 7th October		
16:00—18:00	Pre-conference event	Tampere Queer History Walking Tour
Departing from Koskipuisto -- click for directions -- Note: this activity is weather-dependent		
Day 1 Thursday 8th October -- Tampere University Main Building / Pääatalo -- click for directions		
09:00	Registration in Alakuppila Foyer, Main Building (downstairs)	
10:00	Keynote (Auditorio D11)	
	Professor Elspeth Brown, University of Toronto: Looking Like a Lesbian: Photography and the Making of Queer Worlds	
11:00	Break	
11:15	Parallel Session 1 (Group working room/Ryhmätyötilat A05)	
	Turn of the Century Photography Chair: Kaisa Tolvanen	
	Isabelle Voßkötter-Berens	Behind the Scenes: Fashion Photography as a Medium of Multiple Spatialities
	Tuula Juvonen	Lesbian Hands
	Mette Kia Krabbe Meyer	Mary Steen: A Studio of One's Own
12:45	Lunch at Ravintola Ståhlberg - click here for directions Navigation: take the pedestrian underpass from Pääatalo towards the city centre, Ståhlberg is located at the first street intersection (right-hand side)	
14:15	Parallel Session 3 (A05)	
	Queer or Not? Chair: Tuula Juvonen	
	Rita Paqvalén	The shoebox of Aunt Elsa
	Christina Benninghaus	Amateur photography, male friendship and straight courting. A case study from 1950s West-Germany
	Antu Sorainen	Reading proto-lesbian lives in early twentieth-century Finland: home archives, Girl Guide photographs, and spiral kinship memory
15:45	Break with refreshments	
16:15	Parallel Session 5 (A05)	
	Lesbian Photographers Chair: Tuula Juvonen	
	Molly Caenwyn	Finding Grete: Silenced Queer Experience and the Phantom Darkroom in the Lisel Haas Archive
	Emily Patten	Knights, Sailors and Angels: Gender and Fantasy in the Practice of Tessa Boffin
	Joe Jukes	Lesbian Geographies in the Auli Kaartinen Archive
17:45	For any support/guidance getting to the dinner, meet in room A05 at 17:45	
19:00	Conference Dinner Location: Bistro Vilja - click for directions (approx. 30 minute walk from University, for a scenic walking route, see conference e-mail; bus numbers 11, 12, 13 and 32 run from Tampere Bus Station)	
	Parallel Session 2 (Group working room/Ryhmätyötilat A06)	
	Sexual Imaginaries Chair: Joe Jukes	
	Isabell Dahms	Amateur photography: ordinary lives and racialised eroticism in gay male erotic magazines
	Terje Toomistu	Affective Visual Regimes of Desire: Gender and Transnational Imaginaries in Late-Soviet Estonia
	Florenz Gilly	When Sex Becomes Imagery: Pornography, Psychoanalysis, and Critical Theory in the West German Periodical Sexualität konkret (1979–1986)
	Parallel Session 4 (A06)	
	Objects, Materiality, Photographs Chair: Joe Jukes	
	Johanna Hoppu	Photography as a visualization of Queer historical research
	Silke Holmqvist	Exploring New Year's Eve 1974 through Objects: A Scrapbook, a Photo Album, and the Nightclub Domino
	Kaisa Tolvanen	Assemblage Thinking with Archival Photographs
	Parallel Session 6 (A06)	
	Soldiers' Photo Albums Chair: Lydia Bucher	
	Helena Pirttisaari-Sundström	Self-Image, Masculinity, and Heroism in the Visual Narratives of War Photo Albums: Methodological Approaches
	Stephan Horn	Desirous looks. The (re-)building of soldierly masculinities via configurations of civilian femininities
	Svea Hammerle	The <i>Bereitstellungsraum</i> : Spatializing Soldierly Masculinity in Wehrmacht Photo Albums for the 1939 War against Poland
	Alexander Bonk	From a man to a nobleman: The self-perception and self-conception of German soldiers and officers in photo albums of WW1

Day 2 Friday 9th October -- Tampere University Main Building / Pääatalo

09:30 Registration (Alakuppila Foyer) -- Coffee, tea and refreshments

10:00 Keynote (Auditorio D11)

Dr. Tiina Männistö-Funk, University of Turku: Studying the Gendered Street Space through Photographs

11:00 Break

Parallel Session 7 (A05)

Spatial Negotiations

Chair: Joe Jukes

Marja Rautaharju Circulation of photographs and interpreting the "disabled gaze" across contexts

Tiina Männistö-Funk, Veera Moll & Tanja Vahtikari The transforming transport system and the everyday politics of urban space: Children in/as traffic in Eeva Rista's Helsinki photographs in the 1970s

Christina Reimann Doing gender while doing politics: comparing political life in interwar Gothenburg and Le Havre through street photography

Parallel Session 8 (A06)

Photography as "Proof" of Identity

Chair: Tuula Juvonen

Irina Roldugina Early Soviet Queer History: A Photograph as Proof of Gay Marriage

Eha Emilia Oras Reading Against the Frame: Gender and Sexual Non-normativity in Medical and Police Photography in Interwar Estonia

Lydia Bucher Relational Belonging: Space, Community, and Queerness in Ruth Maier's Photo Album, 1939–1942

12:30 Please gather in room A05 to close the conference together

12:45 **End / Lunch at Ravintola Ståhlberg** - [click here for directions](#)

Navigation: take the pedestrian underpass from Pääatalo towards the city centre, Ståhlberg is located at the first street intersection (right-hand side)

You may wish to tour Tampere's museums, take a sauna, or attend the last parallel session of the [Nordic Network for LGBTQ+ Research on Health and Living Conditions Conference](#) (also at Tampere University)

16:15 Suggested drinks

Location: Moro Sky Bar - [click for directions](#)

18:00 Joint-conference drinks
(food available to order)

Location: Telakka - [click for directions](#)

22:30 Suggested evening activity

Location: Mixei - [click for directions](#)

Navigation: enter the "Sokos Hotel Torni", walk through reception and take the lift to the top floor

At Ravintola Telakka you can purchase food and drinks for an informal conference social

Mixei is Finland's oldest continuously-running LGBTQ+ venue