

Visual Americas

Image, Text, Performance

12th WORLD CONGRESS

of the

International American Studies Association (IASA)

Hacettepe University, Beytepe Campus, Ankara, Türkiye

May 14-16, 2025

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 15, 2024

CONTACT: congress@iasa-world.org

CONGRESS WEBPAGE: <https://iasa-world.org/12th-iasa-world-congress-2025/>

IASA WEBSITE: <https://iasa-world.org/>

Call for Papers

As we approach the end of the twenty-first century's first quarter, we find ourselves in an era that W.J.T. Mitchell famously termed the "pictorial turn"—a period marked by the abundance and explosion of visual imagery. Indeed, the phenomenon is by no means new; our species has always relied on its visual perception, in combination with other senses, creating a hybridity of perception expressed through cultural and artistic products. Visuals and visuality have become the expected and primary end-points of human experience and are key in our interpretation of the world. Moreover, what Mitchell described as a "postlinguistic, postsemiotic rediscovery," a novel burgeoning of the visual, is placing the image, regardless of the form in which it is created and presented, at the center of our social and cultural interactions.

Recognizing the crucial role of visuality in shaping our everyday experiences, we invite scholars and practitioners to contribute to a vibrant dialogue on the role and impact of visuality in the American context. The congress venue, Ankara, located in Anatolia, a bridge between two continents, offers a distinct blend of cultural visuality. The figurative and nonfigurative art forms of multiple Anatolian civilizations over the centuries provide a fitting backdrop for discussions on visual narratives and cross-cultural exchange.

Congress Theme

The congress will delve into the multifaceted aspects of the visual culture of the Americas, exploring how visual narratives, from ancient cave drawings to contemporary digital forms, have evolved and continue to shape our understanding of the Americas and/in the world. It will also investigate how contemporary visual practices, empowered by digital technologies, are redefining the ways we produce, circulate, and contextualize images in the translocal, hemispheric, and transoceanic contexts.

Key Questions

- How do past or contemporary visual practices inform and influence societies?
- What is the role of digitalization in shaping our perception and experience of imagery?
- How does visibility contribute to and alter meaning-making processes?
- In what ways do ideologies influence the creation and interpretation of visual objects and texts?
- How do visual components enhance literary works and other textual forms?
- How does visibility contribute, shape, and change performance and/or theatrical space?

Suggested Topics

- The text as image, the image as text; i.e., the narrative function of visibility and the image within the text
- Visual storytelling in its various forms (e.g., drawing, painting, television, film, illustrations, graphic novels, comics, video or computer games, social media)
- The interplay of visibilities in the performing arts and media
- The aesthetics and politics of visibility
- The impact of digital visual culture in modern society
- Visibility and the concept of visibility as a matter of equality and/or representation in society, politics, culture, and the arts
- Analyses, ideologies, and the ethics of visibility including looking, seeing, making in/visible, showing, or withholding an image
- Policing, or a refusal to regulate, visibility and visibility

Submission Guidelines

We welcome proposals for 20-minute presentations. Submissions are open to academics, early-career researchers, and creative practitioners. Please send submissions as an attached Word document to: congress@iasa-world.org

Submissions MUST include the Author's:

- 1) First and last names
- 2) Institutional affiliation
- 3) ORCID number
- 4) Email address
- 5) Academic disciplines
- 6) Presentation title
- 7) 250-300 word abstract
- 8) 200-250 word biographical note
- 9) Keywords

Congress Language: English

Important Dates

November 15, 2024: **Abstract submission deadline**

December 16, 2024: **Notification of acceptance**

January 15, 2025: **Registration deadline**

March 14, 2025: **Final payment deadline for presenters**

May 14-16, 2025: **Congress**

Congress Fee

- 1) Congress Participation On-Site Fees:
 - Tenured Faculty Members (IASA Members) On-Site: 120 EUROS
 - Non-tenured Faculty Members and PhD Candidates (IASA Members) On-site: 80 EUROS
 - Tenured Faculty (Non-IASA Members) On-Site: 160 EUROS
 - Non-tenured Faculty Members and PhD Candidates (Non-IASA Members) on site: 100 EUROS

2) Congress Participation Online Fees:

- IASA Member Participants: 30 EUROS
- Non-IASA Member Participants: 60 EUROS

3) Congress Participation for IASA Early Career Fellows:

- Online Participation: 20 EUROS
- On-Site Participation: 50 EUROS

The On-Site Congress Fee covers:

- Congress materials
- Coffee breaks
- Congress Participation Certificates
- Administrative costs (including the usage of conference halls, multimedia, and invoicing)

The Online Congress Fee covers:

- Congress Participation Certificate
- Administrative costs (including the usage of conference halls, multimedia, and invoicing)

The Congress Fee does NOT include:

- Transportation
- Accommodation and meals
- Insurance
- Visas
- Gala dinner
- Tours

Publication Opportunity

Review of International American Studies (RIAS), the title of the University of Silesia Press, is the peer-reviewed, electronic/print-on-demand, Open Access journal of the International American Studies Association. Articles must be submitted through the RIAS website:

<https://www.journals.us.edu.pl/index.php/RIAS>

Post-Congress Tour – May 16-18, 2025

Join us for a two-night tour to the Cappadocia region in Anatolia, 300 kms from Ankara, known for its unique geological formations and historical significance. The tour is contingent upon a minimum of 15 participants.

The Emory Elliott Award

Since 2011, IASA has been granting a special award to the author of an outstanding paper presented at an IASA World Congress to honor the memory of Professor Emory Elliott (1942-2009) in recognition of his contribution to American Studies. Professor Elliott supported an international outlook in American Studies, encouraging young scholars and professionals both in North America and in other countries around the world to carry out research in this spirit. One of the IASA's founders, he served on its Executive Council for numerous years.

As in the past, the award will be granted to the author of an outstanding paper submitted to the IASA Congress. It will carry a special citation and an honorarium to help partially meet the travel expenses to the IASA event in question. The award recipient will present their paper at a special session of the Congress. The award-winning paper and up to two other highly commended papers from the competition will be published in *RIAS: The Review of International American Studies*, IASA's refereed journal.

The Emory Elliott Award Deadline: February 28, 2025
