

Camera phone and Photography among French young users

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- An interdisciplinary and qualitative approach
- Sociological theory of uses
- Theory on traditional photography

- What legitimate uses of camera phone being brought on by users?
- A radical transformation of the social function of photography?

- 252 questionnaires (18-24 years old)
- 500 descriptions of favourite photos from young users
- 21 semi-directive interviews (in 2 stages)

- 1. The transformation of the social function of photography
- 2. Mobile images as a resource for personal and social identity
- 3. A rationality of uses

Social function of photography

- Solemnizing and immortalizing the great hours of family life (Bourdieu, 1965)
- First : a mass practice among young people
- Secondly: friends come first

Social function of photography

- BUT the memory, the trace remains
- “That-has-been” (Roland Barthes, 1980)
- And the issue of the posing also remains

A resource for personal and social Identity

- 1. Showing and sharing
 - Intimate sharing (Okabe, 2004) / some display of photos
 - Gift/counter-gift?
 - Circulating of photos by email or Bluetooth

A resource for personal and social Identity

- Appearance of the comic, humorous
- Event/capture/reception: become one moment
- → Photos as a resource to feed social relations

2. Impression management

- The face (Goffman, 1973)
- Specular image of the self (Lacan, 1949)

3. Contemplating images

- Personal archiving
- The *punctum* (Roland Barthes, 1980)
- Pictures: a flaw because of their poor quality

4. The status of images?

- Ephemeral pictures?
- Camera phone used 'by default'
- Storing and erasing

A resource for personal and social Identity

- The value placed on photos always shifting
- Mobile phone as a personal digital album
- A frequently renewable memory

A rationality of uses

- To arbitrate between all of the various and available devices
- A lot of criteria

A rationality of uses

- But arbitration not absolute. On the contrary, constantly updated
- Lauriane “The use of the cell phone depends on what other device is available”

Conclusion

- A transformation of social function
- But also some of what used to be at stake in traditional photography
- → Dialectical tensions in uses
- With a lot of paradoxes in discourses

Conclusion

- Therefore, an important variety and a wide continuum of uses
- A proclivity for specific uses (but only if digital camera also used)
- A hierarchy → camera phone pictures with less value

Conclusion

- A rationality of uses
- Use patterns not yet stabilized
- → an unfinished process of use formation