Digital Icons

Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media

Visual Essay

The journal introduces a pioneering form of publication—the visual essay—which uses images and visualisations not only as a way to present data but also as a means to conduct research. Images can be generated in a number of ways including photographs, screengrabs, data visualisations, and so on.

It is anticipated that the authors of visuals essays would use different formats to present their work as long as they maintain focus on flexible, innovative and interdisciplinary research. The journal editors advise that

(1) the visual essay should contain an introduction grounded in visual theory and that will serve as a means to direct the reader's gaze, i.e., to let them know 'what to look for'. The introduction, in short, should make the case for the visuality of the essay and should provide the conceptual substance for the images that follow;

(2) the visual essay should be between 2,500 and 3,500 words and contain between 15-25 images. The Journal welcomes creative and inventive arrangements of these images that would allow for a more free-form way of engaging with the text as whole. Authors should be encouraged to work with the journal editorial board on how best to present these images but the basic goal is to encourage innovative submissions that will mark the visual essay as distinctive; and

(3) the visual essay should work as a verbal-visual discourse, that it should not be an illustrated article or a series of images with short texts below them. Instead, the visual essay should make a coherent, creative, and substantive case for putting the images at the centre of the analysis.

(4) the authors should seek permissions to reproduce all visuals for which they do not hold a copyright. When submitting their own visuals to the journal, the authors will transfer their copyright to the journal which will be responsible for publishing the visuals in the agreed format.