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 / Päätalo -- 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)**		**Parallel Session 2 (Group working room/Ryhmätyötilat A06)**
	Turn of the Century Photography	Chair: Kaisa Tolvanen	Sexual Imaginaries — Chair: Joe Jukes
	Isabelle Voßkötter-Berens	Behind the Scenes: Fashion Photography as a Medium of Multiple Spatialities	Isabell Dahms — Amateur photography: ordinary lives and racialised eroticism in gay male erotic magazines
	Tuula Juvonen	Emancipated Women in Photography. The Case of Helmi Tengén (1875–1971)	Terje Toomistu — Affective Visual Regimes of Desire: Gender and Transnational Imaginaries in Late-Soviet Estonia
	Mette Kia Krabbe Meyer	Mary Steen: A Studio of One's Own	Florenz Gilly — When Sex Becomes Imagery: Pornography, Psychoanalysis, and Critical Theory in the West German Periodical Sexualität konkret (1979–1986)
12:45	**Lunch at Ravintola Ståhlberg** - click here for directions	*Navigation: take the pedestrian underpass from Päätalo towards the city centre, Ståhlberg is located at the first street intersection (right-hand side)*	
14:15	**Parallel Session 3 (A05)**		**Parallel Session 4 (A06)**
	Queer or Not?	Chair: Tuula Juvonen	Objects, Materiality, Photographs — Chair: Joe Jukes
	Rita Paqvalén	The shoebox of Aunt Elsa	Johanna Hoppu — Photography as a visualization of Queer historical research
	Christina Benninghaus	Amateur photography, male friendship and straight courting. A case study from 1950s West-Germany	Silke Holmqvist — Exploring New Year's Eve 1974 through Objects: A Scrapbook, a Photo Album, and the Nightclub Domino
	Antu Sorainen	Reading proto-lesbian lives in early twentieth-century Finland: home archives, Girl Guide photographs, and spiral kinship memory	Kaisa Tolvanen — Assemblage Thinking with Archival Photographs
15:45	Break with refreshments		
16:15	**Parallel Session 5 (A05)**		**Parallel Session 6 (A06)**
	Lesbian Photographers	Chair: Tuula Juvonen	Soldiers' Photo Albums — Chair: Lydia Bucher
	Molly Caenwyn	Finding Grete: Silenced Queer Experience and the Phantom Darkroom in the Lisel Haas Archive	Helena Pirttisaari-Sundström — Self-Image, Masculinity, and Heroism in the Visual Narratives of War Photo Albums: Methodological Approaches
	Emily Patten	Knights, Sailors and Angels: Gender and Fantasy in the Practice of Tessa Boffin	Stephan Horn — Desirous looks. The (re-)building of soldierly masculinities via configurations of civilian femininities
	Joe Jukes	Lesbian Geographies in the Auli Kaartinen Archive	Svea Hammerle — The *Bereitstellungsraum*: 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
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)	

Day 2	**Friday 9th October -- Tampere University Main Building / Päätalo**			
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			
11:15	**Parallel Session 7 (A05)**		**Parallel Session 8 (A06)**	
	Spatial Negotiations	Chair: Joe Jukes	Photography as "Proof" of Identity	Chair: Tuula Juvonen
	Marja Rautaharju	Circulation of photographs and interpreting the "disabled gaze" across contexts	Irina Roldugina	Early Soviet Queer History: A Photograph as Proof of Gay Marriage
	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	Eha Emilia Oras	Reading Against the Frame: Gender and Sexual Non-normativity in Medical and Police Photography in Interwar Estonia
	Christina Reimann	Doing gender while doing politics: comparing political life in interwar Gothenburg and Le Havre through street photography	Lydia Bucher	Relational Belonging: Space, Community, and Queerness in Ruth Maier's Photo Album, 1939–1942
12:45	*Please gather in room A05 to close the conference together*			
13:00	**End / Lunch at Ravintola Ståhlberg** - click here for directions	*Navigation: take the pedestrian underpass from Päätalo 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 parellel 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	Navigation: enter the "Sokos Hotel Torni", wallk through reception and take the lift to the top floor	
18:00	Joint-conference drinks (food available to order)	Location: Telakka - click for directions	At Ravintola Telakka you can purchase food and drinks for an informal conference social	
22:30	Suggested evening activity	Location: Mixei - click for directions	Mixei is Finland's oldest continuously-running LGBTQ+ venue	

Tampere University Guest Wifi:	Use **eduroam**, or look for "**TUNI-GUEST**" (requires verification via e-mail or phone number)
Safer Spaces Policy:	We are following **TUNI's Safer Spaces Policy**. If, at any time, the space feels less-than-safe for you, for whatever reason, please approach the team at the registration desk.
Access the Book of Abstracts via QR code:	