**JUST LOOKING: DOSSIER OF READINGS**

This is an indicative reading list for the course. Obviously, we will not have the time to discuss each reading in detail, but my introductory comments for each session will touch upon certain key concepts or themes in them. A prior familiarity with these readings will help you follow the classroom sessions better.

Each of you is expected to make a short classroom presentation (of about 15-20 minutes) on any of these readings—or any other similar essay under a Module that aligns with your interest—in consultation with me over email. You may write to me at [poduval@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:poduval@uni-potsdam.de) and [satishpoduval@gmail.com](mailto:satishpoduval@gmail.com) (before 25 May 2025) about your tentative module/essay for presentation in class. We should firm up the presentations schedule by 1 June 2025.

**A. Overview**

1. Marita Sturken and Lisa Cartwright, *Practices of Looking:* *An Introduction to Visual Culture*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2018.

**B. Painting**

1. Michel Foucault, “Las Meninas”
2. Judith Butler, “The Value of Being Disturbed”
3. Ashish Rajadhyaksha, “Bhupen Khakhar’s List”
4. Geeta Kapur, “Detours from the Contemporary”

**C. Photography**

1. Ariella Azoulay, “Photography: The Ontological Question”
2. Christopher Pinney, “Civil Contract of Photography in India”
3. Teju Cole, “What Does it Mean to Look at This?”
4. John Tagg, “The Pencil of History: Photography, History, Archive”

**D. Cinema**

1. Warren Buckland, “Film Aesthetics: Formalism and Realism”
2. Madhava Prasad, “Diverting Diseases”
3. Taarini Mookherjee, “Absence and Repetition in Vishal Bhardwaj’s *Haidar*”
4. Niels Niessen, “The Staged Realism of Michael Haneke’s *Cache*”
5. Hongyan Zou,” Cinematic Chengdu: Generational Shifts and Spatial Dynamics in Jia Zhangke’s *24 City”*

**E. Archives**

1. Lawrence Liang, “From Unattainable to Distantly Watched Films: Film Archives and their Digital Futures”
2. Lisa Cartwright, “Film and the Digital in Visual Studies: Film Studies in the Age of Convergence”

**F. Reading the World**

1. Mary Louise Pratt, “Alexander von Humboldt and the Invention of America”
2. Timothy Mitchell, “The World as Exhibition”
3. Kobena Mercer, “Black Art and the Burden of Representation”
4. Tonglin Lu, “Fantasy and reality of a virtual China in Jia Zhangke’s film *The World*”