

Nordic Research Network for Digital Visuality and Communities and Culture Network+ collaboration on digital visuality.

Edgar Gómez Cruz, Research Fellow for the Communities and Culture Network+, is currently involved in an ongoing collaboration with Asko Lehmuskallio, Researcher at the Academy of Finland and member of the steering group of the [Nordic Research Network for Digital Visuality](#). The aim of the NNDV is to strengthen the emerging research field of digital visuality by establishing an excellent researcher network in the social sciences. Digital visuality refers to the production and consumption of digitally mediated expressions of selfhood and society through visual and audio-visual interfaces (images, photos, video, TV etc.). A growing number of Nordic scholars are paying attention to the role of digital mediation and multimodality in contemporary social life, the ubiquity of visual recording devices, and the convergence between computer-based and mobile platforms for communication and interaction. The NNDV is funded by the [NordForsk](#), an organisation under the Nordic Council of Ministers that provides funding for Nordic research cooperation as well as advice and input on Nordic research policy.

As part of this ongoing collaboration, Edgar Gómez Cruz and Asko Lehmuskallio have been working together on different projects over the last year. The collaboration began with a meeting at the Photo-Media conference in 2012 and continued at the University of California in Berkeley, where Asko Lehmuskallio was a visiting scholar, in a workshop addressing some key elements for consideration in relation to contemporary digital photography. The second part of the collaboration came with the organization of the panel **Digital Photography in Everyday Lives: Emergent Approaches**, at the *International Visual Sociology Association Annual Conference* in London (8th-10th July 2013, Goldsmiths, University of London) and the panel proposal **Non-professional photography: practices and power** for the *Photo-Media Conference* in Helsinki (March 2014).

In October 2013, Asko and Edgar were awarded a *Travel Grant for Advancing Research in Digital Visuality*, a small grant offered by the NNDV to support and expand the aims of the network. The grants are intended to support a 3-5 day visit to another institution. Asko Lehmuskallio travelled to Leeds in December 2013 and Edgar Gómez will be visiting Helsinki in April. The planned meetings have two goals:

1. To prepare the proposal for a book on Material Visual Practices. The book is intended to be an edited compilation about digital photography and its current role within everyday life. The volume brings together highly innovative empirical research from a wide range of settings to consider *how* digital photography is being practiced, and what its wider impact on everyday life is.
2. To follow-up this book proposal.
3. To commence preparations for a new research project.