Session 6

Indigenous Uses of Photography
A Debate:
*Visual Imperialism vs. Indigenous Adaptations*

**Indigenous Codings**

- MacDougall, Indian photo portraiture follows popular Indian iconography
- “adding something, or at least revealing the person in a further aspect”
- “positively life-enhancing, realizing for people the possible dimensions of themselves”
→ Yoruba of Nigeria, Sprague: photography integrated into both traditional and contemporary aspects of Yoruba culture

→ photography allows one to double one’s self: Buckley, Gambian case study

→ “There’s nothing magical about it. It’s simply shadows and light... That’s the point. It it’s not magic”

“the sound of a camera shutter making its slice sounds more like the snip of scissors, cutting out people, clarifying their edges, and making them cutting edge. Cameras, in The Gambia, are scissors for seeing.”