

# The Street Art Project: a social - legal and visual approach of the Athenian Street Art movement

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**Contemporary Societies in Motion**  
Pioneering qualitative research methods  
in the study of deviance and social control

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- The term 'image-based' is meant to reflect the use of a wide range of visuals, for example, photographs, film, video, within a qualitative research context

[Jon Prosser (1996) What constitutes an image-based qualitative methodology?, *Visual Sociology*, 11:2, 25-34, Jon Prosser / Dona Schwartz, *Photographs within the Sociological Research Process in Image-based Research. A Sourcebook for Qualitative Researchers*, 1998]

# The Street Art Project :

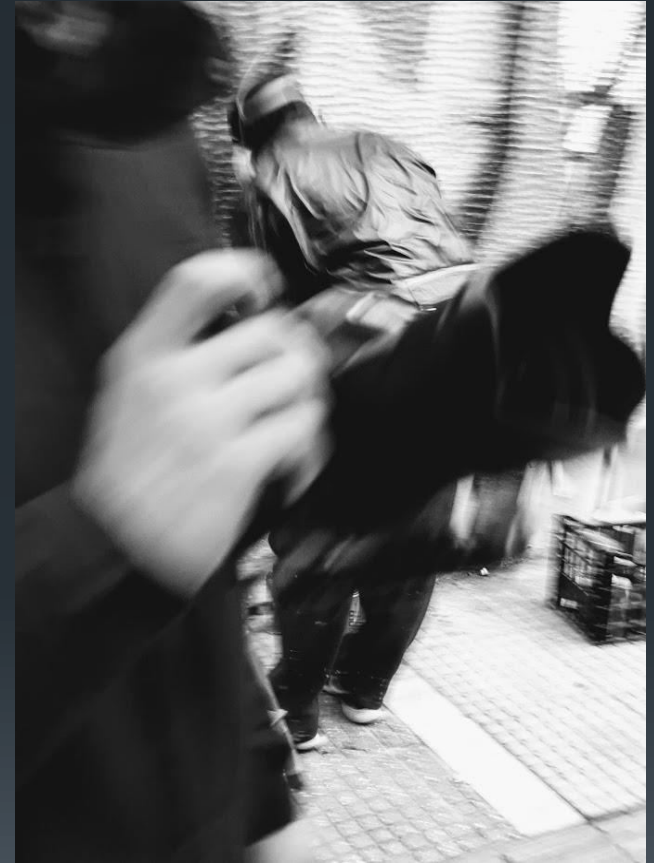
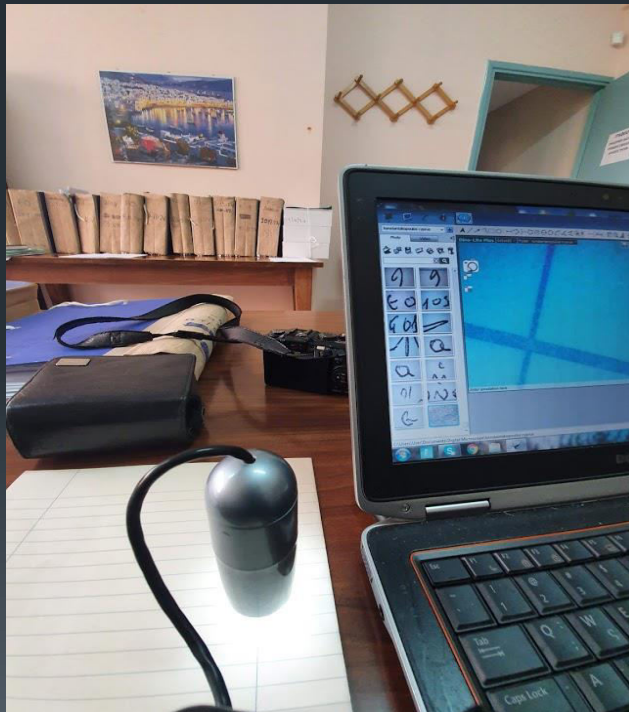
(meta\_analysis / communication with the public / educational activities)



# an image-based qualitative methodology:

- a) visual sociology*
- b) forensic photography*

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## *Doing Sociology / Criminology Visually*

- techniques of producing and decoding images can be used to empirically investigate social and criminal phenomena, like the street writings / paintings, their cultural meaning and psychological processes of acceptance **OR** rejection

[John Grady (1996) The Scope of Visual Sociology, *Visual Sociology*, 11:2, 10-24, Barbara Harrison, Every Picture 'Tells a Story': Uses of the Visual in Sociological Research, *Methodological Imagination*, 1996, 75-94]



# Why socially visually ?

## REFLEXIVITY

- a way to align with qualitative methodologies
- gain access to public beliefs and values
- a proven powerful educational tool
- highlight participant voices through their choices of words and visuals (potential use of photo-elicitation interviewing)

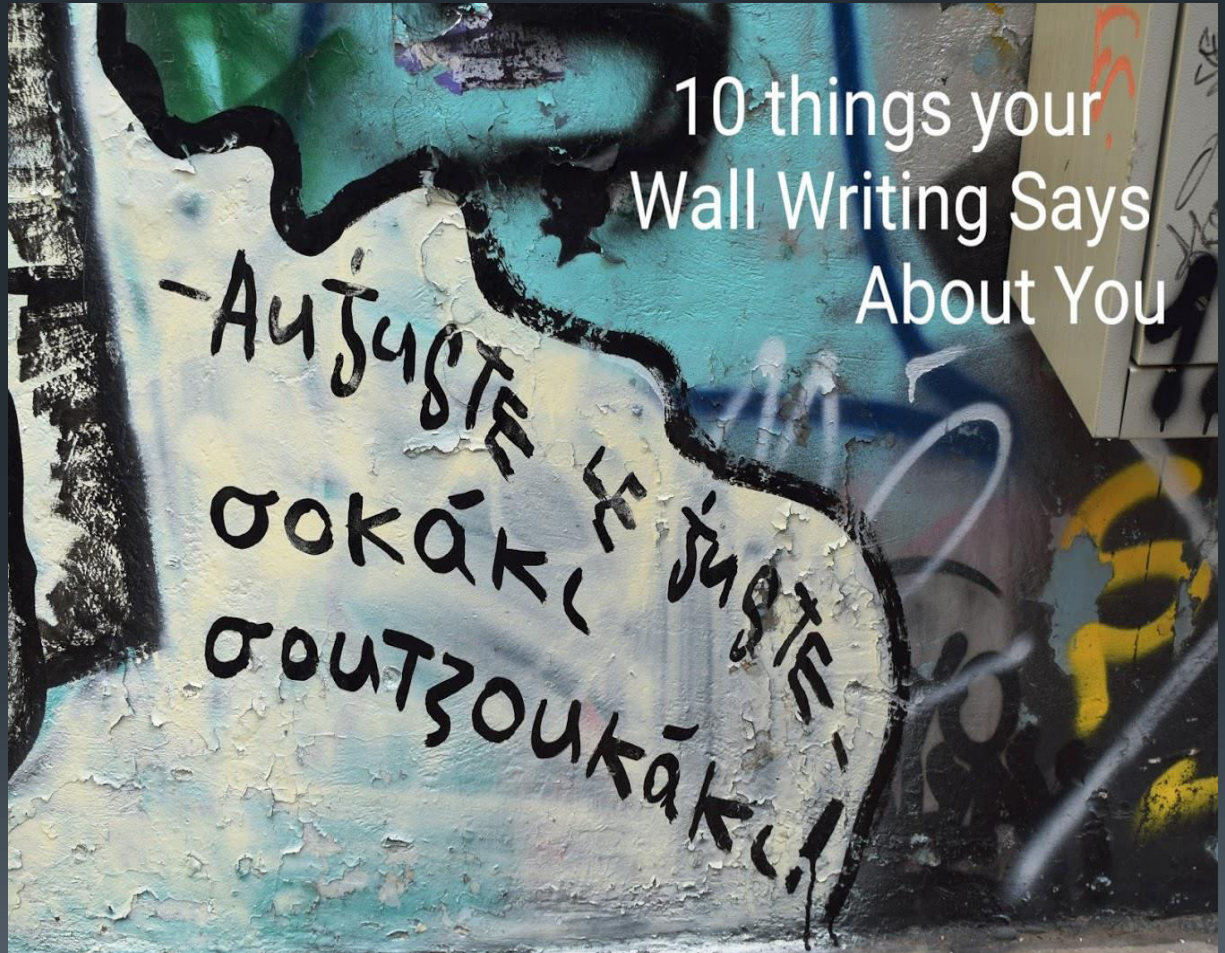
[Paul M. Van Auken, Svein J. Frisvoll & Susan I. Stewart (2010) Visualising community: using participant-driven photo-elicitation for research and application, *Local Environment*, 15:4, 373-388]

# Forensic photography

- a physical evidence of the street art / graffiti phenomena
- providing us as researchers with a permanent visual record of the street art / graffiti scene that can be analyzed or examined in second time and for later use
- highlighting the special and unusual conditions of the wall engravings
- capturing the identifying details of the wall engraving (magnification / zoom even macro lenses and lighting) associated with the identity and personality of street art and graffiti artists (graphological portraits)

**Karlyn Brown, Forensic Photography: Shaping and redefining evidence collection and the Criminal Justice System, Running head: FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY: SHAPING AND REDEFINING EVIDENCE, 2019**

# The texture of the graphic surface





# Upright position



# The graphic media



# Lettering & Street Art styles







# Graphological portraits of the street artists (photos by K.Konstantinou & E.Fasoula, )

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# References...

1. Bravo A., Argomenti di grafologia peritale, edizioni Scientifiche Italiane, 2001
2. Brown K., Forensic Photography: Shaping and redefining evidence collection and the Criminal Justice System, Running head: FORENSIC PHOTOGRAPHY: SHAPING AND REDEFINING EVIDENCE, 2019
3. Fyfe G. / Law J., Picturing Power: Visual Depiction and Social Relations (Sociological Review Monographs, No. 35) Paperback – December 1, 1988
4. Grady J. (1996) The Scope of Visual Sociology, Visual Sociology, 11:2, 10-24
5. Harrison B., Every Picture 'Tells a Story': Uses of the Visual in Sociological Research, Methodological Imaginations, 1996, 75-94
6. Hilton O., Scientific Examination of Questioned Documents, CRC PRESS, 1984
7. Palaferri N., Dizionario grafologico, Libreria G. Moretti – Urbino, 1993.
8. Palaferri N., L'indagine grafologica e il metodo motettiano, Libreria G. Moretti – Urbino, 1997
9. Prosser J. / Schwartz D., Photographs within the Sociological Research Process in Image-based Research. A Sourcebook for Qualitative Researchers, 1998
10. Prosser J. (1996) What constitutes an image-based qualitative methodology?, Visual Sociology, 11:2, 25-34

# Visualizing the Invisible

(photo by Evangelos Koudonas)

Towards a  
criminology of  
images.....

