



Daniel Bürkner

Photography and Nuclear Catastrophe

The Visual Representation of Hiroshima / Nagasaki and Chernobyl

The dissertation project seeks to analyse the photographic positions that deal with the atomic bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the accident of the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl. This focus includes press photographs of the events as well as artistic, documentary and touristic images that take an approach towards the disasters often years after and hereby form iconographic or material references to the events. These images are crucial in regard to the political use of images in the so called Atomic Age. Furthermore, they continue the tradition of associating invisible rays and photography that becomes apparent in cultural history and the theory of photography. In this sense, the photographic reception of nuclear catastrophes reveals a wide association of event and medium that is of great relevance in current areas of tension concerning the policy of images of nuclear energy.