

Rephotography: Spotting the Chronotopes

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Mikhail Bahtin (1895-1975):

“In the literary artistic chronotope, spatial and temporal indicators are fused into one carefully thought-out, concrete whole. Time, as it were, thickens, takes on flesh, becomes artistically visible; likewise, space becomes charged and responsive to the movements of time, plot and history. This intersection of axes and fusion of indicators characterizes the artistic chronotope.”

Bahtin searched chronotopes in literature, we now spot them in photographs.

Chronotope

chronos = time

topos = place, space

"timespace"

word rephotography has not been settled in all languages:

”then and now” photography

But the method is well known:

process:

select old photo – go to the place, take photo – present, compare

presentations

- polarize, juxtapose
- superimpose old and new
- “collage”
- “wipe”



Susanna Änäs, Kimmo Virtanen 1918/2018



Signe Brander 1908 / Heikki Kastemaa 2018



Mojo Erämetsä / Veikko Kannisto, 1940/2017



Table Mountain, Cape Town, Unknown, 1920s and Heikki Kastemaa 2018



Porto Novo Dahomey/Benin Helinä Rautavaara, 1966 / Heikki Kastemaa, 2017

Vahur Puik, [Rephotography with Ajapaik](#)

“Historic photographic collections get digitized. Online access that is coming better and better to reach these historic images in public collections.

Our idea in Ajapaik is that these images will become much better searchable and accessible for users, if the images are geotagged. We know exactly where the photographer was standing when he or she took this picture, what was the spot in the physical space where the photographer was.

To study the change that has taken place in the environment, we built a mobile app Ajapaik rephotography. Now we see which images are closest to us.

If we select an image, then we can actually make a rephotograph or repeat photograph of the same place. The app overlays the historic image on top of the camera screen. We can zoom the old image and adjust the transparency of the image. That way we can align the old image with the contemporary scene.

It is very easy for users to capture the environment, and that is more informative for those don't know the places that are in historic images.”

Where rephotography is used in **Wikimedia context**?

One part of the **Wiki Loves Monuments** photography competition in Finland was to rephotograph places depicted in historical photographs from Finna-repository with mobile phone app Ajapaik.

With this, we were experimenting on how to give an interesting way to explore and geotag photos from open repositories.

Competitions: As one choice

Use **open licence** photos from archives or Commons

We organise foto safaris.

Collaborate with neighbourhood groups.

Project application “Helsinki Rephotography” (2018-2020) to Helsinki city to promote exercise.

- Richer data,
- Better location
- Better finding places
- Better query
- Get you asses up from the chair
- Environmental orientation
- Home environment study
- Urban change study

THANKS!, KIITOS!, Дякую!