

“This seminar explores the emergence of a visual culture of stealth as foundational for contemporary modernity as militarized aeromobility. Tracing the history of reconnaissance imagery and the development of camouflage from the first World War onwards, I discuss the shift from analog to digital imagery and from aviation to space platforms. The process of producing, interpreting, and classifying an image taken from a distance, especially from a great height (from a plane or satellite) promises to reveal an absolute truth yet truth value obscures as much as it reveals. The convergence of the airplane and the camera generated an ideology of documentary evidence and a visual culture that eschewed ambiguity. Yet, as the case of aerial imagery of the Middle East from WWI to the present suggests, stealth requires a belief in the image as fact while operating through myriad arts of deception.”



Caren Kaplan is Chair of the Cultural Studies Graduate Group and Professor in Women and Gender Studies at UC Davis.

Caren Kaplan, University of California Davis

The Visual Culture of Stealth: Interpreting Militarized Aeromobility



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