

# Coventry University BA (Hons) Photography

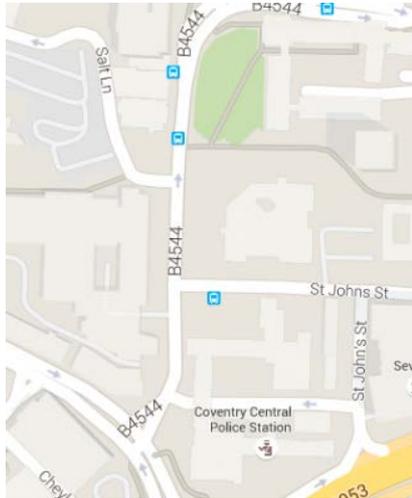
## Community, Culture and Identity: 266MC

### PROJECT PROPOSAL

Student: Bethany Crisp

#### 1. TOPIC / TREATMENT & AUDIENCE

A brief description of the project you will be carrying out, including the methodology you will adopt, and mode of presentation chosen and where the work will be located.



Whilst looking at the selected maps I noticed that one of the squares had 4 bus stops in, this interested me and got me thinking further. Within this project I want to concentrate on bus stops and the human interaction around them. This will consist of different factors such as:

- Documenting the bus stops and what they look like. Look into human presence/ absence and how I may be able to portray this.
- Talking to the people who are there- understanding a bit about them. By returning to the same bus stop am I noticing the same people being there?
- Going on journeys on the bus, on my own/with the people I have spoken to. By doing this I aim to learn more about my subject area, both from myself and the people that I have met.
- Experiment with different ways of giving a bus stop beauty, comparison techniques, go to different locations, gives a wider comparison.

The aim of my project is to get people to appreciate what is around them on a day-to-day basis. Bus stops are everywhere and most people will pass them daily yet they seem to go unnoticed. By picking out the smaller more abstract details of the bus stops that I visit I hope that people will start to notice these details in areas around them. Why are bus stops not kept as well/ treated like works of art like they are in other areas? And why are they vandalized and generally taken advantage of? These are questions that I need to touch on, however it doesn't change what I want to show. I want to look at the nature around them within this as part of the human interaction and how it is generally unkept, and maybe how it dominates them. I have been researching projects that already exist revolving around bus stops. Julien Tatham and Richard Hooker have created work circling around the human interaction aspect of bus stops. Although I found this work striking, I think that I can create something with a little more depth. These images only show the documentary side to things, and although I am interested in this and I certainly think this is a developmental part of my project, and how it will start, I think I can create something more eye-catching and captivating. Documentary isn't something that I am generally interested in as a photographic genre, so creating a body of work in this style isn't something that I want to do. I want to create something that makes people stop and look, not just at my work but at bus stops as well. I also want to look into the movement around my area. I want to experiment with this through both still images and video. I have looked at Alexy Titarenko and Tatsuo Suzuki. These aren't specifically around bus stops however I have got inspiration from these and it gives me an idea on how represent movement in still images. See a few images from existing projects below.

Julien Tatham:



Richard Hooker:



Alexey Titarenko:

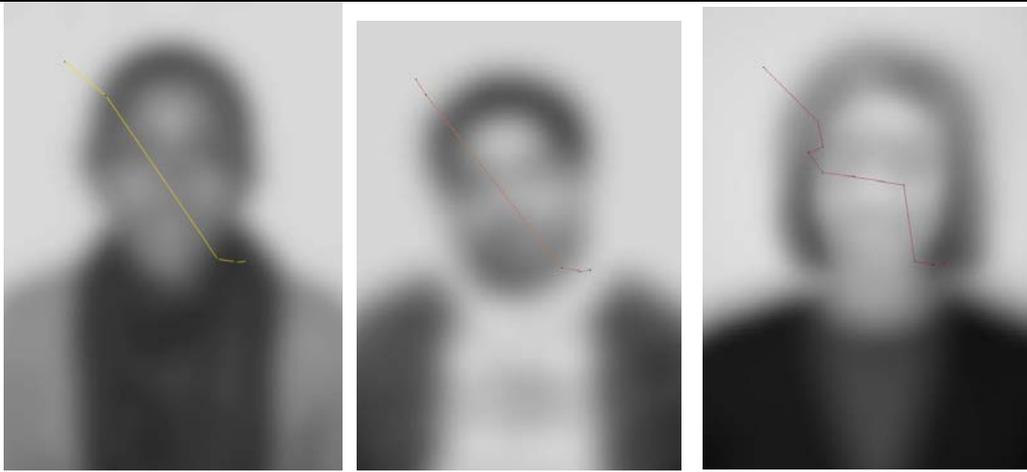


Tatsuo Suzuki:



I really like all of these images and ways to represent bus stops, I want to include human interaction and movement within my work, however I'm not sure if using long exposure will be how I do this. Both these photographers have done their work in black and white, however I think my work will be stronger if I do it in colour, this will be able to easily link all the stills together and bring consistency within my work and final piece. Whether the long exposures work as effectively in colour or just look confusing and too busy is something that I need to consider. I also want to look at movement from one bus stop to another; again this links back to human interaction and could also be the opportunity to take some portraits. Aida Silvestri's work about refugee's really stands out to me, this could work well with a bus route drawn over the portraits. Again this is in black and white, consistency is something that I am looking for within my project, if there is a separate part or something that doesn't quite fit in this may weaken my project. If I include portraits of a similar style I need to be able to justify why and make sure that it is connected to my other work. If these work well then I'm not sure where they will fit in my final outcome. Portraits is something that I am really interested in, but what I want to experiment further with is how I can make these different and not just something you would see regularly. I think keeping the persons identity anonymous is important within this project, this is because they are not the focal point of my project but the object, the bus stop is.

Aida Silvestri:



I have also looked at a more abstract project, by Miranda Hutton, in her images I think it is a lot harder to tell that they are at a bus stop. This is definitely something to consider when making my work, see some of her images below. I really love these images and I think it would be interesting to see how viewpoints would change at different locations and how comparisons could be made. For example whether you are in the countryside or a city. This really is something that I am interested in creating, because the audience is initially unaware that what they are looking at is a bus stop this does make them stop and look and it does make them think more into it. As this is one of my main goals throughout the project I think this style of work will work really well.



This area interests me so much as I think they are often forgotten, it is likely that you pass one or two bus stops a day but it is unlikely that you can describe them or what they are like or even the people that were there. I want to find a beauty in this everyday place, a place that nobody really sees the beauty in and make people appreciate this part of day-to-day life. I understand that other countries consider their bus stops to be a work of art and I want to give people something to think about and for them to see the bus stops in England in a different light. I want to somehow make them a work of art in their own right. I have researched projects by Christopher Herwig and Alexandra Soldatova, this is where the idea of a bus stop being a work of art came from. See a few images from these projects below.

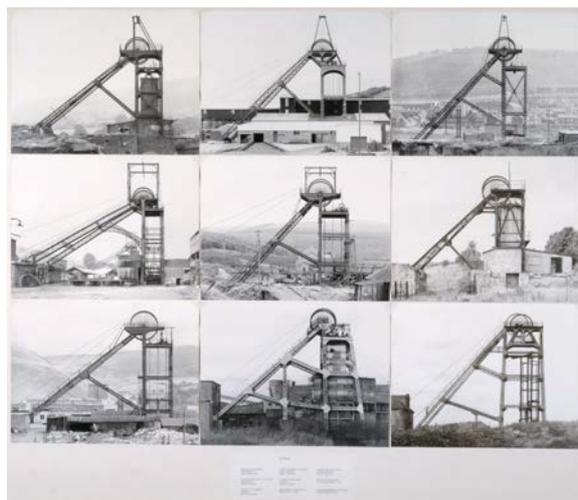
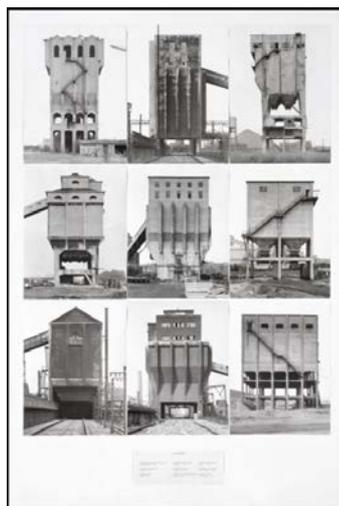
Christopher Herwig:



Alexandra Soldatova:



These bus stops are obviously very different to the ones that we see in England, however I don't think that this means that they can't be seen in the same light. Like the previous projects I think that within my work I can bring something that stands out a bit more. These images are very striking and I really like the consistency of the work, this is something that I am definitely going to consider when visiting different bus stops. I think this allows and easy comparison and enables the audience to realize that the images all belong together in one series. I do however need to consider the fact that I don't want to make my subject too obvious, this will go against what I have previously been saying about the audience having to double take the image to realize that it is in fact a bus stop. I have also looked at work by Bernd Becher and Hilla Becher, this work isn't of bus stops but follows the idea of having a static form and enables comparisons. I need to consider whether I want to create such a uniform and linear outcome from my project, or is this a little monotonous and uninteresting? Although it may be originally striking I'm not sure if it will leave the long lasting impression that I am going for. While I am unsure anything will come of this style experimenting with it will be a solid part of my research. See this work below.



This is something that I need to be careful with when deciding what images to take and how to present my work. I have so many ideas that it is easy for them to all get jumbled and mix into one confusing project. Although I intend to experiment with all of my ideas I definitely think that I need to narrow these down into a more specific route after seeing what works best. I need to take risks within my work and not be afraid to not include a lot of images that I have taken. I think this will be hard for me to do as I always take a lot of time and consideration over what I take and even if I like an image it may not be suited to the project or series. Taking this into account I may have to disregard a whole set of images.

I think the main body of work that I create will be documentation of these areas in the form of stills. Originally I thought it would be really interesting if I were able to present this work in a bus stop itself, this would really link my work to its surroundings and the community too. However thinking about this more I think it is a little cliché and definitely gives away what the subject of the images is. I need to experiment with different ways of presenting my work such as prints, books and more. Finding a suitable final outcome is really important and will make or break the project. I think that a book may be too linear and structured for what I want to do. Giving my audience more creative control is something that I am interested in doing, an outcome including more interaction such as a box of prints, may be more suited to this project.

To start this project I am planning on researching the history of bus stops for further inspiration. I also think that it would be good to have a look at some archival images of bus stops, this will show me how they have changed and

developed over time.

Although I like the still and static images of the bus stops, I'm not sure having a series with just these will be a strong piece. I think that these are essential to set the scene and I'm not entirely sure how I am going to incorporate these, however I think they do somehow need to be in there. I think the thing that I want to focus on more is the human interaction of these bus stops, and as I have previously said making people appreciate them more.

## 2. SKILLS AND RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

**Identify** the skills you think you will need to develop, and the resources you envisage being required to enable a successful resolution of your idea within the given time and theme.

### Video:

Within this project I want to experiment more with video and moving image. To develop my skills I am going to try and do some filming on each of the shoots that I do. I will then be able to practice the post editing in premier pro, which I think is what I need the most work on.

### Interaction:

Talking to strangers will be the biggest challenge for me, this is something that I have always wanted to do within a project and never quite managed to do it. I think it will take a lot of time for me to be able to complete this and getting to know the people before I jump in and ask to photograph them. I think it will be interesting to see what way the project goes in as the people involved could change my views and opinion.

### Presentation:

For all of my previous modules I have made a book, although I think that this presentation method suits most projects I think that I am going to steer clear of it for this module. I think that my work will be stronger if I present it within the community and at the place that I am focusing on, a bus stop. I think it will be hard to get thinking in a different style of presentation but this will allow me to create something different and take me out of my comfort zone.

### Time management:

Within this project I need to make sure that I stay on target and complete my aims with plenty of time. I am going to make sure that I have a buffer week in place, this will allow time to correct any mistakes that have been made, whether it is last minute editing or a mistake with the printing. As well as this I want to make sure I get a large amount of research done over the holidays so I am in the best possible place when I come back to Coventry, where I am able to start making work.

### Experimentation:

At the moment I am unsure exactly what images I am going to be making, what I do know is that I want to keep myself open to different possibilities and experiment with techniques that I haven't used before. I hope that this will inspire me to create something completely different to what I have in the past.

### Research:

From doing the group work I have learnt how to research properly, this doesn't just include websites or books, but also talking to people that I find around my location. I think this will provide some really helpful primary research. As well as this, when looking into the history of my site/subject matter, I am going to go to the Herbert and look for some archival resources. I think this will help me understand my site in more depth.

### Website:

For the digital part of the submission we have to create our own website. When doing this I need to make sure that it accommodates the different audience that will be accessing my work online. To make this website I will need to understand the basics of coding and web design.

### 3. TIMETABLE

**Plan** how you will use the study time allocated for this Module. This would include dates for tutorials, seminars, workshops, shooting, processing, printing, editing, mounting etc. (You are advised to build in a one-week buffer zone – i.e. have everything ready a week before the deadline, as something always goes wrong!)

Week	What I'm going to do...
<b>Over Christmas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Research my topic, take books home from the library and use online resources, read a lot!</li> <li>- Take some pictures and videos at home, these may or may not be used in my project, but any bus stops will give me further ideas- decide from this whether I want to stick to certain bus stops (just the ones on the location I have chosen or do I want to travel to other bus stops?)</li> <li>- Practice editing skills, mainly on premier pro and moving images</li> </ul>
<b>Week 1 (4/01-10/01)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Check in with Caroline- book tutorial for this week</li> <li>- Confirm project is going in the right direction</li> <li>- Continue researching</li> <li>- Start making images from location, concentrate on one section per week- document what I see</li> <li>- Start getting to know the people at the bus stop</li> </ul>
<b>Week 2 (11/01-17/01)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Continue making images- human presence/absence</li> <li>- Start thinking about what I want to be presented as stills and what as moving images</li> <li>- Go on a bus ride, with someone or on my own, document this</li> <li>- Continue talking to the people that I see</li> </ul>
<b>Week 3 (18/01-24/01)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tutorial with Caroline</li> <li>- Continue making images- the people there</li> <li>- Weekly bus ride, document this</li> <li>- Start thinking about how I want to present my work, is it going to work well?</li> </ul>
<b>Week 4 (25/01-31/01)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start collecting my final images and editing them, make sure this is consistent</li> <li>- Take any final images needed</li> <li>- Do interviews/ images of people</li> </ul>
<b>Week 5 (1/02-7/02)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tutorial with Caroline</li> </ul>
<b>Week 6 (8/02-14/02)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start thinking about final piece</li> <li>- What pictures do I want to be included in my final piece?</li> </ul>
<b>Week 7 (15/02-21/02)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Final sequencing/ editing of stills</li> </ul>
<b>Week 8 (22/02-28/02)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In to print- Monday this week</li> <li>- Final editing of any moving image/video</li> </ul>
<b>Week 9 (29/02-4/02)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Buffer week, allows for things to go wrong, aim to be completely finished by the start of this week</li> <li>- HAND IN FRIDAY MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup></li> </ul>

During these 9 weeks I want to make at least one blog post a week, this could be anything from artist research, new images, or just an update to where I am. I think by doing this I will know exactly where I am during my project and know what I have to do next. I think this will keep me on target throughout the whole module. At the beginning of this project I also want to make sure that I am regularly visit my chosen site, for the first few weeks I aim to be visiting it at least twice a week. This will help a lot with the ideas that I have and with creating the work itself. As time goes on I intend to carry on visit my location, just maybe not as much. However the length of time that I am there may increase due to my project, especially talking to people and getting to know them. The timetable above is just a rough plan of what I want to do for this module. I think it is hard to know exactly what I will be doing week by week at this point. This is because what is created the week before will have a big impact on what I will be doing next. However I think this is most helpful for keeping on target with things such as printing and ensuring I have time for everything to be done within my project.





From completing this shoot I know that I like the sort of images that I am creating and that I can definitely create a whole project on this subject. By doing both images on 35mm film and digitally I know I want to carry on the project digitally. This is mainly because I think the colour of the images is very important. Although I could experiment with using colour film I don't think this is what I want to do, purely because of the long development time.

During this shoot I also experimented with moving image. This is something that I haven't really done before so I wasn't exactly certain with what to do. I have edited a few sequences together to see what they have come out like. Although something like this isn't really what I have in mind for my project it helps me visualize what I want to do and record what I have seen, click the link below to see my short video.

<https://vimeo.com/146918228>

Why did I choose to use the bus stop project?

I chose to do the project revolving around bus stops over the Herbert because I think there is more to do, and more that will keep me interested in my work. Although I think the idea about the Herbert can definitely create an interesting project I think that it is quite cliché, something that has been done before, and could well be something that one of my fellow class mates could pick. As well as this I think the other project will take me out of my comfort zone a lot more. This is something that I really want to do within this project and try something new. I am excited to get this project started, whereas when I was thinking about the Herbert and the project I had planned around this I just didn't have the same level of enthusiasm. I think the bus stop project will enable me to gain the confidence that I need.

**Remember the Assessment Requirements for the end of this module:**

- A Body of Work, appropriately formatted and presented.
- Evidence of Research and Development, a Blog Booker summary of your blog, along with a paper copy and a digital copy of your Project Proposal. This should clearly illustrate the development of your strategy for making work and the research, development and experimentation underpinning it. The Research and Development may be comprised of blog entries, workbook, contact sheets, work-prints, tests etc.
- A digital presentation of your body of work on your digital website
- An updated Project Proposal that includes a 800 word critical evaluation of the development and resolution of your project.