

## Photography and ideologies of vision

In this talk I describe a book project that studies the relationships between photography and ideologies of vision in the context of modern Jewish history. The book is comprised of five case studies in which still photography and Jewish history intersect between roughly 1900 and 1980, from within the history of photography. While none of the cases can be reduced to one single national context, the cases are drawn from different kinds of national and photographic contexts ranging from documentation, through science, art, or philanthropy and politics. Drawing on sociological theory, in the first part of the talk I describe the conceptual framework for studying the changing relations between photography and ideologies of vision. I pay particular attention to the dispositions of photography, the notion of ideology, and the dispositions of objects to be photographically handled as essential for understanding photography's ability to establish and stabilize a particular class of objects the dependence of which on the eye or the gaze is greater than other visual objects. In the second part of the talk I exemplify the relations between photography and ideology of vision drawing on one of the case studies, on banker and philanthropist Albert Kahn's "Archives of the Planet."