

Four ways to produce data by the help of visual methodologies

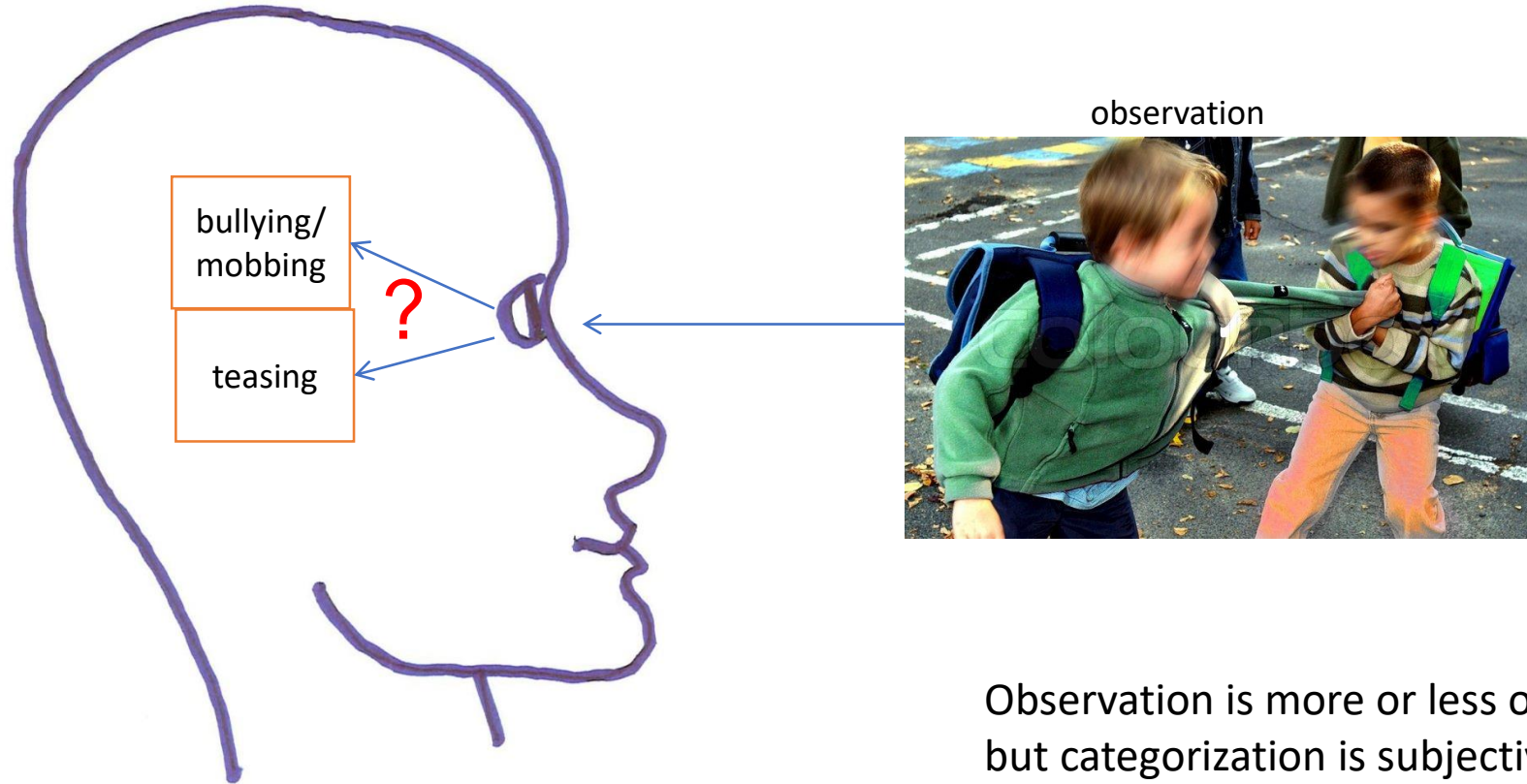
Tor H Aase, Professor Emeritus,
University of Bergen
&
Cicero

not talk about
interpretation
of images.

(see Gillian Rose 2001:
Visual Methodologies)



...but focus on *production of data* with the help of images.



Observation is more or less objective,
but categorization is subjective!

Data = observation + category

concomitantly, data are *produced* and not simply collected.

cognitiv categorization = f(object + senses + mental abilities + culture)



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Narrative
Theory
Dichotomy
Metaphor

Variable

1. Photo eliciting

Eliciting cultural explanations
(Harper; sociologist)



8



9



10



11



12



13



14



15

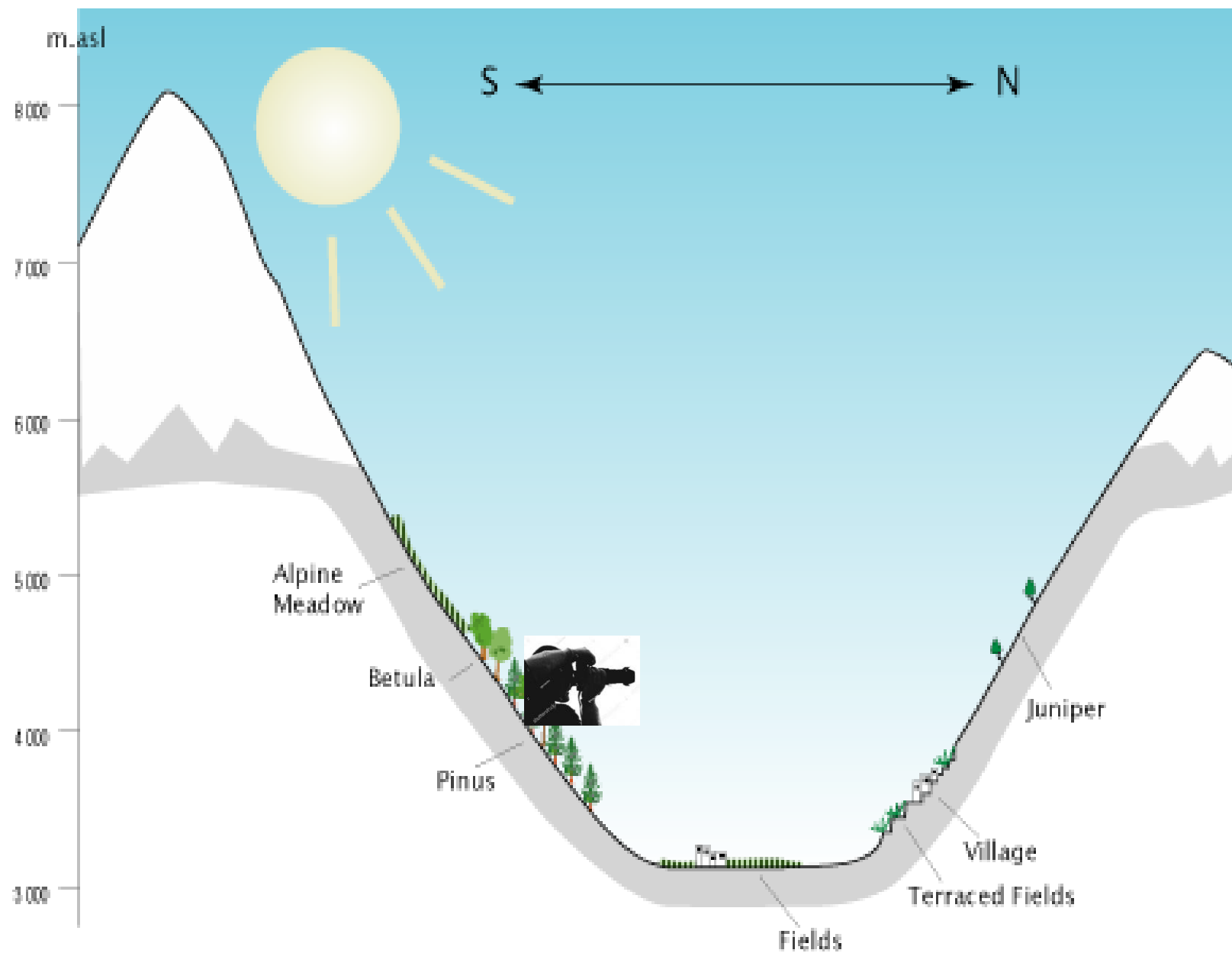
Seypi system of production, Punjab, Pakistan (THAa)



Farming and Protected
Areas. Nepal
(THAa)



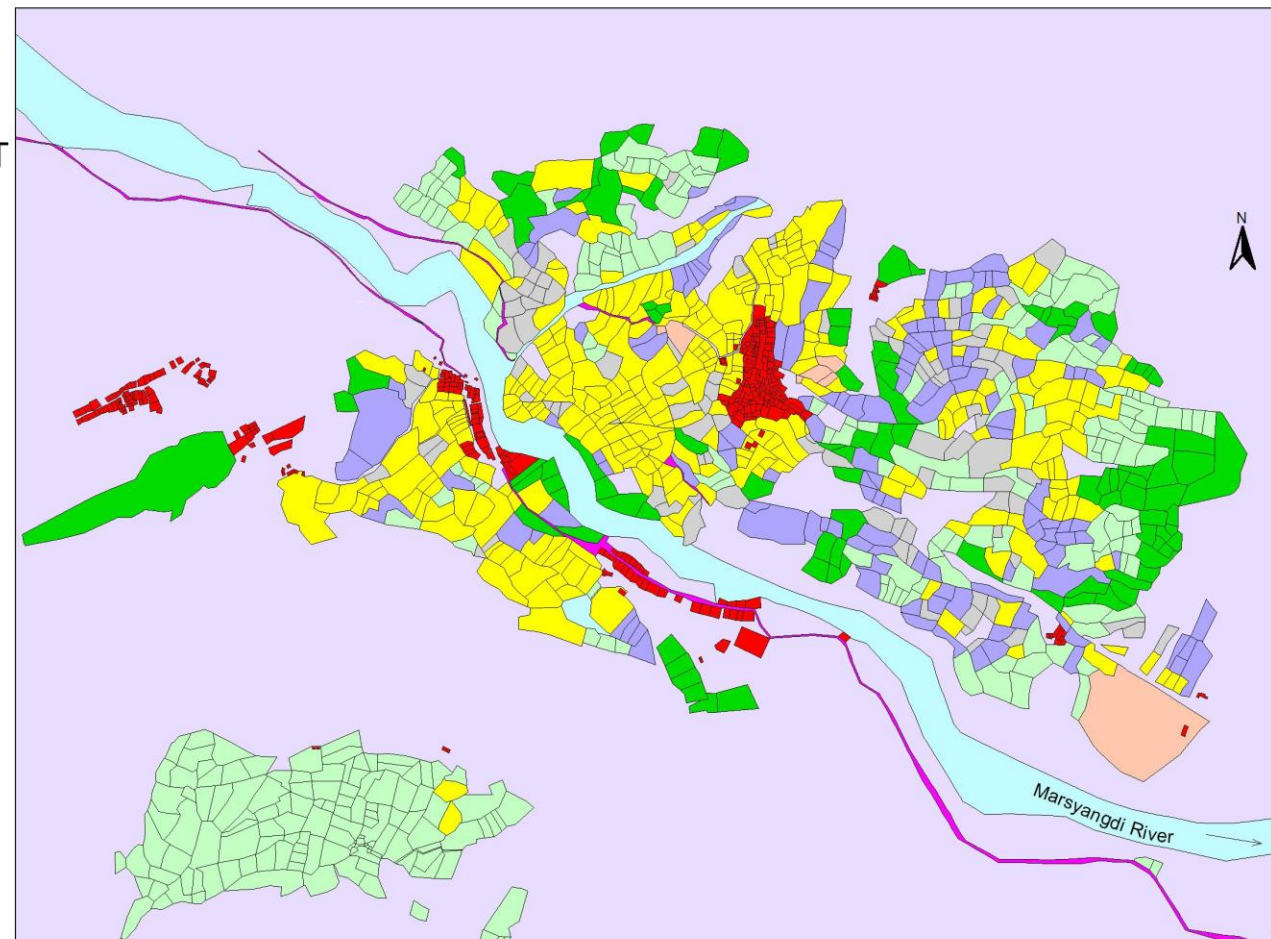
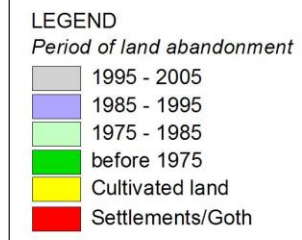
Mapping land
abandonment.
Manang Valley
Nepal
(THAa)



Farm fields



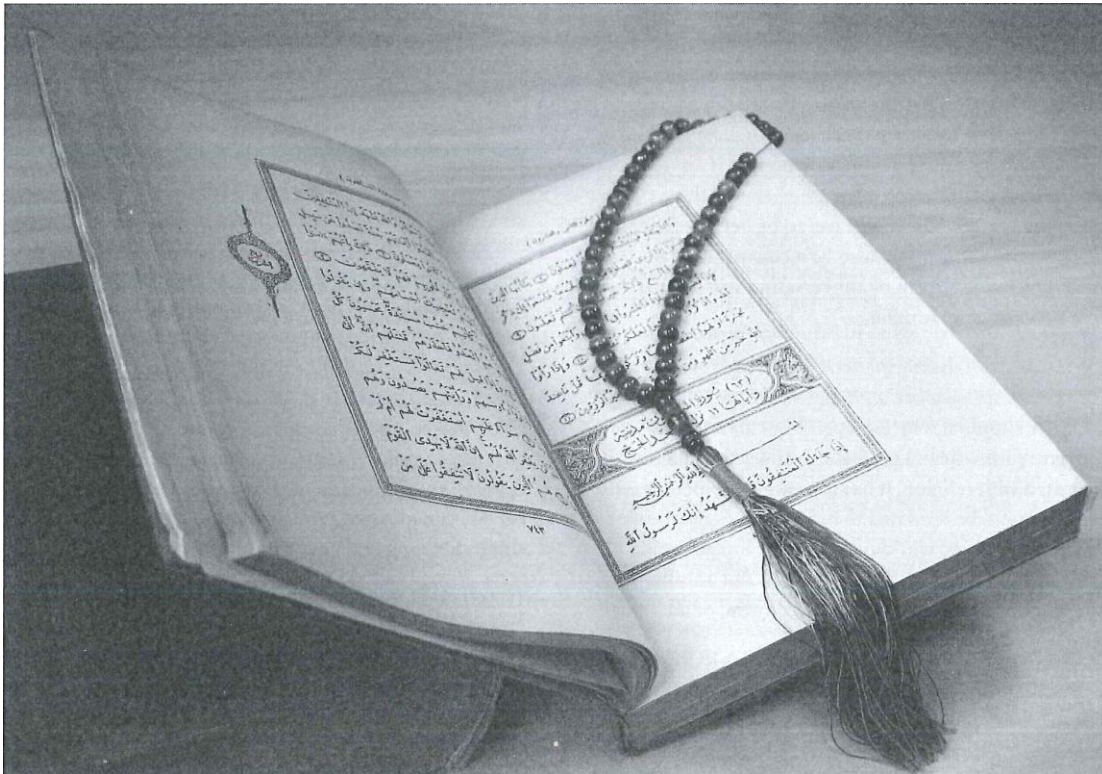
Pisang Village LAND ABANDONMENT



Photos as 'open spaces'
(Anders Vassenden & Mette Anderson;
sociologists)



(photos by
Anders Vassenden & Mette Anderson)



2. Scenario evaluation by photo manipulation

..ask informants to evaluate imagined futures.

(THAa and
Beate E Myklevold)



Geiranger



real



manipulated



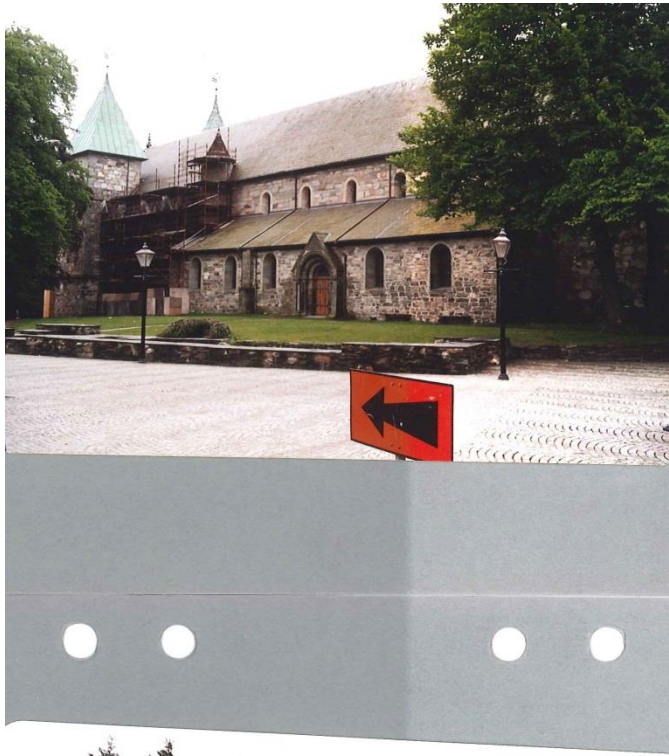
3. Visual quiz

Project:

To what degree do immigrants feel that they belong to Stavanger?

(THAa)

Assumption: sense of belonging is conditioned by *knowledge* of place.



Prototypical Stavanger-marker:
The old cathedral



Prototypical Stavanger marker:
'Vålendspibå' (Valand water tower)



Prototypical Stavanger marker:
street name in Stavanger song.



The Stavanger mosque

Respondent identification: girl, 18 ys, second-generation Vietnamese

Picture no	what	where	More knowledge?	Σ
1	1	1	0	2
2	1	1	1	3
n	0		0	0
Σ				xx

‘Feminization of agriculture’: Testing gendered knowledge about cultivars.



(project by Prof. G. Chapman,
geographer)

4. Autophotography

Participant-driven visual method;
phenomenological

“...providing research subjects with cameras, asking them to photograph specific aspects of their lives, and collecting their oral explanations and interpretations of the resulting photos.”

(Johnson, May, Cloke 2008).

4. Autophotography

Road connection to Shimshal, Karakorum (Pakistan)



Figure 2. Nazia's umbrella (Photo: Zul Haja, 35, f, homemaker/local council member)

(David Butz & Nancy Cook 2017, anthropologists)

'Modern bathroom'.
Photo by Shimsali housewife

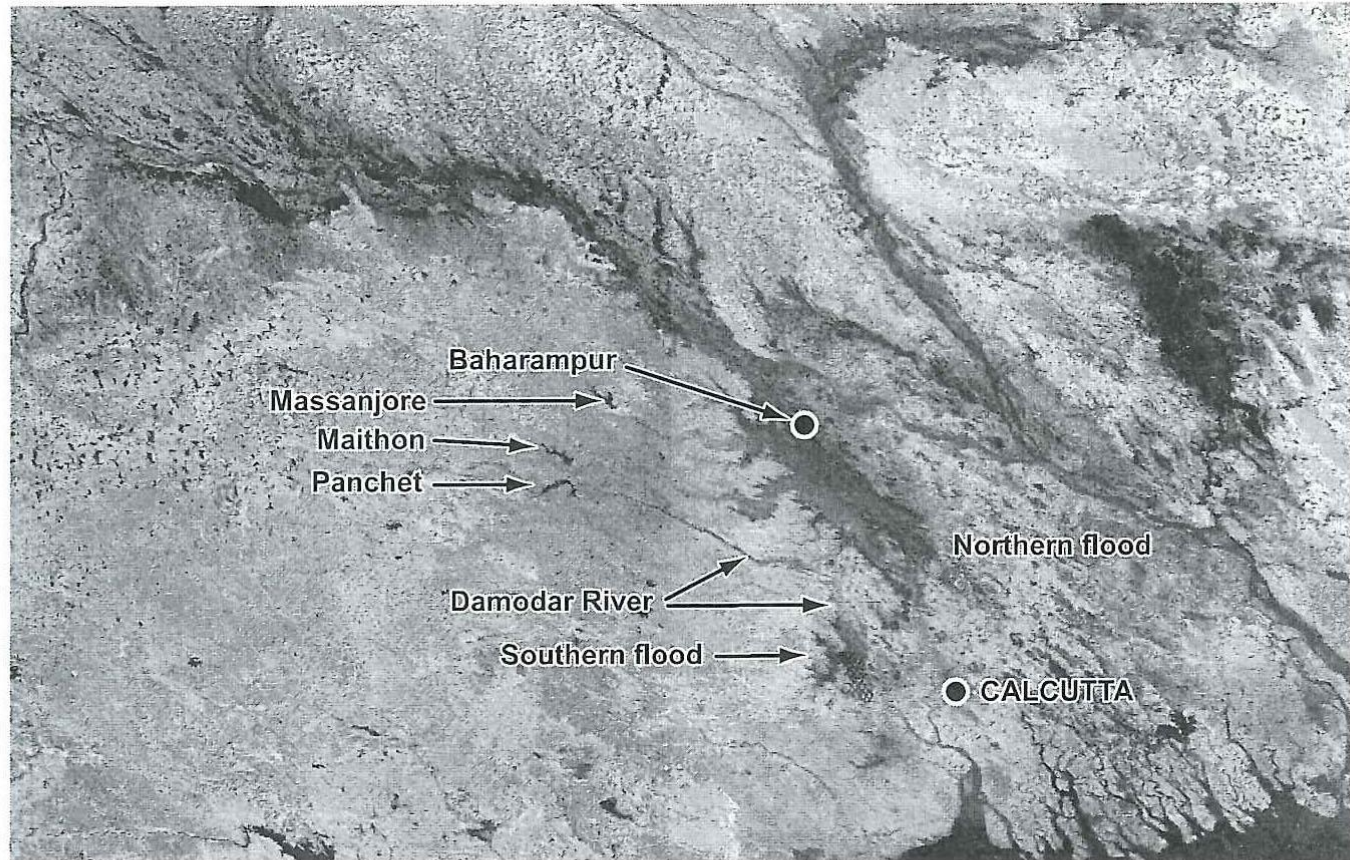


5. Confronting local narratives with 'reality' of satellite images.

Flooding in Bengal

Figure 4

Satellite Image of Bengal, Late September 2000



Source: Modis 8-day 500 m surface reflectance composite image from 22–8 September 2000, mouth Flood Observatory, Hanover, USA, digital media, <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~floods/2000images/20000928INd061.jpg>, accessed 20 September 2005.

Strength of visual methodologies:

- Produce two kinds of data: **visual** and **oral**.
- Avoids **hermeneutical injustice** (i.e., the fallacy of interpreting different things/events)
- Can avoid **testimonial injustice** (i.e., omitting certain informant categories; autophotography)
- Can be **participant-driven** (autophotography)
- Informants are more willing to discuss photos than answering survey questions

Weaknesses:

- Epistemological: photos are just **representations** of things/events.
- Ethical: Violating borders of **privacy**.
- Practical: Camera may cause **Hawthorne effect** (like recorder)

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MENU



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OK



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