Reading the Humanitarian/Visual Archive

September 5, 2016
4-6pm NEW TIME
Kevin Lee Room,
6th Floor, Quadrangle A14
University of Sydney
(use the entrance near the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences)

On the relation between media and humanitarian institutions: the case of a “horrific photo of a drowned Syrian child”

Professor Davide Rodogno
Geneva Graduate Institute

How do we read images? In this presentation, Davide Rodogno considers the relevance of this question for the history of humanitarianism. Drawing on new research, and his recent study, *Humanitarian Photography: A History* (CUP, 2015), Professor Rodogno will discuss the symbiotic relation between media and humanitarian institutions; the continuities and ruptures of the uses and abuses of some tropes; the moral stance of some humanitarians and their institutions, in historical perspective. As he argues, the point of bringing together reflection on the reading of images and the history of humanitarianism is not to theorise but to mobilise history and the historian’s methodology, and to bring history to bear on a hotly debated contemporary debate.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER: