

## Formative feedback

Student name	Anna Goodchild	Student number	508597
Course/Unit	Contextual Studies	Assignment number	2
Type of tutorial	Written		

### Overall Comments

Thanks Anna for your second assignment. You have chosen a subject that is unusual and unorthodox in that it is not a mainstream topic for photographic analysis. This presents to you in your work both benefits and disadvantages: the benefit being the interest arising from its rarity and the disadvantage being the difficulty in identifying key texts to summarise and the possibility that the gaps in knowledge for you to pursue being rather large. Or at least that is how I see it.

You have done well in that you have undertaken a lot of reading into your subject and produced a good summary of the areas that interest you. The downside, as I see it, is that you tend too much towards summarising different texts and while you do describe how some photographers have approached prisons I feel there is perhaps not enough coverage of how these photographers' work has been received and reviewed; also I feel that you might have included more of a comparison of the different concepts/movements and how they might be used in your work on prisons.

I appreciate it's difficult to get a balance given the limited number of words recommended for the review and your topic - being more unusual - also makes getting the balance harder. This is something that we can discuss at a FaceTime session.

### Assessment potential

I'm duty bound to choose from predetermined texts one that I feel best summarises your potential. Here is my choice:

*I understand your aim is to go for the Photography Degree and that you plan to submit your work for assessment at the end of this course. From the work you have shown in this assignment, providing you commit yourself to the course, I believe you have the potential to pass at assessment. In order to meet all the assessment criteria, there are certain areas you will need to focus on, which I will outline in my feedback.*

## Feedback on assignment

This summary is based on your search for answers to four main questions; it is well structured with each question forming a subheading that sets out your findings well. What you might want to consider is including more about the gaps in your knowledge that your review has identified and consequently what areas your extended written project will cover.

You reference your reading well and have produced a good bibliography and reference list.

You rehearse the theories of post-structuralism in relation to prisons fine but you might expand this to include how this approach has been received in reviews and also reference other concepts/movements pointing out why you feel they don't suit your investigation and practice.

Under your subhead of influences on how we see prisons and prisoners you cover off the issue of 'hypervisibility'. This puts me in mind of the notion of compassion fatigue as put forward by Sontag amongst others. This has been challenged (not least as outlined here [https://www.david-campbell.org/wp-content/documents/DC\\_Myth\\_of\\_Compassion\\_Fatigue\\_Feb\\_2012.pdf](https://www.david-campbell.org/wp-content/documents/DC_Myth_of_Compassion_Fatigue_Feb_2012.pdf))

I suggest that this might be something you should consider as I feel it has a bearing on your investigation not only in terms of relevance to hypervisibility but also in the way that hypotheses are challenged. This aspect of 'challenging' is what I feel your work currently lacks.

You mention the blindness from saturation in relation to press articles and documentaries. You might want to consider the phenomenon of social media as a news source only serving to reinforce existing prejudices and the whole notion of 'alternative facts' and 'fake news'.

There are a number of technical/editorial/proof reading issues that are probably best dealt with when we FaceTime; also instances where you include an assertion that appears to be your personal point of view. The review should be less about your point of view but that of others. For example, your comment about the Panorama programme you mention that the film reflects what Wolfgang Tillmans refers to as 'relinquishing the machine'. If this is your opinion then you perhaps ought to be quoting other respected reviews of the programme that make the same argument.

Your section on prison building and closures in England I feel could be better expressed and you incorrectly attribute a quote from Liz Truss. You can quote the Guardian article or include a quote from Truss as set out in the article but you can't mix the two as one quote.

You describe how several photographers have covered prisons and prisoners. That's fine but you neglect to go on to refer to how these various works have been received/reviewed as commentary on the subject; also you do not go on to say how their treatment of the topic influences, or at least how your review has or will influence, your Body of Work.

## Research

As mentioned you have done a good deal of reading and research into your chosen subject. Well done.

## Learning Log

This is fine

## Suggested reading/viewing

I've made several recommendations in the text above.

## Pointers for the next assignment / assessment

- The course material gives good guidance on what you should pay attention to and I strongly advise you head this.

Tutor name	Simon Barber
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Next assignment due	11 August 2017