

# TO SEE IS NOT TO UNDERSTAND

"The first thing you should know is that in the Arab world nothing is what it seems", Iman Bibars told me, an Egyptian feminist who smoked six cigarettes an hour, and who had come to participate in the great Race towards Equality of Casablanca. "Women, politics, religion. Nothing is what it seems. Life is not structured in the same way - or to the same extent - as it is in the West".<sup>1</sup>

Objetivo : Ser consciente de nuestra subjetividad y limitaciones a la hora de leer imágenes.

## Activity 1:

One of the most typical newsroom debates is about the front page for the following day, involving director and editors-in-chief.

Look at this front page photo showing<sup>2</sup> immigrants queueing in Valencia during the regularization process for immigrants.



<sup>1</sup> EL PAIS 1 julio 2007

<sup>2</sup> EL MUNDO 8 febrero 2005

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(Spanish version in [http://www.seipaz.org/documentos/WEB/VER\\_NO\\_ES\\_COMPRENDER.pdf](http://www.seipaz.org/documentos/WEB/VER_NO_ES_COMPRENDER.pdf)) [?] [?]

a) - What do you think this photo means? Tell the story that you think is being narrated here.

b) - Why do you think the photographer picked this composition?

c) - What do you think the person on his knees is doing? Why is he kneeling?

If you think that the person on his knees is praying, remember that if his only motivation was religious he wouldn't do it in front of everyone else. The individual prayer is normally done in private. When it is done in public, it springs from a sense of community, as a ritual to be performed.

## Activity 2 .

a) Have you ever thought that it could be for the following reasons that some members of the Muslim community behave in this way?

This behaviour may be because he wants to stand out.

He wants to stand out among those who are queueing up.

He wants to attract attention.

He wants to differentiate himself from people within his own community.

He wants to demonstrate to acquaintances in the line that he is more religious and a better Muslim than they are. (For example because he has had an argument inside the mosque with someone...)

Since he is a fanatic he takes advantage of every spare to pray.

He wants to influence others to pray as well

He wants to influence others to pray as well (for example, a collaborator with the Moroccan police might use this method to find radical Muslims)

b) Write down any other reasons you think he might have for making this "exhibition" of himself.

### Activity 3.

- Imagine that you are walking around the zone and you witness this. What would you feel?

Respect  
Embarrassment  
Anger  
Fear  
Bewilderment  
Mistrust

Justify your feelings in terms of what that picture evoked in you /made you imagine.

What type of picture would you have sent in to a section of the type "Seen on the street: pictures sent in by readers"?<sup>3</sup>

Of great interest is the guide on Diversity drawn up by the Society of Professional Journalists of Indianapolis whose corporate logo is "Bettering and Protecting Journalism".  
<http://www.spj.org/divguidelines.asp>

Assist at the event instead of informing<sup>4</sup>  
To know, is not the same as to be there  
To see is not the same as to understand  
Repetition suffices for demonstration  
It's sufficient to get excited to convince others

THE PREJUDICE ( PRE-JUDGMENT) vanishes when you can make a judgment. Judgment for motivation, for intellectual concern, because you find yourself with the other... How do you generate concern towards what is different about the other? How do you stimulate this curiosity? How do you recognize in the other what exactly it is that unites you?

Knowledge is an act of synthesis that requires one to gather empirical information and find a constructive principle or a norm to understand it...

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<sup>3</sup>El Semanal, 2006

<sup>4</sup>Ignacio Ramonet. "Internet o Morir", Le Monde Diplomatique 2 september 1999

Specialized Radio slots ?

For example the specialized programmes "la hora distinta" on Radio Voz, "Un mundo sin barreras" on Onda Cero, "El espejo del Tercer Mundo" on la COPE and "Un Mundo Solidario" on Radio Exterior.



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