

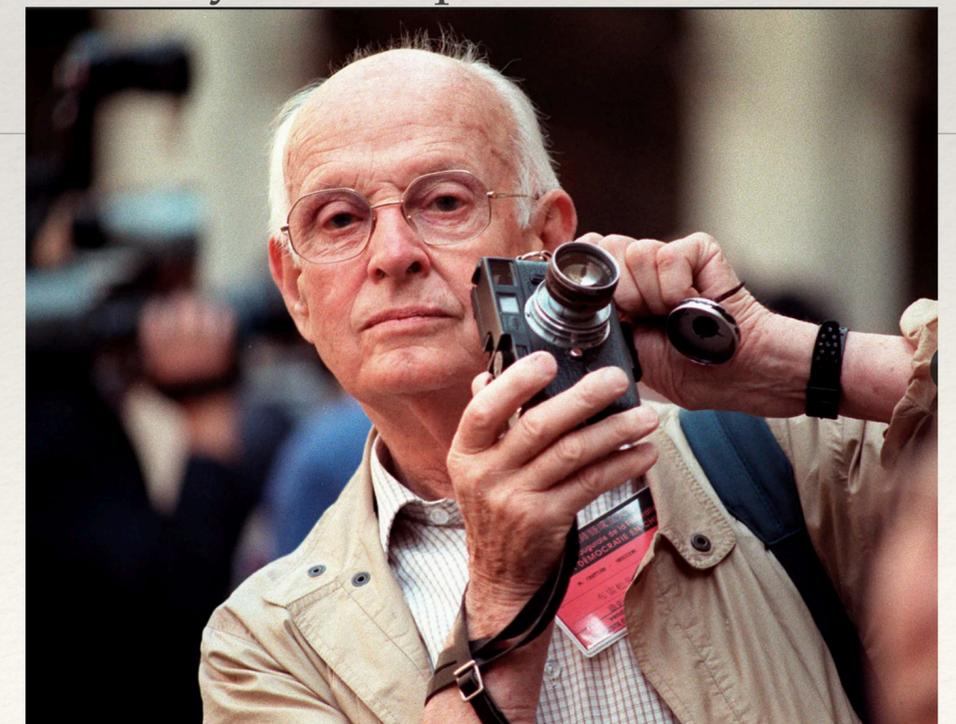
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Tacoma Tidelands Restoration through the lens of Documentary Photography

Henri Cartier-Bresson (1908-2004) was the first person to employ the new handheld Leica for Photojournalism



UWT Students gather at the restoration site known to some as *qwiqwəlut* for a photo-documentary field trip



Photovoice* and the power of participation

- ❖ What do you see here?
- ❖ What is really happening?
- ❖ How does this affect our lives?
- ❖ Why does this situation exist?
- ❖ What can we do about it?**



* Wang, C. C., & Burris, M. A. (1997, Jun). Photovoice: concept, methodology, and use for participatory needs assessment. *Health Educ Behav*, 24(3), 369-387. <https://doi.org/10.1177/109019819702400309>

**Shaffer, R. (1979). *Beyond the Dispensary (On Giving Balance to Primary Health Care)*. African Medical and Research Foundation [AMREF]. <http://www.amoshealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Beyond-The-Dispensary-by-Roy-Shaffer-Book.pdf>.

Photovoice and the power of participation

“Human Waste”

❖ What do you see here?

❖ I went back to Viewpoint Park and Crescent Heights to get various perspectives on litter at the same locations. This photo was taken at the trail's overlook park. You can observe **remnants of Pierce industries pounding down natural materials and collected trash in a huge brown pile**. The photo appears to show bark, possibly from abandoned houses or furniture, directly behind some collected trash.

❖ What is really happening?

❖ Both human and natural waste—trash and wood scraps and dirt—are gathered in the image. ...**Much of our land is covered with this accumulated waste, which impacts the lives of mammals who dwell in our natural forest or close to our towns**. Trash is also present in Pierce County water, which eventually affects our aquatic life. This has an impact on our community's health not just because of the animals in our surroundings but how it affects us.

❖ How does this affect the wellbeing of others* and ourselves?

❖ Although proper garbage disposal has long been a problem, this image illustrates a visual. **Because of the garbage that accumulates in our streets, in our swimming pools, and even on our property, human waste and the carelessness of where it goes once it leaves their home or place of business pose a health risk to our communities**. Even animals who live among us and in our waterways may be impacted by this garbage.

❖ Why does this situation exist?

❖ The reason behind this predicament is that people don't acknowledge or value the water they create. Individuals continue to utilize single-use items and packaging.

❖ What can we do about this?

❖ We can improve community health if we as a county can begin implementing recyclable and compostable technologies. Furthermore, microplastics in packaging may impact our food or water due to their transfer into the packaged goods. Fruit for thought, I suppose.



Photovoice, Empowerment, and Ecoliteracy

❖ Toxic Driving

- ❖ This is a photo I captured on the road of a large truck with two pipes actively emitting an abundance of exhaust down the road.
- ❖ This truck is portraying a vivid example of active air pollution, as exhaust damages our ozone, crops, produce, water, and animals.
- ❖ These trucks are highly toxic to our environment and community, especially to the more vulnerable populations, young kids, and the elderly...Causing issues such as asthma, respiratory illnesses, and worsening conditions like heart and lung diseases*.
- ❖ The smoke trails left behind this truck are a strong reminder of the everyday environmental hazards we often overlook, and ultimately miss even though they are a portrayal that we are in urgent need for more sustainable transportation, and stronger environmental policies to protect the health of those most vulnerable in our community.



*<https://www.pscleanair.gov/245/Diesel-Program>

Documenting the Tacoma Tideflats:
Health, Justice, and the Environment



Mixed Signals - Kennedy McGinnis

STUDENT GALLERY SHOW

Wednesday, May 27, 2026 4:00pm

350 Tacoma, 311 Puyallup Ave

THLTH 405

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