

**Ábris PAPP**

***Autopictures, the Use of Cellphone Cameras and Home Videos  
in a Hungarian Village***

What can we achieve with pictures? Can we use the skilled way of taking shots to improve our situation in a social group, or in the village hierarchy? How can we be stigmatized, or terrorized by others, with a camera, used as a weapon? What is the villagers' concept of acts being worthy of recording, or what is being considered a public or private event?

Even though we have certain information regarding the culture of these pictures, we are still lacking the knowledge or the understanding the circumstances of the common use and the conditions of the daily embeddedness of these media forms in one's life management. Since there is no immanent interpretation available regarding the intentions of the author or the array of purposes these photos are aiming at. And if we want to develop a deeper empathy toward a situation when a person by simply pushing a button on a technical device projects some meaning to these fragmented elements of reality (Vilém Flusser) we have to become a part of the moment. We have to be present physically, we need to see, hear or sense the multitude of elements present at the moment of these shots are being taken in order to compare it to the actual representation of the whole, the self-awareness of the person as it appears in the facial expressions and the body language maybe in the verbal signalling of the photographer and lastly the reactions of the viewers. In order to conduct an assessment I used personal interviews, friendly discussions and participant observation as a technique. This topic has been followed in a village in Vas County, where I have privileged access to the standard narratives and more intimate structure or events of life hidden for the outsiders thanks to my family relations.

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