Visual survey in AR&ABR: discovering different types of data and interpretations based on images, artworks and drawings by students in Granada (Spain) and Tegucigalpa (Honduras).

Ricardo Marin-Viadel, University of Granada (Spain).

The survey, a group of short-answer questions on the same subject, is one of the main research instruments in social and educational sciences. There are a wide variety of types and variations, both in quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches (Fowler, 2014). Visual methods in social and educational research have highlighted the photo-elicitation and image making as basic tools in the inquiry process (Banks & Zeitlyn, 2015).

In this paper I propose to develop a combinatorial scheme between verbal data (written or spoken) and visual data (photo, drawing, video, etc.,) in each of the three basic elements of a survey: the question, the answer and the interpretation of results. Consequently, eight different possibilities are produced, as shown in the following table:

SURVEY

DATA			
QUESTION	ANSWER	OF THE RESULTS	NAME OF SURVEY TECHNIQUE
Verbal language	Verbal language	Verbal language	1. Survey (standard)
		Visual Image	2. Statistical graph of the conclusions
	Visual image	Verbal language	3. Drawing Tests in psychology, and Visual Survey
		Visual image	4. Not explored, yet.
Visual image	Verbal language	Verbal language	5. Photo elicitation, Rorschach Test, etc.
		Visual image	6. Not explored, yet.
	Visual image	Verbal language	7. Visual Survey
		Visual image	8. Not explored, yet.

My purpose with this Table is to explore what might be the possibilities of implementing the concept of "visual survey" in Artistic Research and Arts Based Research methodologies. The most intriguing combinations are those derived from visual interpretations of the responses to the survey. I explore three types of visual works: (a) artworks by Christopher Baker or Chris Jordan (2009), among others, who have worked as artists from sociological statistics; (b) some kind of correspondences between art works (copy, replica, version, variations, etc.) (Musée d'Orsay, 2004); and (c) drawings and photographs made by primary and secondary students in two social and community contexts: the city of Granada and the city of Tegucigalpa.

References

Banks, M. & Zeitlyn, D. (2015). Visual methods in social research. London: Sage.

Fowler, F. J. (2014). Survey Research Methods. London: Sage.

Jordan, Ch. (2009). Running the Numbers: An American Self-Portrait. Washington: Washington State University and Prestel.

Musée d'Orsay. (2004) Correspondances – Tony Oursler / Gustave Courbet. Paris: Hazan & Musée d'Orsay.