

**"Exploring the lives of images: Alan Kurdi on social media"  
Ray Drainville, Manchester Metropolitan University  
Wednesday April 17, 10-11:45, Room F11 (Seminari de Filosofia)**

**Abstract**

In 2015, photographs of a Syrian refugee child, Alan Kurdi, were shared across social media. This act had an extraordinary effect, drawing hundreds of thousands of people across Europe out into the streets, demanding that refugees be helped. Why did \*these\* photographs have such an effect, and why not others? Employing empirical data from Twitter, this talk demonstrates the utility of new theoretical approaches and methodologies to argue that ancient imagery has an extended life in the reception of iconic photographs today.