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A Study on Appraisal of Basic Rules of Composition in Photojournalism

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ABSTRACT
The rule of thirds is a visual composition in which an image is divided uniformly into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, and the image's subject is positioned at the intersection or along several of the dividing lines. Using the rule of thirds to build dynamic images that are pleasing to the eye is a great way to start. This research seeks to determine if photojournalists adhere to the rule of thirds while constructing a frame in that genre, and perhaps even the efficacy of rule of thirds in breaking news photography.The validity of the rule of thirds in photojournalism is clearly examined in this paper, specifically whether photographers use it, whether they snap pictures with it, and how it affects the results.Photographerscan't do a pre-production stage for breaking news photography because it's done on the fly.PulitzerPrizeis a recognition award for excellence in newspaper journalism, literary achievements, musical composition.For the study, a qualitative analysis will be employed. From 2001 through 2020, images that won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography were analysed based on their substance. The approach of random sampling is favoured.
Keywords: photojournalism, rule of thirds, photography, Composition in Photography

INTRODUCTION
Photojournalism is the art of telling the story using the medium of photography as the primary tool. A photojournalist will use their camera to capture the graphic image of an event, while a writer will use their pen and paper to tell stories. Generally stated, photojournalism is the use of photographs to communicate ideas. Apart from other types of media that offer information in the form of written text, photojournalism often does not enforce a precise evaluation on the audience; however, it merely reveals and highlights the issues, allowing the audience to form their own conclusions. Human willingness to witness contemporary affairs by photojournalism has improved their perception of them.

A photojournalist must also be a competent storyteller. It makes no difference whether he learns this talent through writing or purely through photography. However, he must be able to obtain shots that tell a storey and structure them in such a way that the tale is engaging to the audience. Photojournalists must be passionate about capturing any picture.Every photographer follows unconscious replication of conventional photography laws.

Most of the time, communication is done by body language and actions, rather than via words. In any scenario, a photojournalist must remain cool and non-aggressive. It's critical to create confidence with locals, especially when visiting combat zones, in order to get access to the frontlines or regions where the enemy should be kept at bay.

LITERATURE REVIEW
Howard,Beckecker. (2008) discusses the social constructions whose meaning appears within the contexts of different fields of photographic work, both organisational and historical.Thiscontextuality of sense is shown by rereading images from one genre as if they had been taken in another.

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John,Taylor. (2000). discusses the three problems that anyone who claims that tough photojournalism is relevant in the daily press. The first is the fragile essence of photography as a basis for credible eyewitness accounts. The second issue stems from the newspaper industry's weak reputation as a credible source of public information. The third issue, and the focus of this essay, is the question of how successful a hard-hitting documentary record can be when readers are expected to become bored by photographs of suffering strangers.

Long, Mai.Hoang., Le. Yuzhen.,Niu& Feng Lin.(2011)discuss a system for automatically determining if a photograph follows the law of thirds in this article. To detect the rule of thirds from a picture, semantic context recognition is required to locate important objects, which is currently beyond the state of the art.They with a combination of saliency and common objectless methods reveals that detecting the law of thirds from images can be done successfully.

Bonnie,Brennen. (2010) explains about the role of journalism in contemporary society. However, the invention of photography and its widely held belief that it can provide accurate documentation of "fact" and facts photojournalism's evolution during the twentieth century. The article then goes on to discuss the difficulties that photography has faced in its documentary capacity since the advent of digital media, as well as the evolving role of photojournalists, highlighting their increasing emphasis on expressing emotional facets of experience.

Amy,Lyford., &Carol,Payne. (2011) talk about how important photojournalism is in today's world. The articles in this Special Issue of Visual Resources will present new concerns about the connections between photography, mass media, and the "society of the spectacle," as Guy Debord puts it.

Matija,Males., Adam, Heidi &Mislav, Grgic. (2012)propose a saliency-based approach for detecting compositional law of thirds in this article. To see if a photograph follows the law of thirds, we use discriminant analysis.

Benjamim, Picado. (2009) look at how, through stereotypes like escalated acts, destroyed landscapes, and portraiture of pain, photojournalism has developed itself as a privileged site for the testimonial interpretation of historical events.

Seyed,Ali,Amirshahi., Gregor,Uwe,Hayn,Leichsenring.,Joachim,Denzler.,and ChristophRedies. (2014) discovered a mild correlation between subjective ratings and measured values for images that met the law of thirds.

Bersak, Daniel R. (2006) In this research examines the history of photojournalism's ethical culture, how it evolved, and where it is headed in the future. The first chapter delves into the origins of photojournalism ethics. The second chapter uses case studies to explain current ethics policies.The third and final chapter draws on the first two by looking at the evolution of photojournalistic ethics through the lens of technology and politics.

Helen,Caple& John S. Knox. (2012) discusses that the online news gallery is investigated as a forum for new genres of multimodal news gathering, as well as the degree to which such galleries can be used as a form of news storytelling, in this article.

Susan,Lister. (2002) studies that the "rule of thirds" in photography is a Macromedia Flash-based curriculum that helps students become more visually literate by introducing design concepts and compositional techniques, with a focus on the rule of thirds.

Ricky,Telg. (2010) demonstrates how to use a digital camera's viewfinder to organise a subject, including how to handle the camera correctly, angles, "law of thirds" lines, depth of field, background obstacles, and different types of images.

Yung, Soo,Kim& James ,Kelly,D. (2014) looks at the ethical dilemma that photojournalists face as their legal obligations clash with the reading public's normative ethics. The research looks at the public's and photojournalists' impressions of acceptable responses to Kevin Carter's Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph of a fallen Sudanese girl as a vulture awaits her burial.

Konkle, &Bruce,E .(1991) conducts a study that for anyone interested in being a photojournalist, there is a five-question quiz. Photo Composition, depth of view, recent product trends, photography publications, and the distinction between a filmmaker and a photojournalist are also discussed.

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Becker & Karin. (2011) discusses the evolving relationship between professional journalism and its amateur equivalents, i.e., photographs from private cameras, is examined in this chapter from a variety of historical and cultural viewpoints.

METHODOLOGY

The objective of the study is to identify the appraisal of rule of thirds in photojournalism; a study on whether photojournalists follow rule of thirds while clicking images. The research is done using qualitative analysis. To understand concepts, beliefs, or perspectives, qualitative research involves gathering and processing non-numerical data including text, audio, and video. It could be used to acquire detailed understanding of a problem or to build innovative research ideas. In qualitative research, content analysis is preferred in this research. Content analysis is a method of proving the scope of particular words, concepts, or values in qualitative results. Researchers could analyze and evaluate the presence, interpretations, and interactions of phrases, trends, and principles via content analysis.

The research focuses on photographs taken by international photojournalists that won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news reporting between 2001 and 2020.The Pulitzer Prize is given to outstanding contributions in writing, fiction, and artistic composition in the United States' newspapers, magazines, and online publications. A total number of 20 images are collected from the website of Pulitzer Prize.

The sampling method preferred here is simple random sampling. Simple random sampling is a simple sampling technique that can effectively be implemented into a more complicated sampling. This sampling method's key feature is that any sample has the same possibility of being chosen. This approach is easy to understand in theory, but difficult to put into practise.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

- How effective is the rule of thirds in breaking news photography?
- Do photojournalists adhere to the rule of thirds while composing a frame?

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- To analyse the effectiveness of rule of thirds in breaking news photography
- To analyse whether the photojournalists follow the rule of thirds while framing.

HYPOTHESIS

The rule of thirds is used intuitively by photojournalists to frame a photograph without even realising it. Even when they are in a frenzy, they try to follow the rules while creating a frame, and the rule of thirds boosts the visual attractiveness of that shot.

RESULTS & ANALYSIS

This chapter aimed to qualify and interpret data using a content analysis for the study's multiple variables and constructs. The study's findings are outlined and explored in this article. A total sample of 20 images are collected from those who won the Pulitzer Prizefor breaking news photography from 2001-2020.Simultaneous random sampling is the method of choice here. Easy random sampling is a simple sampling method that can be used in a more complex sampling. The main advantage of this sampling process is that every sample has an equal chance of being selected.

Sample 1: In 2001, Associated Press photographer Alan Diaz won for his portrait of armed federal agents seizing Cuban boy Elián Gonzalez from his relatives' Miami home.This photograph follows rule of thirds.

Sample 2: The New York Times' photographer Ruth Fremson won for its consistently excellent coverage of the terrorist attack in New York City and its aftermath in 2002.The photo of a New York police officer named Richard Adamiak who took cover in a stage door deli on vesey Street from the collapse of the first tower of World trade centre and before the second tower came down in 2001.Thissatisfy rule of thirds.

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Sample 3: In the year 2002, the state of Colorado burned in the summer. The flames from the forest fire rapidly spread behind a mountain house near the area of Durango. In the Animas River Valley, along southwest Colorado's primary north-south route, the Valley Fire broke out less than a mile west of the intensely burning Missionary Ridge Fire.Barry Gutierrez, Rocky Mountain News captured this photograph. This satisfies the rule.

Sample 4: Cheryl Diaz from the Dallas morning news captured this picture where Lt. Jeffrey Goodman and Lance Cpl. Jorge Sanchez of the 2nd battalion carried a wounded civilian to a safer place after he was caught in the middle of a battle in the middle of the road towards Baghdad.F or eloquent portraits portraying both the brutality and the poignancy of the Iraq war.Two soldiers carried a wounded civilian to a safer place after he was caught in the middle of a battle.This satisfied the rule of thirds.

Sample 5: AnjaNiedringhaus, Staff of the Associated Press for a magnificent collection of photos depicting a year of bloodshed inside Iraqi towns. A marine who carries a good luck mascot on his backpack as he and his unit are moving into the hearts of the city to take control.This carries rule of thirds.

Sample 6: TheDallas Morning News staff - For their dramatic images documenting the confusion and pain after Hurricane Katrina's devastation in New Orleans. Irwin Thompson of New Orleans took a picture of a refuge with makeshift shoes after he was rescued from the scene.He managed to focus the subjects' shoes as the main and the composition cannot be determined.This follows rule of thirds.

Sample 7: Associated Press photographer OdedBalilty - For his strong photograph of a single Jewish woman defying Israeli security forces in the West Bank as they evict illegal settlers.It does not satisfy our guidelines.

Sample 8: A Japanese videographer AdreesLatif of Reutersprawled on the ground, fatally wounded during a street protest in Myanmar, AdreesLatif of Reuters won the award.In Yangon, Myanmar, yesterday, a wounded Japanese photographer,This satisfies the rule of thirds.

Sample 9: Patrick Ferall of the Miami Herald won the prize. In the murky water of her submerged home in Gonaives, a woman laments her plight as she washes dishes and clothing.The composition is balanced but does not follow the rules.

Sample 10: The Des Moines Register's Mary Chind won an award for her photograph of a rescuer dangling in an improvised brace attempting to save a woman stranded in the foaming water underneath a dam. The rescuer is placed on the right side when rule of thirds is applied.

Sample 11: The Washington Post's Carol Guzy, Nikki Kahn, and Ricky Carioti - For their intimate portrait of sadness and despair after Haiti's devastating earthquake.The medical relief teams rushing to aid Haiti's earthquake victims were up against a bleak biological fact: people stranded and wounded are more likely to recover if saved within 48 hours, and relatively few people are found alive after six days. Food and medical services were provided by Proyecto America, a Christian disaster relief organisation of foreign volunteers providing food and medical assistance at a camp in Cite Soleil. This is a clear example that it follows the rule of thirds.But no awards were given.

Sample 12: Agence France-MassoudPresse'sHossainifor his emotional photograph of a girl screaming in terror after a suicide bomber attacked a crowded shrine in Kabul. TaranaAkbari, 12, cries in terror as a suicide bomber detonates a bomb in a crowd at Kabul's AbulFazel Shrine on December 6, 2011.The expression of the girl is captured well. This follows the rule of thirds.

Sample 13: Associated Press' Rodrigo Abd, in Idlib, northern Syria, on March 4, 2012, a man shows Bilal, 11, how to use a toy rocket-propelled grenade. (Associated Press, Rodrigo Abd, March 4, 2012). The subject is placed in the middle of the frame where the emotions are clearly focused.This clearly does not follow the rule of thirds.

Sample 14: Tyler Hicks of The New York Times-For his convincing photographs recording the ongoing terrorist attack at Kenya's Westgate mall, which demonstrated talent and courage in 2014. Soldiers searched shops frequented by Hicks and other expatriates for terrorists on the inside. (The New York Times, Tyler Hicks, September 27, 2013). This follows the rule of thirds.

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Sample 15: St. Louis Post-Dispatch Photography Staff- For breath taking photojournalism that supported the city when educating the world, and for compelling photographs of desperation and outrage in Ferguson, MO.The police officer and the marchers are shown using the law of thirds.
Sample 16: Mauricio Lima, The New York Times got this award. RoujinSheikho, from Syria, lifts her daughter Widad while her son Nabih, from Serbia, marches down the railway with her.
and other Syrian refugees before moving into Hungary from Horgos.This is the best example for the rule of thirds.
Sample 17: Daniel Berehulak, freelance photographer - For photographs released in The New York Times that depict the callous disregard for human life in the Philippines because of a government crackdown on drug traffickers and consumers. (By the nominating jury, it was moved from Feature Photography to this category.).The raining street is captured where the buildings are the leading lines in the frame which follows the rule of thirds.
Sample 18: The Daily Progress' Ryan Kelly in Charlottesville, Virginia - For catching the effect of a car attack during a racially charged rally in Charlottesville, Va., in a chilling shot that mirrored the photographer's reflexes and focus. The subjects are placed in a balanced way and follow the rule of thirds.
Sample 19: Reuters Photography Staff, Loren Elliot with a vibrant and shocking visual narrative of migrants' urgency, distress, and sadness as they travelled to the United States from Central and South America.On July 13, 2018, Anita Areli Ramirez Mejia, a Honduran asylum seeker separated from her six-year-old son Jenri at the Mexico-US border, is reunited with him in Harlingen, Texas.This is a tight frame clearly following rule of thirds.
Sample 20: Reuters Photography Staff - For wide-ranging and illuminating photos of Hong Kong as people protested the Chinese government's violation of their civil liberties and defended the region's sovereignty.On August 25, 2019, demonstrators opposing a draught extradition bill fire their flashlights at riot police as they are chased down Hong Kong's streets taken by Willy Kurniawan, 31 December 2019.The picture clearly follows the rule of thirds as the subjects are aligned with it.

1. **To analyse the effectiveness rule of thirds while composing a frame in breaking news photography.**

   1.1 Effectiveness of rule of thirds in breaking news photography

   Effectiveness of rule of thirds in breaking news photographs

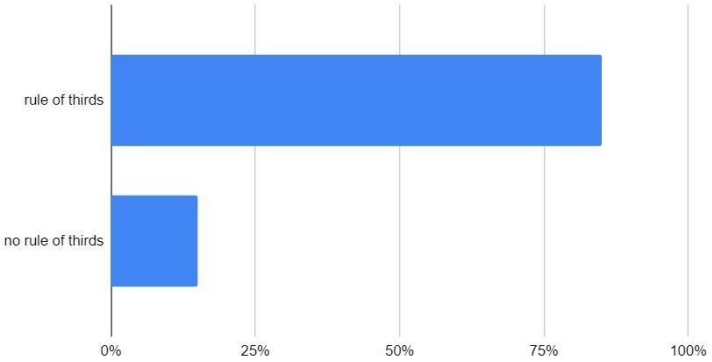


Figure 1.1: Graph showing the effectiveness of rule of thirds in breaking news photography.

This figure shows the percentage of photographs which shows the effectiveness of rule of thirds in breaking news photography.More than 75% of photographs captured has an aesthetic sense when the guidelines are followed while only less than 25% do not follow the rule of thirds. Thereby this explains that most of the Pulitzer winning photographs set rule of thirds as a criterion.

2. **To identify the number of photojournalists following rule of thirds**

   Number of photojournalists following rule of thirds.

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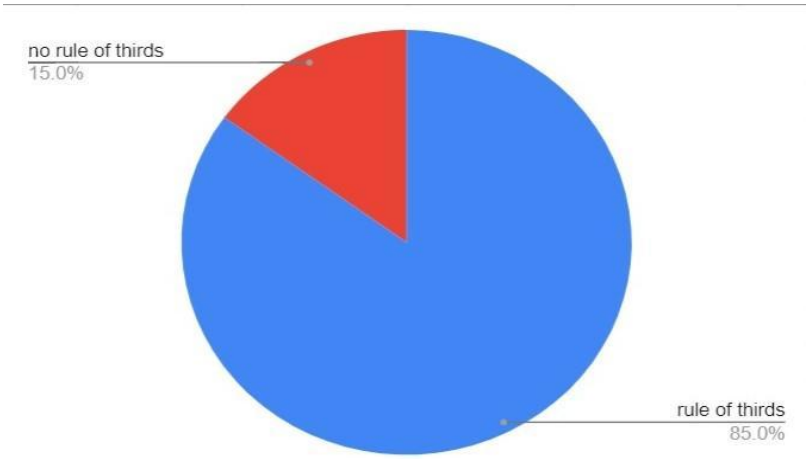


Figure 2.1: The number of photojournalists following rule of thirds in breaking news photography.

This pie chart shows the number of winning photojournalists following the rule of thirds while composing a frame even though in a hurry. 85% of photojournalists follow the rule of thirds while capturing images while the rest 15% do not.This shows that in breaking news photojournalism photographers tend to follow and match rule of thirds subconsciously.
The rule of thirds enhances the visual appeal of that shot when framing, as we can see from both previous analyses. Breaking news photography is something that cannot be composed in a frame because it's shot in a split second. When creating a frame, photojournalists, on the other hand, intuitively the rule of thirds.

CONCLUSION

The study investigates whether photojournalists adhere to the rule of thirds or not.An overview of the study's principal findings is presented in this chapter. It includes a description of the data obtained, data analysis, discussion of the findings in relation to each study aim, and logical interpretations based on the results. Finally, the chapter offers suggestions for further research.
The research paper and objectives of this study were mentioned earlier. Content analysis was preferred for the analysis followed by simple random. From 2001 to 2020, content analysis was conducted on Pulitzer award winning images in the field of breaking news photography. A total of 20 images were gathered using a basic random process. Breaking news photography is a type of photography that is captured on the fly, with no pre-production. They will only have seconds to capture the frame at that moment in time since all assessments will have to be done mentally.
The intentions were to see if photojournalists use the rule of thirds while constructing a frame and if so, how effective is it.The first hypothesis proving the effectiveness of rule of thirds was hence proved with graph in fig 1.1. More than 75%, the usage of rule of thirds enhances the aesthetic beauty. The second hypothesis was whether the photojournalists follow rule of thirds in breaking news photography. With help of pie chart in fig 2.1, it was proved that they subconsciously follow rule of thirds while composing a frame.

SCOPE FOR FUTURE STUDIES

The study has more scope on various categories. In this case, only a few photographs were taken. This can be conducted on various genres of photojournalism i.e, editorial, sports etc. Moreover, the rule of thirds is mostly followed by photographers which can be taken into account for further studies. That could be so helpful for the future photographers to study more about the principles and composition.

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