

ETHICS IN TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHY

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I. CREATE

- A. Why do we travel?
- B. How do people want their own story to be told?
- C. Are we approaching the story with the attitude of seeking first to understand the culture?
- D. Why do we want to tell a certain story? Who is the audience. For what purpose?
- E. Is this our story to tell?
- F. What power are we using to tell stories?
- G. Is it to make us feel better about ourselves?
- H. Is it for our own ego or do we really want to make a difference?
- I. Why are we sharing the stories?
- J. What purpose do the stories we take serve?
- K. Are we using our privilege to perpetuate stereotypes or working towards tearing them down?
- L. Have we learned the history of our creative medium?
- M. Have we researched about the history of the place we are visiting?
- N. An informed photographer is a good photographer.
- O. Do we know what current narratives exist that are damaging to the local community?
- P. Does the story perpetuate stereotypes?
- Q. Or does it avoid the stereotypes?
- R. Are we truthfully representing the story to educate our audience of the realities, complexities and nuances?

II. CONNECT

- A. Change our Language (take your picture, can I have your picture, look this way)
 - 1. Instead: 'let's make a story together'
- B. What is important in their culture?
- C. Are we showing up and dressing in a way that respects their culture?
- D. Are we aware of whom to greet and how to greet?
- E. Are we first connecting on a personal level without a camera, notepad etc?

- F. Have we considered learning a few words in their local language?
- G. Do we know their name?
- H. Do we explain what we are doing?
- I. Do we make them feel part of the creative process?
- J. How might we be getting in the way of the person feeling safe?
- K. Are we giving them our undivided attention?
- L. They will mimic your energy.
- M. Are we respecting their boundaries and privacy in the storytelling process?
- N. What is the person comfortable sharing?
- O. Would they (or their community) be ok with being represented this way?
- P. What is the prevalent feeling they get from the image?
- Q. Body language seeing their images on the back of your camera.
- R. Are they happy with how they are being represented?
- S. Are we telling the story the way they would want to tell it?
- T. Are we defining people by their problems or their aspirations and contributions?
- U. “Like the people you shoot and let them know it.” Robert Capa

III. COMPENSATE

- A. All the parties involved
- B. Not cash. Acts of kindness and generosity.
 1. Oxytocin - Selfless Neuro-Transmitter. Acts of human generosity.
 2. ‘How can I help you?’
- C. Give time and sacrifice. You get and they get a boost of Oxytocin.
- D. More positive experience and memorable to them.
- E. Consider ways to reward the local community, individuals for allowing us to tell their story
- F. Consider who profits off the story.
- G. Consider who benefits from the story.
- H. Inform the people and the community whose story we are telling about the story’s purpose, audience and its final, intended usage / where will it be shared.
- I. Compensate them, especially if we will financially benefit of their story.
- J. Are we sharing the photo / story with them afterwards?

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