

A SMALL TOWN WITH BIG IDEAS: EDITING AND DESIGNING THE CUBA MPW 68  
PHOTO BOOK & HOW VISUAL EDITING AFFECTS THE AUDIENCE'S PERCEPTION OF  
PHOTOGRAPHIC CONTENT

Hannah Sturtecky

David Rees, Photojournalism Faculty Chair (Project Supervisor)

ABSTRACT

This project involved two components: a completed version of the 68<sup>th</sup> Missouri Photo Workshop (MPW) book including the editing, toning, and design, and the professional analysis. The analysis revolved around how an edit of a photo story affects the audience that is consuming the content.

Reaching almost seven decades, MPW has been renowned for bringing together photographers from around the world to work with a select staff of professional photojournalists who are devoted to the education of our field's future. The 2016 68<sup>th</sup> workshop, in Cuba, Missouri, comprised 46 photographers from 15 different states and 10 foreign countries, all wanting to learn about the art of storytelling through photographs.

I took the stories from each photographer and used them to curate a book, comprehensive of what life was like in the small rural town of Cuba during this time. I then took to the subjects of these stories to understand how photo editing can be just as important as the photography itself, shaping how a consumer views the content.

Bias of journalism and photography have also been a topic of discussion. Using this concept, I looked into how this bias can also translate to the editors and the affect it has on their selection and publication process. This helped me to prove that photo editing plays a significant role in the newsroom as well as other platforms that involve curation and mentorship.