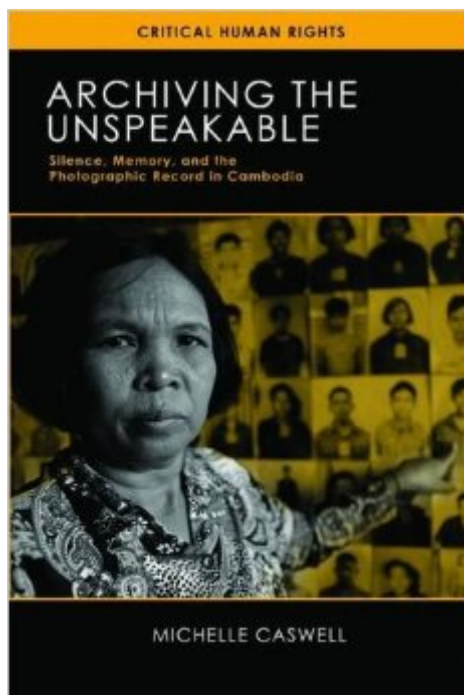


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# Archiving The Unspeakable: Silence, Memory, And The Photographic Record In Cambodia (Critical Human Rights)



## Synopsis

Roughly 1.7 million people died in Cambodia from untreated disease, starvation, and execution during the Khmer Rouge reign of less than four years in the late 1970s. The regime's brutality has come to be symbolized by the multitude of black-and-white mug shots of prisoners taken at the notorious Tuol Sleng prison, where thousands of enemies of the state were tortured before being sent to the Killing Fields. In *Archiving the Unspeakable*, Michelle Caswell traces the social life of these photographic records through the lens of archival studies and elucidates how, paradoxically, they have become agents of silence and witnessing, human rights and injustice as they are deployed at various moments in time and space. From their creation as Khmer Rouge administrative records to their transformation beginning in 1979 into museum displays, archival collections, and databases, the mug shots are key components in an ongoing drama of unimaginable human suffering. Winner, Waldo Gifford Leland Award, Society of American Archivists Longlist, ICAS Book Prize, International Convention of Asia Scholars

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I should have read more on the description before buying the book, it was more about the medium of pictures in history than about the atrocities or history of the Khmer Rouge. I still managed to read the book and got some interest out of it, that is why I gave it three stars, this may not be fair to the genre of the book as academics in this field would no doubt judge it differently.

So clearly written for an academic book! This book taught me so much about archives, the history of the use of the mugshot, and got me thinking about the interplay between power, archival sources, and the creation of memory -- all in the context of the compelling and moving story of victims of the Khmer Rouge.

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