The Foreign and the Familiar: Photojournalism as Visual Ethnography

Chris Capozziello is an American photojournalist whose work has been published and exhibited worldwide. Since he first picked up a camera as a teenager, Chris has been drawn to photographing his twin brother, Nick, who has cerebral palsy. The time Chris spends looking through his camera at Nick has forced him to ask questions about suffering and faith and why anyone is born with disability. As family photographs, the images of Nick were not originally made to be shared, but they have since been widely distributed and are the subject of Chris’s first monograph, The Distance Between Us.

In this presentation, Chris will show his work and discuss how his photographs of Nick’s life, and of their shared life, have provided a reflexive space within which Chris has been able to recognize and process the anger and shame he felt growing up as the healthy twin.

Reception to follow.

For background information, consult cas.illinois.edu or call 217-333-6729.