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Non-textual evidence in international criminal prosecutions: discovering the best practices for audiovisual materials in a digital age

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Propositions relating to the dissertation *Non-textual Evidence in International Criminal Prosecutions: Discovering the Best Practices for Audiovisual Materials in a Digital Age* by John (Jonathan) William Hak

1. Images are a unique form of evidence because unlike other types of evidence, they are created by interested parties rather than discovered.
2. Pictures do not necessarily speak for themselves.
3. A more robust legal approach to the authentication of non-textual evidence is needed at the International Criminal Court.
4. The use of non-textual evidence in international criminal prosecutions is at a tipping point.
5. Images do not necessarily represent reality in a complete and unmediated fashion and can be manipulated and misleading.
6. Democratizing the process of evidence gathering creates a wealth of potential evidence but also involves substantial authentication and perspective challenges.
7. Emerging technological advances have created new methods of conveying valuable information to the court in a visually engaging format.
8. Truth discovery is a significant goal of international criminal justice.
9. Digital imagery often requires interrogation, analysis, and interpretation by a forensic imagery expert so that the court can fully appreciate the value of the images presented.
10. There is a need to improve the visual literacy of counsel and the court.
11. Properly interpreted and understood, non-textual evidence can be a powerful tool in ascertaining the truth in international criminal prosecutions.