

Jaime Lee Kirtz

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EDUCATION

PhD in Media and Communication Design and Research Practice	May 2019
University of Colorado, Boulder	(expected)

Dissertation Title: *Encoded Inequality: Hacking the Gender Bias in Media Technology*

Committee: Andrew Calabrese, Janice Peck, Darren Wershler, Lori Emerson (co-Chair), Nabil Echchaibi (co-Chair)

MA in English and Creative Writing	2014
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Concordia University, Montréal, QC

Thesis Title: *We(s)t Coast*

Committee: Darren Wershler, Bina Freiwald, Sina Queyras (Chair)

Theory & Writing	2013
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Université de Montréal

Certificate in Creative Writing	2011
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Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC

Dual Bsc & BA in Physics and English Literature	2010
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University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Physics & English Literature	2009
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University of Toronto

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Engaging with social and cultural aspects of new media technology and infrastructure within cultural, historical and political contexts. Specific areas of focus include: socio-cultural aspects of communication technology, algorithmic culture, critical infrastructure studies, media history, critical data studies, democratization of information, hypermediation, gendered labor in media industries, media in the public sphere, and communication privacy and policy.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher	2014-Present
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Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Performing material deconstruction and remaking of modern technologies
- Developing methods and theories of feminist revisionist praxis within Media Studies
- Examining and synthesizing theory from the fields of Media Studies, Communication History,

Infrastructure Studies, New Media Theory, Science and Technology Studies, Big Data Studies, and Communication Ethics and Policy

- Conducting primary source research at national and university archives, such as the Library of Congress, Library and Archives Canada, and the New York Historical Society

Research Fellow

2015-Present

Center for Media, Religion and Culture, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Participating in weekly meetings and discussions on issues of hypermediation, remediation and media ambivalence
- Constructing the digital aspect of the hypermediation and public scholarship project
- Presented talks on intersections between big data, media theory, and religion
- Conducted interviews for the Media Ambivalence Project

McLuhan Residency Fellow

2017

McLuhan Center, University of Toronto

- Attended weekly meetings to discuss future collaborative projects and development of the McLuhan Center for Culture and Technology during the summer semester
- Conducted research on labor ethics and standards within modern information communities
- Participated in weekly workshops with fellow graduate students
- Assisted with a special guest edition of the *Canadian Journal of Communication*

Research Assistant

2016-2017

Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Assistant to Dr. Andrew Calabrese, employing new editing technologies and assembling materials for a digital database for upcoming publications
- Conducted primary and secondary research on food politics and social justice through digital archives and collections
- Co-authored a long-form journal article on the media ethics and social-political issues arising from the predatory double bind of food corporations and regulations

Research Assistant

2013-2014

TAG Lab, Concordia University

- Conducted online data collection from torrent groups of comic book scanners
- Examined issues of legality, copyright and online communities
- Analyzed data in network visualizations

CURRENT RESEARCH

Encoded Inequality: Hacking the Gender Bias in Media Technology

Utilizing a case study of the old technology of video game cartridges, my dissertation project interrogates the gendered biases and assumptions embedded within media technologies at multiple levels of production and play through reverse engineering practices. This project draws from initiatives by feminist technology scholars such as Lisa Parks and Lisa Nakamura, as well as ROM hacking and DIY culture to trace, recover and discuss forms of female labor, using both the methodology and material itself as subjects, while also drawing inspiration and examples from artist Rachel Simone Weil's work, femme disturbance, and feminist labor theory. This project involves my own ROM hacks, the construction of ROM hacking workshops, and the

use of those workshops to discuss, imagine and create feminist media technology. I use the video game case study to point to larger issues in current culture, namely that most technologies not only reinforce views that males are primary technology consumers and producers, but that hegemonic masculinity and domination is reflected through the format of media technology itself. Therefore, to create feminist media, we must rethink both the medium and process of design, including infrastructural, cultural, political and social contexts.

The Chip Chronicles: Tracing Silicon Chips Through the Global Environment

This project follows a single silicon chip from its origins as sand and metallic elements to its installation and use in computer systems. It focuses specifically on the laborers and the practices and structures that govern them at the moments of material extraction and processing, production and assemblage, transportation, and purchase. In considering these laborers and associated discursive structures, I seek to expose the power relations and forces of legitimization, and how they manifest in new media economies.

Critical Infrastructures of Digital Culture

Foregrounded by my dissertation as well as current publications, this project is constituted through re-evaluating the basic organizational, material, and ideological structures and spaces required for societal operation through the lens of digital media culture. This project is driven by questions of how and why digital media affect cultural processes and knowledge legitimization, circulation, and consumption. The project's projected outcome is an innovative theory and methodology for communication studies that sees material practice and theory as co-constitutive.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Developing interdisciplinary courses and courses in media and communication disciplines that examine, integrate, and question new media technology using critical thinking. Specific sub-genres include: media archaeology, new media theory, communication technology, platform studies, research methods and communication history.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

2018- Present

Department of Media Studies and Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Designed and taught upper division course on qualitative and quantitative methods
- Utilized and instructed students on research technology (Qualtrics, SPSS, Excel)
- Helped students develop communication strategy documents for clients
- Provided instruction on interviews, focus groups and ethnographic research
- Communicated with students as well as grading assignments

Lead Instructor

2018

Advertising, Public Relations and Media Design, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Designed and taught upper division course on qualitative and quantitative methods
- Utilized and instructed students on research technology (Qualtrics, SPSS, Excel)
- Helped students develop communication strategy documents for clients

- Provided instruction on interviews, focus groups and ethnographic research
- Communicated with students as well as grading assignments

Teaching Assistant**2018***Department of Communication, University of Colorado, Boulder*

- Assistant to Dr. Ruth Hickerson
- Lead once-a-week recitations and guest lectures
- Communicated with students as well as grading assignments

Teaching Assistant**2017***Advertising, Public Relations and Media Design, University of Colorado, Boulder*

- Prepared and composed all course tests and study guides
- Communicated with students and provided assistance with course content

Instructor**2016***Department of Media Studies and Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado, Boulder*

- Designed new course on comics and graphic novels for a joint program and certificate in Media Studies, English, and Writing and Rhetoric
- Integrated cultural and media studies theory with an interdisciplinary focus on the production elements as well as circulatory methods of comics
- Utilized media and instructional technology to inform pedagogical techniques
- Taught course, which included workshops on student's assignments, assisting students with media skills, and daily communication

Instructor**2014-2016***Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado, Boulder*

- Designed and taught upper division courses on new media, civic engagement, and rhetoric
- Integrated digital media technologies into assignments and readings
- Adapted and revised the course for the new Technology, Arts and Media program
- Utilized network analysis as well as multimodal writing to understand the impact and effects of new media while also developing students' analytical skills

Instructor**2014-2015***Program for Writing and Rhetoric, University of Colorado, Boulder*

- Designed and taught first year composition courses on rhetoric, new media and multimodal composition
- Integrated new media technologies with composition pedagogies

Teaching Assistant**2012-2014***Department of English, Concordia University*

- Led weekly 45 minute seminars on English Literature from 600-1600 AD and 1660-1900AD
- Graded all student assignments and gave student feedback on essays

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Doctoral Fellowship <i>Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, \$80,000</i>	2015-Present
Graduate WACC Summer School Scholarship <i>German Academic Exchange Service, \$2000</i>	2017
Center for Media, Religion and Culture (collaborator) <i>Henry Luce Foundation Grant, \$500,000</i>	2017
Graduate Summer Research Fellowship <i>Department of Media Studies, \$2150</i>	2017
Travel Grant <i>United Government of Graduate Students, \$300</i>	2015
Graduate Scholarship <i>Graduate School Department, Concordia University, \$7000</i>	2012-2013

PUBLICATIONS

- "Democracy Versus Design: Social Media Constructions of Publics and Political Power in America" *After 2016: The Crisis in Digital Democracy*. Eds. John Jones and Michael Trice. (Forthcoming)
- "Liberating Labor: American Neoliberal Discourse in Digital Economies." *Canadian Review of American Studies*. (Forthcoming)
- "Breaking the blackbox: Recovering female labor through circuit bending ROM chips," *Ada: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*, no. 13 (2018).
- "Gaga over Google: Problematizing Democratization of Information in Capitalist Communication," *Media Development* 12, no. 3 (2017): 16-20.
- "Computers, Comics and Cult Status: A Forensics of Digital Graphic Novels," *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 8, no. 3 (2014). <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/8/3/000185/000185.html>
- Co-editor of special edition. *Canadian Journal of Communication*. (In development)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Imagining Feminist Media Through Hacking." International Communication Association Conference, Prague, CZ, May 24-28, 2018.
- "All about Algorithms: Bias and Fake News in Social Media." Media Research and Practice 2017 Colloquium, Boulder, CO, Dec 6, 2017.
- "Electrical Extensions: Applying Media Archaeology to Communication History." International Communication Association: Communication History Division Conference, San Diego, CA, May 25-29, 2017.
- "Plugging into Gender: Hidden Histories of Electric Media Outlets, Gender and Media Infrastructure." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 22-26, 2017.

"Archives as Processes of Production: Interrogating Archival Infrastructure, Labor and History" Ischool, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Nov 28, 2016. (Invited Talk)

"Interrogating the Standard." Input/Output Symposium, Montreal, QC, Nov 24-25, 2016. (Invited talk)

"What is Media Archaeology?" 300 Level Media Theory Course, Boulder, CO, Nov 15, 2016. (Invited guest lecture)

"Scanning as Global Media." Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Austin, TX, Jan 7-10, 2016.

"To Download or Not to Download? An Examination of Academic Publishing and Knowledge Dissemination in an Internet Era." HASTAC 2015 Conference, East Lansing, MI, May 27-30, 2015.

"Digital Paratextuality as Subversion: How New Technology Alters Traditional Processes of Textual Production and Reading." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 26-29, 2015.

"Anonymity and Authorship in Modern Graphic Novels." University of British Columbia, Graduate Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 10-11, 2013.

"Computers, Comics and Cult Status." University of Maryland, At the Mercy of the Masses: Popular Culture and Academia Graduate Conference, College Park, MD, April 12-13, 2013.

"Collaborative (de)reconstruction." Simon Fraser University Graduate Conference, Vancouver, BC, May 21-23, 2013.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Curator **2014-Present**

Media Archaeology Lab, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Educating visiting student groups and faculty
- Collecting, re-animating, and organizing collections of media technologies
- Working with visiting researchers and artists

Assistant Developer **2017-Present**

Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Collaborating development of the digital portion of the Hypermediations project with scholar-in-residence Nathan Schneider
- Community development and editing of online content

Digital Historian and Archivist **2017**

Graduate Student Association, Department of Media Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder

- Creating digital databases for archival purposes
- Assisting the association with IT and communication support

Outside Productions Coordinator **2011**

Creative Writing and Publishing Department, Simon Fraser University

- Co-ordinated the annual department anthology and employed specialized publishing software to produce final drafts

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Summer School Participant**2017***Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg*

- Attended and contributed to a week-long workshop and summer school on communication rights in the global digital society

Summer School Participant**2016***Residual Media Depot, TAG Lab, Concordia University*

- Attended and participated in a collaborative course on media archaeology led by Dr. Darren Wershler, Dr. Stephanie Boluk, and Dr. Patrick Lemieux
- Produced hacked video games through reprogramming vintage Nintendo cartridges
- Published daily blog entries on theoretical and practical readings

HASTAC Scholar**2015-2016***HASTAC Scholars Program*

- Contributed blog posts about digital media and materialism
- Attended yearly conference

Workshop Participant**2015***Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, BC*

- Collected research from special archives at the University of Victoria
- Conducted research on connections between pre-digital and digital interfaces
- Completed the Pre-Digital Book Workshop

Discussion Leader and Participant**2010-2012***Lacan Salon, Simon Fraser University*

- Attended biweekly meetings to discuss and translate the works of Jacques Lacan
- Prepared presentations, seminars, and papers for group discussion

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editor**2013-2014***Lemon Hound Literary Journal, Concordia University*

- Composed articles on creative writing and rhetoric
- Selected and edited poetry submissions electronically

Federal Intern**2010***House of Commons, Government of Canada*

- Conducted research on ecological literature and policies
- Helped write proposed bills for the ecological preservation of BC coastlines from oil tankers

Academic Archivist**2010***City of Vancouver, BC*

- Appointed by the poet laureate, Brad Cran, for the Vancouver 125 Poetry Conference
- Conducted research through interviews, observations, and pre-reading of text with contemporary poets
- Assimilated research and interviews for the digital City Archives

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Society of Cinema and Media Studies
- International Communication Association
- Modern Language Association
- Association of Writers and Writing Programs
- Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Data analysis: SPSS, Qualtrics, Excel, Gnuplot, MatLab
- Word Processing: Office Suite, LaTeX

LANGUAGES

- English: Fluent
- French: Proficient at writing and reading

ADVANCED GRADUATE COURSES

Media Studies

- MDST 7841 – Independent Study Advanced Methods: Communication and Media History
- MDST 6071 – Critical Theories of Media and Culture
- MDST 6301 – Communication, Media and Concepts of the Public
- MDST 6711 – Media and Popular Culture
- MDST 7011 – Proseminar in Media and Communication Theory 1
- MDST 7021 – Proseminar in Media and Communication Theory 2

Media, Communications and Information Studies

- CMCI 6051 – Theories of Mass Communication
- CMCI 7051 – Qualitative Research Methods in Media
- CMCI 7061 – Quantitative Research Methods in Media

External Courses

- SMTC 7000 – Media Archaeology (Transfer Credit – Concordia University)
- ENGL 5529 – Doing Digital Humanities
- ENGL 5849 – Independent Study Advanced Methods: Digital Humanities, Algorithmic Culture, and Infrastructure Studies
- ANTH 7000 – Ethnographic Theory
- WRTG 5050 – Writing and Rhetoric: Teaching Pedagogies