

MEDIA THEORIST AND MIXED-MEDIA ARTIST

Themes: Trajectories of civilization in art, film, technology, and culture • experimental theory.

Method: My projects embrace an “arts and sciences” approach to creatively and critically theorize the intersection of art, media, philosophy, culture, and technology, all of which shape human civilization around the world.

EDUCATION

Doctorate of Philosophy The University of Texas at Austin — 1995

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

20+ years experience; wide variety of theory; strong teaching evaluations; courses popular with students; class sizes from 10 – 240.

2002—Present TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia

2011—Present Associate Professor, Klein College of Media and Communication, Dept. of Media Studies and Production.

2002—2011 Assistant Professor, Dept. of Broadcasting, Telecommunications, & Mass Media (old department name)

1994-2001 SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, Dallas

Assistant Professor, Meadows School for the Arts

GRADUATE COURSES

Media, Culture, and Technology

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Media and Society

Media, Culture, and the “End of the World”

Intro to Media Analysis

Utopia in Media and Culture

FACULTY CO-LEADER • MEDIA, ECOLOGY, AND TECHNOLOGY IN ARIZONA, 2017—

• Temple students study media, technology, ecological theory at various sites in Arizona. Program began in 2017..

RECENT AND SELECT PROJECTS • BOOKS, VIDEO, ART, INTERVIEWS, TALKS**TWO-TIME INTERNATIONAL AWARD-WINNER FOR CREATIVE WORK (2019 & 2010)**

AWARD: The 2019 and 2010 Culkin Award for Outstanding Praxis in the Field of Media Ecology, Media Ecology Assoc.

2019. “Hot and Cool in the Media(S)cene: A McLuhan-Inspired Art and Theory Project.” Essay co-author Julia Hildebrand.

• The essay inspired the **MEDIA(S)CENE** mixed-media art installation developed by Barry Vacker and Julia M. Hildebrand.

2010. *Space Times Square* (2007); written and directed by Barry Vacker

• The film played in many festivals in cities around the world: Brussels, Paris, Hamburg, Beijing, New York, Dallas, Leon (Mexico), etc.

EDITOR • MEDIA ENVIRONMENTS (4th Edition)

2022: San Diego, Cognella Publishing.

• This text anthology combines movies with texts to critique media and society. Contributors: Stephen Hawking, Matthew McConaughey, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Marshall McLuhan, Shoshana Zuboff, Devon Powers, Jan Fernback, Neil Postman, Jaron Lanier, and many others.

FEATURED SPEAKER • 2019 FESTIVAL OF INTERNATIONAL ART CONTEMPORARY. Leon, Mexico

2019: “Spiral Vanishing Points: Art and Media at the Ends of the World”

• Invited talk about my art and critical writings and how they relate to cosmology and the Anthropocene.

INTERVIEWED BY PUBLIC RADIO INTERNATIONAL “STUDIO 360” ABOUT 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY

2019: Interviewed because of my 2001-inspired book, *Specter of the Monolith* (2017). Others in the program included Christopher Nolan (director of *Interstellar*), Tom Hanks, poet laureate Tracy K. Smith, land artist James Turrell, Douglas Trumbull (who worked the special effects of 2001) and Keir Dullea (Dave from 2001).

CO-EDITOR • BLACK MIRROR AND CRITICAL MEDIA THEORY

2018: Lexington Books. Co-editor: Angela Cirucci.

• anthology that critiques the ideas and meaning of the TV series; international list of contributors.

AUTHOR • TEXT FOR SIGNS

2008: Peter Granser, *Signs* (Stuttgart: Hatje Cantz & Chicago Museum of Contemporary Photography)

Photography by Peter Granser, Text by Barry Vacker, Forward by Karen Irvine.

• Featured in numerous exhibitions, including sites in Chicago, Hamburg, Houston, Lianzhou, Stuttgart, New York City.

QUOTED-CITED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES

2019. Mariel Padilla, “Robert Norris, Marlboro Man Who Didn’t Smoke,” *New York Times*, November 9, 2019.

2018. Steven Kurtz, “Suspicious Minds: Mingling With Wariness and Wonder at a Conference Devoted to Ancient Aliens,” *New York Times*, July 21, 2018.

INTERVIEWED BY ANDERSON COOPER, CNN

2003. 6-minute interview about the meaning of the hit film, *The Matrix*.