

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.

INTERVIEWED BY ANDERSON COOPER, CNN

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

1 EDUCATION

DOCTORATE OF PHILOSOPHY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at Austin — 1995

Interdisciplinary Studies: Communication, Philosophy, Law

MASTER OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at Austin — 1985

BACHELOR OF ARTS

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS at Arlington — 1981

2 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2002-Present TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, Philadelphia

Department of Broadcasting, Telecommunications, and Mass Media

School of Communication and Theater

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR: 2011–Present

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: 2002-2011

DIRECTOR: ARCOSANTI STUDY AWAY PROGRAM: 2016–Present

• Co-created with Patrick Murphy (Associate Dean, Temple) a study away program at Arcosanti, the famed eco-city in central Arizona. Temple students will study media, technology, ecological theory. Program begins in Spring 2016.

FACULTY TEACHING MENTOR: 2009-2014

• Selected by the Dean's office to work with faculty to improve their classroom teaching performance; created and coordinated teaching workshops with the Teaching and Learning Center at Temple University.

Main graduate courses:

MEDIA, TECHNOLOGY, AND CULTURE

• This course explores the complex relationship between media, technology, and culture, drawing from a variety of media theorists.

Main undergraduate courses:

MEDIA AND SOCIETY

• Grounded in my text anthology, *Media Environments*, this course uses four media models — the Meme, the Network, the Spectacle, the Hyperreal — to explore the meanings and patterns of media used and experienced in society.

MEDIA IMAGES AND ANALYSIS: UTOPIA IN MEDIA AND CULTURE

• This course explored the visualization of utopia and dystopia in mass media — Modern Utopias, Totalitarian Dystopias, Suburbia, Atomic Age, Utopia in the Sixties, Green Movement, Sports and Spectacle, Surveillance Society, Information Society, Genetic Utopias, Postmodern Cities. Films and television shows span the twentieth century. (30 students)

MEDIA CRITICISM: MEDIA, CULTURE, AND “THE END OF THE WORLD”

• This course explores why the apocalypse memes replicate in our media environments, using fictional films, documentary films, and television programs as key examples.

INTRODUCTION TO MEDIA THEORY

• This course explores mass media theory, using examples from the world of media, film, and culture. Drawing from the essential theories of mass communication, students critically examine various types of mass media content (125-200+ students)

Course for both graduate and undergraduate students:

NEW MEDIA & THE POPULAR IMAGINATION

• This course explores how new media have been situated in the public imagination: from Cold War computers to cyberspace, internet to e-commerce, virtual reality to AI. Organized by decade: Fifties, Sixties, Seventies, Eighties, Nineties, 2000s. (25 students)

1992-2001 SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY (SMU), Dallas

Meadows School for the Arts

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, 1994-2001

• Main undergraduate courses: MASS MEDIA & SOCIETY, ADVERTISING AND SOCIETY

• SMU-London program at Regent's College (1998)

Barry Vacker

3 BOOKS, FILM, EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA

TEXT ANTHOLOGIES

Barry Vacker, *Media Environments, 4th Edition* (San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2019).

This text anthology combines movies with texts to critique media and society. Popular film is the gateway to critical readings, culled from the works of well-known thinkers.

- Authors include: Marshall McLuhan, Stephen Hawking, Naomi Wolf, Rebecca MacKinnon, Neil Postman, Douglas Rushkoff, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Jan Fernback, Julia Hildebrand, Douglas Kellner, Angela Cirucci, and many others.
- Their writings are introduced to students through films like *Her*, *Black Mirror*, *Arrival*, *Money Monster*, *The Hunger Games*, *Gravity*, *Network*, *Contact*, *V for Vendetta*, *Fight Club*, *The Truman Show*, *WALL•E*, *Good Night*, and *Good Luck*, and many others.



Barry Vacker, *Media Environments, 3rd Edition* (San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2019).

This text anthology combines movies with texts to critique media and society. Popular film is the gateway to critical readings, culled from the works of well-known thinkers.

- Authors include: Marshall McLuhan, Stephen Hawking, Naomi Wolf, Rebecca MacKinnon, Neil Postman, Douglas Rushkoff, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Jan Fernback, Julia Hildebrand, Douglas Kellner, Angela Cirucci, and many others.
- Their writings are introduced to students through films like *Her*, *Black Mirror*, *Arrival*, *Money Monster*, *The Hunger Games*, *Gravity*, *Network*, *Contact*, *V for Vendetta*, *Fight Club*, *The Truman Show*, *WALL•E*, *Good Night*, and *Good Luck*, and many others.



BOOK: ANTHOLOGY

Black Mirror and Critical Media Theory (Lexington Books, 2018)
Angela Cirucci and Barry Vacker

- anthology that critiques the ideas and meanings of the BBC-Netflix TV series. Contributors come from three continents and ten nations.

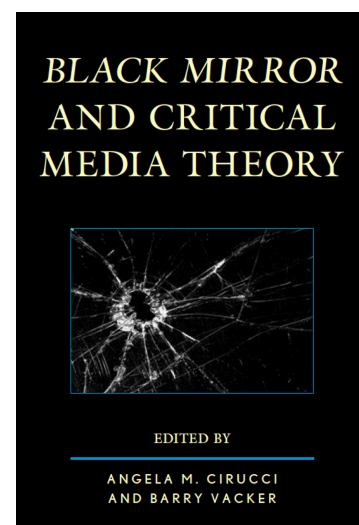
Back cover blurbs

Nowhere in contemporary popular is the near future more scary or visceral than in Charlie Brooker's dystopian series *Black Mirror*, and no where has that vision been more widely scrutinized than the wide-ranging and razor-sharp chapters in Angela Cirucci and Barry Vacker's collection. From the excesses of social media consumption to the panopticon of pervasive surveillance, *Black Mirror and Critical Media Theory* combines a range of theoretical lenses to understand and frame the immanent and pressing questions that *Black Mirror* disturbingly raises.

— Tama Leaver, Curtin University (Australia)

Black Mirror is a television program made to think with and, even to the casual viewer, it feels as though the stories plumb unseen depths at the intersection of human nature and the cutting edge of technology. Coming to grips with the deep currents of the show is difficult for the solo viewer, but *Black Mirror and Critical Media Theory* provides a set of maps for exploring this media text. Whether read by an interested fan or in the context of a course, there is something for every reader within this collection.

— Alexander Halavais, Arizona State University



3 BOOKS, FILM, EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA [cont.]

BOOK: CRITICAL THEORY

Specter of the Monolith

Nihilism, the Sublime, and Human Destiny in Space: From Apollo and Hubble to 2001, Star Trek, and Interstellar (Center for Media and Destiny, 2017).

• Inspired by *2001: A Space Odyssey*, this book offers a radically original critique of how humans have confronted the majesty of the vast universe—via art, media, science, pop culture, and the greatest space films.

Trailer for book:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0WgU4re-BA>

Back Cover Blurp

Like David Bowie's Major Tom, "floating in a most peculiar way", Barry Vacker seems to contemplate Planet Earth through the porthole of a spacecraft. ... Barry offers us a unique opportunity to step back and think of the contradictions of space exploration and our contemporary society. Barry shows we live in a "post-Apollo" culture torn between a frenetic race towards ever more scientific-technological progress and a just as powerful fall-back into the cultural ideologies of dark tribal ages of the past. For those who can embrace their non-centrality and possible meaninglessness in a majestic universe, yet yearn for a shared destiny in a sane planetary civilization, *Specter of the Monolith* is a wonderful and inspiring work.

— Elisabeth Krecké and Carine Krecké, internationally renowned installation artists.

Notable:

1. Book led to interview with PBS:

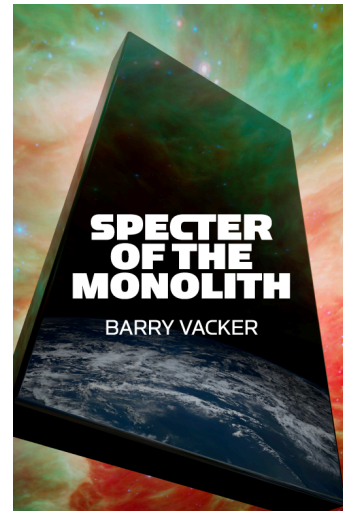
Alison Thoet, "2001 Has Been Inspiring Other Movies for 50 Years: Here are 6 to Watch," *PBS News Hour*, January 19, 2018.

2. Invited to give lecture at the **University of Colorado-Boulder** and host a screening of *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

3. Excerpts from the book have received over 20,000 reads in *Medium*. One excerpt was cited in the *New York Times*.

[Another critique, posted to Medium by Barry Vacker, a professor at Temple University, argued that since the Apollo 11 mission, Americans have lacked a popular narrative to explain the vast cosmos and our origins and destiny within it. "In 'Ancient Aliens,' we can see philosophy's mediated corpse," writes Mr. Vacker, who called the show "an attack on logic, rationality, and the nature of evidence."]

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



TEXT ANTHOLOGY

Barry Vacker (ed.), *Media Environments, 2nd Edition* (San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2015).

This text anthology combines movies with texts to critique media and society. Popular film is the gateway to critical readings, culled from the works of a variety of well-known thinkers.

- Authors include: Stephen Hawking, Carl Sagan, Naomi Wolf, Rebecca MacKinnon, Neil Postman, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Douglas Rushkoff, Julian Assange, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Jan Fernback, Douglas Kellner, Glenn Greenwald, and many others.
- Their writings are introduced to students through films like *The Hunger Games*, *Gravity*, *The Social Network*, *Star Trek*, *Network*, *Contact*, *V for Vendetta*, *Fight Club*, *The Truman Show*, *WALL•E*, *Good Night, and Good Luck*, and many others.
- Adopted in courses at five other universities.



Barry Vacker

3 BOOKS, FILM, EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA [cont.]

BOOK: CULTURAL THEORY AND CRITICISM

Barry Vacker, *The End of the World – Again:*

Why the Apocalypse Meme Replicates in Media, Science and Culture (Center for Media and Destiny, 2012).

From the back cover: Domsday scenarios. They proliferate in our culture, from economics to ecology, theology to technology, biology to cosmology, James Bond to Slavoj Zizek, Plato's Atlantis to Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*. With creativity and critical insight, Barry Vacker shows why apocalyptic memes replicate and have built-in survival advantages. *The End of the World – Again* offers an original, exciting, and, for some, terrifying critique of culture in 2012 and beyond.

Back cover blurbs:

Barry Vacker's *The End of the World, Again* is a fantastic yet haunting book, taking us on a strange trip into the absurdities and anxieties of apocalyptic culture. ... The result is a fascinating and marvelously bizarre critique of media and culture after the millennium. It's a work of absolute virtuosity."

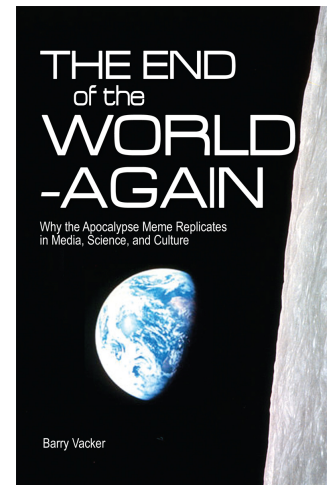
— Elisabeth Krecké, artist and professor, Aix-Marseille Université (France), and Carine Krecké, artist/author, winner of the *Premier Prix du Concours Littéraire National 2008*

As Barry Vacker explains in this thoroughly researched and — frankly — fascinating book, the apocalypse is a powerful motivator and a formidable meme. It has been so for all of human history. Readers of this book should take heart, take heed of the history contained herein, and look to liberate their own creativity to reveal tomorrow's exhilarating territory. And tomorrow always comes.

— Jeff Stein, president of the Cosanti Foundation, engaged in the continuing design and construction of the urban laboratory Arcosanti in central Arizona.

Notable:

- The book was featured in 2013 radio interview produced by Wisconsin Public Radio and distributed by Public Radio International.



TEXT ANTHOLOGY

Barry Vacker (ed.), *Media Environments* (San Diego: Cognella Academic Publishing, 2010).

• This text anthology combines movies with texts to critique media and society. Popular film is the gateway to critical readings, culled from the works of a variety of well-known thinkers.

• Authors include: Stephen Hawking, Al Gore, Naomi Klein, Carl Sagan, Naomi Wolf, Susan Jacoby, Neil Postman, Henry Jenkins, Douglas Rushkoff, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Jan Fernback, Ray Kurzweil, Douglas Kellner, and many others.

• Their writings are introduced to students through films like *The Social Network*, *Star Trek*, *Network*, *Contact*, *American Beauty*, *Fight Club*, *The Truman Show*, *Slumdog Millionaire*, *Waking Life*, *WALL•E*, *Good Night*, and *Good Luck*, and many others.

Back cover blurb:

The readings in "Media Environments" offer an engaging introduction to some of the central questions in media studies. In this well-organized and provocative reader, students will discover how mass media, popular culture and digital technologies support the organization of culture and values, shaping not only personal and social identity, but consciousness itself.



3 BOOKS, FILM, EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA [cont.]

MIXED-MEDIA ART



MEDIA(S)CENE INSTALLATION, 2019

Barry Vacker and Julia M. Hildebrand

Developed for the 2019 Media Ecology Convention, University of Toronto (June 27-29).

- Paintings by Barry Vacker and Liza Samuel; graphic designs by Vacker, Hildebrand, and Sara Falco.
- Inspired by essay "Hot and Cool in the Media(S)cene." Winner of international award: 2019 John Culkin Award for Outstanding Praxis in the Field of Media Ecology, given by Media Ecology Association.
- Sample artworks:



ART-PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK

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

Photography by Peter Granser

Text by Barry Vacker

Foreword by Karen Irvine, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Photography.



From the book description: Granser's newest offering, *Signs*, draws a telling picture of life today in America. For it, Granser traveled 12,000 miles through the "republic" of Texas. With keen and objective precision, he focuses in his color photographs on the plethora of relics and signs that proliferate across the landscape and provide us with insights into the strange and contradictory state of contemporary American identity.

• My text theorized Houston's Mission Control and Apollo 8 as the crash sites of the space age, ground zeros for entropy of secular society in the "lone star state" and around the world.

Exhibitions:

2010 Museo da Imagem, Braga Portugal

2010 Breda Photo, International Photo Festival, Netherlands

2010 Zeuhaus-Toskanische, Säulenhalle, Augsburg, Germany

2010 Alison & Peter Klein Collection, Nussdorf, Germany

2010 Robert Morat Gallery, Hamburg, Germany

2009 ARTBrussels 27, Fifty-One Fine Art, Brussels

2009 Armand Bartos Gallery, New York City

2009 Kunstverein Ulm, Germany

2009 Lianzhou Photography Festival, China

2008 Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago

2008 Kunstverein Ludwigshafen, Germany

2008 Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

2008 Kunststiftung Baden-Wuerttemberg

2008 14-1 Galerie, Stuttgart, Germany

2008 Kaune Sudendorf Gallery for Contemporary Photography, Cologne, Germany

EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA PROJECTS

Books and film: projects involving experimental use of digital media — in concept, aesthetics, production, and distribution.

The experiment: what happens when the theorist deploys digital media to bypass the dominant systems of ideology and control?

NONPROFIT THINK TANK

The Center for Media and Destiny

• The Center for Media and Destiny is a small think tank, home to a collection of philosophical and pop culture thinkers who embrace a mind-expanding agenda. Here's our meme: we theorize and critique media and destiny on Spaceship Earth.

Our mission: To create and support new areas for media studies and media theory, along with providing a new forum for cultural criticism and public discussion. The new areas are: 1) studies in media and human destiny, 2) studies in cosmic media theory.

Barry Vacker, Founder and Director

Board of Directors:

Jarice Hanson, Professor, University of Massachusetts-Amherst; Gail Bower, President, Gail Bower & Associates

Nonprofit Legal Counsel: Morgen Cheshire, ESQ, LLC

• The Center has been officially approved as a 501(c)(3) by the IRS.



Barry Vacker

3 BOOKS, FILM, ART, EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA [cont.]

VIDEO

Specters of the Monolith (2017)

Writer and Director: Barry Vacker; Narration: Brooke Storms; Sound: Colton Weatherston

- 12-minute experimental film produced to honor the 50th anniversary of *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

<https://vimeo.com/214417438>



OTHER BOOKS

Barry Vacker, *Slugging Nothing: Fighting the Future in Fight Club* (Theory Vortex Experiments 2009)

From the inside flap: Drawing from Jean-Paul Sartre and Marshall McLuhan, Barry Vacker shows how *Fight Club* reflects the philosophical angst toward the postmillennial and technological futures, where zero and nothingness reflect the existential conditions of a culture that has crashed into its vanishing points, the vanishing points of mediation, hyperreality, and fundamentalism.

Notable:

- On January 31, 2010, *Slugging Nothing* reached #1 in Amazon Kindle's "Criticism" section.
- The book was featured in 2013 radio interview produced by Wisconsin Public Radio and distributed by Public Radio International



"THEORY ZERO" BOOK SERIES (2008–2009)

- written and designed by Barry Vacker, these 100-120 page books are targeted toward urban-metro artists and intellectuals.
- paperback available at Amazon; electronic version via Kindle.

Barry Vacker, *Starry Skies Moving Away* (Theory Vortex Experiments 2009).

From the back cover: From Plato and Ptolemy, Kant and Newton, to Kubrick and Serling, there has been profound human desire to situate human destiny amidst the starry skies. But just what is our cosmic fate — spaceship earth or planet of apes, space odyssey or cyberspace, alien contact or twilight zone — in a universe of the big bang, with the starry skies moving away?

Barry Vacker, *Crashing into the Vanishing Points* (Theory Vortex Experiments 2009).

From the back cover: Voyager 1 space probe recently exited the solar system, but not before turning its cameras back toward Earth, revealed to be a tiny speck receding into the dark cosmic void. Disappearing in its own rearview mirror, the trajectory of modernity is crashing into its vanishing points, where it confronts five apocalypses — nuclear, virtual, ecological, secular, and cosmic — each with its own ground zero — Trinity, Tomorrowland, Gaia hypothesis, Apollo 8, and the big bang.

Notable: Graduate course adoption: Dr. Jarice Hansen, "Technology and Society," University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Fall 2009.

Barry Vacker, *Zero Conditions* (Theory Vortex Experiments 2008).

From the back cover: Ground zero, carbon zero, Coke Zero — is there a connection? Entering the millennium, something is awry in the spirit of tomorrow for there exists a strange pattern of "zeros" in culture related to the space-time coordinates of the future. What do these zeros suggest? Void or emptiness, end or beginning, the past or the future for utopia? It is ground zero for theory.

Notable: Featured in a 4-page illustrated adaption in *Useless* art magazine (Vol. 10, 2011).

Barry Vacker

4 ARTICLES • ESSAYS • BOOK CHAPTERS • OTHERS

DOCUMENTARY FILM

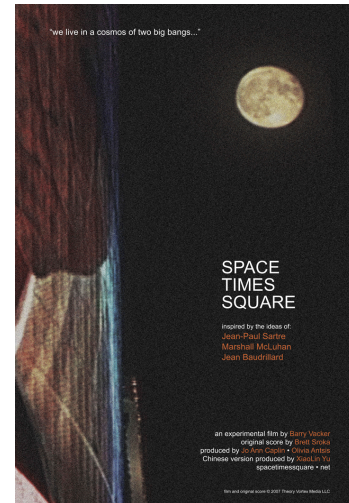
Space Times Square (2007)

Writer and Director: Barry Vacker

Producers: Jo Ann Caplin, Sr. Fellow, University of Pennsylvania; Olivia Antsis, Director, Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival.

Original Music Score: Brett Sroka, composer and musician, New York City
• Drawing from Sartre, Sagan, McLuhan, and Baudrillard, this 24-minute experimental film decodes Times Square as a microcosm of the electronic big bang – an expanding media cosmos of voids and nothingnesses, image and information, entertainment and inquisition, iPod people and hive-minds, flash mobs and flat-screens, black holes and vanishing points, war and bankruptcy, cyberspace and outer space.

Notable: The film philosophically anticipated the 2008 financial crisis and bankruptcies a year before the events happened.



Winner: International Award

2010 John Culkin Award for Outstanding Praxis in the Field of Media Ecology

Awarded by the Media Ecology Association at their 2010 Annual Convention.

• previous winners include Jerome Agel for *The Medium is the Massage* (CD/ audio book) and Douglas Rushkoff for *The Merchants of Cool*, documentary for PBS Frontline.

Festivals/Exhibitions:

2019 *Festival of International Art Contemporary*, Leon, Mexico.

2011 *McLuhan's Philosophy of Media Centennial Conference*, Free University of Brussels.

2010 *11th Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association*, The University of Maine.

2009 *International Conference of the Institute of General Semantics*, Fordham Univ. NYC.

2009 *First Person Arts Salon*, The University of the Arts, Philadelphia Arts Bank.

2009 Monkey Town Art and Video Performance Space, New York City.

2009 *Tulsa Living Arts, New Genre Festival XVI*, Circle Cinema, Tulsa.

2008 *Radar Hamburg International Independent Film Festival*, Hamburg, Vicious Art Gallery.

2008 *Student Film Festival*, Professional Exhibition, Communication Univ. of China, Beijing.

2008 *Cinema Du Reel Festival*, Centre Pompidou, Videotheque, Paris.

2008 *21st Dallas Video Festival*, Angelika Film Center, Dallas.

2008 *Third Annual Global Temple Conference*, Temple University, Philadelphia.

2007 *International Digital Media Arts Annual Conference*, Fuel Gallery, Philadelphia.

University screenings:

2010 TUTV, Temple University cable channel (Comcast). Fall; telecast numerous times.

2010 The Maine Channel, The University of Maine cable channel, Summer

2009 University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Jarice Hanson's graduate media theory course, Fall 2009.

2009 Ursinus College, Kelly Mendoza's "Media and Society" course.

2008 Cabrini College, Radnor, PA, Kevon Glickman's music and media class, Spring 2008.

Online viewing: Film has been viewed or downloaded over 6000 times via Google, Youtube, Bit Torrents, etc.

4 ARTICLES • ESSAYS • BOOK CHAPTERS • OTHERS

Barry Vacker. 2020. "Naked Into the Cosmos: Future Shock in Space." *After Shock: The World's Foremost Futurists Reflect on 50 Years of Future Shock* (John Schroeter, ed.). John August Media.

- This essay shows how humanity is still facing "future shock" in space. Outside of NASA's enlightened space exploration, the dominant narratives are war, conquest, exploitation, and colonization, all illustrative of failure to accept our true place on Earth and in the cosmos.

Barry Vacker and Erin Espelie, 2018. "Black Mirrors, Hot Media, and Spectral Existence," Angela Cirucci and Barry Vacker, eds. *Black Mirror and Critical Media Theory* (New York: Roman & Littlefield/Lexington Books)

- Drawing from Marshall McLuhan, this essay theorizes the deepest existential roles of media technology in human civilization, as dramatized in select episodes of *Black Mirror*, the hit BBC-Netflix series.

Barry Vacker, 2013. "Space Junk and the Second Event: The Cosmic Meaning of the Zombie Apocalypse," Murali Balaji, ed., *The Thinking Dead: What the Zombie Apocalypse Means* (New York: Roman & Littlefield/Lexington Books).

- Drawing from key imagery in *The Walking Dead* and from contemporary culture, this paper shows that the zombie apocalypse signals the philosophical apocalypse — the apparent death of philosophical meaning in a vast and ancient universe. The zombie is the human that is reborn, long thought dead, a body without a mind, now devouring brains, civilization, and the planet, all in a universe it does not understand nor care to understand.

Barry Vacker and Genevieve Gillespie, 2013. "Yearning to be the center of everything, when we are the center of nothing: Parallels and reversals at Chaco, Hubble, and Facebook," *Telematics and Informatics*, Special Edition: The Facebook Phenomenon, Vol. 30, No. 1, February 2013, 35-46

- Combining Marshall McLuhan with archaeo-astronomer Anna Sofaer, this paper theorized Facebook, Hubble, and Chaco Canyon (Ancient Anasazi site) has having numerous parallels, with Facebook (social media) signaling a reversal of an "overextended" media technology, the Hubble Space Telescope (cosmic media). This means that telescopes are countered by television, outer space is countered by cyberspace, cosmic media by social media, and Hubble by Facebook.

Barry Vacker and Agreen Wang, 2013. Black holes in the electronic galaxies: Metaphors for resistance in the information society, Paul M.A. Baker, Jarice Hanson, and Jeremy Hunsinger, eds. *The Unconnected: Social Justice, Participation and Engagement in the Information Society* (Peter Lang Press).

- This chapter draws from Manuel Castells' idea of "informational black holes" to theorize new kinds of representation and resistance.

Barry Vacker, 2013. "Into the voids and vanishing points: Spaceship Earth and space age media theory," McLuhan's Philosophy of Media Centennial Conference, *Contact Forum*, The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, 295-303.

- Drawing from Marshall McLuhan, George Orwell, and U.S. President Kennedy's "moon speech," this paper theorizes the cultural response to the discoveries of new knowledge in the space age. Space telescopes (cosmic media) have revealed a universe of vast voids, while social media have reversed the vanishing points, situating humans at the center of the media universe.

Barry Vacker, 2011. The utopian moment, now? Essay for the photography exhibit, *Before and After Utopia: Images of Urban Abandonment, Absence, and Aspiration* (Olivia Antsis, curator), Open Lens Gallery, Philadelphia (September 15 – November 20).

- Created as part of DesignPhiladelphia's and the University of the Arts annual design festival, this exhibit featured photographs of four utopian-dystopian sites: Arcosanti (Arizona), Ordos (China), Masdar (UAE), and "Abandoned America" (photos of ruins in the USA). Published by the exhibit as a small booklet, my 7500-word essay theorized the connection between the four sites and their philosophical and technological relevance for cities of the 21st century.

Barry Vacker

4 ARTICLES • ESSAYS • BOOK CHAPTERS • OTHERS [cont.]

Barry Vacker, 2011. The zero zero decade, *Useless* magazine, #10, January, 26-29.

- This is a 4-page illustrated adaption of my experimental book, *Zero Conditions* (2008); illustrations by the artist Stacey Steers.
- The essay uses “zero” as a metaphor for theorizing cultural conditions in the first decade of the new millennium.

Barry Vacker, 2010. Memes, media, and moments: 13 questions, in *Media Environments* (San Diego: Cognella): 1-26.

- This essay served as the Introduction to the text-anthology, *Media Environments*. Yet, this essay was more than a mere introduction, for it presented several new theories to integrate a broader and deeper understanding of media in society.

Barry Vacker, 2009. Ergo is cool, Liner notes for Ergo, *Multitude, Solitude* (Cuneiform Records, 2009).

- This brief essay connected Ergo’s minimalist electronic jazz with McLuhan’s “cool” media and Sartre’s “nothingness.” From a review in the *New York Times*: “this atmospheric collective, which takes full advantage of electronic programming and cross-genre appropriation... performs in celebration of its intentionally spooky new album, “*Multitude, Solitude*.”

Barry Vacker, 2009. Big bang theory, *Useless* magazine, #9, August, 7, 40.

- This essay accompanied the back cover photo on the magazine. Since this edition of the magazine had a theme (“Evolve”), the essay contrasted science with fundamentalism as examples of cultural evolution and entropy, respectively.

Barry Vacker. 2008. Slugging nothing. *You Do Not Talk About Fight Club*. (Read Mercer Schuchardt, ed.) Dallas: Benbella Books, 175-206.

- Drawing from Sartre and McLuhan, this chapter theorizes *Fight Club* as expressing a premodern philosophical angst toward the modern and postmodern technological futures, where zero and nothingness reflect the existential conditions of a future that has crashed into the vanishing point, a vanishing point of mediation, hyperreality, and fundamentalism.

Barry Vacker. 2006. Cosmic vertigo on the isle of *Lost*. *Getting Lost* (Orson Scott Card, ed.) Dallas: Benbella Books, 91-107.

- This chapter situates the show *Lost* upon a trajectory of dystopian “lost world” tropes that began with Plato’s Atlantis and pass through Francis Bacon’s *New Atlantis* (the first techno-utopia, 1626) and numerous disaster movies at the end of the millennium. The show illustrates the Mobius condition of modernity, the vertigo of technological heights and potential collapse.

Barry Vacker. 2006. Vanishing points, between pixel and paradise. In Margery Amdur’s art book *Spaces Between, Vincent and Other Things*.

- The essay uses media theory to interrogate the utopian ambitions of Amdur’s (professor of art at Rutgers-Camden) installations focusing on her exhibitions in Manchester, Florence, and Krakow in 2005. Other contributors: Jane Linden (Manchester Metropolitan Univ), Libora Oates-Indruchova (Masaryk U, Brno, Czech Republic), Leslie Kaufman (President, Philadelphia Sculptors).

Barry Vacker. 2006. *The Wave* as Illuminated Hypertext and Imploding Media. Introduction to Heather Raikes’ *The Wave*. <http://www.heatherraikes.com/wave/>

- This brief essay sketches the paradoxical philosophical ideas in Raikes’ radically innovative hypertext, perhaps one of the most innovative books of the new millennium.

Barry Vacker. 2001. Global village or world bazaar? *Understanding the Web: The Political, Economic, and Social Dimensions of the Internet* (Alan Albarran & David Goff, eds.). Ames: Iowa State Press.

- This chapter explored the cultural impact of the internet, contrasting visions of Marshall McLuhan’s “global village” with Alvin Toffler’s world “bazaar.” Topics included information revolutions, convergence, globalization, media futurism, economics, censorship, and surveillance, arguing that the internet will amplify the effects of the printing press and visual electronic media.

Barry Vacker

4 ARTICLES • ESSAYS • BOOK CHAPTERS • OTHERS [cont.]

Barry Vacker. 2001. Guggenheims and Grand Canyons. 2(2) *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies* (Spring) 361-382. SPECIAL EDITION: THE AESTHETICS SYMPOSIUM.

- I am not a Rand scholar. This peer-reviewed article was written for this special edition, which included postmodern and Marxist critics along with Randian scholars. This article was highly critical of the utopian aesthetics of Rand and Randian scholars, especially Louis Torres and Michelle Marder Kamhi's book *What Art Is: The Aesthetic Theory of Ayn Rand* (Open Court, 2000). The title "Guggenheims and Grand Canyons" refers to utopian-dystopian metaphors mentioned in the book.

Barry Vacker. 2000. Rejoinder: The strange attractor in Randian aesthetics. 2(1) *The Journal of Ayn Rand Studies*. (Fall) 197-209.

- I am not a Rand scholar. This peer-reviewed article was a response to published praise and criticism of the book chapter below, while also elaborating on several points made in the chapter regarding Rand's aesthetics and utopianism.

Barry Vacker. 1999. Skyscrapers, supermodels, and strange attractors. *Feminist Interpretations of Ayn Rand* (Mimi Gladstein and Chris Sciabarra, eds.). University Park: Penn State Press.

- I am not a Rand scholar. This chapter critiqued the utopian aesthetics of atheist Ayn Rand and feminist Naomi Wolf, focusing on Rand's vision in *The Fountainhead* and Wolf's criticism of media ideals in *The Beauty Myth*. Both were also compared to the utopianism in postindustrial media and technologies. This essay generated abundant published and online discussion among scholars and critics.

Gary B. Wilcox and Barry Vacker. 1996. Cigarette advertising and consumption in the United States: 1961-1990. *Advertising and Markets: A Collection of Seminal Papers*. Thames, United Kingdom: NTC Publishing.

- This chapter was selected for inclusion in this special volume of previously published papers considered seminal. Originally appeared in 11 *International Journal of Advertising* 269-278 (1992) and was based upon work done begun in grad school.

Barry Vacker and Wayne R. Key. 1993. Beauty and the beholder: The pursuit of beauty through commodities. 10(6) *Psychology and Marketing* 471-494. SPECIAL EDITION: THE PURSUIT OF BEAUTY

- This essay was the *lead article* in this special edition and presented a theory of how beauty is pursued and experienced through commodities. The experience of beauty is more complex than mere "appearance" or "subjectivity," and failure to realize this can result negative psychological and cultural effects. Paper is based on key ideas from my dissertation.

Barry Vacker. 1993. Aesthetics, advertising and the First Amendment. In E. Thorsen (ed.), *Proceedings of the 1992 Conference of the American Academy of Advertising* 82-92.

- This article reviewed the synthesis of aesthetic and legal philosophy as applied to freedom of expression, using Supreme Court cases involving aesthetics and advertising as examples.

Barry Vacker. 1993. Beauty and the beast (of advertising). In L. McAlister and M. Rothschild (eds.) 20 *Advances In Consumer Research* 345-351.

- This essay explored the major philosophies of beauty employed in critiques of media aesthetics.

Barry Vacker. 1992. The Marlboro Man as a 20th century *David*. In J.F. Sherry, Jr. and B. Sternthal (eds.) 19 *Advances in Consumer Research* 746-755.

- This essay discussed the similarities in the utopian aesthetics of Michelangelo's *David* and the Marlboro Man.

Gary B. Wilcox and Barry Vacker. 1992. Cigarette advertising and consumption in the United States: 1961-1990. 11 *International Journal of Advertising* 269-278.

- This article presented the findings of an economic analysis of cigarette advertising and consumption.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC.

SYMPOSIA, EVENTS, CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

The following panels were organized by me and various scholars or organizations

2001: A Space Odyssey—50 Years Later

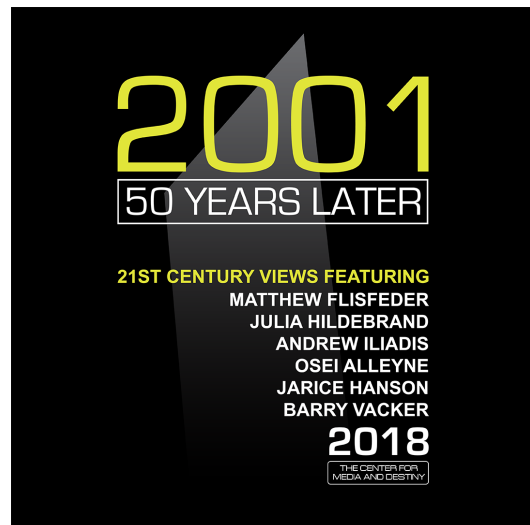
A 21st Century View of Stanley Kubrick's Sci-Fi Masterpiece

2018: Presented by: Gershman Y, Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival, and TUTV-Temple University Television.

Speakers:

Matthew Flisfeder (U of Winnepeg)
Julia Hildebrand (Drexel)
Jarice Hanson (U-Mass)
Osei Alleyne (Penn)
Andrew Iliadis (Temple)
Barry Vacker (Temple).

Attended by 50-60 people, the event was later aired on TUTV via Comcast Cable in the Philadelphia region



Staring Into the *Black Mirror*

2017: Temple University

Worked with Temple student on this event about the series, *Black Mirror*.

Panelists

Julia Hildebrand, Drexel U
Angela Cirucci, Kutztown
Abby Moore, Temple U
Barry Vacker

- Event emcee and co-organizer: Leah Maher
- Event played to 50 people in full room, followed by lively and engaging Q&A that lasted almost an hour.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website: www.mediaanddestiny.com



Communication and Evolving Curricula: A Media Ecology Approach

2016: National Communication Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia

Panelists: Dennis Cali, University of Texas at Tyler (Chair), Angela Cirucci (Kutztown University), Andrew Ledbetter (Texas Christian University), and Barry Vacker

- This panel features scholars who explore 21st century pedagogical issues from multiple perspectives within the media ecology framework—with the understanding that the best approach relies on coherent and evolving theoretical perspectives.

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

SYMPOSIA, EVENTS, CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED (cont)

Technology, Cities, and The Global/Local Nexus: Paradoxical Effects and Conditions

2016: The Global Fusion Annual Conference, hosted by Temple University

Panelists: Angela Cirucci (Kutztown), Abby Moore (Temple), and Barry Vacker

- This panel explores the multiple effects of the technological nexus on global cities in the 21st century.

Selfies and Zombies: Confronting Our Media, Cultural, and Cosmic Conditions

2014: *Global Fusion: A Global Media and Communication Conference*, University of Texas at Austin

Panelists: Angela Cirucci (Temple), Genevieve Gillespie (Temple), and Barry Vacker

- the panel showed how selfies and zombies represent new ways to confront the breakdown of species-based metanarratives, replaced by micronarratives of narcissism and nihilism.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website. www.mediaanddestiny.org

It's the End of the World (Again!)

2012: a three-night event co-hosted by the Philadelphia Museum of Contemporary Art and the Center for Media and Destiny; December 19-21.

- Inspired in part by Barry Vacker's book, *The End of the World—Again* (2012), each night featured an "apocalyptic art" exhibit and intellectual presentation or panel discussion, followed by film screenings and/or live music.
- **Media coverage:** feature interviews with Barry Vacker and Genevieve Gillespie on WHYY (NPR-Philadelphia); stories in local newspapers.
- Below are the art exhibit; academic-style presentations and panel discussions.

December 19-21

Apocalyptic Art exhibit

- curated by Genevieve Gillespie (Temple University)
- Accepted artworks came from across America (Philadelphia, Washington, Portland, Ore., Lafayette, La., Wilmington, De.) and even Marseille, France.

December 19

Sci-Fi Sublime: Viewing Our Annihilation in Movies

- Barry Vacker provided a one-hour presentation and signed books; the official book launch for *The End of the World—Again*

December 20

Panel: The Meaning of *Melancholia*

Panelists: Laura Zaylea (Temple University), Olivia Antsis (director, Philadelphia Jewish Film Festival), Ronnia Landau, Jungian psychoanalyst, Barry Vacker

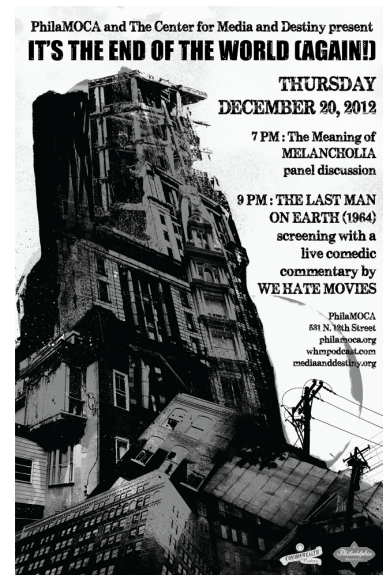
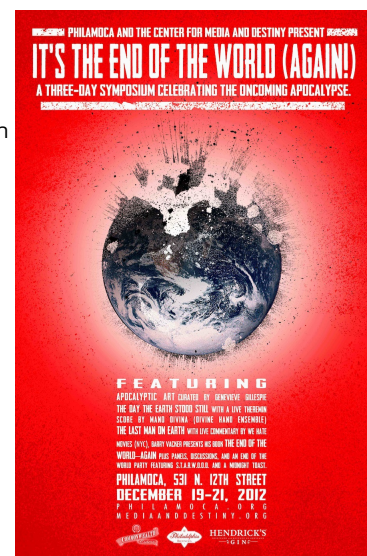
- Panelists provided thought-provoking presentations about Lars von Trier's apocalyptic art house film, *Melancholia*, does the film signal doomsday, symbolize depression, or nihilist nothingness?

December 21

Panel: Why the Apocalypse Meme Replicates

Panelists: Jarice Hanson (U-Mass Amherst), Osei Alleyne, (Penn), Genevieve Gillespie (Temple), and Barry Vacker

- Panelists provided thought-provoking explanations for why the apocalypse meme replicates in culture, science, movies, TV programming, and off-Broadway theater.



Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

SYMPOSIA, EVENTS, CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED (cont)

Whole Earth, Fragmented Cultures, Apocalyptic Futures: Visualizing Community and Destiny on Spaceship Earth

2012: *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Phoenix

- **Panelists:** Jarice Hanson (UMass-Amherst), Angela Cirucci, Genevieve Gillespie, and Barry Vacker (all from Temple University).
- 2012 marks fifty years since JFK's famed "moon speech" and forty years since the Whole Earth image was captured in the last journey to the moon. This multimedia panel looks at the evolution of community and communication since these iconic moments and images, especially in relation to community, ecology, science, and our place in the cosmos.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website. www.mediaanddestiny.org

Are the Odds in Our Favor?: *The Hunger Games* on Fame, Fashion, and the Fate of Humanity

2012: Co-sponsored by the Center for Media and Information Literacy (Temple U.) and the Center for Media and Destiny.

Panelists: Lean Wilson (Editor, SmartPop imprint, Benbella Books), Sherri Hope Culver (Temple), Angela Cirucci (Temple), Osei Alleyne (Penn), Barry Vacker

- the panel explored, revealed, and dissect some of the deeper and alternative meanings of *The Hunger Games* and what it says about our current society — including media and technology, domination and liberation, culture and celebrity, fashion and the future.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website. www.mediaanddestiny.org

Cosmic McLuhan: Space Ages, Space Telescopes, Spaceship Earth

2011: *McLuhan's Philosophy of Media Centennial Conference*, Free University of Brussels. Funded by and held at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium Science and the Arts.

- **Panelists:** Angela Cirucci, Agreen Wang, and Barry Vacker, all from Temple University.
- This speculative panel explored the deeper meaning of Voyager, Hubble, and various cosmic images in light of McLuhan's media cosmology, suggesting that Facebook is the reversal of Hubble, space telescopes are both explosion and implosion, and Earth in the vanishing point of cosmic significance.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website. www.mediaanddestiny.org

Resistance and 'the Future': Should We Be Optimists, Pessimists, Humanists, Nihilists ... ?

2011: *Global Fusion: A Global Media and Communication Conference*

- **Panelists:** Jarice Hansen, The University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Osei Alleyne, Tristan Brown, and Barry Vacker, all from Temple University.
- Drawing from theorists such as Debord, Virilio, Sagan, Sartre, McLuhan, Lyotard, and Baudrillard, this panel will speculate on the pessimism, optimism, humanism, and nihilism expressed in various works of art, film, and scientific discovery.
- PDFs of all presentations are available at the Center for Media and Destiny website. www.mediaanddestiny.org

Baudrillard on Screen

2005: *International Communication Association Annual Conference*. New York City.

- **Panelists:** Alison Bambridge, Sussex University; Margaret Griffith, Temple University; Barry Vacker
- The papers critically examined Jean Baudrillard's theories of simulation and the screen, using highly visual artifacts from culture, including Times Square, the William Gibson documentary *No Maps for these Territories*, and forensic crime shows on TV.

Media Bias Toward 'Tomorrow'?

2005: *Media Ecology Association Annual Convention*. New York City.

- Panelists: Rebecca Hains, Temple University, Elisa Durette, Chief Futurist, FedEx-Kinkos, Barry Vacker
- In conjunction with conference theme of "Media Bias" (in many forms), this panel explored the temporal bias of media technology toward utopian and dystopian visions of "tomorrow," as well as media visions of returning to a mythical "yesterday."

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

SYMPOSIA, EVENTS, CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED (cont)

9/11 and *Fahrenheit 9/11*: Decoding Dystopia and Mass Media

2004: *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*, Toronto.

- Panelists: Christina Braid, University of Toronto; Paul Majkut, National University; Barry Vacker, Temple University
- The papers critiqued *Fahrenheit 9/11* and theories of the mass media as creator or cause of dystopia.

No Exit — Visualizing the Digital Dystopia

2004: *Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Winter Conference*.

Rutgers.

- **Panelists:** Read Schuchardt, Marymount Manhattan College; Amanda Scheiner, Temple University; Barry Vacker, Temple University
- The papers explored the parallels between digital dystopia films and the theories of Marshall McLuhan, Jean Baudrillard, Paul Virilio.

Mapping *The Matrix*.

2003 Multimedia Symposium, Temple University.

Panelists: William Irwin, King's College, editor of *The Matrix and Philosophy* (Open Court 2002); Read Schuchardt, Marymount Manhattan College; Theresa Geller, Rutgers University, Barry Vacker.

- The event critically interrogated the philosophy in *The Matrix*. In effect, these scholars “hacked” *The Matrix* on the weekend that *Matrix Reloaded* opened in Philadelphia. The event was a huge success in the community, with a standing-room only crowd of 100+.

Media coverage included front page stories in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*:

Barry Vacker interviewed by Anderson Cooper on CNN International.

<http://www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0305/17/cst.19.html>.

Virtual Freedom: Government Regulation of the Internet?

1995 Symposium, SMU.

- Event addressed government regulation and free speech on the internet

Presenters: Jonathan Emord, constitutional lawyer, Washington DC (author of *Freedom, Technology, and the First Amendment*, Pacific Research); Jef Richards, The University of Texas at Austin; August Grant, The University of Texas at Austin; Carrie Sperling, The American Civil Liberties Union; Barry Vacker, SMU.

- 40 people attended this event. Media coverage included the local NPR affiliate and local newspaper.

EXPERIMENTAL MEDIA • ONLINE SYMPOSIA

Begun a decade before there was YouTube

Trajectory of the Canvas

1999 Experimental multimedia online symposium.

McKinney Avenue Contemporary Museum and Art Space (Dallas).

Telecast globally over the internet via Yahoo. 11Dec1999.

- Co-created with David Sedman. Event explored artistic expression and evolution of media technology.

- Presenters included:

Frederick Turner, The University of Texas at Dallas (author of *The Culture of Hope* and other books)

Tim Sanders, Chief Solutions Officer, Yahoo! (author of bestseller *Love is the Killer App*)

Mark Landson, composer and leader of string quartet “Neo Camerata;”

David Sedman, Southern Methodist University;

Barry Vacker, Southern Methodist University.

- Attendance was standing room only, 100+; 850 listened via the internet. Traditional media coverage included local newspapers.

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

SYMPOSIA, EVENTS, CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED (cont)

Virtual City: Convergence of Media and Metropolis

1997 Experimental multimedia online symposium at SMU.

- Co-created with David Sedman. Event explored the convergence of media and metropolis occurring in cyberspace.
- Presenters included:
Michael Benedikt, The University of Texas at Austin (editor of *Cyberspace: First Steps*, MIT Press)
Michael Cox, VP, The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas
Laurie Kretchmar, Vice-President, *Women's Wire Daily*,
David Sedman, Southern Methodist University;
Barry Vacker, Southern Methodist University.
- Due to last-minute technical problems, this event was not transmitted over the internet nor was it videotaped.

Culturemorph

1996 Experimental multimedia online symposium, SMU.

Pioneering global telecast over the internet. 13Nov1996.

- Co-created with David Sedman. Event addressed the cultural & media transformations of cyberspace.
- Presenters included:
Frederick Turner, University of Texas at Dallas (author of *The Culture of Hope*, The Free Press)
Susan Herring, University of Texas at Arlington (editor, *Computer-Mediated Communication*, John Benjamins Co.);
David Sedman, Southern Methodist University;
Barry Vacker, Southern Methodist University
- A small but unknown amount from around the world (including Japan and France) viewed the pioneering web video transmission. The live attendance was 200. Traditional media coverage included local NPR affiliate and *The Dallas Morning News*.

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND SCREENINGS

Barry Vacker, 2020. "Media(S)scene." Guest lecture for a "Media and Culture" class at the Instituto Tecnológico Estudios Superiores, Leon, Mexico.

- Talk was about my 2019 international-award winning essay, "Media(S)cene" (co-author Julia Hildebrand) and our 2019 mixed-media art exhibit at the Media Ecology Association at the University of Toronto.

Barry Vacker, 2019. "Spiral Vanishing Points: Art and Media at the Ends of the World," featured speaker at the 2019 Festival of International Art Contemporary, Leon, Mexico.

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

Barry Vacker, 2018. "2001: Its Philosophical Legacy 4 Million Years Later," Lecture given at the University of Colorado-Boulder, February 8, 2018.

- Lecture given to Professor Erin Espelie's "Space Odysseys" course; based on my book, *Specter of the Monolith*. Also, hosted a screening of *2001: A Space Odyssey* later that evening.

Barry Vacker, 2018. "Hot and Cool in the Media(S)cene." *2018 Media Ecology Association Annual Conference*, University of Maine (Orono Maine).

- Presentation re-theorizes Marshall McLuhan's "hot-cool" typology from the 1960s, thus creating a radically new model for understanding the effects of media technology on human existence and consciousness.

Barry Vacker, 2017. "Black Mirror, White Spaces: Nihilism, Technology, and the Enlightenment," *Staring Into the Black Mirror: Darkness Behind the Bright Lights*, Temple University, April 13.

- This presentation explored the deeper existential meanings of the cult TV anthology.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker, 2016. "Movies and Media Ecology: Using Popular Film as a Gateway to Critically Analyzing the 24/7 Media Environments," *National Communication Association Annual Conference*, Philadelphia.

- Discussed how I teaching Media and Society using films and my anthology, *Media Environments*.

Barry Vacker, 2015, "Selfies and Space Telescopes: Vanishing Points and the Sublime," *2015 Media Ecology Association Annual Conference*, Denver.

- This presentation explored alternative meanings of social media: 1) they are the continuation of television, 2) they counter our experience of the cosmic sublime, 3) they serve as compensation for humans not being the center of the cosmos.

Barry Vacker, 2015, "Selfies and Zombies: Cultural Responses to Nihilism and Nothingness," *Zom(bie) Con*, Symposium, Center for Interdisciplinary Arts, Drexel University (Philadelphia).

- Invited to be a feature speaker at the one-day event exploring the cultural meanings of zombies.

Barry Vacker, 2014, "Selfies and Zombies: Cultural Responses to Nihilism and Nothingness," *Global Fusion 2014*. The University of Texas at Austin.

- This presentation showed how selfies and zombies are two sides of the same coin — media representations of human identity in response to not being the center of the universe.

Barry Vacker, 2013, "Facebook and the Hubble Space Telescope: Visualizing Our Place in the Cosmos," *Futures of Visual Anthropology Annual Conference*, Temple University.

- Using the concepts of "social media" and "cosmic media," this presentation showed how Facebook is our existential compensation for the Hubble Space Telescope, for Facebook allows humans to pretend they are the center of everything, when they are the center of nothing in the vast and ancient universe revealed by the Hubble telescope.

Barry Vacker, 2012, "Facing the End of the World in Three Films: What Should We Do?" *Why the Apocalypse Meme Replicates*, at *It's The End of the World (Again!)*, Philadelphia Mausoleum of Contemporary Art, December 21.

- Drawing from my book, *The End of the World—Again*, this presentation explored how three films faced the end of the world — *Seeking a Friend for the End of the World* (2012), *Melancholia* (2011), and *2012* (2009). In *Seeking a Friend*, we see the absence of human brains; in *Melancholia*, we see the absence of human meaning; in *2012*, we see some meaning for human existence and a radical critique of the dominant narratives which wreak havoc on our civilization and our planet.

Barry Vacker, 2012. "The Melancholia of Modernity," *The Meaning of Melancholia*, at *It's The End of the World (Again!)*, Philadelphia Mausoleum of Contemporary Art, December 20.

- Drawing from ideas in my book, *The End of the World—Again*, this presentation explored *Melancholia* as symbolizing the cosmic and philosophical apocalypses — the loss of meaning for human existence in the vast cosmos.

Barry Vacker, 2012. "Sci-Fi Sublime: Viewing Our Annihilation in Movies." *It's The End of the World (Again!)* Philadelphia Mausoleum of Contemporary Art, December 19.

- The presentation served as the launch for my new book, *The End of the World—Again*, showing the doomsday and apocalyptic memes have deep roots in human history and will be replicated far into the future.

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker, 2012. "Space Junk, the Second Event, and the Wild State: The Cosmic Meaning of the Zombie Apocalypse." *The Thinking Dead: What the Zombie Apocalypse Means*, Symposium at Temple University, October, 31, Halloween.

- This presentation explored the cosmic and existential meanings of the Zombie Apocalypse by drawing from cosmology and critical theory to analyze *The Walking Dead* and other zombie phenomena.

Barry Vacker, 2012. "Art, Media, and Cosmology: Visualizing Our Place and Destiny in the Universe," *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Phoenix.

- The multimedia presentation will theorize the existential meanings of attempts to map our place in the cosmos, including films such as: *Powers of Ten* (Charles and Ray Eames, 1968), *Earthrise* (Apollo 8, 1968), *Whole Earth*, (Apollo 17, 1972), *Cosmic Voyage* (Bailey Silleck, 1997), and *The Known Universe* (American Museum of Natural History, 2009).

Barry Vacker, 2012, "The Odds Are In Our Favor For What? Four Possible Destinies in *The Hunger Games*." *Are the Odds in Our Favor?: The Hunger Games on Fame, Fashion, and the Fate of Humanity*, Symposium co-sponsored by Center for Media and Information Literacy and Center for Media and Destiny, hosted on Temple Campus, May 17, 2012.

- This presentation looked at *The Hunger Games* as signifying four destinies: Domitainment (domination + entertainment), Liberlightenment (liberation + enlightenment), Massimulation (mass media + simulation), Futureversal (future + reversal).

Barry Vacker, 2011. "Voids and Vanishing Points at the Center, Edge, and End of *The Known Universe*." *McLuhan's Philosophy of Media Centennial Conference*, Free University of Brussels. Funded by and held at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium Science and the Arts.

- Drawing from McLuhan's *Through the Vanishing Point* (1968), this paper will explore the possible meanings of the film, *The Known Universe* (2010), and what it reveals about: the power of media technologies to peer to the edge of the universe, model the end of the universe, and remove humanity from the center of the universe ... only to return us again ... through the vanishing point.

Barry Vacker, 2011. *Space Times Square. McLuhan's Philosophy of Media Centennial Conference*, Free University of Brussels.

- My experimental documentary was invited to be screened at the conference. I introduced the film and participated in a Q&A.

Barry Vacker, 2011. "Beautiful Imbalance." Screening of *Manufactured Landscapes*, as part of the exhibit, *Before and After Utopia: Images of Urban Abandonment, Absence, and Aspiration* (Olivia Antis, curator), Open Lens Gallery, Philadelphia (September 15 – November 20).

- I hosted the screening and discussion of *Manufactured Landscapes* (Jennifer Baichwal 2006); the event was part of the *Before and After Utopia* exhibit, which was created as part of DesignPhiladelphia's and the University of the Arts annual design festival.

Barry Vacker, 2011. Metanarratives in a Meaningless Universe? *Global Fusion 2011*. Temple University.

- Drawing from Lyotard, McLuhan, and the Hubble space telescope, this paper explores why the size and scale of the universe (as revealed by the Hubble) are utterly ignored in shaping the metanarratives on Spaceship Earth.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Stefan Samulewicz and Barry Vacker, 2011. Screening of *Gattaca*, Philadelphia Science Festival.

- Professor Samulewicz (Biology Professor, La Salle University) and myself co-hosted a screening of the classic science-fiction film, *Gattaca* (1997), on the opening night of the 2011 Philadelphia Science Festival, a two-week, city-wide celebration of science in culture. After the screening, we hosted a Q&A for over one-hour with audience.

Barry Vacker, 2010. *Space Times Square. 1st Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association*, The University of Maine, Orono.

- My experimental documentary was invited to be screened at the conference, where it was awarded the 2010 John Culkun Award for Outstanding Praxis in the Field of Media Ecology. I participated in a Q&A after the film screening.

Barry Vacker. 2009. Utopia and the Starry Skies. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Wrightsville, NC.

- Derived from my book *Starry Skies Moving Away* (2009), this paper correlated the evolution of utopia and technology with the evolution of human understanding of the universe and the “starry skies” — from geocentric universe to clockwork cosmos, space age to Spaceship Earth, cyberspace to the big bang.

Barry Vacker, 2009. Population Zero: After Utopia. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Wrightsville, NC.

- Derived from my book *Zero Conditions* (2008), this paper explored the deeper meanings in explored in two recent television documentaries, *Aftermath: Population Zero* (National Geographic Channel 2008) and *Life After People: Population Zero* (History Channel 2008).

Barry Vacker. 2009. *Space Times Square. International Conference of the Institute of General Semantics*. Fordham University, New York City.

- My experimental documentary was invited to be screened at the conference.

Barry Vacker. 2007. *Space Times Square. International Digital Media Arts Annual Conference*, Philadelphia.

- My experimental documentary was invited to be screened in the “Arts” portion of the conference.

Barry Vacker. 2005. Chaos theory and ‘network’ utopias. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Memphis.

- Recent years have seen the emergence of the “network” as a utopian model for society, a model which often merges media theory and chaos theory. This paper critiques the parallels the between chaos and networks, from both a utopian and dystopian perspective.

Barry Vacker. 2005. Notes on New Orleans. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Memphis.

- This paper probes the dystopian conditions suggested by the flood of New Orleans, drawing from Plato’s Atlantis and postmodern media theory. Topics: the spectacle and the Superdome, Hollywood disaster movies, skyscrapers amidst a swamp.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker. 2005. Being and nothingness in the information age. *Media Ecology Association Annual Convention*. New York City.

- Merging Sartre and McLuhan, this paper theorizes the media “vessels of nothingness structured as modes of perception” — vessels of nothingness we hope to fill with the world to create a fully-mediated mode of existence. The 1s and 0s are the key icons of being and nothingness. in the information age.

Barry Vacker. 2005. The sky above the port was the color of television, tuned to a dead channel. *Media Ecology Association Annual Convention*. New York City.

- This title is the opening line to William Gibson’s *Neuromancer*; the 1984 cyberpunk novel which introduced “cyberspace.” The static color of a dead channel is the background radiation leftover from the Big Bang. The opening line pointed toward the converging natural and media ecologies born of two big bangs — the expanding empirical universe mapped by the expanding virtual universe.

Barry Vacker. 2005. The ‘zero’ tomorrow. *Media Ecology Association Annual Convention*. New York City.

- As part of the “Media Bias Toward Tomorrow?” panel, this paper explored the cultural significance of the recurrent theme of “zero” associated with “tomorrow,” as happened at the Millennium Dome, the Millennium Clock, the Clock of the Long Now, Ground Zero in NYC and Las Vegas, and in *The Matrix* and *Naqoyqatsi*. Other examples included.

Barry Vacker. 2005. Times Square & TV screens. *International Communication Association Annual Conference*. New York City.

- As part of the “Baudrillard on Screen” panel, this paper theorized Times Square and Twin Towers as architectures of the TV screen, expressing forces of mediation — spectacle and speculation, implosion of information, electronic circulation, high-definition destinies.

Barry Vacker. 2004. Death Valley and Las Vegas: Jean Baudrillard’s theory of the desert and dystopia. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Toronto

- This paper and presentation explored Jean Baudrillard’s concept of the desert and the mediated dystopia as representing parallel fates for humanity and culture, signified for Baudrillard by Death Valley and Las Vegas.

Barry Vacker. 2004. Bullet-time, two big bangs, two bad sequels. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Toronto.

- This paper and presentation argued that the two sequels to *The Matrix* reflected not only poor filmmaking, but, more importantly, perfectly expressed the rising anti-intellectualism and salvation-seeking fundamentalism in mass media and contemporary culture.

Barry Vacker. 2004. *Fahrenheit 9/11*: The temperature at which theory burns. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Toronto.

- As part of the “9/11” panel, this paper draws upon Ray Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*, Marshall McLuhan, and Jean Baudrillard to explore Michael Moore’s *Fahrenheit 9/11*, where hyper-empiricism and simulation of dissent denote the postmodern media dystopia.

Barry Vacker. 2004. The digital revolution or the destiny of television? *The Digital Revolution: The Impact of Digital Media Technologies*. The University of South Carolina.

- This paper suggests the digital revolution fulfils the television destiny, where the computer screen is the border between two mediated/simulated worlds — cyberspace (expanding behind the screen) and the hyperreal (emerging from the screen).

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker. 2004. No exit/must exit. *Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Winter Conference*. Rutgers University.

- As part of the “No Exit” panel, this paper and multimedia presentation explores the parallels between Jean-Paul Sartre’s vision of total illumination in *No Exit* (1944) and Jean Baudrillard’s concept of “must exit” in *America* (1986), existential themes of escape and paranoia which recur in *Alphaville*, *2001*, *THX 1138*, *Blade Runner*, *Pi*, and several other films.

Barry Vacker. 2004. Parallel and paradox: the desert and digital culture. *Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Winter Conference*. Rutgers University.

- This paper examines the parallels/paradoxes between the desert and digital culture in digital dystopian films. The desert served as a metaphor for the distant cultural territories between the traditional old world and the virtual new world emerging in the digital media.

Barry Vacker. 2004. Death Valley and Des Carrieres Incinerateur. *6E Manifestation Internationale Video et Art Electronique*. Montreal. September 24.

- Drawing from Sartre and Baudrillard, this paper and talk explored the existential parallels between digital art and the desert as an icon for digital destiny — as symbolized by Death Valley and the abandoned Des Carrieres Incinerateur, which was the site for the event. The weeklong event drew digital and electronic artists from twenty countries, and I was one of four international scholars invited to talk.

Barry Vacker. 2003. Design and destiny. Seminar for Bruce Mau Design (Toronto), creators of the book and multimedia exhibit *Massive change, a Manifesto on the future of design culture* (Phaidon Press, 2004). April 3.

- Requested by the creators of *Massive Change*, this seminar and multimedia presentation explored the utopian dilemmas facing design and media technology in the new century.

Barry Vacker. 2003. Black holes amidst the global spectacle. *The Global Fusion 2003 Conference*. Austin, The University of Texas. Conference theme: Reconsidering Globalization.

- This paper explores extreme territories of surveillance and privacy, combining Debord’s theory of the spectacle with McLuhan’s concepts of information and light with Hawking’s theory of black holes. Examples are drawn from architecture, film, and fashion.

Barry Vacker. 2003. Atlantis and *The Matrix*— Plato’s paradox and postmodern parallels. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. San Diego.

- This paper explores the parallels and paradoxes in Plato’s Atlantis and the Wachowski brothers’ *The Matrix* (1999), which transformed an old utopian myth through new technologies and cultural conditions.

Barry Vacker. 2003. The desert and the labyrinth — Cinematic borders in *Alphaville*, *Westworld*, and *The Matrix*. *International Communication Association Annual Conference*. San Diego.

- This paper explored how technological and cultural borders were portrayed in key films about new media, such as computers, cyberspace, and the Internet. “Borderlands in Communication” was the conference theme.

Barry Vacker. 2002. Twin Towers & the global village. *Society for Utopian Studies Annual Conference*. Orlando.

- Unlike any other discourse, this paper decodes 9-11 from multiple perspectives — media studies, utopian theory, postmodernism, aesthetics, architecture, technology, and theorists such as McLuhan and Baudrillard.

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker. 2000. Order, chaos, & utopia. *13th Annual Dallas Video Festival*. May 25.

- This invited presentation was based upon ideas in my utopia course. This 50-minute film-illustrated lecture explored how the duality between “order and chaos” has been represented in 20th century utopian and dystopian cinema.

Barry Vacker. 1999. Caves, Paris, Las Vegas. *Trajectory of the Canvas: Artistic Expression and Technological Evolution*. Online symposium webcast globally. The McKinney Avenue Contemporary Museum and Art Space. Dallas 11Dec99.

- This film-illustrated multimedia presentation explored the utopian similarities between Las Vegas and Paris — both represent urban utopian models through a mix of art, architecture, simulation, and technology. For details on symposium, see following section of vitae.

Barry Vacker. 1998. The art of utopia. McKinney Avenue Contemporary Museum and Art Space. Dallas. 19May.

- This invited presentation was part of McKinney's annual lecture series. Based upon ideas in Chapter Two of my book, this 80 minute multimedia-illustrated lecture explored the different visions of 20th century utopia, from World's Fairs to theme parks, from skyscrapers to suburbia, from Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* to Ridley Scott's *Blade Runner*.

David Sedman and Barry Vacker. 1999. Media education at the millennium. *Technology in the Learning Process: Evolution and Revolution*. Murfreesboro, TN. Mar28-30.

- This multimedia presentation explored the impact of Internet technologies on university teaching and curriculum, perhaps requiring additional interdisciplinary approaches centered on cultural theory and convergent technology.

Barry Vacker. 1997. Arcadia, metropolis, and the global village. *Virtual City: Convergence of media and metropolis*. Multimedia symposia. Southern Methodist University. 20Nov97.

- This lecture explored how the utopian ideals of past eras are taking on new global forms in the postindustrial media and economic systems. For details on symposium, see following section of vitae.

Barry Vacker. 1996. Nonlinear cultural aesthetics. *Culturemorph: Art, media, and technology in cyberspace*. Online symposium webcast globally. Southern Methodist University. 20Nov96.

- This lecture and 20-minute video montage explored the “cultural aesthetic” of postindustrial media and technologies. For details on symposium, see page 10.

Barry Vacker. 1996. Order—anti-order—utopia. FROM PLATO'S *REPUBLIC* TO DALLAS. The Dallas Institute for Culture and Humanities.

- Explored how visions of utopian “order” are shaped by advances in science, aesthetics, media, and technology. Attendance: 35.
- Note: The Dallas Institute was the premiere intellectual organization in the city, featuring scholars from around the world.

Barry Vacker. 1995. A state of order: a critique of the aesthetic foundations of a political concept. *1995 American Society for Aesthetics National Conference*. St. Louis.

- This paper explored the aesthetic foundations of the utopian concept of political order, wherein a “harmonious order” often ends up meaning cultural control and conformity.

Barry Vacker. 1995. Virtual anarchy. *Virtual Freedom: Government Regulation of the Internet?* Symposium. Southern Methodist University. Dallas. 10June95.

- Presented idea that the “anarchistic” aspects of the internet [circa: 1995] will generate calls for state and corporate controls.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

CONFERENCES, PANELS, LECTURES—PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, SCREENINGS (cont.)

Barry Vacker. 1993. Aesthetics, advertising, and the First Amendment. *1993 American Academy of Advertising Annual Conference*. Montreal.

- Reviewed the synthesis of aesthetic and legal philosophy as applied to freedom of expression, using Supreme Court cases involving aesthetics and advertising as examples.

Barry Vacker. 1992. Beauty and the beast. *1992 Association for Consumer Research Annual Conference*. Vancouver.

- Reviewed and critiqued the major philosophies of beauty employed in critiques of media aesthetics.

Barry Vacker. 1992. An inquiry into aesthetic value and advertising. *1992 Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention*, Professional Freedom and Responsibility Division. Montreal.

- Explored the various aesthetic issues surrounding advertising and proposed a model explaining where it fits with other art forms.

Barry Vacker. 1991. The Marlboro Man as a 20th century *David*. *1991 Association for Consumer Research Annual Conference*. Chicago.

- This 5000 word essay discussed the similarities in the utopian aesthetics of Michelangelo's *David* and the Marlboro Man.

Barry Vacker. 1991. Modern First Amendment philosophy in broadcasting and commercial speech. *1991 Association of Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention*, Law Division. Boston.

- Addressed the underpinnings of modern First Amendment theory and their relations with censorship and freedom of expression.

BOOK READINGS AND PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS

Barry Vacker, 2017. "Specter of the Monolith." Humanists of the Greater Philadelphia Area, April 23.

- This talk presented key ideas from my new book, *Specter of the Monolith*.

Barry Vacker, 2015. Selfies and space telescopes: How social media counter cosmic media. Humanists of the Greater Philadelphia Area, April 26, 2015.

- This talk used selfies and space telescopes to present some critical insights of cosmic media theory.

Barry Vacker, 2014. Doomsday scenarios: Why they replicate and what they mean, Philadelphia Area Critical Thinking Association, Philadelphia Community College.

- This talk and book signing presented just a few key ideas from my book, *The End of the World – Again: Why the Apocalypse Meme Replicates in Media, Science and Culture* (2012).

Barry Vacker, Why the apocalypse replicates. Arcosanti, Arizona. March 13, 2013.

- This talk presented the basic ideas in my book, *The End of the World – Again*.

Barry Vacker, 2008. You Do Not Talk About *Fight Club*, Robin's Bookstore, Philadelphia.

- This talk explored the many meanings of the book and film, *Fight Club* (1999), which were explored in the book, *You Do Not Talk About Fight Club* (Benbella 2008).

- Robin's Bookstore was one of the greatest and oldest independent book stores in Philadelphia. Sadly, it has closed.

Barry Vacker

5 SYMPOSIA • PANELS • CONFERENCES • LECTURES • ETC. (cont.)

BOOK READINGS AND PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSIONS (cont.)

Barry Vacker, 2006. Cosmic Vertigo on the Isle of *Lost*, Robin's Bookstore, Philadelphia.

- This talk explored the many meanings of the cult TV show, *Lost* (2006-2011), which were explored in the book, *Getting Lost: Survival, Baggage, and Starting Over in J.J. Abrams' Lost* (Benbella 2006).

Barry Vacker. 1999. Toffler, Baudrillard, and postindustrial society. Dallas Philosopher's Forum.

- Explored the similarities and differences in how these two thinkers conceive postindustrial life. Attendance: 40
- Note: The Dallas Philosopher's Forum featured scholars and academic theorists from universities across the state of Texas.

Barry Vacker, 1998. Utopia at the millennium. Dallas Philosopher's Forum.

- Explored how utopia has historically evolved with new technology and media, emphasizing the likely new visions of utopia (or dystopia) to emerge as media and architecture converge in virtual reality and cities like Las Vegas. Attendance: 35
- Note: The Dallas Philosopher's Forum featured scholars and academic theorists from universities across the state of Texas.

Barry Vacker. 1997. Information technology and the workplace. Dallas Chamber of Commerce: Women's Business Issues & Information Group.

- Outlined the technological changes occurring due to the Internet, focusing on economic and workplace trends. Attendance: 35

Barry Vacker. 1997. Chaos and cyberspace. Dallas Philosopher's Forum.

- Explored impact of new digital media on social structures; discussed parallels between cyberspace and chaos theory. Attendance: 40
- Note: The Dallas Philosopher's Forum featured scholars and academic theorists from universities across the state of Texas.

Barry Vacker. 1997. Technology and changes in media and society. Dallas Chamber of Commerce.

- Explained (to various business and cultural leaders of Dallas) the historical context for the emergence of new media technologies and postindustrial culture in comparison to agrarian and industrial societies. Attendance: 40.

Barry Vacker

6 ACADEMIC SERVICE

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, 2002-2019

TEMPLE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Writer and Director, "The Cosmic Evolution of Selfies," Produced by the Temple Alumni Association.

- based on my recent publications, this 3-minute video was distributed to Temple Alumni via YouTube and the Temple website.

SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Faculty Merit Committee, 2018

Faculty Teaching Mentor, 2009–2014

- advised faculty members on how to improve their classroom teaching skills.
- worked with Temple's Teaching and Learning Center in providing numerous "Teaching Workshops" for faculty members.
 - 2014: Teaching Working with International Students, April 21.
 - 2013: Addressing Disruptive or Distressing Students Situations, 3 parts, March 28, April 4, April 11
 - 2012: Creating an Alternative Textbook, April 19
 - 2011: Beyond Blackboard: Teaching With Google Blogs, Wikis, and Other Online Technologies, April 22
 - 2010: Online Learning Workshop
 - 2010: Effective Online Teaching Methods and Strategies, April 30
 - 2009: Engaging Students in Large Lecture Courses, Nov. 13.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE

Member, University Arts Committee, 2011-2013

FACULTY COMMITTEES: DEPT OF MEDIA STUDIES AND PRODUCTION

Chair. Curriculum Committee, 2010-2016

- This committee developed the standards for the "Majors of Distinction" program

Member, *Numerous* Search Committees, 2010-2017

Chair. Periodic Program Review Committee, 2008-2009

- This committee developed an entire departmental review, including a 40-page written report.
- **Notable:** The report was praised by the Temple Office of Periodic Program Review as being among the top three (out of 75) produced at Temple University.

Member. Curriculum Committee — Theory Courses. 2003, 2006-2007, 2008-2009

- This committee reviewed the role of theory and new media courses, relating how courses were currently taught versus original intention and parameters of the courses.

Member. Vision and Action Committee. 2007–2009

- This committee explored the development and evolution of the new curriculum for the department.

THEORY AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS & THEATRE

Trajectories of utopia. 18 November 2002

- This multimedia presentation (to faculty and graduate students) provided an overview of the theories and critique provided in my book manuscript, concentrating utopia and dystopia in film and media across the 20th century.

Barry Vacker

6 ACADEMIC SERVICE (cont.)

ACADEMIC JOURNAL REVIEWER

Journal of Utopian Studies. 2002, 13(2). 228-230.

Book Review — *Science Fiction Film*, J. P. Telotte. Cambridge Press, 2001.

HONORS PROGRAM

Oversaw a student research project on honors programs at comparative universities. Spring 2004.

SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY, 1994 - 2001

FACULTY COMMITTEES

Served on *numerous* faculty committees at SMU, from curriculum to academic policy to new technology. Highlights:

Co-author (with David Sedman). "Patterns of transformation in the media & changing curriculum and scholarship." *New Curriculum Proposal*. Spring 1999.

- Proposal discussed the changing new media environment and developed a new curricular model for restructuring Communication courses within Meadows School of the Arts.

Co-Chair (with David Sedman). Media Futures Committee. Meadows School of the Arts. Fall 1998.

- This committee assembled leaders from cutting-edge Dallas media firms to discuss the impact of new technologies on the future of the media industry and curriculum. Members included: Tony Scott (Microsoft), Neville George (MCI), Jennifer Files (*Dallas Morning News*, now with the *San Jose Mercury-News*), Jean Compton (documentary film producer), and Tim Sanders (Yahoo).

Chair. Curriculum Committee, Fall 1997-Spring 1999.

- Oversaw such tasks as new course approval; editing and proofreading course catalogues (a very time-consuming committee!)

Faculty Advisor. Spring 1995. Student team representing SMU in American Advertising Federation student competition. *1st Runner-up for SMU*

- SMU team finished as 1st runner-up, losing by a score of 94.8 to 94.5 to the University of Texas at Austin team which finished fourth in the national finals. 15 teams from the Southwest competed in the event.

FOOD, MIND, BODY, & BEAUTY

Multimedia symposium on eating disorders and the media. 13Apr94.

Sponsored by the Center for Communication Arts & SMU Student Public Service Project.

- Creator and coordinator. Event explored cultural causes and effects of eating disorders.
- Presenters included: Dr. David Waller, director of child and adolescence psychiatry, University of Texas-Southwestern Medical Center; Dr. Mary Ellen Bluntzer, expert in Family Systems medical treatment; Kim Klipfel, recovering bulimic, programs assistant, Willow Creek Hospital; Barry Vacker
- The event attracted approximately 90 students and received coverage in the SMU school newspaper *The Daily Campus*.

MODERATOR/DISCUSSANT

Faculty Moderator. Student Forum featuring Nicholas Negroponte from MIT. 12Nov96.

- Introduced Distinguished Lecturer Negroponte (*Being Digital*, Alfred Knopf 1995) to SMU student body and moderated Q&A.

Barry Vacker

6 ACADEMIC SERVICE (cont.)

MODERATOR/DISCUSSANT

Discussant. "The need to be beautiful." 32nd Annual SMU Women's Symposium.

- Explored the meaning of human beauty, especially in the contexts of personal relationships.

Discussant. "Defining your worth: money, looks, brains." 30th Annual SMU Women's Symposium.

- Explored the meaning of human beauty in the contexts of success and career.

Discussant. "Defining your worth: money, looks, brains." 29th Annual SMU Women's Symposium.

- Explored the meaning of human beauty in the contexts of success and career.

PUBLIC ADVISOR

Featured media theorist for the video program *Media and the Public Agenda* (1998), part of

The Dallas Community College "distance learning" telecourse series entitled TEXAS POLITICS.

- Telecourse was released in the Fall of 1998 to community colleges and universities statewide, and were also broadcast statewide on PBS. Other guests included Molly Ivins (nationally syndicated columnist), Ralph Langer (Editor and Executive VP, *The Dallas Morning News*) and John Miller (Executive News Director, WFAA-TV, Channel 8, Dallas).

Academic Advisor. "Design for Community in the City Committee." The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Summer 1995.

- For what it was worth, offered suggestions (premised in postmodern and complexity theory) on how to improve the aesthetics of the urban design of Dallas. However, consensual rearview mirror visions prevailed, inspiring city planners to developers to create huge areas and arenas of architectural kitsch and cultural simulacra.
- Note: The Dallas Institute was the leading intellectual organization in the city, featuring scholars from around the world.

ACADEMIC ORGANIZATIONS

International Communication Association

Media Ecology Association

Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication

Society for Utopian Studies

ACADEMIC JOURNAL REVIEWER

Southern Journal of Communication. Special Edition — Hate Speech. Spring 2001.

Journal of Advertising. Special Edition — Ethics and Gender in Advertising. Spring 1999.

Psychology & Marketing. Special edition — The Pursuit of Beauty. 10(6) December 1993.

6 ACADEMIC SERVICE (cont.)

ACADEMIC AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Southern Methodist University. President's Partner Grant — \$1500.
Funding for the 1999 Symposium: TRAJECTORY OF THE CANVAS.

Southern Methodist University. President's Partner Grant — \$1500.
Funding for the 1997 Symposium: CONVERGENCE OF MEDIA & METROPOLIS.

New York University and The Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University
Summer, 1990. Fellowship to attend NYU graduate summer seminar in economics.

University of Texas at Austin

Masters Thesis published by The University as:

Wilcox, Gary B., Barry Vacker, George R. Franke, 1986. *Alcoholic beverage advertising and consumption in the U.S.: 1964-1984*. Department of Advertising Working Paper 86-1.

PRINT & ELECTRONIC MEDIA INTERVIEWS

I have been interviewed in the media on many topics — from the meaning of *The Matrix* to influence of Fritz Lang's *Metropolis* to Supreme Court rulings on free speech to the impact of internet to the cultural meaning of sports. Media have included CNN (with Anderson Cooper), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, KYW News Radio – Philadelphia, *Philadelphia City Paper*, *The Dallas Morning News*, *HOME Magazine*, *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and *America West Magazine*, WB Network News, WFAA-TV (ABC affiliate in Dallas) KERA-FM (PBS affiliate, Dallas).

Barry Vacker