



CENTER FOR INTEGRATED MEDIA ARCHEOLOGY OF THE PRESENT: A Hybrid Seminar and Workshop SPRING 2018

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Room: Center for Integrated Media (C108)

Time: Mondays 4-7p

(Note: we may adjust the this syllabus, based on the directions of the class discussions, and the evolution of our research and process)

Description: This class is a cross-disciplinary Integrated Media and Critical Studies graduate seminar and workshop focusing on our contemporary cultural condition through in-depth analysis, discussion and art making.

Our archaeology of the present essentially begins with the massive ruptures brought on by global capital, digital technologies, biotechnology, smart cities, AI, robotics, surveillance and the ubiquity of social media production and communication. We'll trace these ruptures and their 20th century origins through the emergence of a 21st century form of neo-feudalism with its risks and potential: new forms of narrative and cultural production, modernism as a ruin with the dismantling of the American psyche and the emergence of a interdependent networked culture.

We will collectively develop various artistic and critical tools in creative research, analysis and historical/geneological investigations. These tools will be introduced to the class and then articulated through student projects and presentations (for example, how to apply methods from anthropology, sociology and social history to the visual arts, digital media, social networks, etc.).

We will define the outcomes according to how students apply these content creation tools to effective discussions, creative prototypes, media presentations and exploratory essays. The students will investigate sociological and historical strategies that will support and may even invalidate their approach to creative practice.

Essential Background Texts/Online Materials:

Michael Foucault

Key Concepts- An Index

<http://www.michel-foucault.com/concepts/index.html>

Archaeology of Knowledge

https://monoskop.org/images/9/90/Foucault_Michel_Archaeology_of_Knowledge.pdf

Elias Canetti

Crowds and Power

http://asounder.org/resources/canetti_crowdsandpower.pdf

Theodor Adorno

The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception, 1944

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/adorno/1944/culture-industry.htm>

Walter Benjamin

The Work of Art in the Age of Reproduction, 1936

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/ge/benjamin.htm>

Bertolt Brecht

A Short Organum for the Theatre, 1948

<http://blogs.evergreen.edu/stagesofdiscovery/files/2011/10/Brecht-2.pdf>

James Bridal

<http://new-aesthetic.tumblr.com/about>

<http://booktwo.org/notebook/new-aesthetic-politics/>

Marshall McLuhan

Understanding Media: The Extensions of Man

<http://web.mit.edu/allanmc/www/mcluhan.mediummessage.pdf>

Stuart Eelen

How Should We Do the History of Territory

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/21622671.2012.733317>

Peter Wollen

The Two Avant Gardes

<http://alejandroquinteros.files.wordpress.com/2012/02/thetwoavantgardes.pdf>

David Andrews

Revisiting The Two Avant Gardes

http://www.ejumpcut.org/archive/jc52.2010/andrews2A_Gs/text.html

Ian Andrews

Post Digital Aesthetics and the Return to Modernism

<http://ian-andrews.org/texts/postdig.html>

Keith and Mendi Obadike

Haints in the Stream? Networked Music and Art

<http://viralnet.net/lamentproject/texts.html>

Required Book:

Norman Klein, Tales of the Floating Class:
Art Writing and Fictions, 1980-2017

Requirements:

1. Participation – active discourse + listening + questioning
2. Attendance – 3 absences permitted
3. Completion of all assignments and presentations

Assignments:

1. For CS credit: An essay, 1,200 words, responding to the readings and class work.
2. For IM Credit: A project or performance, responding to the readings and class work – supported by a 500 word written description
3. Timely contributions to a class initiated “Commonplace Book” – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonplace_book
4. A final presentation based on the student’s CS essay or IM project designed to initiate a discussion and response to the class discussions.

SCHEDULE:

JAN 22 **Visiting Integrated Media Artist: Heidi Neilson**
<http://heidineilson.com>

JAN 29 **INTRODUCTION: We will outline the tools and methods for research and discovery using Michael Foucault as a guide. What is an archaeological approach to the present? Are there such things as a future or a past that can be defined beyond the present fictional narrative?**

Readings:

<https://foucault.info>
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/foucault/>
<http://www.michel-foucault.com/concepts/>

Research:

Jeremy Bentham, Panopticon; or The Inspection House,
<http://cartome.org/panopticon2.htm>

Steve Mann, Jason Nolan and Barry Wellman, Sousveillance: Inventing and Using Wearable Computing Devices for Data Collection in Surveillance Environments.
<http://www.surveillance-and-society.org/articles1%283%29/sousveillance.pdf>

M. Christine Boyer, The Indifferent City
<http://www.e-flux.com/architecture/urban-village/169800/the-indifferent-city/>

What is Bitcoin and How Does It Work
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/01/technology/what-is-bitcoin-price.html>

How an A.I. 'Cat-and-Mouse Game' Generates Believable Fake Photos
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/01/02/technology/ai-generated-photos.html?>

Everyone Is Getting Hilariously Rich and You're Not
<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/13/style/bitcoin-millionaires.html>

FEB 05 DISCUSSION: SPECULATION AND FEVERS: THREE MYTHS

Reading:

Norman Klein: Gold fevers, Boosters and the Floating Class
(1991, 2015)

Screening (in class):

Adam Curtis: "All Watched Over by Machines of Loving Grace"

Research:

Max Sennett:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITY6dZ_IAew

Lotus Eaters:
<https://art.famsf.org/theodore-van-thulden/ulysses-and-his-companions-land-lotus-eaters-no-5-labors-ulysses-19633015206>

Edendale Commune
<https://sites.google.com/site/magonistaorg/1914-edendale-commune>

Will Cryptocurrencies Be the Art Market's Next Big Thing?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/13/arts/cryptocurrency-art-market.html>

Stuart Brand

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/may/05/stewart-brand-whole-earth-catalog>

Harry Bridges

<https://archives.kpfa.org/data/20180110-Wed1000.mp3>

**FEB 12 DISCUSSION: LIGHT AND DARK: AN INVESTIGATION INTO FLUX,
DETERRITORIALIZATION AND THE SENTIENT CITY**

Reading:

Norman Klein: Floating class, Essay, Crossroads, A Brief Archaeology of Light

Research:

The Darkening Web: Interview with Alexander Klimburg

https://archive.org/details/20170816AlexanderKlimburg/2017_08_16_Alexander_Klimburg.mp3

Timothy Morton: Dark Ecology

<http://www.darkecology.net/the-guardian-profiles-timothy-morton>

Deleuze/ Deterritorialization

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/deleuze/>

Green My Favela: A Brief Conversation Regarding Divergence

Tom Leeser, Lea Rekow

<https://viralnet-v4.net/2017/04/21/green-my-favela-a-brief-conversation-regarding-divergence/>

Interview with Mary Mattingly and Mark Shepard

<https://viralnet-v4.net/2017/04/21/interview-with-mary-mattingly-and-mark-shepard/>

Situated Technologies

<http://www.situatedtechnologies.net>

Mark Shepard "Sentient City"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCFhube8rW4>

The Truth About Smart Cities

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/dec/17/truth-smart-city-destroy-democracy-urban-thinkers-buzzphrase>

FEB 26 DISCUSSION: CULTURAL ERASURE: THE ARCHITECTURE OF FORGETTING/ MAPPING AS A MNEMONIC

Reading:

Norman Klein: Architecture of Forgetting

Tom Leeser: Misremembering the Future Imaginary

http://viralnet.net/futureimaginary/leeser_essay.html

<http://viralnet.net/futureimaginary/exhibition.html>

Margo Bistis: Curating the Imaginary 20th Century Archive

http://viralnet.net/futureimaginary/bistis_essay.html

Research:

All Under One Roof: How Malls and Cities are Becoming Indistinguishable

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2017/mar/16/malls-cities-become-one-and-same>

MAR 05 DISCUSSION: MAPPING SPACE

Reading:

Norman Klein: A Granular History of Space

Tom Leeser/Lea Rekow: A Broader Cultural Dialogue: A Discussion on Mapping and Cosmology

http://viralnet.net/radicalcosmologies/interviews/rekow_leeser.html

Research:

Tom Leeser/Randal Packer: Future Tense: Education in a Third Space

<https://vimeo.com/135415359>

Peter Hutton: At Sea

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rM4V7IAy74M>

Allan Sekula: Black Tide/Marea Negra (see Selected Works)

<http://www.cgrimes.com/exhibitions/allan-sekula6/press-release>

Malcom McLean

http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/theymadeamerica/whomade/mclean_hi.html

MAR 12 DISCUSSION: NEO-FEUDALISM, THE PICARESQUE AND THE POST DIGITAL

Reading:

Norman Klein: Suburban Ruins: Notes on the Dismantling of the American Psyche

Research:

Bryne Rasmussen: Falling in a Groundless World
Locating Conspiracy and Vertigo Within a Creative Practice
<http://viralnet.net/essays/brynerasmussen.html>

Christiane Paul and Malcolm Levy: Genealogies of the New Aesthetic
<https://viralnet-v4.net/2017/10/11/genealogies-of-the-new-aesthetic/>

Artist Sells Off Ad Space on a Rauschenberg to Destroy It
<https://hyperallergic.com/421450/artist-sells-off-ad-space-on-a-rauschenberg-to-destroy-it/>

Should Donald Trump's border wall prototypes be considered art?
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2018/jan/12/should-donald-trumps-border-wall-prototypes-be-considered-art>

McKenzie Wark on the fate of art collecting in the digital age
https://soundcloud.com/e_flux/mckenzie-wark-on-the-fate-of

Oliver Laric: Versions
<https://vimeo.com/95946485>

PRESENTATION SCHEDULE

MAR 19 REVIEW USING OUR COMMONPLACE BOOKS

APR 02 Final CS Project Presentations

APR 09 Final CS Project Presentations

APR 16 Final CS Project Presentations

APR 23 Final CS Project Presentations

MAY 01 Final Project Review: Integrated Media Students

