

# DAVID RAMBO

Program in Literature, Duke University, Box 90670, Durham, NC 27708  
david.rambo@duke.edu davidrambo.github.io

## Education

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### Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Ph.D. in Literature, May 2018.

Dissertation: *Technics Before Time: Experiencing Rationalism and the Techno-Aesthetics of Speculation*.

Committee: Mark B. N. Hansen (co-chair), N. Katherine Hayles (co-chair), Fredric Jameson, Timothy Lenoir.

### University of California, Davis

B.A. in English, summa cum laude, 2011.

B.A. in History, magna cum laude, 2011.

## Research and Teaching Areas

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Media Theory; Science Fiction; Post-1945 American Literature; Game Studies; Process Philosophy; Marxism.

## Publications

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### Monographs

*Inventing Media: Technological Process in Experience and Philosophy*. Manuscript in preparation.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Building, Coding, Typing," under review at *Computational Culture*.

"Contact Traces: On the Creative Technology of Videogame Gore," under review at *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*.

"Interstitial Life and the Banality of Novelty in Whitehead's *Process and Reality*," *Process Studies* 47.1-2 (2018): 26-46.

"Of Fear and Exaltation: The Sublime Autonomy of Finance," *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* 21.2 (2016): 83-98.

"Analogizing Data: The Real Subsumption of Manifest Destiny by Capital," *Hyperrhiz 13* (November 2015): <http://hyperrhiz.io/hyperrhiz13/sensors-data-bodies/manifest-data-rambo.html>.

### Book Chapters

"The Error-Image: On the Technics of Memory," *Post-Cinema: Theorizing 21st-Century Film*, eds. Shane Denson and Julia Leyda, Falmer: REFRAME Books (2016): <http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/post-cinema/2-6-rambo/>.

"Organisms in Reticula," *Network\_Ecologies*, eds. Amanda Starling Gould and Florian Wiencek, (2016): <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/network-ecologies/organisms-in-reticula>.

Response to Rebecca Norton, "Displacement Paths," *Network\_Ecologies*, eds. Amanda Starling Gould and Florian Wiencek, (August 2016): <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/network-ecologies/displacement-paths>.

## Awards and Fellowships

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- Katherine Goodman Stern Graduate Fellowship, The Graduate School, Duke University, 2017-2018.
- Graduate Fellowship, Program in Literature, Duke University, 2012–2017.
- Conference Travel Award, “Alternative Temporalities in Computer Games,” Graduate School, Duke University, 2017.
- Teaching Award, Rated top 5% in “Quality of Course and/or Intellectual Stimulation,” Trinity College, Duke University, Spring Semester 2016.
- Summer Research Grant, Black Family Fellowship Fund for Summer Research, Duke University, 2016.
- Summer Research Grant, Professor Robert S. Rogers Fellowship Fund for Summer Research, Duke University, 2015.
- Conference Travel Award, “Spinoza’s Strategy Guide to Video Game Completion,” Graduate School, Duke University, November 2015.
- Summer Research Grant, Graduate School, Duke University, 2014.

## Conference Presentations

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- “Microbial Representations in Literary-Scientific Hybrid Texts,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, January 9-12, 2020.
- “Fecal Froths and Sourdough Starters: A Non-Phenomenology of Alimentation,” 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Irvine, CA, November 7-10, 2019.
- “Sisyphean Software: Cycling Through the Absurd Joy of *Dark Souls*,” 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ, November 10, 2017.
- “Extensions of Nature: Sonic Problematics of Simondon’s Preindividual Reality,” 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ, November 9, 2017.
- “After-Death: The Distribution of Cognition in Daniel Suarez’s *Daemon* and *Freedom*,” 30th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Atlanta, GA, November 4, 2016.
- “Spinoza’s Strategy Guide to Video Game Completion,” 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Houston, TX, November 15, 2015.
- “Data’s Manifest Destiny,” *AEGS Graduate Conference, “How do you do Digital Humanities?”*, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, March 27-28, 2015.
- “Manifest Data // Manifest Destiny.” *What I Do With Data* series at The Edge, Bostock Library, Duke University, Durham, NC, January 21, 2015.
- “Networking Synesthesia Beyond the Sensorium.” *Network\_Ecologies Symposium*, Duke University, Durham, NC, October 19, 2013.
- “Determining Narrative: Spinoza’s Unofficial Strategy Guide to Single-Player Video Games,” 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), South Bend, IN, October 6, 2013.
- “Limits to Abstraction: Financialization of the Medium of Thought,” 27th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science (SLSA), and the Arts, South Bend, IN, October 5, 2013.
- “The Error-Image,” Graduate Student Conference: *The Future Remembered, The Self Dismembered*, The Humanities Center, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, February 23, 2013.

## Teaching

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### Instructor

- “Technics and Galactic Capital,” Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Spring 2016.
- “Breathing Electricity: Cyberspace on Page and Screen,” Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Spring 2015.

### Teaching Assistant

- “Media Theory,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Fall 2015.
- “Social Networks: From Virus to Internet,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Spring 2014.
- “Bodies and Selves,” Instructor Nima Bassiri, Program in Literature, Fall 2013.

### Guest Lecturer

- “Wolfgang Ernst’s Media Archaeology,” for “German Media Theory” graduate seminar, Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Fall 2018.
- “Whitehead’s Inversion of Kant,” for “Kant and His Critics” graduate seminar, Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Spring 2016.
- “Phonography in Kittler and McLuhan,” for “Media Theory,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Fall 2015.
- “Scientific Writing,” for “Media Theory,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Global Cultural Studies Major in the Program in Literature, Fall 2015.
- “Nodes of Memory and Epidemic Vectors in Chuck Palahniuk’s *Rant*,” for “Social Networks: From Virus to Internet,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Spring 2014.
- “Networks of Power and Finance in David Cronenberg’s *Cosmopolis*,” for “Social Networks: From Virus to Internet,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Spring 2014.
- “Virality and the Monstrous in Danny Boyle’s *28 Days Later*,” for “Social Networks: From Virus to Internet,” Instructor Mark Hansen, Program in Literature, Spring 2014.

## Service

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### Professional

- Review Board Member, *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, December 2017 to present.
- Chair, “Microbe Futures 5: Duke’s Speculative Sensation Lab, Part 1” 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Irvine, CA, November 9-10, 2019.
- Organizer, “Microbe Futures 5-6: Duke’s Speculative Sensation Lab,” 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Irvine, CA, November 9-10, 2019.
- Organizer and Chair, “Alternative Temporalities in Computer Gaming,” 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ, November 10, 2017.
- Organizer and Chair, “Video Games’ Extra-Ludic Echoes,” 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Rice University, Houston, TX, November 15, 2015.

### Institutional

- Graphic Designer, “Srinivas Aravamudan Annual Lecture in Critical Theory,” September 20-21, 2018.

## Service (continued)

- Graphic Designer, “The Futures of Literature, Science and the Media: A Symposium in Honor of N. Katherine Hayles,” Program in Literature, Duke University, November 17, 2017.
- Respondent, “Contesting for the Meaning of Meaning: Nonconscious Cognition, Ontological Rupture, and Asemic Writing,” N. Katherine Hayles, Duke University, February 17, 2017.
- Writer, “Althusser Today” Conference, Summary of Presentations, Duke University Institute for Critical Theory, December 3, 2016: <https://sites.duke.edu/criticaltheory/althusser-today-conference/althusser-today-conference-summary/>.
- Writer, “Hegel’s Logic Today” Conference, Summary of Presentations, Duke University Institute for Critical Theory, November 6, 2015: [sites.duke.edu/criticaltheory/hegels-logic-today-conference-november-6-2015/](https://sites.duke.edu/criticaltheory/hegels-logic-today-conference-november-6-2015/).
- Coordinator, “The Ljubljana School” Conference with Mladen Dolar, Slavoj Žižek, and Alenka Zupančič, Duke University Institute for Critical Theory, November 17–21, 2014.
- Respondent, “The Ecological Pharmacology of 21st Century Media,” Mark Hansen, Duke University, February 15, 2013.

## Research Collaboration

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- Participant, S-1 Speculative Sensation Lab, Duke University, [s-1lab.org](http://s-1lab.org), Fall 2012–Present.
- Intern, “Teaching and Learning in the Humanities,” National Humanities Center, Durham, NC, Summer 2017.
- Lead Designer, *Networked Synesthesia*, S-1 Speculative Sensation Lab, Duke University, [s-1lab.org/project/networked-synesthesia/](http://s-1lab.org/project/networked-synesthesia/), Fall 2013.
- Presenter, “Contact Traces: On the Levity of Gore,” Center for Media, Arts + Culture, Rendez-Vous, Duke University, February 16, 2017.
- Presenter, “Technicity as a Generic Category,” *The Literature Colloquium*, Duke University, October 2015.
- Participant, *The Literature Colloquium*, Program in Literature, Duke University, Fall 2011–Present.
- Organizer, Rationalist Reading Group, Program in Literature, Duke University, Fall 2016–Fall 2017.
- Participant, Gilbert Simondon Reading Group, Program in Literature, Duke University, Spring 2017–Fall 2017.
- Participant, Creative Coding Workshops, led by Matthew Kenney, Computational Media, Arts, and Culture, Duke University, Spring 2017.
- Organizer, Category Theory and Philosophy Reading Group, Program in Literature and Romance Studies, Duke University, Fall 2015–Spring 2016.

## Languages

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French – reading fluency.

## Academic References

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- Mark B. N. Hansen. Professor of Literature, Professor in the Department of Art, Art History & Visual Studies, Duke University. [mark.hansen@duke.edu](mailto:mark.hansen@duke.edu), (919) 668-4896.
- N. Katherine Hayles. Professor of Literature, Duke University. [katherine.hayles@duke.edu](mailto:katherine.hayles@duke.edu), (919) 684-9319.
- Fredric Jameson. Professor of Literature, Professor of Romance Studies (French), Director of the Center for Critical Theory, Duke University. [jameson@duke.edu](mailto:jameson@duke.edu), (919) 684-4155.

Timothy Lenoir. Professor of Cinema and Digital Media, Professor of Science and Technology Studies, University of California, Davis. [lenoir@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lenoir@ucdavis.edu), (530) 754-2600.

Nathan Brown. Associate Professor of English and Canada Research Chair in Poetics, Concordia University. [nathan.brown@concordia.ca](mailto:nathan.brown@concordia.ca), (514) 848-2424 ext. 2368.