

Relevant Experience

New Research

I am in the middle of a short one-year research project investigating the circulatory practices of digital comic book piracy. With the help of a PhD student, two MA students and an undergraduate, I have compiled weekly statistics on pirated digital comic books circulation via BitTorrent over the last seven years. Last summer, I delivered three papers on this research at major international conferences in Canada, the United States and France. Initial findings will appear in *Amodern*, a peer-reviewed journal, in summer 2013. A second peer-reviewed section has been accepted as a chapter of *Educational, Behavioral, and Psychological Considerations in Niche Online Communities*, ed. Vivek Ventakesh, Jason Wallin, Juan Carlos Castro and Jason Lewis, from IGI Global, in 2014.

Current Large Research Grants

As part of the newly-awarded SSHRC Partnership Grant “IMMERSe: Immersion & Multi-Modal Experience Research Syndicate”(PI: Dr. Neil Randall, University of Waterloo), I am Theme Leader for the Multimodality in the Game theme, which will explore questions of writing, material textuality and player narratives in video game production, circulation and reception. Co-investigators at Concordia include include Drs. Bart Simon (Department of Sociology) and Jason Camlot (Department of English). We expect this research to extend over the next five years, and to train a minimum of 6 PhD students and 10-12 MA students with the funds from this grant. Of the students I currently supervise, I have one MA student and one PhD student who are each working on the relationships between games and digital comics, and I plan to involve the PhD student directly with the proposed research project, if accepted. As comics studies is a growing field, I anticipate attracting other doctoral students interested in working on digital comics.

Previous Large Research Grants

My major collaborative academic research project between 2005 and 2010 dealt with the relationship of cultural policy and copyright to the online archiving of arts materials (directly relevant to my nascent research project on digital comic book piracy – see below). During this time, along with Professor Rosemary Coombe, my co-Principal Investigator and a Canada Research Chair at York University, I planned, managed and implemented Artmob, a multisectoral online initiative involving scholars, artists and arts groups from across the continent. Professor Coombe and I jointly applied for and received major grants for Artmob from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC). Along with Professor Christopher Innes, another York Canada Research Chair, we also received a second major CFI grant from the CFI Leaders Opportunity Fund (LOF), and matching funds from Ontario Research Fund (ORF) to further develop Artmob.

In addition to training a number of Ma and PhD students at York, Artmob yielded substantial results in terms of published scholarship. Our flagship websites include bpnichol.ca, an online archive of the work of the major Canadian poet bpNichol produced in conjunction with Coach House Books, and thescream.ca, an archive of the Scream Literary Festival in Toronto. I am particularly proud of bpnichol.ca, as is a strong example of what can be achieved by students, academics, arts bureaucrats and professional publishers and developers working in concert. *The Alphabet Game*, the 334-page bpNichol anthology project I initiated and then co-edited with Dr. Lori Emerson of the University of Colorado, springs directly from this work. I have delivered many conference papers and public talks proceeding from my Artmob research, and subsequently developed some as publications. Along with Dr. Martin Zeilinger, Dr. Coombe and I recently completed *Dynamic Fair Dealing*, a peer-reviewed collection of critical cultural policy essays on the subject of copyright and fair dealing in the digital arts, forthcoming from the University of Toronto Press.

Relevant Professional Experience

Consultant, The Commons Group (Toronto 2001-2002)

During this period, I wrote *CommonSpace*, an early book on social media (see CV) with Mark Surman (now Executive Director of the Mozilla Foundation). As part of a contract tendered by the National Library of Canada, Mark and I also co-authored the first Canadian national white paper on online publishing, the NLC/BNC's "Guide to Best Practices for Canadian Publishers" <www.nlc-bnc.ca/9/13/index-e.html>.

Senior Editor, Coach House Books/www.chbooks.com (Toronto 1997-2002)

During my tenure as Senior Editor, Coach House became the world's first online literary publisher, placing over 60 full-length e-books online, most in tandem with print editions. I edited, typeset and designed more than 35 books for the press, winning two Alcuin Citations for book design. The books I edited garnered numerous nominations and prizes; the highlight was Christian Bök's *Eunoia*, which won the Griffin Poetry Prize in 2002. I restructured the press's internal operations and successfully obtained ongoing access to the Canada Council Emerging Publishers Grant, Co-op Grant, Millennium Grant, Block Grant, and Spoken & Electronic Word Grant; as well as the Ontario Arts Council Block Grant. I doubled the press's sales in my first year as editor and spearheaded several national electronic copyright advocacy initiatives.

Writer and Playtester, Aztech New Media (Toronto 1997-1998)

During this period, I worked on contract for Aztech, a developer of expansion modules for popular real-time strategy games including *Age of Empires*, *Dark Reign* and *Starcraft*. The largest project I undertook for Aztech was researching and writing *The Official Advanced Strategy Guide* for Blizzard's international bestselling computer game *Starcraft*. (Due to the dissolution of Aztech Media, the guide remains unpublished.)

New Media Consultant and Researcher (Toronto 1995-1998)

During this period, I made my living as a freelance consultant on new media projects for various publishing companies, notably Somerville House Books and Prentice-Hall

Canada (later Pearson Education, then Penguin Canada). For these companies, I suggested business strategies for new products, conducted library research for press editors and authors, conducted online research for press editors and authors, wrote website critiques, and served as a pilot user for new web-based writing and editing tools.

Graduate Student Supervision

(NB: see CV attachment for selections from examination committee experience)

Supervisor, Charlotte Fillmore-Handlon, “Leonard Cohen, Celebrity Culture and Fan Culture,” PhD in Humanities, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Concordia University, 2011- (in progress).

Supervisor, Michael Nardone, “A History of Online Poetic Audio Archives,” PhD in Humanities, Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies in Society and Culture, Concordia University, 2011- (in progress).

Supervisor, Shannon Tien, “Circulation, Utopia and Drawn and Quarterly Press,” MA major research paper, Department of English, Concordia University, 2013.

Supervisor, Fergus Baird, “Publics, Queer Counterpublics, *Stuck Rubber Baby* and *Skim*,” MA major research paper, Department of English, Concordia University, 2012.

Supervisor, Lorne Roberts, “Digital Media and Academic Publishing,” MA major research paper, MA, Department of English, Concordia University, 2012.

Supervisor, Kalervo Sinervo, “*Watchmen*, Differential Media and Materiality” MA major research paper, Department of English, Concordia University, 2011.

Supervisor, Simon Brown, “Conceptual Writing.” Graduate Independent Study course, Studio Arts (MFA), Concordia University, 2010.

Supervisor, Anthony David Frost, “Marketing the Academy: A Theoretical Analysis of Consumption, Identity, and the Branding of Contemporary Universities.” Masters Thesis, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2010. First MA thesis produced in this department.

Second Reader, Jasmine McMahon, “(Re)Learning How to Watch Television: Authorized Television Web Sites and their Place in Television-Internet Convergence.” Masters Major Research Paper, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2009. Supervisor: Dr. Ann-Marie Kinahan.