

Critical Digital Studies — Sampler (Unlisted)

I pair critical inquiry with hands-on digital practice—(playful rigor): build → perform (play, test, break) → document → iterate .

Working systems-first, I make technical and ethical layers legible so students can audit and extend them. This sampler foregrounds digital literacy within questions of justice, representation, and civic engagement, preparing makers to treat media as civic instruments.

Every project here rides inside my [Privacy & Ethics Statement \(v0.1\)](https://github.com/bseverns/bseverns.github.io/blob/main/PRIVACY_ETHICS.md)—dignity over data, consent as interface, local-first processing, and the right to erase. Each project adds its own assumption ledger to tighten those guardrails, never loosen them.

SERVICE & STEWARDSHIP

Lab stewardship and equitable access are part of the pedagogy: labeled, calibrated, reproducible. I served 2.5 years on MCAD's Faculty Senate, collaborating across faculty and administration on curriculum and student support; I bring the same steady, equity-minded approach that is central to my teaching practice to committee work and non-teaching obligations.



Consent is OFF → camera parked.

Toggle Consent (button or 'c') to wake the camera.

Human-Buffer — Consent-Forward Vision Station

ABSTRACT

On-device, detection-only pipeline with explicit opt-in and delete-now controls. No identification, no network calls, and no storage without consent. Interface copy foregrounds agency before computation; documentation (README, PRIVACY/ETHICS, assumption ledger) is treated as research output.

METHODS & ETHICS

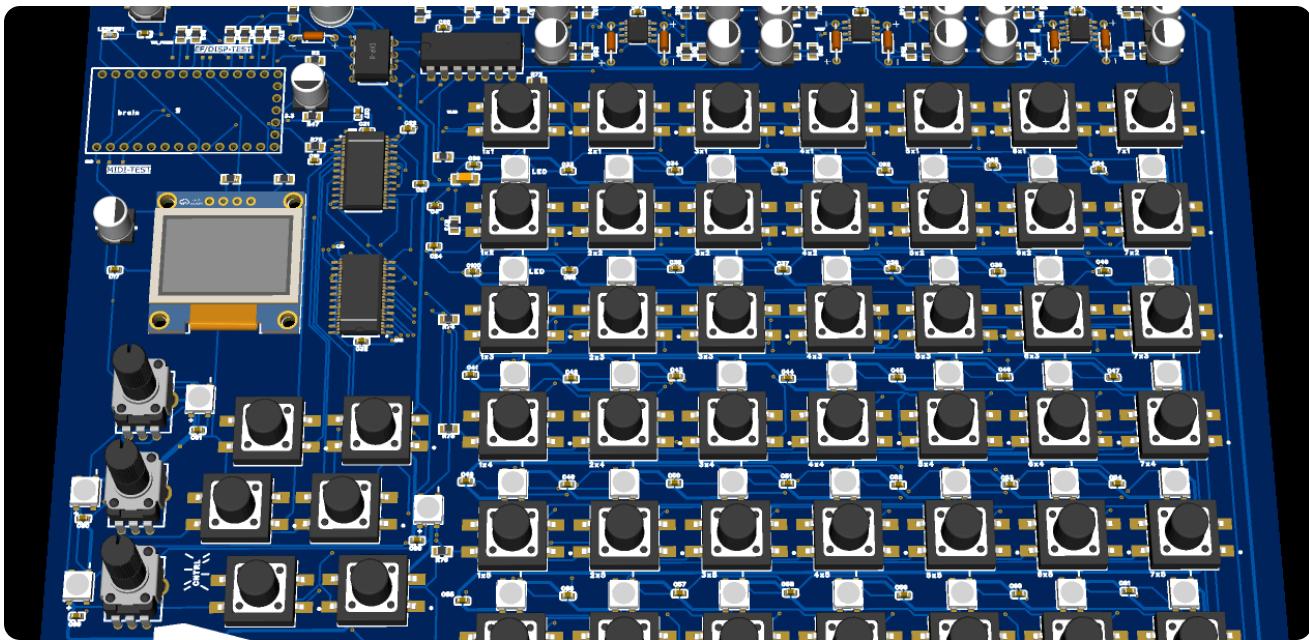
- Classroom demo & public kiosk contexts
- Detection overlay with visible status + erase
- System: webcam → local detector → ephemeral buffer → user action

OUTCOMES

- v2.1 release adds the ConsentDetect teaching sketch + auto-purge
- v2 shipped consent-toggle long press, session review, and double-press save
- Published assumption ledger covering detector defaults and purge schedule
- Documented 2023→2025 development lineage for critique context

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Practice consent-forward capture as digital literacy
- **60-min lab:** Implement detection-only pipeline; test erase-now; reflect on affordances
- **Assess:** Process log + assumption ledger + 2-min demo



MOARkNOBS-42 — open-source microcontroller MIDI controller

ABSTRACT

Reproducible hardware + firmware used as both instrument and teaching platform. Parameter mapping functions as an inquiry into authorship and control; latency is characterized and documented so performance claims are auditable and extendable.

METHODS & ETHICS

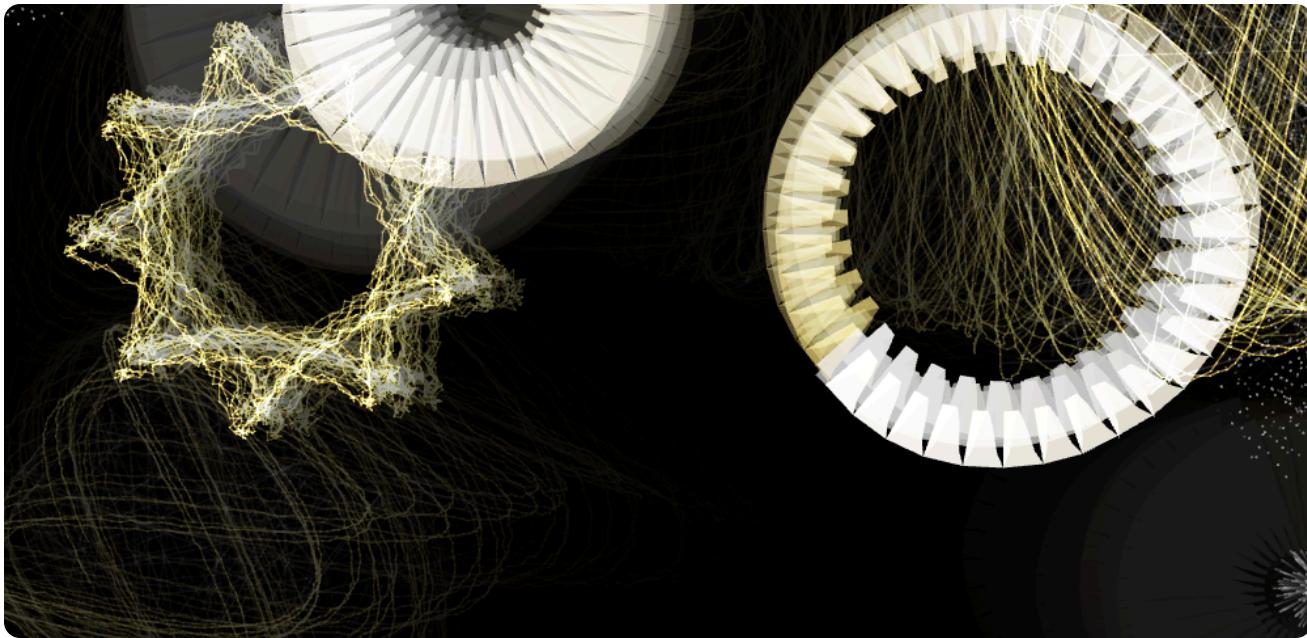
- Teensy-based instrument + teaching rig
- Complete docs: BOM, wiring, parameter map
- Measurement folded into practice (latency notes)

OUTCOMES

- [Latency characterization: in progress \(methods posted; results publish Oct 2025\). \(/research/mn42-latency-lab/\)](#)
- Student replicates - pilot course planned Spring 2026.
- Hardware draft 2 scheduled to begin production 10/18/2025.

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Interface as authorship; documentation as scholarship
- **60-min lab:** Map controls → parameters; measure + log latency
- **Assess:** Short demo + latency note + reproducibility checklist



Glitch Geometry — Audio→Form Instrument

ABSTRACT

Live translation of signal features into geometry; pipeline choices (feature extraction, modulation, rendering) are made legible as aesthetic and ethical decisions. The system is tunable and documented for both teaching and critique.

METHODS & ETHICS

- Signal in → features → geometry modulation → render
- Transparent, documented pipeline for reproducibility
- Designed for classroom demos and public performance

OUTCOMES

- Live demos (link)
- Student mini-studies (labs scheduled in October/November with CTMN)

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Link form to claim via signal features
- **60-min lab:** Implement 2 features; compare visual behaviors
- **Assess:** Process log + short critique memo



DEAD SKY — Vision & Motion Grammar Studies

ABSTRACT

Two short studies—rural pursuit (DS200412) and wheel-mounted POV (DS200801)—probing surveillance logics, attention, and embodied capture toward a larger film project. Tests “pursuit grammar” and mechanical vision’s entrainment.

METHODS & ETHICS

- November light, long-lens compression (pursuit grammar)
- Wheel POV: cyclic motion & peripheral smear
- Consent & site plans for actors/bystanders

OUTCOMES

- Multiple studies completed; Script draft in progress, collaborators identified, schedules tbd.
- Shoots scheduled for late November 2025

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Make camera grammar legible and accountable
- **60-min lab:** Long-lens pursuit vs. wheel-POV; reflect on ethics of spectatorship
- **Assess:** Shot log + ethics note + 60s cut



Skyway Dérive / Media Fast — Critical Pedagogy Interventions

ABSTRACT

Paired interventions that make media power felt: a “Spectacle” action-lecture moves critique into public space; a structured “Media Fast” maps sensory shifts and agency before reflective media making. Designed as public method; prompts and reflections are the artifacts.

METHODS & ETHICS

- Transparent prompts; bystander consent & respect
- Reflection before publication; no IDs without release
- Documentation pack (brief, roles, reflection prompts)

OUTCOMES

- 1 public (internet) intervention per students
- 1 compiled reflections doc per students

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Embody critique; document before publish
- **60-min lab:** Skyway dérive with consent checkpoints
- **Assess:** Reflection + consent notes + debrief



MCAD Media 2 — MTN Public Access Broadcast

ABSTRACT

Studio-seminar culminating in a 28.5-minute MTN broadcast planned, produced, and edited by students. The artifact is civic-facing media formed by calendars, critique gates, and documentation standards for longevity.

METHODS & ETHICS

- Roles & calendars; consent and authorship checkpoints
- Deliverables: broadcast master + process docs
- Public exhibition as peer review

OUTCOMES

- 28.5-minute episode delivered
- Airtime / reach - MTN typically airs accepted episodes ~4x per submission.

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Practice public-facing media with accountability
- **60-min lab:** Segment planning → critique gate → deliver
- **Assess:** Checklists + credits + release archive



Generative Fabrication Techniques

ABSTRACT

Code→form pipeline exploring SDF fields, isosurface extraction, and remeshing. **genF1** anchors the series as a physical proof: a PETG print that ran **39.5 hours** end-to-end.

METHODS & ETHICS

- Layered-noise SDF → isosurface (like marching cubes)
- Relax / quad-remesh and edit for printable topology
- Slice with oriented supports; PETG profile noted, PLA/ABS profiles incoming; alt-texted documentation

OUTCOMES

- {"genF1"=>"physical PETG print (39.5 h), photographed and documented"}
- {"genF2–genF3"=>"print-ready meshes with parameter notes and topology comparisons"}
- Gallery page with stills; more iterations on deck

TEACH WITH THIS

- **Goal:** Make the code→form→fabrication chain legible; compare how field frequency and remeshing choices alter topology, readability, and print time.
- **60-min lab:** Explore StructureSynth, vary SDF frequency, export a mesh, apply a simple material/shader test, optional: edit in MeshMixer orient for print, and record slicer notes; submit 1 annotated still + settings.
- **Assess:** 60% method clarity & reproducibility; 25% form legibility (printability, supports, orientation); 15% documentation quality (captions, alt text).