

# Joshua Synenko

Curriculum Vitae

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019- Coordinator, Media Studies Undergraduate Program, Trent University.
- 2018- Faculty member, Cultural Studies Graduate Programs, Trent University.
- 2016- Assistant Professor of Media Studies (Limited Term Appointment), Department of Cultural Studies, Trent University.

## DEGREES

- 2015 Ph.D., York University, Department of Humanities.  
Dissertation: *After Collective Memory: Postnational Europe and Socially Engaged Art*. Examiners: Markus Reisenleitner (supervisor), Susan Ingram, Shelley Hornstein, Erica Lehrer.
- 2007 M.A., University of Western Ontario, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism. Thesis: *Uncommon Singularities: Event, Politics, Representation*.
- 2005 Hons. B.A. (*Summa cum laude*), York University, Department of Political Science.

## PUBLICATIONS

### Monograph

- 2024 *Geomemory: Locative Arts and Technologies in Experimental Cultures*. Prospectus in process for Concordia University Press.

### Edited volumes

- 2021 Synenko, J. (Ed.), *Comparatism Now!* special issue of *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*. 48 (2).
- 2018 Synenko, J. (Ed.), *Geospatial Memory*, special issue of *Media Theory*, 2(1).

## Refereed journal articles

- 2022 "‘Where Does This World End?’ Space, Time, and Image in Harun Farocki’s *Parallel*,” *Imaginations: Journal of Cross-Cultural Image Studies*, SI: Vibrant Matters: Materiality across Media, Literature, and Theory. [Under review]
- 2018 “Geolocating Popular Memory: Recorded Images of Hashima Island after *Skyfall*,” *Popular Communication*, 15(2): 141-153.
- 2017 “Settler Sublime: Reparation and Return in Yael Bartana’s Polish Trilogy,” *PhiN: Philologie im Netz*, Beiheft 13: 220-244.
- 2016 “The Geospatial Rhetoric of Asylum: Mapping Migration in Fortress Europe,” *Networking Knowledge: Journal of the MeCCSA*, 9(4), SI: Fortress Europe: Media, Migration, and Borders: 1-13.
- 2016 “Topography and Frontier: Gibellina’s City of Art,” *M/C: A Journal of Media and Culture*, 19(3), SI: Place.
- 2014 “The Reminders of Memory: Berlin’s Postnational Aesthetic,” *Drain: A Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture*, 11(1), SI: Ruin.

## Refereed book chapters

- 2019 “Library in Ruins: Digital Collections and the Idea of the University,” *Re-viewing Comparative Literature in Canada*, Ingram, S., and Sywenky, I. (Eds.). Lanham: Lexington Books, 225-237.
- 2016 “Geospatial Detritus: Mapping Urban Abandonment,” *Global Garbage: Urban Imaginaries of Excess, Waste, and Abandonment*, Lindner, C., and Meissner, M. (Eds.). London and New York: Routledge, 165-180.
- 2013 “Archive Cultures: Technicity, Trace and Metaphor. *The Everyday: Experiences, Concepts, Narratives*,” Parrot, M. and Derry, J. (Eds.). Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 228-244.
- 2012 “Andreas Huyssen and the Genres of Historical Memory. *The Historical Textures of Translation: Traditions, Traumas and Transgressions*,” Ingram, S., and Reisenleitner, M. (Eds.). Vienna: Mille-Tre-Verlag, 33-59.

## Editorially Reviewed

- 2025 "Digital Geographies," in *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Visual Culture, Vol. 3: Digitations, Transformations, and Futures*, eds. Barry Sandywell and Martin Head. [Forthcoming]
- 2021 "Comparative Studies in a Precarious Present," *Canadian Review in Comparative Literature*, 48(2).
- 2020 "COVID-19 and the Politics of Locations," *SCMS+*, Special Issue: Short Attention Span Criticism: Online.
- 2019 "Humans of the Anthropocene: An interview with Thierry Loa," *Media Theory* (blog edition).
- 2019 "Book Review—Hoskins, A. (Ed.), *Digital Memory Studies: Media Pasts in Transition*," *New Media & Society*, 21(1): 274-276.
- 2018 "Book Review—Graham, S. *Vertical: The City from Satellites to Bunkers*," *PUBLIC: Art Culture Ideas*, 57(1): 287-289.
- 2018 "Geospatial Memory: An Introduction," *Media Theory*, 2(1): 1-33.
- 2017 "Teaching Media Infrastructure through Popular Culture," *Mediapolis: Journal of Cities and Culture: Student Voices*, 4(2): Online.
- 2016 "Book Review—Berry, C., and Moore, R. (Eds.). *Public Space, Media Space*," *Mediapolis: A Journal of Cities and Culture*, 1(3).
- 2016 "What's New? Boris Groys in Translation," *Reviews in Cultural Theory*, 6(1), 37-41.
- 2014 "Counter-memory in Post-Wende Berlin," *Descant Magazine*, 45(3), Special Issue: The Berlin Project: 147-156.
- 2012 "Topos of Faith: Derrida's Counter-Institutions," *Topia: Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies*, Special Issue: Out of the Ruins: The University to Come. 28(1), 289-295.
- 2010 Synenko, J., Brown, R., Principe, C., and Weisberg, Z. (Eds.), *E-Topia*, Special Issue: The Inhuman: Investigating Continental Thought in the Humanities.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022-25 Principal Investigator, SSHRC Insight Development Grant (IDG): “Locative Arts and Technologies in Experimental Cultures: A Digital Preservation Initiative,” \$75,000. [Under Review]
- 2021-22 Principal Investigator, SSHRC Explore Grant: “Building an Open-Access Repository of Locative Arts.” \$5,000.
- 2020-21 Principal Investigator, SSHRC Explore Grant: “Ecology, Infrastructure and Mobility in Communications Research.” \$7,000.
- 2009-11 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Doctoral Fellowship. \$40,000.
- 2008-9 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS). \$15,000.
- 2007-8 Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS). \$15,000.
- 2005-6 Canada Graduate Scholarship—Master’s (CGS). \$17,500.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Courses designed and taught:

#### Trent University

Workshop: Computational Arts, <i>CUST/MDST</i> , <i>CUST MA</i>	2019-22 (3 sections)
Issues in Global Media, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2018 & 22 (2 sections)
Introduction to Film I and II, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2016-22 (10 sections)
Introduction to Media Studies, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2017-22 (9 sections)
Intellectual Traditions in Cultural Studies, <i>CUST PhD</i>	2021 (1 section)
Dissertation Seminar, <i>CUST PhD</i>	2021 (1 section)
Research in Cultural Studies, <i>CUST MA &amp; PhD</i>	2021 (2 sections)
Contemporary Topics in Media Studies, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2016-2020 (5 sections)
Mass Media & War, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2016 & 20 (2 sections)
Media and Society, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2017-19 (2 sections)
Television studies, <i>CUST/MDST</i>	2017 (1 section)
Culture and Society, <i>Sociology</i>	2016 (1 section)
Contemporary Theory, <i>Sociology</i>	2016 (1 section)
Sociology of Media and Communication, <i>Sociology/MDST</i>	2015 (1 section)
Cinema of Development and Underdevelopment, <i>IDS</i>	2015 (1 section)

## Wilfrid Laurier University

Social Documentary, <i>Digital Media and Journalism</i>	2014 (1 section)
Social Inequality, <i>Sociology</i>	2014 (1 section)
Anthropology & Visual Culture, <i>Anthropology</i>	2013 (1 section)

## Supervision – Trent University:

2021-	Supervisor (with Bailey, S.): Brush, E., MA student, Cultural Studies.
2021-	Supervisor (with Epp, M.): Mlotek-Marion, J., MA student, Cultural Studies.
2021-	Supervisor (with Epp, M. and Hobbs, C.): Suurtamm, K., PhD student, Cultural Studies Title: "Archives and Incarceration."
2021-	Committee member (with Epp, M.): Moore, M., PhD student, Cultural Studies.
2019-	Supervisor (with Bhanji, N.): Gotkas, H., PhD student, Cultural Studies.
2018-	Committee member (with Bordo, J., and Junyk, I.): York, K., PhD Candidate, Cultural Studies Title: "The Documentary Mode in Contemporary Art: Artistic Engagement with Mass Displacement and Migration."
2017-18	Supervisor (with Mitchell, L.): Larson, C., "Cannibals and Corpse Art: Critiquing the Visual through NBC's <i>Hannibal</i> ," Undergraduate thesis.

## SPEAKER ENGAGEMENTS

### Conference presentations & invited lectures (abridged to 2015)

2022	"Locative Arts and Technologies in Experimental Cultures: A Digital Preservation Initiative," <i>NECS Conference: Epistemic Media: Atlas, Archive, Network</i> , Bucharest, RO. June. [Under review]
2022	"Other Places: Thom Andersen's <i>Los Angeles Plays Itself</i> ," <i>Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA)</i> , Montreal, June. [Under review]
2021	"Situationally Aware: Citizen App's Geo-coded Regime of Transparency," <i>Cultural Studies Association (CSA)</i> . Virtual Conference. June.

- 2021 “‘Where does this world end?’ Space, Time and Image in Harun Farocki’s *Parallel*” *Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA)*, Virtual Conference. May.
- 2020 “Posthuman Mobilities: Situating Embodied Tech Beyond the Quantified Self,” *Cultural Studies Association (CSA)*, Virtual Conference. May.
- 2019 “GIS in Media Theory: Exploring Technologies of Mobility, Memory, Visual Culture, and Space in Pedagogical Research,” *GIS Research Day*, Trent University, Peterborough, ON. November.
- 2019 “Spacing Out,” *For Whom the Media Matters IV*, The McLuhan Centre, Toronto, ON. September.
- 2019 “Geospatial Memory: The Genealogy of a Concept,” *Communications, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology (CITAMS)*, New York, NY. August.
- 2019 “Gerrymandered Places: The Geography of Algorithmic Power in America,” *Media Ecology Association (MEA)*, Toronto, ON. June.
- 2018 “Out of Mind: Toward a Media Theory of Timeless Location,” *Society for Literature, Science and the Arts (SLSA)*, Toronto, ON. November.
- 2017 “Play and Preservation in the User-oriented City: Navigating (through) the Technical Image,” *Geomedia 2017*, Karlstad, SWE. May.
- 2016 “Away from Home: Gibellina’s City of Art,” *American Studies Association (ASA)* Denver, CO. November.
- 2016 “Spatial Imaginaries in Fortress Europe,” in “Crises of (Im)migration and Belonging,” *Cultural Studies Association (CSA)*, Philadelphia, PA. June.
- 2016 “Mapping Migration in Fortress Europe,” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)*, Atlanta, GA. March.
- 2016 “The Geospatial Rhetoric of Asylum,” *Canadian Association of Cultural Studies (CACCS)*, Waterloo, ON. January.
- 2015 “Yael Bartana’s Settler Sublime,” *Autumn School: Distance and/or Close-up: Visuality, Community, and Affect in Representations of History*, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. October.

- 2015 "Capital Erasures: Adventure Photography in the Geospatial Web," *Canadian Communications Association (CCA)*, Ottawa, ON. June.
- 2015 "Desert Urbanism: Repertoires of the City by Alberto Burri," *Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA)*, Ottawa, ON. June.
- 2015 "Urban Abandonment in Michael Heizer's *City*," *NeMLA 46*, Toronto, ON. April.
- 2015 "Vertical Public Space and the Logic of Urban Abandonment," *Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)*, Montreal, QC. March.

### **Panels and colloquia organized**

- 2020 "Infrastructures of Control: Mapping, Monitoring & Memes," with Alec Brookes and Elise Thorburn (Co-Organizers), *Crossroads in Cultural Studies*, Lisbon, PT. July. (Postponed TBD)
- 2017 "Digital Spatial Ecologies: Geolocating the Layers of History and Memory in New Media," with Markus Reisenleitner (Co-Organizer), *Geomedial 2017*, Karlstad, SWE. May.
- 2015 "The Ethics and Itineraries of Visual Data," with Genne Speers (Co-Organizer) and Lisa Parks (Discussant), *Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)*, Montreal, QC. March.
- 2013 "European Minority Cultures Since 1945," with Fatima El-Tayeb (Discussant), *American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)*, Toronto, ON. April.
- 2012 *A Deferred Method: Psychoanalysis and/in the Academy*, with Ricky Varghese (Co-Organizer) and Deborah Britzman, John Ricco, Allan Pero, John Zilcosky (Speakers), Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI), Toronto, ON. May.
- 2012 *The University is Ours*, Edu-Factory Collective, Toronto. April.
- 2010 *Cosmopolitanism and Global Citizenship*, with Beau Molnar (Co-Organizer) and Lily Cho, David Clark, James Ingram (Speakers), York University, Toronto, ON. April.
- 2008 *The Inhuman: Investigating Continental Thought in the Humanities*, Toronto, ON. October.

## Workshop participant

- 2015 Fully funded participant in *Autumn School: Distance and/or Close-up: Visuality, Community, and Affect in Representations of History*, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Mainz, DE. October.
- 2012 Fully funded participant in *Minor Cosmopolitanisms*, Universität Potsdam, Potsdam, DE. July.
- 2011 Participant in “New Urban Aesthetics,” *The Cities Project*, University of Amsterdam (UvA), Amsterdam, NL. November.
- 2011 Fully funded participant in *Berlin and Beyond: Rethinking Memory and National Identity in Post-Wende German Culture and Politics*, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Berlin, DE. June.

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA)

- 2021- Working Group: Comparative Materialities: Media, Literature, Theory  
2019-21 President  
2017-19 Vice President and Program Chair  
2015-17 Media and Communications Officer

Cultural Studies Association (CSA)

- 2020- Working Group: New Media and Digital Cultures

Peer Reviewer

- 2021 *Space and Culture*, standard issue  
2019 & 20 *Media Theory*, standard issues  
2019 *M/C: Journal of Media and Culture*, SI: Walking  
2016 *Feminist Media Studies*, SI: Affective Encounters  
2016 *Drain: A Journal of Contemporary Art and Culture*, SI: AIDS and Memory

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Department of Cultural Studies, Trent University

- 2021- Executive Committee  
2017- Curriculum Committee  
2017- Recruitment events (Open House, Orientation Week, OUF)



2016- Departmental Committee  
2016- Media Studies Committee  
2021-22 Graduate Program: Virtual Salon Series  
2021 & 18 Graduate Program: Admissions Committee  
2021 Graduate Program: Comprehensive Exams Committee  
2018 Graduate Program: SSHRC Ranking Committee (ad-hoc)  
2019 Organizer, Traill College Fellow: Tess Takahashi

Department of Humanities, York University

2011 Hiring Committee  
2011 Graduate Program: Admissions Committee  
2009-11 Graduate Program: Executive Committee  
2008-12 Humanities Graduate Students' Association (HUGSA)

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, UWO

2005-6 Graduate Studies Committee

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS (current)**

Canadian Comparative Literature Association (CCLA)  
Cultural Studies Association (CSA)  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)