

Grant Wythoff

Princeton University Department of English
22 McCosh Hall, Princeton, NJ 08544
(856) 296-9103 | grant.wythoff@gmail.com
<http://wythoff.net>

| EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Ph.D. Candidate, English (2010)
M.A., English, (2009)
Certificate in Media and Modernity (2009)

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
B.A., English, Summa Cum Laude (2007)

| DISSERTATION

Title: Gadgetry: New Media and the Fictional Imagination
Committee: Eduardo Cadava, Anne A. Cheng, Thomas Y. Levin

My dissertation is a media history of that alternately functional and fictional device, the gadget. I argue that while gadgets are often passed over as trivial outliers in material culture, they are in fact central to understanding how media emerge from imaginative relationships between tools and their users. Though the word gadget serves as an empty container for any object whatsoever, I show that the shape of that container changes drastically from its origins in mid 19th-century nautical jargon to its current association with portable electronics. My work charts a dynamically evolving genre of tools that spans a range of social, technical, and literary histories in order to argue that “medium” is an open category through which users negotiate a range of real and imagined capabilities.

| AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Media theory; digital humanities; 20th century American literature; science fiction; early cinema; technological utopianism; methodologies in the history of media, including media archaeology, history of the book, and science and technology studies (STS); new media and the rhetoric of “content”; sound studies.

| HONORS & AWARDS

Nineteenth Century Scholarship Online (NINES) Scholarship to attend the 2011 Digital Humanities Summer institute in Victoria, BC.

Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Award for intensive summer language study in German. (2008)

The Jordan Lee Flyer Honors Award for best undergraduate thesis “Becoming Film: A Brief Poetics of Trailers.” (2007)

Rutgers College Academic Excellence Award (2006, 2007)

| PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

“Pocket Wireless and the Shape of Media to Come, 1899-1920.”

- ➔ Material Culture Symposium for Emerging Scholars, Winterthur Museum at the University of Delaware, April 2012
- ➔ Tufts Graduate Humanities Conference, Tufts University, New York, February 2012
- ➔ Instrument, Image, Ekphrasis: Intersecting Genres of Knowledge. SUNY Stony Brook Manhattan, February 2012.

“Collections and Communities: Building the Princeton Prosody Archive”

- ➔ Mid-Atlantic Archives Conference (MARAC), Cape May, NJ, April 2012

“Prosody and the Archive / Prosody as an Archive”

- ➔ Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), University of Maryland, December 2011

Outside-the-Box Text Analysis workshop participant

- ➔ Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, June 2011

Demo Session for the Princeton Prosody Archive

- ➔ 2011 NINES/NEH Summer Institute, University of Virginia, May 2011. An NEH funded workshop on assessing digital work for tenure and promotion, hosted by Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-Century Scholarship Online (NINES) and the UVA Scholars’ Lab.

“Areophone, Telephot, Hypnobioscope: Hugo Gernsback and the Science Fictionality of Media”

- ➔ Media Histories: Materiality, Temporality, Epistemology, Columbia University, March 2011

“The Form of Content Delivery: Networked Content and Narrative Property”

- ➔ ACLA 2010, New Orleans, Digital Diasporas, April 2010
- ➔ Critical Themes in Media Studies, The New School, April 2010

“‘More typical than any real state’: Mapping the Everyday in Sinclair Lewis’s *Babbitt*”

- ➔ McGill Graduate Conference: A Measure of Place: Space in Text and Context McGill University, Feb. 2010. (Not delivered)

“Projecting Martian Photography”

- ➔ SFRA 2010, Science Fiction Research Association, Georgia Tech, June 2009.
- ➔ Media and Modernity Colloquium, Princeton University, April 2009.
- ➔ Projection: Speculating on Presence, Absence, and Nonsense, City University of New York, English Student Association’s Annual Conference, March 2009.
- ➔ Works in Progress Colloquium, Princeton University, March 2009.

Conferences Organized

Digital Humanities Initiative, daylong planning session, Princeton University, January 2012.

Americanist Research Symposium 2010: Virtuosity, Princeton University, March 2010.

On the Possibility of Worlds: An Interdisciplinary Conference, Princeton University, March 2009.

| PUBLICATIONS

The Princeton Prosody Archive, project manager. A fulltext searchable database of writing on prosody from 1750-1950. Includes thousands of digitized manuscripts, manuals, articles, grammar books, and other materials on the rhythm, intonation, and measure of language. Under the direction of Professor Meredith Martin.

“There are eight million stories in the naked city; this has been one of them’: Procedurality and *The Naked City*.” *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. (March 2010): <http://bit.ly/cVx5C6>

“Like Holding the Future In Your Hands: The Gadget at CES 2011.” *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. (February 2011): <http://bit.ly/ij3Rtr>

Professional Documents

Co-author, “Vision Statement on a Center for the Digital Humanities,” Digital Humanities Initiative, Princeton University. February 2012.

Co-author, “Guidelines for Promotion and Tenure Committees in Judging Digital Work.” NINES/NEH Summer Institute on Evaluating Digital Scholarship, June 2011. <http://institutes.nines.org/docs/>

| TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sept 2008 – Present

Teaching Fellow, Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP), Trenton Central High School.

Fall 2010

Preceptor, American Studies 201, Intro to American Studies: American Places, Princeton University

Spring 2010

Preceptor, English 335, Children’s Literature, Princeton University.

Sept 2005 – May 2007

Tutor, Plangere Writing Center, Rutgers University. Tutored two students per hour and twenty minute session in Basic Composition, English Academic Discourse, Expository Writing, Research in Disciplines, and College Writing & Research.

Fall 2006

Instructor, Dramatic Literature and Performance, First-Year Interest Group Study (FIGS), Rutgers University. Seminar-style courses for incoming freshmen.

| PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association (2010-present)

HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory) (2009- present)

Science Fiction Research Association (2009-present)

American Comparative Literature Association (2009)

| LANGUAGES

German (moderate reading and speaking proficiency)

French (weak reading proficiency)

HTML, CSS, Perl