
Grant Wythoff

Center for Digital Humanities wythoff.net
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Trained in literary history, I study technology: the cultural lives of tools and techniques. Combining perspectives from media theory and digital humanities, my research involves theoretical speculation, hands-on practice, and historical and technical description. I am currently thinking about the resilience of infrastructures, users, and communities.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Open-Source Scholarship, Minimal Computing, History of Method in the Humanities
- Tech Ethics, Algorithmic Inequality, Public Sphere Theory
- Networked Selfhood, Data Privacy, User Culture, Distraction, Tacit Computing
- History & Philosophy of Technology, Media Archaeology, Infrastructure & the Future
- American Literature, Science Fiction, Early Cinema

Appointments

- 2019–present PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
Digital Humanities Strategist
Princeton, NJ
- 2017–2019 PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Visiting Fellow, Center for Humanities and Information
State College, PA
- 2013–2017 COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Humanities
Lecturer, Department of English and Comparative Literature
New York, NY

Education

- 2013 **English Literature**, Ph.D
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 2009 **Media and Modernity**, Certificate
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
- 2007 **English Literature**, B.A., Summa Cum Laude

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ

Publications

BOOKS

in progress

Gadgets: A User's Guide to Technique in the Age of Tech

- selected for workshopping at Object Lessons / NEH Institute on public academic writing and the Center for American Literary Studies First Book Institute

2016

The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, & Scientifiction

University of Minnesota Press

384pp, 146 b&w illustrations

- Research Society for American Periodicals Book Prize, honorable mention
- Selected Reviews: *New York Review of Books* ◦ *Leonardo* ◦ *Science Fiction Studies* ◦ *American Literary History* ◦ *Year's Work in Critical/Cultural Theory*

ACADEMIC ARTICLES

2020

“Extended Technique: New Scholarship on the Uses of Media”

Amodern, issue 9

2018

“Laptop Policy: Notes on Boredom”

Digital Humanities Quarterly, Vol. 12, No. 2

2018

“On Method in the Humanities”

Configurations, Vol. 26, No. 3

2016

“Design and DH in the Media Studies Classroom”

Cinema Journal Teaching Dossier, Digital Humanities and Media Studies Crossovers issue

2015

“Artifactual Interpretation”

Journal of Contemporary Archaeology, Vol. 2, No. 1

2015

“The Form of Content Delivery”

Media Fields Journal

2014

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

Wi: Journal of Mobile Media

2014

“Sustainable Authorship in Plain Text Using Pandoc and Markdown”

The Programming Historian, with Dennis Tenen. Spanish transl. by Víctor Gayol as “Escritura sostenible en texto plano usando Pandoc y Markdown”

2013

“Learning with Polyphony: AmpDamp”

iConference 2013 Proceedings, pp. 1090-1094, with A. Acker et al.

2013

“Pocket Wireless and the Shape of Media to Come, 1899-1922”

Grey Room, 51, pp. 40-63

PUBLIC WRITING

- 2018 “Silicon Valley is Ready to Make Your Decisions For You”
The Washington Post, Sun Aug 19, p. B3
- 2017 “Public Enemies”
Real Life Magazine
- 2014 “The Invention of Wireless Cryptography”
The Appendix
- 2011 “Like Holding the Future In Your Hands: The Gadget at CES 2011”
In Media Res: A Media Commons Project
- 2010 “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

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2018 “Review of Matthew Kirschenbaum, *Track Changes: A Literary History of Word Processing*”
Revista Hispánica Moderna, Vol. 71, No. 1
- 2018 “Review of Patrick Jagoda, *Network Aesthetics*”
American Literary History Online Review, Series XV

Teaching

- Fall 2020 Privacy, Publicity, and the Text Message
undergrad seminar • Princeton University
- Spring 2019 Networked Selfhood and the Novel
undergrad seminar • Bryn Mawr College
- Fall 2018 Tacit Media and Digital Culture
grad seminar • Penn State University
- Spring 2018 Global Science Fiction
undergrad lecture • Penn State University
- Spring 2017 Introduction to Digital Media
undergrad lecture • Columbia University
- Spring 2016 The Science of Fiction: American Naturalism, 1880-1940
undergrad seminar •
- Spring 2016 Digital Humanities Praxis
grad seminar • Columbia University
- Spring 2014 Screen Reading: The History of Reading from Stone Tablet to Screen
undergrad seminar • Columbia University
- Fall 2014 The Core Curriculum: Literature Humanities
undergrad seminar • Columbia University
- Fall 2013 The Core Curriculum: Literature Humanities
undergrad seminar • Columbia University
- Fall 2010 Intro to American Studies: American Places

Assistant Instructor • Princeton University

Spring 2010

Children's Literature

Assistant Instructor • Princeton University

Fall 2008

Teaching Fellow

–Spring 2013

Trenton Central, Ewing, and Princeton High Schools • Princeton University Preparatory Program (PUPP)

Media Coverage

AMC Visionaries: James Cameron's Story of Science Fiction (US television miniseries, 2018)

Graham Johnson, "State of the Internet: Grant Wythoff," *Are.na* February 2018

Mars Hill Audio radio interview, February 2018

The Other Side of Mars, dir. Minna Långström (feature-length documentary, Finland, 2018)

Inventing the Future, dir. Eric Schockmel (documentary, 85min, Luxembourg, 2018)

Aurelio Cianciotta, "Edited by Grant Wythoff – The Perversity Of Things: Hugo Gernsback On Media, Tinkering, And Scientifiction," *Neural* (May 2017)

Kristen Gallerneaux, "Off the Shelf: Recommended Films, Fine Reads and Dot-coms," *The Henry Ford Magazine* (March-May 2017)

John DeNardo, "Learn More about the Creators of Science Fiction," *Kirkus Reviews* (February 2017)

Gregory L. Reece, "Hugo Gernsback and Perversity and Optimism at the Dawn of Science Fiction," *PopMatters* (December 2016)

Angelo Paura, "Hugo Gernsback, l'uomo che ci ha fatto innamorare del futuro," *Motherboard Italy* (November 2016)

Awards

2017 Research Society for American Periodicals (RSAP) Book Prize, Honorable Mention, for *The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, and Scientifiction*

2013 Microsoft Research FUSE Labs, Award for Best Social Media Expo Project for *AmpDamp*, a prototype "volume knob" for social media streams

2007 The Jordan Lee Flyer Honors Award for best undergraduate thesis, *Becoming-Film: A Brief Poetics of Trailers*

Grants

2018 Teaching Transformation and Innovation Grant, Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence, to support workshop series "Data Privacy, Democracy, and The Humanities"

2016 Barr Ferree Publication Fund, Princeton University Department of Art and Archaeology, subvention in support of *The Perversity of Things: Hugo Gernsback on Media, Tinkering, and Scientifiction*

- 2015 Grants from centerNET and Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI) to attend the New Scholars Seminar in Digital Humanities at the University of Western Sydney
- 2014 Columbia Center for Science and Society Course Development Grant for lecture course The Science of Fiction: American Naturalism, 1880-1940
- 2014 Center for American Literary Studies at Penn State University stipend to attend the [First Book Institute](#)
- 2013 Microsoft Research FUSE Labs travel grant to attend [iConference 2013](#)
- 2012 Mellon Foundation Officer's Grant, [Scholarly Communications and Information Technology Program](#) to support the development of the Princeton Prosody Archive
- 2012 Annan Dissertation Fellowship to support advanced dissertation research
- 2012 Princeton Program in American Studies Summer Prize to support research at the Hugo Gernsback Papers, Syracuse University Library Special Collections
- 2011 Nineteenth-Century Scholarship Online (NINES) Scholarship to attend the Digital Humanities Summer institute in Victoria, British Columbia
- 2008 Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Award for intensive summer language study in German

Presentations

INVITED PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2018 Visiting Faculty, Princeton/Weimar Summer School for Media Studies
Princeton University, June
- 2018 Keynote at the Rutgers Camden Archive of Digital Ephemera (R-CADE) Symposium
Rutgers University, Camden, April
- 2018 Media Inventories of the Nineteenth Century
Dartmouth College, March
- 2017 Guest lecture in Mara Mills's graduate seminar, "Media Archaeology"
New York University, March
- 2015 Workshop on the Game Boy Camera and Printer, Rutgers-Camden Archive of Digital Ephemera (R-CADE)
Rutgers University, Camden, April
- 2015 "Hugo Gernsback and American Science Fiction," Paleofuturism symposium
University of Louisville, April
- 2015 "The Perversity of Things: Scientifiction and Theories of Media c. 1920," Circuit, Current, Connection Symposium
Penn State Center for American Literary Studies (CALs), February
- 2014 "The Ethics of Plain Text," with Dennis Tenen, Princeton/Weimar Summer School for Media Studies
Princeton University, June
- 2014 "Mobile Media and the Paleolithic," Columbia Center for Archaeology
Columbia University, March
- 2013 "From Marlinspike to Mobile Media: An Archaeology of the Gadget"

University of Pennsylvania Cinema Studies Colloquium, November

WORKSHOPS

- 2018 Pathways with a PhD: DH Jobs, On and Off the Tenure Track
Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University, November
- 2018 Intro to Markdown, Pandoc, & GitHub, “Software in the Humanities & Social Sciences” series
Penn State, March
- 2017 Object Lessons, NEH Institute on public writing
Tempe, AZ, November
- 2016 Workshop on new website for [CHCI Medical Humanities Summer Institute](#)
Kings College London, June
- 2015 New Scholars Seminar in Digital Humanities
Digital Humanities (DH), Sydney, June
- 2014 First Book Institute
Center for American Literary Studies, Pennsylvania State University, June
- 2013 New Media in American Literary History
Northeastern University, December
- 2013 Microsoft FUSE Labs Social Media Expo
iConference 2013, University of North Texas, February
- 2012 THATCamp Theory
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, October
- 2012 Research Fellow at Values in Design Workshop
University of California, Irvine, August
- 2012 Princeton / Weimar Summer School for Media Studies
Princeton University, June
- 2011 Outside-the-Box Text Analysis Workshop
Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, June
- 2011 Demo Session for the Princeton Prosody Archive
NINES/NEH Summer Institute, University of Virginia, May

CONFERENCES

- 2018 “Unthinkable Expertise”
Society for Science, Literature, and the Arts (SLSA), Toronto, November
- 2018 “Techniques and Technologies: On the Cultural History of the Gadget”
Information & Humanities Conference, Pennsylvania State University, September
- 2018 “Tacit Computing and Method in the Humanities”
Digital Humanities (DH), Ciudad de México, June
- 2017 Roundtable: Science Fiction as Protest
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ, November
- 2017 “Media Archaeology and Prehistory”

- Information & Humanities Conference, Pennsylvania State University, September*
- 2016 “On Method in the Humanities”
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Atlanta, November
- 2016 “Making Science in the Pulps”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Atlanta, March
- 2015 “Reading Middle Distance: A Cultural History of Tools and Techniques”
Modern Language Association (MLA), Vancouver, January
- 2014 “Mobile Media and the Paleolithic”
Archaeologies of Media and Film, University of Bradford, UK, September
- 2014 “Mobile Media and the Paleolithic,” panel on “New Apparatus Theory”
Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) Europe, Turin, Italy, June
- 2014 “Screen Reading,” panel on Little Data: Old and New Media
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), New York, March
- 2013 “Mechanical Vaudeville: Relaying the Great War through the American Science Magazines”
The Great War and the Illustrated Press, Université de Paris-XIII, June
- 2013 “Pocket Wireless and the Shape of Media to Come, 1899-1920”
Modern Language Association (MLA), Boston, January
- 2012 “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 “Pocket Wireless and the Shape of Media to Come, 1899-1920”
Tufts University Graduate Humanities Conference, New York, February
- 2012 “Pocket Wireless and the Shape of Media to Come, 1899-1920”
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
- 2011 “Prosody and the Archive / Prosody as an Archive”
Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (MITH), December
- 2011 “Areophone, Telephot, Hypnobioscope: Gernsback and the Science Fictionality of Media”
Media Histories: Materiality, Temporality, Epistemology, Columbia University, March
- 2010 “The Form of Content Delivery: Networked Content and Narrative Property”
Critical Themes in Media Studies, The New School, New York, April
- 2009 “Projecting Martian Photography”
Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA), Georgia Tech, June
- 2009 “Projecting Martian Photography”
Projection: Speculating on Presence, Absence, and Nonsense, City University of New York, March

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2018 Invited curator for the Rutgers Camden Archive of Digital Ephemera (R-CADE) Symposium
Rutgers University, Camden, April
- 2016 Insuetude: Conversations in Technological Discard and Archaeological Recuperation
Columbia University, April

- 2014 On Method in the Humanities
Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, Fall–Spring
- 2010 “Virtuosity,” Princeton Americanist Research Symposium
Princeton University, March
- 2009 On the Possibility of Worlds: An Interdisciplinary Conference
Princeton University, March

PANEL CHAIR OR COMMENTATOR

- 2015 “Artifactual Interpretation: Practices of the Material Turn”
Modern Language Association (MLA), Vancouver, January
- 2015 A Critical Dialogue on Media and Materiality
with Bernhard Siegert and Ben Kafka, Columbia University, March
- 2014 Social Ecologies panel, Scientific (R)evolutions
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, February

Service

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer, NEH Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES): Cultural Organizations, May 2020
- Research Associate, Library of Congress Radio Preservation Task Force
- Article manuscript reviewer for *Digital Humanities Quarterly*
- Book manuscript reviewer for Wiley Blackwell’s Media Studies list
- Article manuscript reviewer for *New Media and Society*
- Advisory Board member for *tbresholds: a digital journal for criticism in the spaces between*
- Manuscript reviewer for *Breakthrough Ideas* track, International Conference on Information Systems 2014 (ICIS 2014)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2019-present Convener, Princeton University Humanities Computing Curriculum Committee (HC3)
- 2014–2017 Co-founder and Moderator, [Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities](#)
- 2011–2013 Steering Committee Member, Princeton University Digital Humanities Initiative
- 2009–2013 Project Manager, [Princeton Prosody Archive](#)
- 2009–2010 Co-Chair, Americanist Research Colloquium, Princeton University

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association (MLA)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA)
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
Research Society for American Periodicals (RSAP)

Tools and Techniques

Programming Languages: Python, shell scripting

Python Libraries: Beautiful Soup, NLTK

Markup Languages: TEI/XML, JSON, YAML, LaTeX, markdown

Web Development: Reclaim Hosting, HTML/CSS, Tachyons, Hugo, Jekyll, WordPress, Omeka, Drupal, Scalar

Digital Mapping: QGIS, Leaflet, Google Earth

Security: PGP

Other Technologies: GitHub, SQLite, Scrivener, Zotero, Mendeley, Zapier, Notion, Figma, Prezi, Microsoft Office, Apple iWork, iMovie

Languages

English (native)

German (reading proficiency and moderate speaking proficiency)

French (reading proficiency)