

# VICTORIA ILONA SIMON

Curriculum Vitae

(last revised August 2020)

Professorial Lecturer  
School of Communication  
American University

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication Studies, McGill University, 2019

Dissertation: "From Difficulty to Delight: The History and Politics of Touchscreens for Music Production"

Supervisor: Dr. Jonathan Sterne

M.A., Media, Culture and Communication, New York University, 2009

Thesis: "Music Software: The Arbiters of Audio Culture"

Supervisor: Dr. Aram Sinnreich

B.A., Philosophy, Oberlin College, 2005

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020– Professorial Lecturer, School of Communication, American University

2019–2020 Visiting Scholar, Annenberg School of Communications and Journalism, University of Southern California

2018–2019 Visiting Assistant Professor, The Department of Media Studies, Pitzer College, Claremont College Consortium

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2020 "Democratizing Touch: Xenakis's UPIC, Disability and Avant-gardism." Special issue: Techniques and Technology, *Amodern* 9. <https://amodern.net/article/democratizing-touch/>
- 2018 "Guided by Delight: Music Apps and the Politics of User Interface Design in the iOS Platform." *Television & New Media*. doi:10.1177/1527476418794634.
- 2018 "Legitimizing Media: Shakespeare's Awkward Travels Through Twitter and Video Games." *Communication, Culture & Critique* 11, no. 3: 418-435. doi:10.1093/ccc/tcy015. Co-authored with Li Cornfeld and Jonathan Sterne.

### Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- 2020 “Unflattering Sounds: Paradigms of Interactivity in Tactile Interfaces for Sound Production.” In *From Xenakis’s UPIC to Graphic Notation Today*, edited by Sharon Kanach. Karlsruhe, Germany: ZKM Center for Art and Media.
- 2018 “iMaschine 2: Music-Making Apps and Interface Aesthetics.” In *Appified: Culture in the Age of Apps*, edited by Jeremy Morris and Sarah Murray, 266-285. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

### **In Preparation**

*From Difficulty to Delight: An Archaeology of Musical Screens*. Proposal under review. Duke University Press.

### **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**

- 2020 “Queer Algorithms and Dis-Ordered Data.” Refereed conference paper presented at Theorizing the Web, Online, December.
- 2020 “Simplicity is Not Inclusivity: The Politics of Smart Algorithms in App Design.” Research Talk, *Annenberg Research Seminar*, USC Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism, Los Angeles, CA, February.
- 2019 “User Experience and Confirmation Bias in Music App Design.” Research Talk, *Research Workshop*, University of Cologne, Berlin, Germany, November.
- 2019 “Disability, Democracy, and Drone Music: Xenakis’s UPIC and the Politics of Design.” Refereed conference paper presented at *International Association for the Study of Popular Music Annual Conference*, Montreal, Canada, May.
- 2017 “Playing with Productivity: Musical Screens and the App Economy.” Refereed conference paper presented at *Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference*, Chicago, IL, March.
- 2016 “The Case of Max for Live: On the Convergence of Two Music Software Paradigms.” Refereed conference paper presented at *Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music, Media and Technology Conference Annual Student Symposium*, Montreal, Canada, April.
- 2015 “Anybody can be a Musician: Transparency and the Discursive Construction of Touch in Interfaces for Music Composition.” Refereed conference paper presented at *Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference*, Montreal, Canada, March.
- 2014 “What is Music Technology For?” Invited Participant, *Microsoft Research New England Symposium*, Cambridge, MA, March.
- 2014 “The Gendered Music Software Interface: A Feminist Discourse Theory Perspective.” Refereed conference paper presented at *Women and Technology Annual conference*, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, April.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Instructor**

“Understanding Media,” undergraduate lecture, Fall 2020, School of Communication, American University

“Understanding Media,” undergraduate lecture, Fall 2020, School of Communication, American University

“Understanding Media,” undergraduate lecture, Fall 2020, School of Communication, American University

“Introduction to Digital Media Studies,” undergraduate seminar, Spring 2019, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Sound Theory, Sound Practice,” undergraduate seminar, Spring 2019, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Introduction to Digital Sound Production,” undergraduate seminar, Spring 2019, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Artificial Intelligence and Sound,” undergraduate independent study, Spring 2019, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Senior Thesis Crit,” senior thesis referee, Spring 2019, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Sound and Power,” undergraduate seminar, Fall 2018, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Introduction to Digital Sound Production,” undergraduate seminar, Fall 2018, Media Studies, Pitzer College

“Western Civilization,” undergraduate lecture, Fall 2011–Spring 2012, History and Philosophy, The City University of New York (CUNY) York College

“Cultures and Values,” undergraduate seminar, Fall 2011–Spring 2012, Humanities and Social Sciences, Hudson County Community College

“College Composition II,” undergraduate seminar, Fall 2010–Spring 2012, Department of English, Hudson County Community College

### **Teaching Assistant**

“Scientific and Technological Controversies.” Dr. Gabriella Coleman, Fall 2016, Communication Studies, McGill University

“Introduction to Communication Studies.” Dr. Christopher Gutierrez, Fall 2015, Communication Studies, McGill University

“History of Communication.” Dr. Paulina Mickiewicz, Winter 2014, Communication Studies, McGill University

“Introduction to Communication Studies.” Dr. Jonathan Sterne, Fall 2013, Communication Studies, McGill University

“History of Communication.” Dr. Alexandra Gibb, Winter 2013, Communication Studies, McGill University

## **RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS**

- 2012–18 Research Assistant to Dr. Jonathan Sterne, McGill University
- 2016 Visiting Scholar and Archive Research Assistant, Center for Iannis Xenakis
- 2014 Media Historiography, America’s Shakespeare, Folger Shakespeare Library exhibit

## **AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

- 2017–18 Wolfe Graduate Fellowship in Scientific and Technological Literacy, McGill University
- 2017–18 Advanced Dissertation Grant, Media@McGill, McGill University
- 2017 Beaverbrook Graduate Award, McGill University
- 2016 Graduate Excellence Award, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University
- 2015 Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music, Media and Technology: Award
- 2015 Graduate Travel Award, Media@McGill, McGill University
- 2015 Graduate Research Fellowship, Media@McGill, McGill University
- 2014 Arts Graduate Research Fellowship, Media@McGill, McGill University
- 2014 Graduate Excellence Award, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University
- 2013 SSHRC Doctoral Scholarship, McGill University
- 2012 WYNG Trust Fellowship, McGill University

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- 2018 Manuscript reviewer, *New Media and Society*
- 2016 Co-organizer, Max for Live Research Workshop and Panel, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Music Media and Technology
- 2015 Book manuscript reviewer, University of Minnesota Press
- 2012 Co-organizer, Affect Theory Reading Group, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

- 2020– Manuscript Editor, *Aloi Research and Consulting*

## **LANGUAGE & TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Intermediate Spanish  
Beginner French  
Sound Design  
Digital Music Production

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)