

BEN PETTIS

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EDUCATION

PHD - MEDIA AND CULTURAL STUDIES - (IN PROGRESS)

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Department of Communication Arts

M.A. - COMMUNICATION STUDIES - MAY 2020

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Concentration in Media and Visual Culture

Thesis

The Tumblr Porn Ban: The Platform Triad and the Shaping of Online Spaces

Advisor: Dr. Evan Elkins

B.A. - MEDIA STUDIES - JUNE 2018

B.A. - CINEMA STUDIES - JUNE 2018

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

Thesis:

Pepe the Frog: A Case Study of the Internet Meme and Its Potential Subversive Power to Challenge Cultural Hegemonies

Advisor: Dr. Peter Alilunas

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“A Better, More Positive Tumblr:’ Regulating Obscenity and Defining Community Standards on Social Media Platforms.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Denver, CO. April 2020. (Conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

“Finstas, Young Adults, and Stardom: The Construction and Presentation of Identities on Instagram.” National Communication Association Annual Convention. Baltimore, MA. November 2019. **TOP PAPER AWARD, MASTER’S EDUCATION SECTION**

“The Tumblr Porn Ban: Power Imbalances of Corporate Personhood.” Poster presented at: 2019 CSU Graduate Student Showcase. Fort Collins, CO. November 2019.

“Pepe the Frog and Drake Approves: Variances in the Exploitability of Meme Genres.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Seattle, WA. March 2019.

“Pepe the Frog: A Case Study in ‘Meme Magic.’” What is Universe? Communication, Complexity, Coherence. University of Oregon, Portland, OR. April 2018.

BOOK REVIEWS

2020. *The Costs of Connection: How Data is Colonizing Human Life and Appropriating It for Capitalism* by Nick Couldry and Ulises Ali Mejias. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

Updated June 2020

GRADUATE COURSEWORK

TECHNOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, AND ENVIRONMENT

Spring 2020, Dr. Evan Elkins

POWER, PLACE, AND PRACTICE

Fall 2019, Dr. Greg Dickinson

HISTORY OF RHETORICAL THEORY

Fall 2019, Dr. Carl Burgchardt

COMMUNICATION THEORY

Spring 2019, Dr. Julia Khrebtan-Höerhager

RHETORICAL CRITICISM

Spring 2019, Dr. Allison Prasch

NEW MEDIA THEORY & CRITICISM

Spring 2019, Dr. Evan Elkins

COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS

Fall 2018, Dr. Elizabeth Williams

MEDIA THEORY

Fall 2018, Dr. Hye-Sung Chung

MEDIATING HUMAN RIGHTS: AESTHETICS, ETHICS, HISTORIES, THEORIES

Fall 2018, Dr. David Scott Diffrient

TEACHING

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC SPEAKING (SPCM 200)

Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)

INTO PATHWAYS (SPCM 200)

Fall 2019, Spring 2020*.

Taught multiple sections of SPCM 200 with seats reserved for students enrolled in CSU's INTO Pathways program. This program provides opportunities for undergraduate and graduate level international students to improve their English and academic performance during their first semesters at an American university.

*Half of the Spring 2020 semester was taught online due to COVID-19.

RESEARCH

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

ASSISTANT TO DR. EVAN ELKINS

Summer 2019

Conducted primary and secondary research on U.S. Internet infrastructure.

AWARDS

TOP PAPER AWARD

NATIONAL COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION

MASTER'S EDUCATION SECTION

November 2019

GORDON F. HOSTETTLER AWARD

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

Fall 2019

\$1,000 scholarship

OUTSTANDING MEDIA STUDIES STUDENT AWARD

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION**

2017, 2018

MERCHANT IVORY ESSAY AWARD

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF CINEMA STUDIES**

“Stephen Colbert–New Character, But Unchanged Ideology.” Honorable Mention, Spring 2017.

“*Four Days in September*–Barreto’s Perfect Balance of Imperfect Cinema.” Honorable Mention, Spring 2016

SERVICE

ACT HUMAN RIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL, PROGRAMMING COMMITTEE

**COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES**

2019–2020

Screened and recommended films for the annual ACT Human Rights Film Festival.

ADDITIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON, SUSTAINABLE CITIES INITIATIVE (SCI)

SUSTAINABLE CITIES YEAR PROGRAM REPORT COORDINATOR

2017-2018

Organized the work of student report writers for the Sustainable Cities Year Program (SCYP)

Communicated with UO Faculty, Students, SCI Staff, and Partner Community representatives to organize and facilitate the SCYP report process.

Reviewed drafts of student reports, and performed edits for organization, clarity, and overall SCI style guidelines.

Ensured that student work was completed and delivered to the partner communities by appropriate deadlines.

DENVER AREA COUNCIL, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

CAMP DIRECTOR

2016-2017

Planned and developed a summer camp program including hiring staff, communication with unit leaders, and coordination with other council employees.

Trained camp staff and provided resources and guidance to support the educational goals of the summer camp program.

Supervised daily operation of the camp, equipment safety, and facility usage.

Directed staff in enforcing camp and council policies and procedures.

SKILLS AND MEMBERSHIPS

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FALL 2019

Graduate Teaching Certificate, CSU Institute for Learning and Teaching (TILT)

FALL 2018

Inclusive Pedagogy and Praxis Workshops, CSU College of Liberal Arts

DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION SKILLS

Digital Photography and Videography

Adobe Creative Cloud including Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and Premiere.

Basic HTML and CSS

Basic python

ORGANIZATIONS

Association of Internet Researchers

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

National Communication Association

National Eagle Scout Association