

# AARON TAYLOR

Associate Professor – Department of New Media, University of Lethbridge

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Centre for the Arts W864  
4401 University Drive  
Lethbridge, Alberta, T1K 3M4  
Phone: 403 394-3922  
E-mail: aaron.taylor2@uleth.ca

**Alternate Contact Information:**  
671 Aberdeen Cres W  
Lethbridge, Alberta, T1J 5A9  
Phone: 403 388-8642  
Cell: 403 393-1015

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Film acting; American cinema; Comic books; Emotions and film; Cognitive film theory; Film philosophy; Cult cinema; Narratology & aesthetics

## POSITIONS

July 2012 – present	University of Lethbridge (New Media); Associate Professor
July 2007 – June 2012	University of Lethbridge (New Media); Assistant Professor
July 2005 – July 2007	Brock University (CPCF); Term Assistant Professor
Sept 2003 – May 2005	Western University (Film) & Huron College (English); Sessional lecturer

## EDUCATION

PhD - Film Studies (April 24, 2006)

**University of Kent** (Canterbury, Kent, UK)

Thesis: “Cain’s Homecoming: Villainy and the Cinema” (Advisor: Dr. Murray Smith)

MA - Film Studies (August 2000)

**Carleton University** (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada)

Thesis: “World Without End: Historicity and the Contemporary Science Fiction Cinema”

Hons. BA, with Distinction - English / Cinema Studies (May 1999)

**Western University / Huron College** (London, Ontario, Canada)

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

2015 – 2017	Community of Research Excellence Development Opportunities award (\$23,000)
2014	Hokkai Gakuen Faculty Exchange Program, Sapporo, Japan (April – August)
2010 – 2011	University of Lethbridge Research Grant (\$4500)
2007 – 2014	FFA Research Support Fund (\$1000) – <b>eight times awarded</b>
2007 – 2014	University of Lethbridge Travel Fund (\$900) – <b>seven times awarded</b>
2003 – 2004	USC Teaching Honour Roll Award of Excellence (Western University)
2000 – 2003	University of Kent at Canterbury Internal Scholarship (£7200/a)
2000 – 2003	Overseas Research Studentship (£4325/a)
1999 – 2000	Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$11,859)
1999 – 2000	Carleton University Internal Scholarship (\$12,138)
1997 – 1998	Third Year English Prize (highest first-class standing in 3 <sup>rd</sup> year English, Huron College)
1995 – 1996	Percival Prize in English (highest first-class standing in 1 <sup>st</sup> year English, Huron College)
1995 – 1999	Huron College Corporation National Scholarship: (\$3972/a)

## PUBLISHED WORK

### Refereed Edited Anthology

- 1) Theorizing Film Acting. New York: Routledge, 2012.

### Refereed Articles

- 1) “*Watchmen* and the Continuing Adventures of the ‘Inherently Unfilmable’ Text.” Cinema Journal 55.4 (2016). **In review.**
- 2) “Blind Spots and Mind Games: Performance, Motivation and Emotion in the Films of Stanley Kubrick.” Velvet Light Trap 77 (2016). **In print.**
- 3) “Avengers Dissemble! Transmedia Superhero Franchises & Cultic Management.” Journal of Adaptation in Film and Performance 7.2 (2014): 181-94.
- 4) “A Cannibal’s Sermon: Hannibal Lecter, Sympathetic Villainy and Moral Reevaluation.” Cinema: Journal of Philosophy and the Moving Image 4 (2014). <http://cjpmi.ifilnova.pt/4-contents>.
- 5) “Uncelebrated Lives: Reflections on the Supporting Player.” Quarterly Review of Film and Video 29.2 (2012): 114-28.
- 6) “Angels, Stones, Hunters: Murder, Celebrity and Direct Cinema.” Studies in Documentary Film 5.1 (2011): 45-60.
- 7) “Twilight of the Idols: Performance, Melodramatic Villainy and *Sunset Boulevard*.” The Journal of Film and Video 59.2 (2007): 13-31.
- 8) “He’s Gotta’ Be Strong and He’s Gotta’ Be Fast and He’s Gotta’ Be Larger Than Life: Investigating the Engendered Superhero Body.” Journal of Popular Culture 40.2 (2007): 344-60.
- 9) “Rough Beasts Slouch Toward Bethlehem to Be Born: *Eraserhead* and the Grotesque Infant.” The Canadian Journal of Film Studies 9.2 (2000): 55-69.

### Refereed Book Chapters

- 1) “Playing Peter Parker: Spider-Man and Superhero Film Performance.” Making the Marvel Universe: Transmedia and the Marvel Comics Brand. Ed. Matt Yockey. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2016. **In review.**
- 2) “How to See Things Differently: Tim Burton’s Reimaginings.” The Works of Tim Burton: From Margins to Mainstream. Ed. Jeffrey Weinstock. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. 99-116.
- 3) “Adam Sandler, An Apologia: Anger, Arrested Adolescence, *Amour Fou*.” Millennial Masculinity: Men in Contemporary American Cinema. Ed. Timothy Shary. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2013. 19-51.
- 4) “Introduction: Acting, Casually and Theoretically Speaking.” Theorizing Film Acting. Ed. Aaron Taylor. New York: Routledge, 2012. 1-16.
- 5) “Thinking Through Acting: Performative Indices and Philosophical Assertions.” Acting and Performance in Moving Image Culture: Bodies, Screens, Renderings. Ed. Joerg Sternagel, Deborah Levitt, Dieter Mersch. Bielefeld: Transcript Verlag, 2012. 395-412.
- 6) “Playing to the Balcony: Screen Acting, Distance and Cavellian Theatricality.” Stages of Reality: Theatricality in Cinema. Ed. André Loiselle & Jeremy Maron. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2012. 185-203.
- 7) “Straight Outta’ Hogtown: Sex, Drugs and Bruce McDonald.” Great Canadian Film Directors. Ed. George Melnyk. Edmonton: University of Alberta Press, 2007. 199-225.
- 8) “Everyone Wants a Piece of Pooh: Winnie, from Adaptation to Market Saturation.” Rethinking Disney: Private Control and Public Dimensions. Ed. Mike Budd. Middletown: Wesleyan University Press, 2005. 181-98.

### Open Peer Reviewed Encyclopaedia Entries

- 1) "Direction." The Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film. Vol. 2. Ed. Barry Keith Grant. Farmington Hills: Thomson Gale, 2006. 61-71.
- 2) Four career profiles for The Schirmer Encyclopedia of Film. Vols. 1 & 2. Ed. Barry Keith Grant. Farmington Hills: Thomson Gale, 2006.
  - "Will Hays" (vol. 1, p. 238)
  - "Eric Von Stroheim" (vol. 2, p. 68)
  - "Andrew Sarris" (vol. 2, p. 8)
  - "Stanley Kubrick" (vol. 2, p. 70)

### Book Reviews

- 1) Review of Film and the City, by George Melnyk. Alberta Views (Oct 2014).
- 2) Review of Hollywood Incoherent, by Todd Berliner. Projections 5.2 (2011): 115-21.
- 3) Review of The Horse Who Drank the Sky, by Murray Pomerance. The Canadian Journal of Film Studies 18.1 (2009): 114-17.

### Non-Refereed and/or Professional Articles

- 1) "New Media and the Solipsistic Romantic Comedy." Press Play. 30 May, 2014. <http://blogs.indiewire.com/pressplay/new-media-and-the-solipsistic-romantic-comedy>.
- 2) "Performative Seriality and the Regenerations of Doctor Who." In Media Res. 10 April, 2014. <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2014/04/10/performative-seriality-and-regenerations-doctor-who>.
- 3) "Blood in the Maple Syrup: Canon, Popular Genre and the Canuxploitation of Julian Roffman." Cineaction 61 (2003): 18-28.
- 4) "Spiders and Flies: David Cronenberg's Farewell to the Flesh." Close-Up 1.1 (2002): 10-12.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### Keynote Presentations

- 1) "Screen Acting and Reality Effects." Filmic Narration as a Biocultural Phenomenon Symposium. University of Helsinki. December 4-5, 2015.

### Refereed Conference Papers

- 1) "Screen Acting and Embodied Cognition." Society for the Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image – 2015 Conference. London, UK. June 18, 2015.
- 2) "Beyond Star Studies: The Other Actors" panel. The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2015 Conference. Montreal, Quebec. March 26, 2015.
  - **Invited respondent for Performance Studies panel**
- 3) "*Watchmen* and the Continuing Adventures of the 'Inherently Unfilmable' Text." The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2014 Conference. Montreal, Quebec. March 28, 2015.
- 4) "Avengers Dissemble! Transmedia Superhero Franchises & Cultic Management." The Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2013. Victoria, British Columbia. June 4-6, 2013.
  - **Co-organized panel on Transmedia Fandom**
- 5) "Blind Spots and Mind Games." The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2013 Conference. Chicago, Illinois. March 5-10, 2013.
  - **Organized & Chaired Panel on 1960s Auteurs, Character & Performance.**
- 6) "How to See Things Differently: Tim Burton's Reimaginings." The Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2012. Waterloo, Ontario. May 30 – June 1, 2012.
- 7) "Dear Mr. Capra?: Fan Letters and the *Wonderful Life* Cult." The Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2011. Fredericton, New Brunswick. June 2-4, 2011.

- 8) “*It’s a Wonderful Life* in the Public Domain.” The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2011 Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana. March 10-13, 2011.
- 9) “Performative Indices and Philosophical Assertions.” Acting in Film: Concepts, Theories, Philosophies. University of Potsdam. Potsdam, Germany. September 2-4, 2010.
  - o **Invited paper at pre-constituted conference**
- 10) “Tears from a Few Starry-Eyed Dreamers: Sentimentality, Cognition and Cultist Pleasures.” SCSMI - 2010 conference. Roanoke, Virginia. June 2-5, 2010.
- 11) “Emotions, Simulation and Screen Acting.” Society for the Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image (SCSMI) - 2009 conference. University of Copenhagen. June 24-27, 2009.
- 12) “Playing to the Balcony: Screen Acting and Distance.” The Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2009. Ottawa, Ontario. May 28-31, 2009.
  - o **Organized & Chaired Panel on Screen Performance.**
- 13) “Empathic Imagination and Film Performance.” The Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference 2008. Vancouver, British Columbia. June 2-4, 2008.
  - o **Organized & Chaired Panel on Screen Performance.**
- 14) “Adam Sandler and Arrested Adolescence.” The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2008 Conference. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 6-9, 2008.
- 15) “Dirty Pretty Things: Knowing and Judging in the Films of Stanley Kubrick.” The World/Picture Conference on Media and Ethics. Oklahoma State University, Oct 26-27, 2007.
- 16) “Uncelebrated Lives: Reflections on the Supporting Player.” The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2007 Conference. Chicago, Illinois, March 8-11, 2007.
- 17) “The Love Crimes of Bruce McDonald.” The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Two Days of Canada Conference. Brock University, St.Catharines, November 3, 2006.
- 18) “Postmodernity, Postfuturism and SF Cinema.” The Film Studies Association of Canada Conference. Toronto, Ontario, May 28, 2006.
- 19) “After Midnight: Pastiche, History and Contemporary *Noir*.” The Film Studies Association of Canada Conference. London, Ontario, May 29, 2005.
- 20) “Perverse Allegiance, Empathy and Moral Criticism.” The Society for Cinema and Media Studies 2005 Conference. London, UK, March 31, 2005.
- 21) “The Value(s) of Mass Murder: Nietzsche, Villainy, and Revaluation.” The Film and Philosophy Symposium, University of Kent, Canterbury, 6 June 2003.
- 22) “Something Wicked: The Allegory of Villainy.” The Popular Culture and American Culture Association’s 2002 Annual Conference. Toronto, Ontario, March 15, 2002.
- 23) “Everyone Wants a Piece of Pooh: Winnie, from Adaptation to Market Saturation.” Paper selected for presentation at the *Rethinking Disney: Private Control and Public Dimensions* conference, Florida Atlantic University, Orlando, 9 November 2000. **Unable to attend.**

### **Graduate Student Conferences**

- 1) “When Mama’s Boys Go Bad: Villainous Nominations and Ethical Fissures.” The *Journeys Across Media* Conference, Reading University, Reading, 22 March 2003.
- 2) “*Eraserhead* and the Grotesque Infant.” Paper presented at the Film Studies Association of Canada Graduate Colloquium, York University, Toronto, 25 March 2000.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Lethbridge (graduate): January 2013 – present

- 1) NMED 5151 – **New Media Theory and History**

### Graduate Supervision (University of Lethbridge): September 2012 – December 2014

- 1) MFA Co-supervisor. Blake Evernden, MFA New Media, 2012-14. “Digital Imperfections: Analog Processes in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cinema.”

### Graduate Committees (University of Lethbridge): September 2009 – present

- 1) MSc. Committee Member. Sara Dada, Psychology, 2013-15.
- 2) M.A. Committee Member. Jessica Bay, M.A. English, 2012-14. “Re-writing Publishing: Fanfiction and Self-Publication in Urban Fantasy.”
- 3) M.A. Committee Member. Kent Aardse, M.A. English, 2009-11. “The Literary Artifact: The Future of the Novel in the Age of Digital Media.”
- 4) M.A. Committee Member. Ben Driedger, M.A. English, 2009. “Miscegenation in Twentieth Century American Drama.” **Not completed.**

### University of Lethbridge (undergraduate): July 2007 – present

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|---|--|
| 1) DRAMA 3030 – <b>Film Studies</b>         | 5) NMED 3560 – <b>Popular Narrative</b>        |
| 2) NMED 3001 – <b>Film Authorship</b>       | 6) NMED 3150 – <b>New Media Studies</b> (2013) |
| 3) NMED 3200 – <b>Documentary Film</b>      | 7) NMED 3850N – <b>Film Theory</b>             |
| 4) NMED 3200 – <b>Genre &amp; Film Noir</b> | 8) NMED 3850B – <b>Contemporary US Cinema</b>  |

### Hokkai Gakuen University (undergraduate): April 1 – August 1, 2014

- 1) **Canadian Nature and Society** – undergraduate course taught as a component of the Faculty Exchange Program to Hokkai Gakuen University (Sapporo, Japan)

### Brock University: July 2005 – July 2007

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| 1) Film 3P91 – <b>Contemporary Film Theory</b> | 5) PCUL 2F92 – <b>Popular Narrative</b> |
| 2) Film 3P93 – <b>Authorship in Film</b>       | 6) Film 2P91 – <b>Early Film Theory</b> |
| 3) Film 3P54 – <b>Documentary Ethics</b>       | 7) Film 2P54 – <b>Documentary Film</b>  |
| 4) PCUL 2P21 – <b>Canadian Pop Culture</b>     |   |

### Western University & Huron College: September 2003 – May 2005

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| 1) English 127F – <b>Film &amp; Literature</b>         | 5) Film 253E – <b>American Cinema</b>      |
| 2) English 128G – <b>Crime Fiction &amp; Film Noir</b> | 6) Film 257F – <b>International Cinema</b> |
| 3) Film 152G – <b>Contemporary American Film</b>       | 7) Film 258F – <b>Canadian Cinema</b>      |
| 4) Film 200G – <b>Criticism &amp; Critical Methods</b> | 8) Film 279F – <b>Film Noir</b>            |

### University of Kent: September 2000 – January 2003

- 1) Film 531 – **Post-War American Cinema** (Co-Lecturer)
- 2) Film 533 – **Long Essay** (supervised four students preparing a short research dissertation)
- 3) Film 525 – **The Fantastic Film** (seminar leader)

### Carleton University: September 1999 – May 2000

- 1) Film 19.100b - **Introduction to Film Studies** (Teaching assistant and 1 lecture presented)

## **ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

### **Invited Public Lectures**

- 1) U of Lethbridge Student Union Last Lecture Series 2015. University of Lethbridge, April 15, 2015.
- 2) "A Survivor's Guide to Experimental Film and Video." *Art Now* 2007-2008 series. Lethbridge, March 31, 2008.
- 3) "Hollywood and the Early Western." One Book One Community 2008. Medicine Hat, February 2, 2008.
- 4) "Stardom and Celebrity Culture." Western University Alumni Association. London, May 26, 2004.

### **Public Lectures & Public Panel Moderation**

- 1) "Comics as History." Organized and Chaired panel at 2015 Lethbridge ComicCon. October 18, 2015.
- 2) "Watchmen: A Retrospective." Organized and Chaired panel at 2015 Calgary Expo. April 17, 2015.
- 3) "Teaching Comics." Organized and Chaired panel at 2015 Calgary Expo. April 17, 2015.
- 4) "Beyond Tomorrow: Women in SciFi." Panel Chair and Respondent at 2013 Edmonton Expo. Sept 28, 2013.
- 5) "Teaching Comics." Organized and Chaired panel at 2013 Calgary Expo. April 27, 2013.
- 6) Interviewed celebrity guests & moderated panels at 2013 Calgary Expo. April 27-28, 2013.
  - i. Sir Richard Taylor & David Tremont (Weta Workshop)
  - ii. Eliza Dushku

### **Juries**

- 1) Gerald Pratley Award Committee 2008, 2009, 2012 & 2013 (FSAC)
- 2) FSAC Student Essay Award Committee 2011, 2012 & 2013
- 3) Calgary Film Festival – "Youth by Youth Cinema" 2013 competition. Sept 22, 2013.
- 4) Lethbridge Film Festival 2009-12
- 5) 2009 Southern Alberta Film Festival. Fort MacLeod, AB. Oct 17, 2009.
- 6) Host and Judge – 2008 Open Call Film Festival. Southern Alberta Art Gallery, Lethbridge, AB. March 21, 2008.
- 7) Brock University 24 Hour Student Film Festival (October 2006) and Western University Student Film Festival (March 2004 & 2005)

### **Refereeing / Peer reviewing**

- 1) *Projections* – three articles reviewed (August 2013, October 2014, January 2015)
- 2) *Social History of Alcohol and Drugs* – one article reviewed (August 2013)
- 3) Film Studies Association of Canada Annual Conference – over 150 conference proposals reviewed (2009-2014)
- 4) Film Studies Association of Canada 2010 Graduate Symposium – conference proposals reviewed

### **Professional Organizations**

- 1) Film Studies Association of Canada Executive Committee: **Vice President** (June 2012-14)
- 2) Film Studies Association of Canada Executive Committee: **Secretary** (June 2010-12)
- 3) Film Studies Association of Canada Executive Committee: **Member-at-large** (June 2008-10)
- 4) Society for Cognitive Studies of the Moving Image (2008 – present)
- 5) Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2002 – present)

### **Lecture Series**

- 1) Conceived of, organised, and hosted the New Media Film Series (Lethbridge Public Library Gallery Theatre, January 2009 – present)
- 2) Organised visiting filmmaker and scholar lectures:
  - i. Weta Workshops & Weta Digital representatives (U of L, Feb 6-7, 2014): Eric Reynolds (Senior Animator), David Tremont (Senior Model Maker), David Gougé (Head of Marketing)
  - ii. Barry Keith Grant – Film Studies scholar (U of L, Nov 5, 2012)
  - iii. Philippa Gates – Film Studies scholar (U of L, Mar 4, 2009)
  - iv. Deco Dawson – filmmaker (U of L, Oct 23, 2007)
  - v. Alanis Obomsawin – filmmaker (Brock, Mar 2007)
  - vi. Geoff Pevere – *Toronto Star* (Brock, Apr 7, 2007)
  - vii. Michael Mabbott – filmmaker (Brock, Mar 12, 2006)
  - viii. Liz Czach – TIFF programmer (Brock, Feb 23, 2006)
  - ix. Dave McKean – artist and filmmaker (Kent, March 27, 2003)

### **Theatre and Film Performances**

- 1) *Burn Your Maps* (Jordan Roberts, dir. 2016. Warner Bros.). Feature film. Background.
- 2) *The Hitch-Hiker* (Jean-Pierre Marchant, dir. 2015. 25 min.). Short film. Voice work.
- 3) *Common Chord* (Deric Olsen, dir. Koan, 2013. 89 mins.). Feature film. Speaking role (Don Sheldon).
- 4) *The Rocky Horror Show*. University of Lethbridge, Dept. of Theatre and Dramatic Arts Production. Oct 16-20, 2012. Supporting role (Riff Raff).
- 5) *Hamlet*. University of Lethbridge, Dept. of Theatre and Dramatic Arts Production. Feb 14-18, 2012. Supporting role (First Gravedigger).

### **Miscellaneous**

- 1) Organised & Board Member of the Lethbridge Cinema Group (2012)
- 2) Organised the Performance & Cognition Reading Group (University of Lethbridge - 2009)
- 3) One of top 10 UWO Faculty members interviewed in the media in 2004. Provided film commentary for local & public television (TVO's *Studio 2*, Roger's *Daytime*, & the New PL's *New Day*), & radio (CBC Windsor, CBC Whitehorse, Sterling Fox Show on CKNW Vancouver, & local stations: AM 980, CFOS FM, & 6X News FM)
- 4) Administrative work at the University of Kent, including exam invigilation, orientation introductions, and graduate student representative on Film Studies Committee
- 5) Organised the Film postgraduate reading/study group at UKC (2002)
- 6) "Why Your Television Must Be Destroyed." The London Free Press 3 October 1994: B4. Used as teaching material in English classes in various high schools in London, ON

### **Administrative Duties – University of Lethbridge (July 2007 – present)**

- Acting Chair, Department of New Media (Jan 1, 2013 – July 1, 2013)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Study Leave committee (2014)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Mission Statement subcommittee (2014)
- Chair Selection (Fine Arts) Committee (2013-14)
- Course Evaluation Reform (Fine Arts) Subcommittee (2013-14)
- STP Handbook Appeals Committee (2013-14)
- STP Standards (Fine Arts) Committee (2012-13)
- STP (Fine Arts) Committee (2012-13)
- GFC Travel Committee (2012-14)

- New Media B.A. Subcommittee (2012 – present) – **coordinated initiative**
- FFA Associate Dean Search Committee (2012)
- Department of New Media Art Competition Subcommittee (2012)
- Department of New Media MFA Recruitment Subcommittee (2011 – present)
- Department of New Media Visiting Speaker Subcommittee (2011-12)
- Department of New Media Symposium Subcommittee (2011)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Academic Enhancement Fund Committee (2011-12, 2014)
- Department of New Media Search Committee (2010-12, 2014)
- New Media MFA Steering Committee (2010 – present)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Gold Medal Committee (2010-11)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Executive Committee (2009-11, 2013)
- Faculty of Fine Arts MFA Committee (2009-11, 2013)
- Faculty of Arts and Science External Representative (2009-11)
- Department of New Media Curriculum Subcommittee (2009 – present)
- VP Research Re-appointment Committee (2009)
- General Faculties Council – Statutory Member (2008-10)
- Faculty of Management External Representative (2008-09)
- Faculty of Fine Arts Video Collection Subcommittee – **organized subcommittee** (2008)
- Membership in School of Graduate Studies (2009 – present)

## REFERENCES

1) Barry Keith Grant – Professor  
 Communications, Popular Culture & Film  
 Brock University  
 500 Glenridge Ave.  
 St.Catharines, Ontario, Canada, L2S 3A1  
 Phone: (001) 905 688-5550 (ext. 3215)  
 Email: [bgrant@brocku.ca](mailto:bgrant@brocku.ca)

2) Ernest Mathijs – Professor  
 Department of Film and Theatre  
 University of British Columbia  
 1924 West Mall  
 Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6T 1Z2  
 Phone: (001) 604 822-6656  
 E-mail: [ernest.mathijs@ubc.ca](mailto:ernest.mathijs@ubc.ca)

3) Johannes Riis – Associate Professor  
 Dept. of Media, Cognition and Communication  
 University of Copenhagen  
 Njalsgade 80, 2300 København S

Office: 17.2.23  
 Copenhagen, Denmark  
 Phone: 011 +45 353-29180  
 E-mail: [johriis@hum.ku.dk](mailto:johriis@hum.ku.dk)