

Aaron Shapiro

Annenberg School for Communication • University of Pennsylvania
3620 Walnut St., Suite 200 • Philadelphia, PA 19104 •
ashapiro@asc.upenn.edu

Education

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

(2018) **Ph.D., Communication**

Dissertation: *Design, Control, Predict: Cultural Politics in the Actually Existing Smart City* (dissertation defense Nov. 10th, 2017).

Committee: Carolyn Marvin (advisor), Jessa Lingel (chair), John L. Jackson, Jr., Marwan Kraidy, Mimi Sheller (Professor of Sociology, Drexel University)

Graduate Certificate in Urban Studies (requirements completed April, 2016)

Supervisor: Elaine Simon (Director, Urban Studies Program)

2014 **M.A., Communication**

Qualifying paper: "The User-Generated City: Participatory Urbanism and the Authorship of Public Space"

Committee: Carolyn Marvin, Marwan Kraidy

2009 **M.A., Anthropology**

Thesis: "Global Pop Vigilante: Reflexivity, Value, and the Production of Reality in Indonesia"

Thesis advisor: John L. Jackson, Jr.

2008 **B.A., Anthropology, magna cum laude**

Minor: Fine arts

Research interests

The politics of urban space; surveillance; mobility; technology and reification; infrastructure; logistics and logistical media; labor and labor subjectivities; visibility and visualization; digital mapping and cartography; technologies to represent and analyze crime.

Research appointments

Spring 2017 **PhD Research Intern, Microsoft Research NYC**

Supervisor: Kate Crawford (MSR; NYU ILI; MIT Media Lab). Project team: Solon Barocas (Cornell), Hanna Wallach (MSR; UMass), Arvind Narayanan (Princeton).

Publications

Books

In progress *Design, Control, Predict: Logistical Governance in the Smart City.*
The book argues that the “smart city” is driven by a logistical mode of urban governance that emphasizes efficiency, optimization, and control over other ideological commitments. It examines three infrastructural systems in which this mode of governance shapes cultural politics in the city: interface design, algorithmically managed labor, and predictive policing.

Peer-reviewed articles

- 2018 Shapiro, Aaron. “[Street-Level: Google Street View’s Abstraction by Datafication.](#)” *New Media & Society*, 20(3): 1201-1219.
- 2018 Shapiro, Aaron. “[The Urban Stack: A Topology for Urban Data Infrastructures,](#)” *Tecnoscienza: The Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies*, 8(2): 61-80. Special issue: “Data-Driven Cities? Digital Urbanism and its Proxies.”
- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. “[Between Autonomy and Control: Strategies of Arbitrage in the On-Demand Economy,](#)” *New Media & Society*, published online November 10, 2017. DOI: 10.1177/1461444817738236.
- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. “[The Medium is the Mob.](#)” *Media, Culture & Society*, 39(6): 930-941.
- 2016 Shapiro, Aaron. “[The Mezzanine.](#)” *Space & Culture*, 19(4) 292-307.
- In review Shapiro, Aaron. “Predictive Policing for Reform? Indeterminacy and Intervention in Big Data Policing” (*Surveillance & Society*).
- In progress (with Kate Crawford, Solon Barocas, and Hannah Wallach) “The Problem with Bias: Allocative versus Representational Harms in Machine Learning.”

(with Tim Libert) “The Logic of Connective Surveillance.”

Book chapters

- 2018 Shapiro, Aaron. “Google Street View and Representational Ubiquity,” in *Mobile and Ubiquitous Media*, editors Michael Daubs and Vincent Manzerolle. Peter Lang Publishing.

In progress Shapiro, Aaron. "Urban transport and/as communications." *Routledge Urban Media Companion*, editors Zlatan Krajinina & Deborah Stevenson (invited).

Book reviews

2018 [Review of Ferguson, Andrew Guthrie. 2017. The Rise of Big Data Policing: Surveillance, Race, and the Future of Law Enforcement. *Surveillance & Society*.](#)

Invited commentary

2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "[Reform Predictive Policing.](#)" *Nature* [01 Jan 2017, 541(7638):458-460].

2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "On Patrol with Big Data." [["Auf Streife mit Big Data"](#)] *Bauwelt* (in German).

Other writing

2014 Shapiro, Aaron. "[The Future of Security Lies Beneath the City of Brotherly Love.](#)" *Annenberg News*.

2013 Shapiro, Aaron. "[The Tactics That Be: Contesting Tactical Urbanism in New Orleans.](#)" *Urban Fringe*.

2010 Shapiro, Aaron. "[First Bite: Burger King's Search for Purity.](#)" *Caterwaul Quarterly*, Fall.

Media production

Podcast producer and editor. 3620, student-run podcast, Annenberg School for Communication.

2018 Episode #68: "[Karaoke Verite](#)" (with Jasmine Erdener)

2015 Episode #59: "[Exemptions and Obligations](#)" (with John Vilanova).

2014 Episode #48: "[Lark in the Mud.](#)"

2014 Episode #41: "[The Cyborg of Sixth Avenue Rides the Subway.](#)"

2013 Episode #20: "[Heroin's Perfect Storm.](#)"

2012 Episode #11: "[The Lightning Bug and the Lightning](#)" (with Emily LaDue).

As audio editor.

- 2018 [Media@Risk](#). A podcast from the Center for Media at Risk at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2016-7 [When I Die, Let Me Live](#). Podcast produced by Lauren Kelly and the Fostering Improvement in End-of-Life Decision Science (FIELDS) program, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2014 [Philanthropy Unfiltered](#). Podcast produced by the Center for High Impact Philanthropy, University of Pennsylvania.

Conference & symposium presentations

- 2018 Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy.
"Performance and Performativity in Predictive Policing."
- 2017 Society for the History of Technology (SHOT), Special Interest Group:
Computers, Information and Society (SIGCIS). Philadelphia, PA.
"The Problem with Bias: From Allocative to Representational Harms" (with Solon Barocas, Kate Crawford and Hanna Wallach).
- 2017 Society for the Social Study of Science (4S). Boston, MA.
"Interface, Infrastructure, and the Future of Public Space."
- 2017 Data Power. Carleton University, Ottawa, ON.
"Predictive Policing and the Performativity of Data."
- 2017 American Association of Geographers. Boston, MA.
"The Mezzanine and the Politics of Verticality."
- 2016 Global Fusion Conference. Temple University: Philadelphia, PA.
"The Urban Stack."
- 2016 Society for the Social Study of Science (4S). Barcelona, Spain.
"Crime as Data: Predictive Policing and Police Reform"
- 2016 International Communication Association (ICA). Fukuoka, Japan.
Philosophy, Theory, Critique section.
"The Medium is the Mob"

- 2016 ICA. Fukuoka, Japan.
"Mobs and Media" (with Anne Kaun, Södertorn University, Stockholm)
- 2016 ICA. Fukuoka, Japan.
Communication and Technology section.
"The Urban Stack: A Topology for Urban Data Infrastructures"
- 2016 Urban Studies Colloquium. University of Pennsylvania.
"Street-Level: Google Street View, Geovisuality, and Broken Windows Theory"
- 2016 American Association of Geographers. San Francisco, CA.
"Red Lines on the Digital Map"
- 2016 Annenberg Graduate Student Symposium. University of Pennsylvania.
"Crime as Data: From Predictive to Prescriptive Policing"
- 2015 International Association of Mass Communication Researchers (IAMCR).
Montreal, Quebec.
"Flash Mobs, Vicious and Virtuous"
- 2015 *Geomedia: Spaces and Mobilities in Mediatized Worlds*. Hosted by Karlstad University. Karlstad, Sweden.
"The Surface of Things: Google Street View as Slow Surveillance"
- 2014 Critical Geography Conference. Temple University. Philadelphia, PA.
"The Mezzanine"
- 2014 *Social Media and the Transformation of the Public Sphere*. Hosted by University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
"User-Generated City: Participatory Urbanism and the Authorship of Public Space"
- 2014 Annenberg Graduate Student Symposium. University of Pennsylvania.
"Participatory Urbanism and the Authorship of Public Space"
- 2014 The Revolutionary Public Sphere. Graduate Student Panel. University of Pennsylvania.
"The Medium is the Mob: Thinking Volatile Sociality as Media"
- 2014 Imagining Utopia. Graduate Student Conference hosted by the Princeton University Anthropology Department.
"Mobs and Media: Ecstasy and Anxiety"

- 2013 Social Entrepreneurialism: Generating Hope Anew? Graduate Student Workshop hosted by the Princeton University Anthropology Department.
"Urban Politics Beyond Livability"
- 2013 Summer Culture Symposium. Annenberg School for Communication. University of Pennsylvania.
"Urban Strategy in Digital Dublin"

Teaching experience

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Teaching assistant

- 2016 Urban Ethnography: Social Justice & the City (COMM 243)
Instructor: Jessa Lingel
Responsibilities: Instructed students in media production; helped with designing assignments and projects; graded weekly research memos; provided constructive feedback; and produced lectures and in-class activities.
Lecture: "The public sphere and the social production of space."
- 2014 Critical Approaches to Popular Culture (COMM 123)
Instructor: Felicity Paxton
Responsibilities: Held office hours; helped students with writing; helped the instructor write exam questions; helped students prepare for exams; graded student essays and exams.
Lecture: "A brief history and overview of post-modernism."
- 2013 Public Space, Public Life (COMM 300)
Instructor: Carolyn Marvin
Responsibilities: Helped students with writing; helped the instructor create field research projects; helped students prepare for exams; graded student essays and exams.
- 2008 The Medical Anthropology of Alcohol Use
Instructor: Janet Chrzan
Responsibilities: Held weekly recitations; helped instructor create exam; graded exams.

Leadership and service

- 2017- Reviewer, *New Media & Society*.

- 2017-8 Student organizing committee member, Center for Media @ Risk
Faculty organizer: Barbie Zelizer.
- 2017-8 Graduate student representative, Annenberg School for Communication Dean
Search Committee.
- 2015 Editor, *3620*. Graduate student-run podcast.
- 2015 Organizer, graduate student symposium.
- 2014 Graduate student representative, WXPB advisory committee.
- 2013-2014 Member, graduate student council.
- 2013 Student organizing committee member, Scholars Program in Culture &
Communication Symposium: *Context Collapse: Reassembling the Spatial*.
Faculty organizer: Carolyn Marvin.
- 2006-2008 Leader, Student Planning & Events Committee (SPEC) Jazz & Grooves.
University of Pennsylvania.

Work experience

- 2017- Editor. Armstrong-Hilton Editing. Hong Kong.
Responsibilities: Copyedit academic texts.
- 2014 Lead field researcher. Easton Economic Development Corporation. Easton, MD.
Conducted survey interviews with organic farmers in nine counties on the
Delmarva peninsula; created survey and field reports; presented research to
community members and key stakeholders in a start-up farm-to-market
cooperative.
- 2010-2012 Researcher and field supervisor. National HIV Behavioral Surveillance Project,
NO/AIDS Task Force. New Orleans, LA.
Supervised assistants researching populations at high risk for HIV. Presented
findings at conferences. HIV counseling, testing, and referral services with at-risk
individuals.
- 2010 Production assistant, *The Real World*. New Orleans, LA.
Assisted in television production and editorial tasks.

- 2009-2012 Content editor, self-employed. Philadelphia, PA & New Orleans, LA.
Edited dissertation chapters, proposals, and research monographs prior to publication for ESL graduate students.
- 2008-2013 Research assistant. Linguistic Data Consortium, University of Pennsylvania.
Philadelphia, PA.
Conducted interviews for linguistic research study. Coded data.
- 2006 Production assistant, *Voyage to the American Stonehenge*, Tiwanaku & La Paz,
Bolivia.
Assisted in all aspects of documentary production.

Professional affiliations

- 2016- Society for the Social Study of Science (4S)
- 2015- Association of American Geographers (AAG)
- 2015- International Communications Association (ICA)
- 2014-5 International Association of Mass Communication Researchers (IAMCR)