

Aaron Shapiro

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Education

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia, PA

- Present **PhD Candidate, Communication (ABD, Expected completion May, 2017)**
Dissertation Title: *Design, Control, Predict: The Cultural Politics of Urban Data Infrastructures*
Committee: Carolyn Marvin (Chair), John L. Jackson, Jr., Marwan Kraidy, Jessa Lingel, Mimi Sheller (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**
Masters 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 for representing and analyzing crime.

Publications

Peer-reviewed

- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "The Medium is the Mob." *Media, Culture & Society*, published online February 9. DOI:10.1177/0163443717692740.
- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "Street-Level: Google Street View's Abstraction by Datafication." *New Media & Society*, published online January 16. DOI:10.1177/1461444816687293.
- 2016 Shapiro, Aaron. "The Mezzanine." *Space & Culture*, Vol. 19(4) 292-307.

Manuscripts in progress

- Shapiro, Aaron. "The Urban Stack: A Topology for Urban Data Infrastructures." (in review), special issue of *Tecnoscienza: The Italian Journal of Science and Technology Studies*: "Data-Driven Cities? Digital Urbanism and its Proxies."
- Shapiro, Aaron. "Google Street View and Ubiquitous Representations of Space" (forthcoming). Edited volume, *From Here to Ubiquity*, editors Michael Daubs and Vincent Manzerolle. Peter Lang Publishing.

Invited commentary

- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "The Prediction Game." *Bauwelt* (German architecture and urban planning magazine).
- 2017 Shapiro, Aaron. "Reform Predictive Policing." *Nature: International Weekly Journal of Science*. Available at: <http://www.nature.com/news/reform-predictive-policing-1.21338>

Other writing

- 2014 Shapiro, Aaron. "The Future of Security Lies Beneath the City of Brotherly Love." *Annenberg News*. Available at: <https://www.asc.upenn.edu/news-events/news/future-security-lies-beneath-city-brotherly-love>
- 2013 Shapiro, Aaron. "The Tactics That Be: Contesting Tactical Urbanism in New Orleans." *Urban Fringe*. Available at: ced.berkeley.edu/bpj/2013/05/the-tactics-that-be-contesting-tactical-urbanism-in-new-orleans/
- 2013 LaDue, Emily & Aaron Shapiro. "Dispatch from Dublin: Authenticity and Entrepreneurialism in the City of Scholars and Saints." *Urban Fringe*. Available at: ced.berkeley.edu/bpj/2013/09/dispatch-from-dublin-authenticity-and-entrepreneurialism-in-the-city-of-saints-and-scholars/
- 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.

- 2015 Episode #59: "Exemptions and Obligations" (co-produced with John Vilanova). Available at: podcast.asc.upenn.edu/2015/04/episode-59-exemptions-obligations/
- 2014 Episode #48: "Lark in the Mud." Available at: <http://podcast.asc.upenn.edu/2014/10/episode-48-lark-in-the-mud/>
- 2014 Episode #41: "The Cyborg of Sixth Avenue Rides the Subway." Available at: podcast.asc.upenn.edu/2014/03/episode-41-the-cyborg-of-6th-avenue-rides-the-subway/
- 2013 Episode #20: "Heroin's Perfect Storm." Available at: podcast.asc.upenn.edu/2013/03/episode-20-heroin-perfect-storm/
- 2012 Episode #11: "The Lightning Bug and the Lightning" (co-produced with Emily LaDue). Available at: <http://podcast.asc.upenn.edu/2012/11/episode-11-the-lightning-bug-and-the-lightning/>

As audio editor.

- 2016-7 *When I Die, Let Me Live*. Produced by Lauren Kelly and the Fostering Improvement in End-of-Life Decision Science (FIELDS) program at the University of Pennsylvania. <https://www.whenidieletmelive.com/>
- 2014 *Philanthropy Unfiltered*. A podcast by the Center for High Impact Philanthropy, University of Pennsylvania. <http://www.impact.upenn.edu/philanthropy-unfiltered/>

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.

Conference & symposium presentations

- 2016 Global Fusion Conference. 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”

Leadership

- 2015 Editor, *3620*. Graduate student-run podcast.
- 2015 Organizer, graduate student symposium.
- 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

- 2014 Lead field researcher. Contracted by the Easton Economic Development Corporation. Easton, MD.
Responsibilities: Conducted survey interviews with small- to mid-sized organic farmers located in nine counties on the Delmarva peninsula; created reports based on these interviews; and 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.
Responsibilities: Supervised research assistants doing social research on 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.
Responsibilities: Assisted in television production and editorial tasks.
- 2009-2012 Content editor, self-employed. Philadelphia, PA & New Orleans, LA.
Responsibilities: 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.
Responsibilities: Conducted interviews for linguistic research study. Coded data.
- 2006 Production assistant, *Voyage to the American Stonehenge*, Tiwanaku & La Paz, Bolivia.
Responsibilities: 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- International Association of Mass Communication Researchers (IAMCR)