

BRET VUKODER, PHD

CURRICULUM VITAE

bret.vukoder@gmail.com · bretvukoder.com · Northfield, MN

EDUCATION

AUGUST 2020

PH.D., CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES
Dissertation: Filmic Aesthetics and Technologies of War, Policy, and “Truth” in the Motion Pictures of the United States Information Agency
Advisor: Richard Purcell
Committee: Neepa Majumdar, Marian Aguiar, and Thomas Doherty

MAY 2011

M.A., UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, ENGLISH (LITERATURE)
Advisor: Charles Maland

DECEMBER 2008

B.S., UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
Majors: Public Administration, English (Literature), and Political Science
Minor: Cinema Studies

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

MARCH 2026-PRESENT

CARLETON COLLEGE, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH

JANUARY 2026-PRESENT

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, LECTURER, CULTURAL STUDIES & COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

2025

ST. OLAF COLLEGE, ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

2023-2024

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, FILM AND MEDIA ARTS

2020-2023

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH

2019

RUTGERS, NEW BRUNSWICK, LECTURER, ENGLISH

2012-2019

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, PHD STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR, LITERARY & CULTURAL STUDIES

2011

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, LECTURER, ENGLISH

2009-2011

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, MASTERS STUDENT/INSTRUCTOR, ENGLISH

PUBLICATIONS

MID 2026 (IN PRINT)

SOLIDARITY THROUGH SATELLITE: USICA'S 'RAZZMATAZZ' GLOBAL BROADCAST OF LET POLAND BE POLAND,

The Moving Image 24, no. 1 (2026), guest editor, Brian Real.

FEBRUARY 2026

A COLD WAR NETFLIX: THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY AS A KEY HISTORIOGRAPHIC MODEL FOR THE TRANSNATIONAL STREAMER,

Streaming Video in the Global South, eds., Shakti Jaising and Hadi Gharabaghi, New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2026. ([link to Bloomsbury book portal](#))

MAY 2025

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTARY DURING THE COLD WAR: THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY'S GLOBAL OUTREACH, (WITH HADI GHARABAGHI)

The Oxford Handbook of Documentary, eds., Joshua Glick and Patricia Aufderheide, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2024. ([link to Oxford UP book portal](#))

NOVEMBER 2024

TWO WAYS OF MEMORY: THE SIGNAL CORPS AND CBS WORLD WAR I MOTION PICTURE COLLECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES,

Early Cinema History (Understanding Visual Culture through Silent Film Collections), *Journal of e-Media Studies* 7, no. 1 (2024). ([link to full open-source article](#))

FEBRUARY 2024

SCREENING SOVEREIGNTY: COLD WAR MEDIATIONS OF NATIONHOOD IN USIA MOTION PICTURE OPERATIONS IN THE SWANA REGION,

Journal of Contemporary Iraq and the Arab World 18, no. 1, guest eds., Terri Ginsberg and Chris Lippard (2024). ([link to article portal](#))

2023

REFRAMING HISTORIOGRAPHIC PARADIGMS OF USIA MOTION PICTURE RESEARCH IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT,

발굴영상, 미국아카이브, 그리고 대안적 역사기술 (*Excavated Footage, US Archives, and Alternative Historiography*). eds. Han Sang Kim and Mark Williams, Seoul: 도서출판 길 (Gil Publishing), 2023.

2022

THE MOTION PICTURES OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY: STUDYING A GLOBAL FILM AND TELEVISION OPERATION, (WITH HADI GHARABAGHI)

Journal of e-Media Studies 6 (special issue), no. 1 (2022). ([link to full open-source article](#))

2021

THE GREAT WAR AT SCALE: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROVENANCE IN WWI COLLECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, (WITH MARK WILLIAMS)

Provenance and Early Cinema: Preservation, Circulation, and Repurposing, eds., Joanne Bernardi, Paolo Cherchi Usai, Tami Williams, and Joshua Yumibe, Bloomington: Indiana Univ. Press, 2021.

2021

**LOCAL INSIGHTS, GLOBAL NETWORKED SCHOLARSHIP: THE MEDIA ECOLOGY PROJECT
USIA PILOT, (WITH MARK WILLIAMS)**

El Cine Documental: Una encrucijada estética y política: Inquisiciones contemporáneas al Sistema audiovisual (Documentary Film: An Aesthetic and Political Crossroads: Contemporary Inquiry into the Audiovisual System), eds., Javier Campo, Tomás Crowder-Taraborrelli, Clara Garavelli, Pablo Piedras, and Kristi Wilson, Buenos Aires: Promoteo Libros, 2021.

EDITED WORKS

JUNE 2022

MOTION PICTURE LEGACIES OF THE USIA, CO-EDITOR (WITH HADI GHARABAGHI)

Journal of e-Media Studies (special issue), Vol. 6, No. 1 ([link to full open-source issue](#))
-Co-conducted and edited three interviews with Peter Vaselopulos ([link](#)); Nicholas J. Cull ([link](#)); and Charles (Chas) Freeman ([link](#))
-Gathered authors, edited initial drafts, and arranged and managed peer review
-Centrally contributed to the design of the new journal website and article formatting in the multimedia Scalar HTML platform.

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

2022-2023

**LEGACIES OF USIA MOVING IMAGES THROUGH INTERNATIONAL LENSES,
SENIOR CONSULTANT, NEH COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH GRANT**

Project Directors: Mark Williams and John Bell, Dartmouth College ([link to announcement, p21](#))

2017-PRESENT

**MEDIA ECOLOGY PROJECT – THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY AND THE NATIONAL
ARCHIVES WORLD WAR I COLLECTIONS PILOT PROJECTS, CO-DIRECTOR**

Project Leaders: Mark Williams and John Bell, Dartmouth College
Co-Director of USIA Pilot: Hadi Gharabaghi, Drew University ([website](#))

OCTOBER 2018 - 2023

DISTANT VIEWING TOOLKIT, CASE STUDIES TEAM, NEH ODH LEVEL II GRANT

Project Leaders: Lauren Tilton and Taylor Arnold, University of Richmond ([project narrative](#))

PRESENTATIONS

**OCTOBER 2023, RECONTEXTUALIZING AMERICAN CULTURE AND MYTH WITH USIA FILMS
EXPERIENCED ABROAD**

at the Legacies of USIA Moving Images through International Lenses conference (online, a capstone event to our NEH grant)

**AUGUST 2023, SOLIDARITY THROUGH SATELLITE: USICA'S GLOBAL BROADCAST OF LET
POLAND BE POLAND**

at the Age of Reagan Conference, Reagan Presidential Library (Simi Valley, CA)
Panel: Reaching Out - Public Diplomacy

APRIL 2023, DESIGNING ENTRY POINTS FOR RESEARCH OF USIA FILMS

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference, (Denver, CO)
Roundtable: Collaborative DH Studies - The Legacy of USIA Moving Images through International Lenses

SEPTEMBER 2022, ANIMATING AND HISTORICIZING THE USIA MOTION PICTURE ARCHIVES RELATED TO THE MIDDLE EAST

at the *Insaniyyat* forum, (Tunis, Tunisia)

Panel: Governing Genealogies of Film Diplomacy and Educational Media

MARCH 2022, MAPPING AND LEVERAGING THE USIA'S INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY AND METADATA TOWARDS LOCALIZED READINGS

at Organization of American Historians conference, (Boston, MA, virtual)

Panel: Legacies of USIA Moving Images through International Lenses

MARCH 2022, STUDYING WWI FILM COLLECTIONS AT NARA VIA MEP

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) conference, (Chicago, IL, virtual)

Roundtable: The Media Ecology Project: Key Outcomes from Two Major NEH Grant DH Endeavors

DECEMBER 2021, DOCUMENTARY LEGACIES IN THE "UNATTRIBUTED MEDIA" OF THE AFGHAN MEDIA RESOURCE CENTER (AMRC)

at Visible Evidence XXVII, (Frankfurt, Germany, virtual)

Panel: Moving Image Diplomacy and Democratic Crisis: Unpacking the Legacies of the USIA/USIS

OCTOBER 2021, ANIMATING AND NAVIGATING THE MOTION PICTURE ARCHIVE OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

at American Studies Association (ASA) annual meeting, (San Juan, Puerto Rico, *virtual*)

Roundtable (moderator/participant): w/ Drs. Nayoung Aimee Kwon, Mark Williams, Hadi Gharabahi

JULY 2021, LEGACIES OF USIA INFORMATION CENTERS WITHIN CONTEMPORARY SPACES FOR CULTURAL DIPLOMACY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

at British Society for Middle Eastern Studies (BRISMES) annual conference, (U of Kent, UK, *virtual*)

Panel: Decolonizing Middle Eastern Film and Media Studies

APRIL 2021, SOLIDARITY THROUGH SATELLITE: USICA'S GLOBAL BROADCAST OF LET POLAND BE POLAND

at Films of State: Moving Images Made by Governments, hosted by the National Archives and Records Administration and the University of Maryland (College Park, MD, *virtual*)

Panel: Infrastructure of Public Diplomacy ([link to view panel](#))

MARCH 2021, REDEFINING THE GLOBAL REVOLUTION: THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS DOCUMENTARIES OF THE U.S. INFORMATION AGENCY

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (Chicago, IL, virtual)

Panel: Documentary Diplomacy

MARCH 2021, REFRAMING HISTORIOGRAPHIC PARADIGMS OF USIA RESEARCH IN THE AMERICAN CONTEXT

at Excavated Footage, US Archives, and Alternative Historiography (Suwon, South Korea, virtual)

NOVEMBER 2019, REPRESENTATION OF AMERICAN MINORITY LABOR IN USIA FILMS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO WORKFORCE PRACTICES

at American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting (Honolulu, HI)

Panel: Legacies of USIA/S Motion Pictures: New Studies of Transnational Discourse on Race and Ethnicity

MARCH 2019, NEGOTIATING GOALS OF ACCESS AND DECENTRALIZATION IN THE (RE)CONSTRUCTION OF THE USIA MOTION PICTURE ARCHIVE

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (Seattle, WA)
Panel: Diplomatic Film Activism

AUGUST 2018, “NEITHER AMERICAN NOR VIETNAMESE”: THE DISCORDANT DOCUMENTARIES OF USIA/JUSPAO DURING THE VIETNAM WAR

at Visible Evidence XXV (Bloomington, IN)
Panel: Documentary Cultures of the United States Information Agency in Asia

JUNE 2018, THE GREAT WAR AT SCALE: NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROVENANCE IN WWI COLLECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (WITH MARK WILLIAMS)

at Domitor (The International Society for the Study of Early Cinema) Conference (Rochester, NY)
Panel: Case Studies from the Media Ecology Project

JUNE 2018, CULTURAL DIALOGUE THROUGH THE MOTION PICTURE LABOR OF THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY

at Cultural Studies Association Conference (Pittsburgh, PA)
Panel: Moving Image Technologies of the Cultural Cold War

MARCH 2018, LOCAL/GLOBAL NETWORKS: REDISCOVERING THE USIA ARCHIVE

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (Toronto, ON, Canada)
Roundtable: Emerging Research Paradigms via Digital Tools

MARCH 2018, ORGANIZING AND NAVIGATING THE FILM AND MEDIA ARCHIVES OF THE USIS OFFICES IN ARAB STATES

at Cinema of the Arab World Conference (The American University in Cairo, Cairo City, Egypt)
Panel: Researching Genealogies of Arab Cinema in the Archives of the U.S. Information Agency

NOVEMBER 2017, NAVIGATING THE USIA ARCHIVE WITH THE MEDIA ECOLOGY PROJECT

at Association of Moving Image Archivists (AMIA) Conference (New Orleans, LA)

AUGUST 2017, SELLING THE SALE: THE USIA’S EFFORT TO EXPLAIN, JUSTIFY, AND RITUALIZE ITS EFFORTS THROUGH SELF-PRODUCED DOCUMENTARIES

at Visible Evidence XXIV (Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Panel: On Propaganda

MARCH 2017, THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES/USIA PILOT PROJECT

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (Chicago, IL)
Workshop: The Media Ecology Project: Pilot Projects and Hands-On Tutorial

MAY 2016, VIOLENT IMAGES AS COLD WAR CURRENCY: THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION AGENCY’S PROPAGANDA DOCUMENTARY, “VIETNAM, VIETNAM!”

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (Atlanta, GA)
Panel: Between Propaganda and Resistance: Violence, Atrocity, and Media Form

APRIL 2015, WORKING AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

at Carnegie Mellon Literary and Cultural Studies Colloquium (Pittsburgh, PA)
Panel: Archival Research

MAY 2013, CLASS WITHIN THE SPACE OF THE CLASSICAL HOLLYWOOD MOVIE PALACE

at Living Labor: Towards a New Understanding of the Working Class (Pittsburgh, PA)

MARCH 2011, THE RANGE OF 3D NARRATIVE

at Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference (New Orleans, LA)
Panel: Rewriting the Language of Cinema: 3D's Return in the Digital Age

APRIL 2010, TEACHING BOTH TECHNICAL AND NONTECHNICAL WRITING WITH A WRITING-INTENSIVE ENGINEERING COURSE

at Writing@UTK: A Composition Pedagogy Conference (Knoxville, TN)

FEBRUARY 2010, READING SADNESS INTO THE POETRY OF JOHN WILMOT, EARL OF ROCHESTER

at Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies (Johnson City, TN)

TEACHING

CARLETON COLLEGE, ENGLISH

Spring 2026: The Craft of Academic Writing

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, TWIN CITIES CULTURAL STUDIES AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Spring 2026: Reading History: Theory and Practice: American Mythologies ([link to syllabus](#))

ST. OLAF COLLEGE, FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES

J-Term and Spring 2025: Introduction to Film Studies ([link to syllabus](#))

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY, FILM AND MEDIA ARTS

Spring 2024: The Age of the Blockbuster ([link to syllabus](#)); and Film History II ([link to syllabus](#))

Fall 2023: Media & Culture (as lecturing professor overseeing 7 sections & 5 TAs) ([link to syllabus](#))

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE, ENGLISH

2020-2023: Seminar in Composition: "Screen Cultures: What, Why, and How We Watch" (13 sections)

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY, NEW BRUNSWICK, ENGLISH, WRITING PROGRAM

2019: Expository Writing (2 sections)

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, ENGLISH (AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

2014, 2016: Introduction to Film Studies: History, Theory, and Form (2 sections) ([link to syllabus](#))

2016: Film & Literature: Mystery, Sexuality, & Culture in American Noir (1 section) ([syllabus](#))

2018: Introduction to Gender Studies (1 section) ([syllabus](#))

2013-2019: Interpretation & Argument: A Seat in the Dark: Why Do We Watch Movies? (14 sect)

2012: Interpretation & Argument: Leadership (1 section)

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF FINE ART (AS TEACHING ASSISTANT)

2017: Contemporary Visual Culture (under Melissa Ragona)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, ENGLISH (AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

2011: English Composition II: Inquiry into the Golden Age of Hollywood (6 sections)

2010: English Composition I: The American Political Identity (2 sections)

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE, ENGLISH (AS TEACHING ASSISTANT)

2010: English Composition II: Video Games (under Ryan Woodruff)

2009: English Composition I: The Gothic (under Taryn Norman)

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

2011: Writing Scientifically

SERVICE

2014-2018

COMMITTEE MEMBER, CMU LITERARY AND CULTURAL STUDIES COLLOQUIUM

Moderator/Organizer: Activism and the Academy (March 2018)

Moderator/Organizer: Immigration, Politics, and Literary Studies (April 2017)

Moderator/Organizer: Film in the Age of New Media (November 2015)

2018

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE, CMU GRADUATE STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Attended legislative meetings, organized events, and managed student affairs.

Created and managed the GSA Summer Sports League, which still serves over 250 students

2017

ADVISORY MEMBER, CMU ENGLISH SUMMER TEACHING COMMITTEE

ADVISING/STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

2022

ADVISOR/INSTRUCTOR, ARAK JOURNAL, STUDENT PUBLICATION, UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

Aided and advised my student [Joshua Ciliberti's publication of "Local TV News"](#) in the University of Delaware's annual *Arak Journal*, which publishes the best of student writing from English 110

2018-CURRENT

SECONDARY ADVISOR, MEDIA ECOLOGY PROJECT UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

Advise, provide materials, and integrate undergraduate work with USIA and WWI projects (five students)

2017

ADVISOR, FOR SEOWON OH, SENIOR THESIS, BXA INTERCOLLEGE PROGRAM, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Managed and approved her senior thesis project in which she produced a film noir storyboard

AWARDS AND HONORS

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY. 2012-2019

CONFERENCE GRANT, GSA/PROVOST OFFICE, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY, 2018

STUDENT SMALL PROJECT RESEARCH GRANT, GSA/PROVOST OFFICE, CMU, 2015 AND 2016

TEACHING FELLOWSHIP/HODGES SCHOLARSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, 2009-2011

HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND VOLUNTEER SCHOLARSHIP, UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE. 2004-2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

SOCIETY OF CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES (SCMS)
AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ASA)
DOMITOR (THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF EARLY CINEMA)
CULTURAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION OF MOVING IMAGE ARCHIVISTS (AMIA)

CREATIVE PROJECTS AND PUBLIC EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

FEATURED GUEST, RE/VERB PODCAST

Episode 44: The Political Aesthetics of Cold War Propaganda ([link to episode](#))

MARCH 2017

JUDGE, CARNEGIE MELLON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Short Film Competition

2012

SCREENWRITER AND CO-DIRECTOR, STILL/HERE

Official Selection at Nashville Film Festival, Aesthetica International Short Films Festival, Rural Route Film Festival, Charleston Film Festival, Lookout Wild Film Festival (Winner Best Narrative Short), and Holly Shorts Monthly Program