

Deborah James

Associate Professor, Media Studies
Division of Arts and Letters
Governors State University
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Position

Associate Professor, Media Studies	2017 –
Affiliated Faculty: Communication, Media, Performance M.A.	
Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator, Media Studies	2014 – 2017
Assistant Professor, Communication, Governors State University	2011 – 2014

Education

Ph.D. Communication	2011
Wayne State University (WSU), Detroit	
Specialization: Media Studies (documentary, new media). Cognate: Political Science (human rights)	
Dissertation: <i>The Creative Content Programme</i> and Audiovisual E-Platform: An institutional analysis of UNESCO's influence on the development of independent documentary content and production practice	
Masters of Arts, Media Studies	2003
Dept. of Communication, New School for Social Research, New York	
Production Thesis: <i>Private Lives, Public Consumption and Interstitial Stories</i> .	
Area of Study: Digitally mediated personal narratives, news and social media convergence	
Bachelor of Arts, Specialized Honors, Fine Art and Art History	1991
University of Guelph, Canada. Concentration: 20 th Century art and architecture	

Honors and Awards

Faculty Fellow. National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE)	2019
Sabbatical. Project: Divers who document: Restoring found footage to place, experience, and story in the Florida Keys	2019
State of Illinois Show Case Panel Award. <i>Artmaking and/as/is Resilience?</i> Illinois Com & Theatre Association. Convention, Peoria, Ill	2017
Top Panel Award: Shared with P. Santoro and MST 4990 students. Illinois Com & Theatre Assoc. Convention, Lisle, Ill	2016
Excellence Award. Research, GSU. \$6000	2014 – 2015
GSU Research Grant. Albert Kahn: Archives of the Planet Co-Project Investigator \$7000	2014 – 2015
Provost's High Impact Practices Course Development Grant, GSU	2013 – 2014
GSU Research Grant. Fieldwork in Serbia \$7000	2013 – 2014
GSU Division Research Release. In support of research program	2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017
GSU Faculty Summer Institute Tech Grant	2013
GSU Research Grant. Fieldwork in Montenegro \$3500	2012 – 2013
Top Paper award. ICA, Global Communication and Social Change	2011

Scholarly Publications (* writing as D. J. Smith)

Journal Articles

James, D. (2015). Drawn out of the gutters: Nina Bunjevac's *Fatherland*, A collaborative memory. *Feminist Media Studies*. (15)3. 1-6. DOI: 10.1080/14680777.2015.1031966

James, D. (2013). Social networking Sarajevo Roses: Digital representations of post-conflict civil life in the (former) Yugoslavia. *Journal of Communication*. (63)5. 975-992. DOI: 10.1111/jcom.12057

- Ali, S., **James, D.**, and Vultee, F. (2013). Strike a pose: Comparing Associated Press and UNICEF visual representations of the children of Darfur. *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review*. (3)1. 1-26. DOI: 10.2979/africonfpeacrevi.3.1.1
- *Smith, D. J. (2009), Big-eyed, wide-eyed, sad-eyed children: Constructing the humanitarian space in social justice documentaries. *Studies in Documentary Film*. (3)2. 159-175.

Book Chapters

- James, D. (2019). Facebook for community, direct action and archive: Diaspora responses to the 2014 floods in the former Yugoslavia. In R. Tsagarousianou and J. Retis (Eds.) *The Handbook of Diasporas, Media and Culture*. Wiley-Blackwell and IAMCR.
- James, D. (2012). What it takes to screen her film: A feminist study of UNESCO's audiovisual E-Platform. In Gajjala, R. (Ed.). *Where Have All the Cyberfeminists Gone?* New York: Peter Lang.

Exhibitions/Screenings

- James, D. and D. Erich. (2015). (RE)ACTIVE CITIES. Central European University (Competitive merit-based project incubator). Belgrade - The City Uploaded: Urban intersections of film and new media. Budapest, Hungary. Beta Project Site: <http://beograd.derichdames.com/>
- James, D. and D. Erich. (2015). Featured Speaker / Video installation. *Sitting on two stools | ne možeš sjediti na dvije stolice*, BiH Diasporic Youth Conference, Chicago, IL.
- James, D. and D. Erich. (2013). Photovoice installation. *Dragana, Kristijan*. Art Gathering: Us/Plus. Juried Show. Visual Art Gallery, University Park, IL.
- James, D. and D. Erich. (2013). Video installation. *Sitting on two stools | ne možeš sjediti na dvije stolice*, Visual Art Gallery, University Park, IL.
- James, D. and D. Erich. (2013). Interview. *Women make media: Collaboration as public memory*, Shot at the Governors State University TV studios, GSU's ART Out and About series.

Conference Papers and Presentations (*refereed)

- James, D. (2019). The gin-clear waters of the Florida Keys: Regarding underwater life in amateur first-person documentary. Conference on Communication and Environment, Vancouver, B.C.
- James, D. (2018). *Old current: The social construction of ex-Yugoslavia on YouTube. National Communication Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- James, D. (2017). *Facebook for community, direct action and archive: Diaspora responses to the 2014 floods in the Balkans. National Communication Association Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Santoro, P., **James, D.** et al. (2016) A Critical Intersection: New Media and Performance. Illinois Theatre and Communication Association Convention, Lisle, IL. Top Panel Award.
- James, D. (2014). *All aboard the Ladies Special: A critical analysis of a documentary about a women-only commuter train in India. ICA Conference. Seattle, WA.
- James, D. (2013). *sitting on two stools | ne možeš sjediti na dvije stolice: (trans. You cannot sit on two stools): Networked between home and the homeland. ICA Conference. London, England.
- James, D. (2013). *PROVOKE Panel: Disruption and subversion in the digital: Women perform public memory. ICA Conference. London, England.
- James D., Erich, D. (2013). sitting on two stools | ne možeš sjediti na dve stolice: Digital tactics for negotiating between home and homeland. Documentary Now! Conference. London, England.
- James, D. (2013). Disruption and subversion in the digital: Women perform public memory. Gender Matters Conference, GSU / DePaul U, Chicago.
- James, D. (2012). *The Container Project: Defining locally relevant community media production practice. International Communication Association (ICA) Conference, Phoenix.
- James, D. (2012). Control and access embedded in the code: Screening communities of social justice media content and practice. Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Boston.
- James, D. (2011). *Social networking Sarajevo Roses: Digital representations of post-conflict civil life in the (former) Yugoslavia. Top Paper: Global & Com Social Change Division. ICA Conf. Boston.

- James, D. (2011). *International development documentaries: Institutional representations of women, work, and community. Feminist Scholarship Division. ICA Conference. Boston.
- James, D. (2011). Producing Media, producing citizenship: The practice of digitizing the experience of everyday life in Jamaica. Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. New Orleans.
- James, D. (2010). Developing citizenship from the margins: Digitizing the experience of the everyday as political action in Jamaica. *DIY Citizenship: Critical Making and Social Media*. U of Toronto.
- James, D. (2008). Big-eyed, wide-eyed, sad-eyed children: Western consumption of images of distant places. *Media, Communication and Humanity Conference*. London School of Economics.
- James, D. (2008). The politics of global warming: Media, morality, and the culture of green in news documentaries. Society of Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Philadelphia.

Other Relevant Professional Credentials and Experience

Session Co-Facilitator Communication for Corals – A Reef Futures Workshop 2018
Reef Futures 2018 Conference, Key Largo, Fl.

FAA Small Unmanned Aircraft Remote Pilot. Part 107. Certificate #1499339 2017

FAA Part 107 Waiver: Flying at night (§ 107.29) PENDING

Aero Vista Drone Academy: Drone Pilot Ground & Flight Training 2018

PADI/SSI Open Water Diver: Certificate #800372S4069591837089-US

Relevant University Service

GSU Small Unmanned Aircraft, Campus Policy 77 Committee 2017

GSU STEM + ART Camp: Quadcopter & GoPro Workshop (High and middle school) 2015 –

GSU STEM + ART: Wildlife Cams – Inside a Beaver Dam + Inside a Blue Bird Nest 2018

Additional Select Professional Credits

Television / Cross-platform Broadcast

24 HOURS OF REALITY: A SPECIAL PRESENTATION
ShoulderHill Entertainment Production Assoc. 1 hour.
Aired 12/20/18 Nat Geo Wild

CLIMATE REALITY PROJECT:
24 HOURS OF REALITY hosted by Al Gore
ShoulderHill Entertainment Production Assoc. 24 Hour live stream. In 2018 reached 800 million households worldwide.
12/4-5/16, 12/1-5/17, 12/2-3/18

ART: OUT & ABOUT. A regional series on the arts in Chicago. Aired Fall 2013, on Comcast channel 16.
Edu TV Television Chicago Guest artist/On air guest. 30 min. Focusing on opening of *Sitting on two Stools | You cannot sit on two stools* – video installation.

WATRUFIGHTN4:
COMMEMORATING WALTER P. REUTHER, UNION ACTIVIST
UAW and Wayne State Archival photo/video researcher. 30 min. youth-focused doc posted to companion website for interactive video sharing
– Aired December 2009, Detroit Channel 20. 2010 Emmy winner.

EARTH DAY: DAVID SUZUKI
VICENTE FOX, FORMER PRESIDENT OF MEXICO
FOCIS at Wayne State Camera, Editor of 60 min. segment
FOCIS at Wayne State Camera, Editor of 60 min. segment

THOMAS SUGRUE Author of
Sweet Land Of Liberty
Wayne State School of Law Camera, Editor of 60 min. segment

Academic Service

Chair, Center for Community Media Steering Committee	2018 –
NCA Environmental Communication: Conference Paper Reviewer	2018
NCA Environmental Communication: Teaching Committee	2017 –
Writing Across Curriculum Committee	2017 –
Communication, Media, Performance M.A. Redesign	2017 – 18
GNSX Program	2016 – 18
CASLO / General Education Council	2015 – 18
Motion Picture/Television Program, College of DuPage	2014
Animal Care and Use Committee, GSU	2014 – 18
Academic Coordinator: Media Studies Program	2013 – 17
B.A. GNSX, New Unit of Study Committee, GSU	2012 – 13
Ad hoc peer-reviewer. <i>Journal of Communication</i>	2013
Ad hoc peer-reviewer. Special Issue of <i>Crossings: Journal of Migration & Culture</i>	2013
Ad hoc peer-reviewer. <i>PLATFORM: Journal of Media and Communication</i>	2013
Faculty Advisor, Phoenix Student Newspaper, GSU	2013 – 15
Carnegie Classification Committee, GSU	2013 – 14
Co-Chair: B.A. Media Studies, New Unit of Study Committee, GSU	2011 – 14
Team Member, AC&U Institute on High-Impact Practices, U of Oregon	2012

Professional Memberships

National Association of Television Program Executives (NATPE)	2019 –
International Environmental Communication Association (IECA)	2018 –
National Association of Television Arts Society (NATAS) Chicago/Midwest Chapter	2018 –
National Communication Association (NCA)	2017 –
International Communication Association (ICA)	2011 –

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