

CURRICULUM VITAE

Erin Despard

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www.communicativelandscapes.wordpress.com

POSITIONS

- 2019 **Sessional instructor**, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, UBC
2016-2019 **Adjunct professor**, Université de Sherbrooke, Département d'histoire
2015 **ICCS Postdoctoral fellow**, McGill Institute for the Study of Canada
2013-2015 **FQRSC Postdoctoral fellow**, UCLA and University of Glasgow, Geography
2010 **Visiting researcher**, Berkeley Center for New Media
2009 **Editorial Assistant**, Concordia University, Communication Studies
2006/07 **Research Assistant**, Concordia University, Communication Studies

EDUCATION

- 2013 **Ph.D. Communication Studies**, Concordia University
Supervisor: Peter van Wyck. Committee: Monika Kin Gagnon, Brian Massumi, Jill Didur, Laura Cameron
2002 **M.Sc. Psychology** (History and Theory), University of Calgary
Supervisor: Hank Stam
1999 **B.A. Honours, Directed Interdisciplinary Studies**, Carleton University
Supervisor: Frances Cherry

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

- Garden and landscape studies, material cultural studies, environmental humanities
- Theory and methods of materialist/critical media studies (e.g., media ecology, media archaeology)
- Landscape photography, photographic/locative social media (e.g., Instagram)
- Invasive species, abandoned and neglected landscapes
- Histories of urban renewal, green urbanism and horticulture in Montreal (1940-1990)
- Ethnography and autoethnography, writing-as-research

AWARDS

- 2015 **Intl. Council for Canadian Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship**
2013-2015 **FQRSC Postdoctoral Fellowship**
2010 **Concordia University Doctoral Thesis Completion Award**
2010 **FQRSC Internship Funding**
2009 **Canadian Communication Assoc. Van Horne Student Paper Prize**
2007-2010 **FQRSC Doctoral Fellowship**
2006-2009 **Arts and Science R.A. Fellowship, Concordia U.**
2006-2009 **Concordia University Tuition Remission Award**
1999-2001 **Funding Guarantee Award, University of Calgary**
1999-2001 **Province of Alberta Graduate Scholarship**

TEACHING

- 2019 **Instructor**, University of British Columbia, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, LARC582G Archaeologies of the Overgrown Garden
- 2014 **Masters thesis supervision**, University of Glasgow
School of Geographical and Earth Sciences
- 2009 **Instructor**, Concordia University
COMS 324 Communication Analysis of Environment
- 2007 **Teaching Assistant**, Concordia University
COMS 240 Communication Theory

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

- Despard, E. and Gallagher, M. (2018). "Media ecologies of plant invasion." *Environmental Humanities* 10 (2): 370-396.
- Despard, E. (2018). "Photogenic urban landscapes: Towards an intermedial framework for landscape criticism in the age of social media." *Architecture_MPS* 14(1):1-21.
- Despard, E. (2016). A materialist media ecological approach to studying urban media in/of place. In A. Kaun and S. Kubitschko (Eds.) *Innovative Methods in Media and Communication Research*. Palgrave.
- Despard, E. (2016). Diagram of a love for plants gone bad. *Environment and Planning D: Space and Society* 34(2) 337–354
- Despard, E. (2015). Photographic social media, designed urban landscapes and place-based visibilities: In search of friction. *Journal of Aesthetics and Culture* 7
<http://dx.doi.org/10.3402/jac.v7.28242>
- Despard, E. (2012). Natural surveillance: Cultivating feelings of safety in the urban landscape. *Space & Culture* 15(2): 151-63.
- Despard, E. (2011). Writing with the Jardins des Floralies in Montreal: Towards an expanded garden history. *Landscape Research* 36(6): 669-82.
- Despard, E. (2008). Creative weeding and other everyday experiments in the garden. *Brock Review* 10 (1): 86-96.
- Despard, E. (2003). Athletic injury as social suffering: Shaping and situating experience. In N. Stephenson, H.L. Radtke, R.J. Jorna & H.J. Stam (Eds.), *Theoretical Psychology: Critical Contributions* pp. 201-8. Selected proceedings of the ninth biennial conference of the International Society of Theoretical Psychologists. Toronto: Captus Press.

Edited Collections

- Despard, E. and Gagnon, M.K., Eds. (2010). Gardens. Special issue, *Public* 41.

Theses

- Despard, E. (2013). *The dream of la ville fleurie: A non-linear history and pragmatic criticism of public gardens in Montreal*. PhD thesis. <<http://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/977214/>>
- Despard, E. (2002). *Career-ending injury in sport: Individual achievement and social suffering*. Masters thesis.

Book Reviews

- Despard, E. (2010). HYBRIDS: Reshaping the contemporary garden at Métis. *Canadian Journal of Communication* 35 (1): 186-8.

Selected Creative Works and Writing for a General Audience

- Despard, E. (ongoing). Communicative landscapes weblog.
<www.communicativelandscape.wordpress.com>
- Despard, E. (2019). The year of seeing green. *The Hopper* [online] <<http://www.hoppermag.org/the-year-of-seeing-green>>

Selected Creative Works and Writing for a General Audience continued

- Despard, E. (2017). Tiny houses, enormous statement. *Rabble* [online]
<<http://rabble.ca/news/2017/10/tiny-houses-enormous-statement>>
- Despard, E. (2016). Selected indicator species for variations in Glasgow soil. In Alex Wilde and Daniele Sambo, Eds. *Soil City* (Glasgow UK: The Open Jar Collective).
- Despard, E. (2010). A garden for the future: Excerpts from a field guide in process. *Public* 41:142-6.
- Kellhammer, O. and Despard, E. (June 2010). *other gardens*. An installation with the Mobile Media Gallery. <<http://www.mobilemediagallery.org>>
- Despard, E. (May 25, 2010). Investigating the role of media and processes of mediation in the Blake Garden. [online] *Blog of the University of California Berkeley's Blake Garden*.
<<http://laep.ced.berkeley.edu/blakegarden/?p=841>>
- Despard, E. (2008). Imagining the future. *Le Panoptique*. [online]
<<http://www.lepanoptique.com/sections/environnement/imagining-the-future/>>
- Despard, E, Emmett, M. and Jamin, Y. (2007). The social dimensions of do-it-yourself environmental solutions. *Le Panoptique*. [online]
<<http://www.lepanoptique.com/sections/environnement/the-social-dimensions-of-do-it-yourself-environmental-solutions/>>

Book manuscripts in preparation

- Despard, E. *Montréal, la ville fleurie: An archaeology of urban landscape and horticultural media*. Under contract with McGill-Queen's University Press.

Other manuscripts in press, under review or in preparation

- Despard, E. (in preparation). An education in joy and beauty: The Montreal Botanical Garden and the parades des fleurs (1946-1950).

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 **Canadian Communication Association, Annual Meeting** (UBC, Vancouver).
Towards a natural history of horticultural media. June 3-6.
- 2017 **Forum d'histoire et de patrimoine de Montréal: Découvrir la métropole par ses quartiers** (Université de Québec à Montréal, Montréal).
In pursuit of "la ville verte et fleurie": Civic horticultural initiatives in twentieth-century Montreal. October 26-29.
- 2016 **Connecting with a Low-Carbon Scotland, Media Panel** (Stirling University, UK).
Landscapes of transition. May 26.
Unexpected Encounters with Deep Time (University of Edinburgh).
Re-mediating rhododendrons at Kilmahew-St. Peters. April 20.
- 2015 **Refashioning Nature** (Brock University, St. Catharines, ON).
An education in joy and beauty: The Montreal Botanical Garden and the parades des fleurs (1946-1950). June 9.
- 2014 **Visual Frictions and Their Futures** (Stockholm University).
Visual social media and designed urban landscapes. February 12-13.
Royal Geographical Society Annual meeting (London, UK).
With Michael Gallagher. Media ecologies of landscape and the co-production of photographic knowledge of invasive species. August 26-29.
Association for Literature, Environment and Culture in Canada, Biennial Conference, (Lakehead University, Thunder Bay, ON).
Seeing and not seeing rhododendrons. August 7-10.
Media and Place, Leeds Metropolitan University (Leeds, UK).
The social mediatization of urban park landscapes and the changing significance of 'being there'. July 11-12.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS continued

- 2014 **Social Media and the Transformation of Public Space** (University of Amsterdam, NL).
The social mediatization of public parks and new ways of seeing (and shaping?) the public good. June 18-20.
Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference (Brock University, St. Catharines, ON).
Media ecologies of landscape photography. May 28-30.
- 2013 **Human Geography Research Group** (University of Glasgow, UK).
The difference between seeing and photographing landscape. November 7.
SenseLab (Concordia University, Montreal, QC).
The horticultural gesture. July 9.
Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference (University of Victoria, Victoria, BC).
Towards a media ecology of gardens. June 6.
Tenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS).
A love for plants gone bad: Lessons from a non-linear history of gardens in Montreal. June 1.
UCLA Geography Doctoral Seminar (Los Angeles, CA).
Communicative landscapes. May 22.
- 2010 **Society of Architectural Historians Annual Meeting** (Chicago, IL).
Public gardens and (horti)cultural legacies. April 21.
- 2009 **Le jardin et ses rapports à l'art** (Concordia University, Montreal, QC).
Between the idea and the life of the garden: Overgrown gardens and questions of representation. December 9-10.
Canadian Association of Cultural Studies Biennial Conference (McGill University, Montreal, QC).
(Horti)cultural history and the Jardins des Floralies in Montreal. October 24.
Greenscapes (Brock University, St. Catharines, ON).
Unruly plants in the urban landscape: Crime prevention through environmental design and other botanical horror stories. October 3.
Biennial Conference on Communication and the Environment (University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME).
Crime prevention and urban environmental communication. June 30.
Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference (Carleton University, Ottawa, ON).
Crime prevention and the urban landscape. May 30.
- 2008 **Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference** (UBC, Vancouver).
The communicative potential of public gardens. June 6.

SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

Refereeing

- 2017 *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*
2015 *GeoHumanities*
2013 *Urban Studies*

Interdisciplinary Organizing

- 2016 Garden Cultures Reading Group, University of Glasgow
2014-15 Create-Experiment-Express: Research Methods Discussion Group, University of Glasgow
2014 Session organizer and chair, Canadian Communication Association Annual Conference
2009 Doctoral Writing Group

Invited Conference Participation

- 2015 Infrastructure, Environment and Life in the Anthropocene, Concordia University
- 2014 Picturing the Social: Analysing Social Media Images, University of Sheffield
- 2014 Nordic Network in Digital Visualities Conference, Stockholm

Group Membership

- 2016 Member, Connecting with a Low-Carbon Scotland, RSE Network
- 2015-2016 Member, Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network
- 2015 Member, SenseLab Reading Group, Concordia University
- 2013-2015 Member, Human Geography Research Group, University of Glasgow
- 2015 Member, Literature and Place Reading Group, Strathclyde University
- 2015 Member, Canadian Studies Reading Group, Strathclyde University
- 2010-2011 Contributor, Plant Life Support Systems, Topological Media Lab, Concordia
- 2010 Member, New Media Working Group, Berkeley Center for New Media
- 2009 Contributor, Society of Molecules, the SenseLab, Concordia University
- 2009 Member, SenseLab Reading Group, Concordia University

Workshop Facilitation

- 2010 Blake Garden, UC Berkeley

Editing

- 2007-2008 Co-editor, Environment section, *Le Panoptique*

Landscape-Related Community Service

- 2013-2015 Volunteer and gardener, Save North Kelvin Meadow Campaign, Glasgow
- 2003-2005 Gardener, Prince Albert Greenway, Vancouver
- 2001 Co-founder and coordinator, University of Calgary Community Garden

PERSONAL

Citizenship: Canadian

Languages: English and French