

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Erin Despard**

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### POSITIONS

2020-current **Artist in Residence**, UBC Botanical Garden  
2020-current **Research Associate**, School of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, UBC  
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

### INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE

- Garden and landscape studies, material cultural studies, environmental humanities
- Media ecology and media archaeology
- Landscape photography, photographic/locative social media
- 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

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Articles and Book Chapters

- Despard, E. (2020). On what a garden can remember. The Jardin du Québec and the Floralies internationales 1980 (Montréal). *Intermédialités* 35 Autumn 2020. [online]  
<<https://www.erudit.org/en/journals/im/2020-n35-im05945/>>
- 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.

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS cont'd

### 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).

## CREATIVE AND JOURNALISTIC WRITING

Despard, E. (ongoing). Communicative landscapes weblog.

[www.communicativelandscape.wordpress.com](http://www.communicativelandscape.wordpress.com)

Despard, E. (2020). A bereft gardener turns to music. *The Tyee* [online]

<<https://theyee.ca/Culture/2020/11/06/Bereft-Gardener-Music-Soothe/>>

Despard, E. (2019). The year of seeing green. *The Hopper* [online] <<http://www.hoppermag.org/the-year-of-seeing-green>> *Nominated for Best of the Net Anthology*

Despard, E. (2017). Tiny houses, enormous statement. *Rabble* [online]

<<http://rabble.ca/news/2017/10/tiny-houses-enormous-statement>> *Selected for inclusion in Rabble's Twentieth Anniversary Anthology, appearing Spring 2021*

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/>

Despard, E. (2006). Role models? Think again. *The Globe and Mail*, February 18, 2006, F9.

Despard, E. (2005). Performers rebound creatively from injury. *The Georgia Straight*, April 21, 2005.

Despard, E. (2005). The pleasures of back pain. *The Tyee*, July 8, 2005.

## SELECTED ACADEMIC 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.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS cont'd

- 2015 **Refashioning Nature** (Brock University, St. Catherines, 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.
- 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. Catherines, 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. Catherines, 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.

## **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