

JOHN W. BESSAI, PhD

Scholar • Educator • Media Practitioner

Canadian Studies | Media Studies | Political Theory | Public Institutions

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ACADEMIC PROFILE

John W. Bessai researches how public institutions govern through policy, administrative forms, media, records, interfaces, and public memory. Current projects examine public obligation, public code, counter-policy, migration and refugee memory, borders and sovereignty, environmental governance, human rights education, and digital infrastructure in Canada and transnational settings. His teaching connects Community Economic and Social Development, Canadian Studies, media and cultural studies, political theory, history, and digital humanities. More than three decades of documentary, television, museum, and interactive-media production inform his research-creation, teaching, and public scholarship.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Canadian Studies; Community Economic and Social Development; public institutions and policy; media and cultural studies; political theory and public administration; Indigenous-settler relations and sovereignty; environmental governance; human rights education; migration and refugee memory; digital humanities; documentary and interactive media; public memory and knowledge translation.

EDUCATION

Trent University – Peterborough, ON

PhD, Canadian Studies | 2024

Dissertation: *Art as a Public Service: The National Film Board of Canada's Role in Shaping Democratic Dialogues and Societal Transformation*. Supervisor: Dr. Heather Nicol.

York University – Toronto, ON

MA, Political Science | 1988

Thesis: *Vietnam's Definition of Regional Order in Indochina*. Supervisor: Dr. Paul Evans.

Carleton University – Ottawa, ON

BA, History (First Class Honours) | 1985

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS AND TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Algoma University – Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Assistant Professor, Community Economic and Social Development (CLTA), Faculty of Cross-Cultural Studies | 2026–2027

Teaches Community Economic and Social Development courses in social economy, global-local relations, advocacy, policy, public storytelling, and applied research. Selected courses: CESD 2106; CESD 3016; CESD 3456; CESD 2096; CESD 3907/4907.

Fall 2026 teaching: CESD 2106 Community Economic Development & Social Economy; CESD 3016 Global/Local Relations: Critical Perspectives; and CESD 3456 / SOCI 3906 / SOCI 4906 Community Advocacy & Social Justice.

University College of the North – Thompson, MB

Assistant Professor | 2024–2025

Designed and taught undergraduate history and Indigenous studies courses emphasizing Canadian state formation, settler colonialism, Indigenous sovereignty, northern contexts, and public memory. Selected courses: HIS 1001; HIS 2200; HIS 2450; ANS 2300.

Okanagan College – Kelowna, BC

Professor | 2024–2025

Taught Canadian politics, public administration, human rights, environmental policy, and applied analysis. Selected courses: POLI/CRIM 220; POLI 101; POLI 111; POLI 204; POLI 219.

Centennial College – Toronto, ON

Instructor | 2011–2024

Taught core and advanced production and theory courses in media and film programs; supervised documentary and digital-media projects from proposal through delivery.

Trent University – Peterborough, ON

Graduate Teaching Assistant and Academic Assistant | 2015–2024

Facilitated tutorials and seminars, guest lectured, coordinated assignments, and mentored students on research, writing, and media-based projects across Canadian Studies, Cultural Studies, Environmental Studies, and Media Studies.

Humber College – Toronto, ON

Instructor | 2023

Supervised advanced student capstone projects in multiplatform storytelling.

Niagara College – Welland, ON

Instructor | 2007–2011

Taught courses at the intersection of politics and media, including World Politics and History and Documentary Film Production.

BOOK MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

Bessai, J. W. *Counter-Policy in Canada: Public Obligation and Institutional Evidence*. Single-author scholarly monograph in progress. Revised proposal and two sample chapters prepared for resubmission to McGill-Queen's University Press, August 2026.

Following editorial feedback, McGill-Queen's University Press invited a revised proposal for further consideration.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES – FORTHCOMING

Bessai, J. W. (forthcoming). Countering distorted pasts: Interactive documentary as public service in far-right history wars. *Práticas da História*.

Bessai, J. W. (forthcoming). Experiential archives and northern policy: A counter-policy method for community-centred research. *The NORPAK Review*. Accepted for the inaugural issue; advance proof and author contract received September 2026.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES – PUBLISHED

- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Storytelling, technology, and justice: The National Film Board of Canada's role in human rights education. *Human Rights Education Review*, 9(3). <https://doi.org/10.1080/25355406.2026.2719469>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Capital's media, digital command, and the fate of public communication: Reflections on David Harvey's *The Story of Capital*. *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique*, 24(1), 225-243. <https://doi.org/10.31269/m4s7t679>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Exposing the digital gaze: The NFB and vernacular media in contemporary Canadian storytelling. *Lublin Studies in Modern Languages and Literature*, 50(1), 31-41. <https://doi.org/10.17951/lsmll.2026.50.1.31-41>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Art as a public service in the Canadian aporetic condition: The NFB, stylisation of experience, and national identity. *British Journal of Canadian Studies*, 38(1), 107-125. <https://doi.org/10.3828/bjcs.2026.7>
- Bessai, J. (2026). Digital genre fiction at the National Film Board of Canada: Civic storyworlds, Indigenous Futurisms, and environmental memory. *Literature, Critique, and Empire Today*, 61(1), 49-63. <https://doi.org/10.1177/30333962251414774>
- Bessai, J. (2026). The toxic in public discourse: Art, media, and digital spaces. *Culture and Dialogue*, 14(1), 25-44. <https://doi.org/10.1163/24683949-12340153>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026). From documentary to digital: The role of the National Film Board of Canada in transnational knowledge transfer, twentieth-twenty-first century. *Hungarian Historical Review*, 15(1), 116-145. <https://doi.org/10.38145/2026.1.116>
- Bessai, J. (2025). Art as a catalyst for global citizenship: The National Film Board of Canada's approach to societal challenges. *PORTAL Journal of Multidisciplinary International Studies*, 21(1/2), 94-108. <https://doi.org/10.5130/pjmis.v21i1-2.9636>
- Bessai, J. W. (2025). Populist style, nationalist affect, and the aporetic condition: Rhetorical realignment in Canada's 2025 election. *Journal of Intercultural Studies*, 46(6), 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07256868.2025.2565772>
- Bessai, J. W. (2025). Algorithmic realities and the Canadian aporetic condition: Digital counterpublics and epistemological justice. *Alma Mater - Zeitschrift für interdisziplinäre Kulturforschungen*, 2(3), 15-25. <https://doi.org/10.29329/almamater.2025.1360.2>
- Bessai, J. W. (2025). Digital flames: Public storytelling, climate, and reconciliation at the National Film Board of Canada (NFB). *University of Bucharest Review: Literary and Cultural Studies Series*, 15(1), 29-38. <https://doi.org/10.31178/UBR.15.1.3>
- Bessai, J. W. (2025). The aporetic condition in Canadian public policy: Cultural resurgence and ecological transition. *Études canadiennes / Canadian Studies*, 99, 93-103. <https://doi.org/10.4000/15g1r>
- Bessai, J. W. (2024). Interdisciplinary dialogues: Media arts in humanities scholarship: The National Film Board of Canada as an interdisciplinary infrastructure. *Scaffold: Journal of the Institute of Comparative Studies in Literature, Arts and Culture*, 1(2), 5-11.

INVITED REVIEW ESSAY – FORTHCOMING

- Bessai, J. W. (forthcoming). The politics of intersectionality: Representation, movements, institutions and the political economy of inequality. *International Political Science Abstracts, Trends in International Political Science*. Invited review essay.

SCHOLARLY BOOK CHAPTERS – ACCEPTED / FORTHCOMING

- Bessai, J. W. Writing in the aporetic age: Reclaiming voice and complexity in the post-chatbot classroom. Accepted for *Human Writing in the College Classroom: Post-Chatbot Approaches*. Routledge.
- Bessai, J. W. (forthcoming, 2026). Breathing the settler order: Toxic sensorium, poetics, and the state in Canada. In M. Prabir (Ed.), *Bodies That Breathe: The Politics of Air, Health, and Survival* (Earth and Us, Vol. 1). Sturges and McGregor.
- Bessai, J. W. (forthcoming). Sensing the aporia: Environmental crises and the toxic sensorium in Canadian visual media. In *Sensing and Resisting Environmental Crises Through Visual Culture*. University of Exeter Press. <https://doi.org/10.47788/FVJB4763>

ACCEPTED / COMMISSIONED WORK IN PROGRESS

- Bessai, J. W. Who makes public history? Teaching Women of Change through the documentary production archive. Accepted for the Films for the Feminist Classroom special feature, *Urgent Histories: Teaching the Contemporary Moment Through Film and Documentary*.
- Bessai, J. W. Occupied ground: Ipperwash, environmental postmemory, and the state archive in Canada. Chapter provisionally accepted for *Nature Remembers: War, Trauma, and Environmental Postmemory in Contemporary Anglophone Literature and Culture*; manuscript in development.
- Bessai, J. W. Canada's critical minerals strategy and the Ring of Fire: Sub-imperial green extractivism in the world economy. Invited contribution in development for *Uneven Geographies of the Global Green Transition: Power, Finance, Trade, and Environmental Politics between the Global North and South*. Routledge.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS – PUBLISHED

- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Digital storytelling and democracy: The National Film Board of Canada as a counterpublic institution. In P. Jonsson Severson & E. Ricknell (Eds.), *Everyday Democracy: Building Resilience Against Polarization and Radicalization* (pp. 163-179). De Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783112231791-008>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026). Sustainability as strategic narrative: The Canadian aporetic condition and global environmental governance. In S. Gudek-Golcek, G. Durmaz, & A. Inan-Simsek (Eds.), *Critical Approach to Sustainability Discourse and Action in International Relations* (pp. 349-376). IGI Global. <https://doi.org/10.4018/979-8-3373-1707-6.ch011>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW / IN PREPARATION

- Bessai, J. W. The Arena Door: Municipal Recreation, Public Code, and the Settler Welfare State in Postwar Sault Ste. Marie. Submitted to the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, 21 August 2026.
- Bessai, J. W. Refuge in Public: Vietnamese-Canadian Memory, Civic Commemoration, and the Canadian Aporitic Condition. Submitted to *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 5 September 2026.
- Bessai, J. W. Monumental pedagogy, refugee memorials, and public code: Colonial afterlives in trans-Pacific public art. Manuscript in preparation for *Public Art Dialogue*.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Bessai, J. W. (2026, August 21). Reading Papaschase land: Mill Creek, Treaty 6, and the environmental making of South Edmonton. *NiCHE, The Otter*. <https://niche-canada.org/2026/08/21/reading-papaschase-land-mill-creek-treaty-6-and-the-environmental-making-of-south-edmonton/>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026, August 5). Environmental rule and administrative form: The Indian Act and the Canadian aporetic condition. *NiCHE, The Otter*.
- Bessai, J. W. (2026, July 6). Kichi Zībī as public code: Heritage, jurisdiction, and the Ottawa River. *NiCHE, The Otter*.
- Bessai, J. W. (2026, May 19). Reservoir modernity: Lake Diefenbaker and the Great Acceleration on the Prairies. *Active History / NiCHE*. <https://activehistory.ca/blog/2026/05/19/reservoir-modernity-lake-diefenbaker-and-the-great-acceleration-on-the-prairies/>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026, May 4; updated June 8). Shared air, shared water: Environmental resistance across Canadian sites under Canada-U.S. strain. *NiCHE, The Otter*. <https://niche-canada.org/2026/05/04/shared-air-shared-water-environmental-resistance-across-canadian-sites-under-canada-u-s-strain/>
- Bessai, J. W. (2026, January 19). Reading the city through countermonuments of ecology: From Mistaseni to Floodlines. *NiCHE, The Otter*. <https://niche-canada.org/2026/01/19/reading-the-city-through-countermonuments-of-ecology-from-mistaseni-to-floodlines/>
- Bessai, J. W. (2025, December 5). Playing inside the grid: Bear 71, Do Not Track, and life under observation. *NiCHE, The Otter*. <https://niche-canada.org/2025/12/05/playing-inside-the-grid-bear-71-do-not-track-and-life-under-observation/>

BOOK REVIEWS

- Bessai, J. W. (2025). Review of *Philosophizing the Americas*, edited by J. A. Carter & H. A. Estévez. *H-Net Reviews*. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showrev.php?id=60974>
- Bessai, J. W. (2024). Review of *Sitting Bull and the Paradox of Lakota Nationhood*, by G. C. Anderson. *H-Net Reviews*. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=60297>
- Bessai, J. W. (2017, Fall). Review of *The Margaret Atwood Effect: Essays on Atwood's Works and Influence*. *Waterfront Magazine*.

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH RESIDENCIES

Blinken OSA Archivum – Budapest, Hungary

Visegrad Scholarship at OSA | May-June 2026

Research topic: Helsinki's Afterlives: Compliance Infrastructures from CSCE to OSCE (1980s-1990s) and Their Contemporary Relevance. Conducted archival research on Helsinki-era human-rights monitoring, civil-society documentation, verification practices, OSCE processes, RFE/RL research, and public-accountability infrastructures.

RESEARCH GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

- 2026 — Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Insight Grant. Building community capacity: institutional infrastructures of the social economy in Sault Ste. Marie and Brampton. Submission planned September 28, 2026.
- 2026 — Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Canada Postdoctoral Research Award (CPRA). Refuge in Public: How Canada Remembers Displacement, Arrival, and Responsibility. Proposed host: York University, Communication and Media Studies; proposed supervisor: Anne MacLennan. Submitted September 10, 2026.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, INVITED TALKS, AND PUBLIC LECTURES

2026 – Accepted / Programmed

- Critical Feminist Histories Conference – Queen's University, Kingston, ON – 2–4 October 2026. Paper: "Feminist Cultural Work Inside the State: Studio D and the National Film Board of Canada."
- Leonard Cohen 2026: Global Perspectives on a Multi-disciplinary Artist – Ghent University, Belgium – 7 October 2026. Paper: "Leonard Cohen's Public Spirituality: Lyrics, Survival, and the Canadian Aporetic Condition."
- 5th International Kaunas Conference on Canadian Studies: Ruptures and Remedies: Rethinking Canada in Times of Crisis and Repair – Lithuanian Association for Canadian Studies / Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania – 17 October 2026. Paper: "Classifying Belonging: Official Multiculturalism as Public Code and Counter-Policy." Programmed in Section 4.
- Canadian Association of Cultural Studies / Association canadienne des études culturelles (CACS-ACÉC), Upheavals – Trent University, Peterborough, ON – 5–7 November 2026. Accepted presenter; exact session forthcoming.

2026 – Presented

- Spatial Humanities SH26 – University of Minho, Braga, Portugal – 25 September 2026. Paper: "Radical Counter-Policy: Roots of Participation in National Film Board Interactive Cinema."
- Past, Present, Future: The Human Dimensions of Technology – Southern New Hampshire University – 25 September 2026. Paper: "How Interfaces Govern: Public Code, Platform Deceit, and the Human Dimensions of Digital Technology."
- Reframing the Archive 2026: Visual Thinking and the Futures of Democracy – 23 September 2026. Paper: "Framing Multicultural Citizenship: Official Photography and the Visual Public Code of Inclusion in Canada."
- ISRH 2026 – Seinäjoki, Finland – 23 September 2026. Paper: "Virtual Borders and Cross-Border Regions: Settler Order, Public Memory and the Digital State in Canada."
- ADHC/ISCH 2026 Congress: Identities, Circulations, Migrations – a Cultural History – Paris/Aubervilliers, France – 11 September 2026. Paper: "Identities in Motion: Settler Federalism, Administrative Circulation, and the Governance of Migration in Canada."
- COMHUM 2026 – Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland – 9 September 2026. Paper: "Practicing Civic Adjudication: A MacIntyrean Model of Ethics in a Parameterized Game-Engine Micro-Prototype."
- 6th Mobile Studies Congress – Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, India – 22 August 2026. Paper: "Public Code Tetrads: Remediation and the Civic Grammar of Mobile Connectivity."
- Interrogating Canadian Identities / Interroger les identités canadiennes – York University, Toronto, ON – 11-13 August 2026. Panel chair and presenter. Paper: "Public Code and the Canadian Aporetic Condition: Interrogating Identity Across Canadian Public Institutions."

- *Revolutions and Reflections: A Conference for Editing and Recovery Practitioners* – Center for Digital Editing & eLaboratories, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA – 8-9 August 2026. Co-presented with Sandra Creighton. Paper: “Reflective Recovery: Archival Storytelling, Digital Editing, and Public Memory in The Ward – Radical History.”
- *INCSA / NCSA 2026: Revolution, Revelation, Reconciliation / Revolución, Revelación, Reconciliación* – Washington, DC – 23 July 2026. Paper: “From Deed to Duty: The Rupert’s Land Transfer as a Counter-Policy Template.”
- *International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies (IAICS)*, 31st International Conference – University of Toledo, Toledo, OH – 21-24 July 2026. Paper: “Intercultural Communication as Public Code: Migration, Interface, and the Digital State in Canada.”
- *Autothéorie et autosociobiographie dans les littératures du Canada* – University of Passau, Germany – 18 July 2026. Paper: “Documentary Autotheory and the Canadian Aporetic Condition: The Shimmering Beast and Project Grizzly.”
- *Centre for Historical Studies Annual Conference 2026: Play* – University of Northampton, UK – 15 July 2026. Paper: “Playing Displacement: Historical Memory, Reflective Mechanics, and Urban Erasure in The Ward – Radical History.”
- *Transatlantic Studies Association, 24th Annual Conference* – College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA – 13-15 July 2026. Paper: “Public Code and Democratic Learning in the North Atlantic: Canadian Statecraft, Institutional Obligation, and the Transatlantic Public Sphere.”
- *Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) 2026 Conference* – Sciences Po and University of Bordeaux, France – 1-4 July 2026. Paper: “Counter-Policy in the Settler State: The State as Social Relation Across Extraction, Property, and Data Infrastructures in Canada.”
- *Capitalism, Crisis, and Global Reordering – Alternate Routes / Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli*, Milan, Italy – 23-24 June 2026. Paper: “AI Regimes and Crisis Capitalism: Canada’s Sub-Imperial Settler Order in Global Reordering.”
- *Navigating Afro-Knowledges: Exploring Practices and Theories in Digital Diaspora Studies* – University of Bremen, Forum am Domshof, Bremen, Germany – 19 June 2026. Co-presented with Sandra Creighton. Paper: “Navigating Afro-Knowledges in The Ward: A Playable Radical History for Afro-Canadian Counter-Memory.”
- *AFEC 50th Anniversary Congress* – Avignon Université, Avignon, France – 10-12 June 2026. Paper: “Experimental Public Service Media in Canada: The NFBC as a Laboratory of Cultural Innovation.”
- *International Festival of Media (#IFM2026): Yet-To-Be-Known* – 9-12 June 2026. Paper/video presentation: “Public Power, Settler Order, and the National Film Board of Canada.”
- *Re-Defining Open Social Scholarship in an Age of Generative Intelligence* – INKE / CSDH-SCHN / DHSI, Université de Montréal, Montreal, QC – 4-5 June 2026. Paper: “The Canadian Aporetic Condition as Open Scholarship Theory: Public Code, Generative AI, and the Governance of the Knowledge Commons.”
- *Visegrad Lecture Series – Blinken OSA Archivum*, Budapest, Hungary – 3 June 2026. Lecture: “Public Code after Helsinki: Public Evidence and the Reconstruction of Common Security in Dystopian Times.”
- *Canadian Sociological Association Annual Conference* – 3 June 2026. Paper: “Counter-Policy as Social Theory: Public Code and the Canadian Aporetic Condition.”
- *Cultural Studies Association, 24th Annual Conference: Oppositions* – 28-30 May 2026. Paper: “Aporetic Oppositions: Public Code, Security, and Digital State Storytelling at the National Film Board of Canada.”
- *Association of Canadian Studies in Ireland, 22nd Biennial Conference: Canadian Crossings and Belongings / Entrecroisements et Appartenances au Canada* – LexIcon Library and Cultural Centre, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin, Ireland – 7-9 May 2026. Paper: “Governing Through Aporia: State Theory, Public Code, and the Problem of Belonging in Canada.”
- *Influencer Diplomacy Symposium – Influencer Ethnography Research Lab (IERLab)*, Curtin University – 24 April 2026. Paper: “From Public Service to Creatorly Diplomacy: Public Code and Influencer Logics in Canadian Cultural Institutions.”
- *60th Annual Comparative World Literature Conference: Legacies: Nostalgia, Adaptation, and Reimaginings* – California State University, Long Beach, CA, USA – 24 April 2026. Paper: “Legacy Systems, Living Texts: Platform Succession and the Afterlives of NFB Interactive Storytelling.”
- *2026 International Remote ISC at SC State: Beyond Borders* – South Carolina State University – 27 March 2026. Paper: “Aporetic Care Borderwork: Social Reproduction, Feminist State Theory, and Civic Standing.”
- *Two Days of Canada Conference: Two Days of Canadian Sovereignty* – Brock University, St. Catharines, ON – 26 March 2026. Paper: “Sovereignty Under Pressure: Counter-Policy and the Canadian Aporetic Condition.”
- *Ninetieth Anniversary Remote-Only Conference of International Commission Scholars* – 26 March 2026. Paper: “Constitutional Memory and Representative Legitimacy in Canada.”
- *Everyday Resistance: Thinking, Making, and Living in the Material World* – University of Brighton – 25 March 2026. Paper: “Resistance in Aporia: Sensorial Memory and the Canadian Condition in NFBC Storytelling.”
- *8th Annual HEX Conference: Histories of Experience in Society: Frictions, Margins, Ruptures* – Tampere University, Tampere, Finland – 9-11 March 2026. Paper (11 March): “Frictions of the Settler Order: Aporetic Experience, Art as Public Service, and Counterpolicy in Canada.”
- *Northeast MLA 57th Annual Convention* – Pittsburgh, PA, USA – 6 March 2026. Paper: “Arbor Alma: Aporetic Storytelling for Renewal.”
- *Southern Conference on African American Studies, Inc. (SCAASI) 47th Annual Conference* – Montgomery, AL, USA – 7 February 2026. Co-presented with Sandra Creighton. Paper: “Radical History: The Ward (Playable Memory, Black Survival, and Urban Belonging).”
- *Interdisciplinary Conference in Arts and Sciences (ICAS) 26: Home: Belonging, Identity, and Displacement* – Southern Regional College, Newry Campus, Newry, Northern Ireland, UK – 29 January 2026. Paper: “Home and Native Land? Aporetic Belonging, Settler Order, and Public Storytelling in Canada.”

2025

- *Why Does Labour Matter? / Quelle est la valeur du travail?* – Université du Québec à Montréal, Montreal, QC – 14-15 November 2025. Paper: “Labour, Art, and the Canadian Aporia: The NFBC and the Digital Mediation of Working-Class Struggles.”
- *The 10th Annual International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding* – Mercy University, Bronx Campus, Bronx, NY, USA – 13 November 2025. Paper: “Counterpublic Memory and the Identity Logic of Conflict: Public Storytelling, Aporetic Belonging, and the National Film Board of Canada.”

- Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association (CSTHA-AHSTC) Biennial Conference: Nations and Nationalism in Science and Technology – York University, Toronto, ON – 9 November 2025. Paper: “Memory Machines and Democratic Contradictions: The NFBC’s Digital Histories as Public Pedagogy.”
- History of Education Society (HES) 65th Annual Meeting – Providence, RI, USA – 6 November 2025. Paper: “Animating Dissent: The National Film Board of Canada and the Educational Politics of Challenge for Change and Digital Futures.”
- Peace History Society Biennial Conference: Peace Across the Ages – Berry College, Mount Berry, GA, USA – 7 November 2025. Paper: “Unquiet Archives: Public Memory and the Aporetic Sensorium in NFBC Digital Storytelling.”
- The 13th International Conference Synergies in Communication (SiC 2025) – Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania – 30–31 October 2025. Paper: “Teaching Attention: NFBC Digital Storytelling as Academic and Digital Literacy Infrastructure.”
- Association of Canadian Studies in Ireland (ACSI) 2025 Online Symposium: Canada in a Changing World – 24 October 2025. Paper: “Art as a Public Service in a Changing World: Civic Memory, Decolonizing Practice, and the NFBC Template.”
- Populism: Here and Beyond – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 23 October 2025. Paper: “The Canadian Aporetic Condition and Populism: Contradictions in Political Identity and Governance.”
- Heroes in Contemporary Popular Culture – McGill University and Concordia University, Montreal, QC – 21–23 October 2025. Paper: “Heroes in the Aporia: Reimagining Heroism through Canadian Cultural Narratives.”
- Conflict, Democratic Backsliding, and Diaspora Politics in Canada – Centre for International Policy Studies, University of Ottawa – 21 October 2025. Paper: “Digital Storytelling, Diaspora Politics, and the Canadian Aporia.”
- Universities Art Association of Canada / Association d’art des universités du Canada Conference – York University, Toronto, ON – 17 October 2025. Paper: “Archives of Absence: The Monument and the Aporetic Sensorium.”
- The 11th International Tartu Conference on Canadian Studies: Water – University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia – 11 October 2025. Paper: “Liquid Aporias: Water, Memory, and Public Storytelling in Canada.”
- Washington University, Charles F. Knight Executive Education & Conference Center, St. Louis, MO, USA – 10 October 2025. Paper: “Decolonizing Imperial Memory: The National Film Board of Canada and the Afterlives of Britishness.”
- The Epistolary Research Network (TERN) 2025 Conference – 3–4 October 2025. Paper: “Letters in the Code: Epistolary Memory and the Material Aesthetics of Digital Public Storytelling.”
- Transforming Nations and Identities in a Global World after 1945 – University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK – 2–3 October 2025. Paper: “Between Story and State: The National Film Board of Canada and the Aporia of Identity after Empire.”
- Southern New Hampshire University Conference: The Past, Present, and Future of the Human Environment – 25–26 September 2025. Paper: “Reclaiming the Toxic Sublime: Environmental Witnessing and the Aporia of Canadian Public Memory.”
- HORIZONTE Netzwerktagung zum 10jährigen Jubiläum der KWG – Universität Regensburg, Regensburg, Germany – 19 September 2025. Paper: “Carrier-Bag Storyworlds: Interactive Public-Media Narratives as Pragmatic Futures for a Warming Planet.”
- Northern Great Plains History Conference – Minnesota State University, Mankato, MN, USA – 19 September 2025. Paper: “Treaty 5 at 150: NFBC Memory, Prairie Sovereignty, and the Aporia of Canadian Public Media.”
- International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress – Seoul, South Korea – 16 July 2025. Paper: “Articulating the Canadian Aporia: Visual Storytelling and Public Engagement through the National Film Board of Canada.”
- International Political Science Association (IPSA) World Congress – Seoul, South Korea – 15 July 2025. Discussant: “Transnational Activism, State-Embedded Surveillance, and Social Rights: New Approaches to Public Space and Movement.”
- Frontiers before Borders – Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland – 12 July 2025. Paper: “Imagined Frontiers, Institutional Power: The NFBC and the Canadian Aporetic Condition.”
- Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Biennial Conference – University of Maryland, College Park, MD, USA – 9 July 2025. Paper: “Decolonizing the Atmosphere: Analyzing Environmental Justice through the Lens of NFBC’s Productions.”
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE) 2025 Conference – 1 July 2025. Paper: “Colonial Aporias: Race, Capital, and the State in the Cultural Economy of Canada.”
- World History Association (WHA) 34th Annual Meeting – Louisville, KY, USA – 26 June 2025. Paper: “Digital Territories and Cultural Sovereignty: The National Film Board of Canada’s Interactive Media as Sites of Protest and Resistance.”
- Britain and the World Annual Conference (BATW 2025) – Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool, UK – 25–27 June 2025. Paper: “Navigating Imperial Contradictions: The Canadian Aporetic Condition and the National Film Board of Canada.”
- 7th International Language and Territory Colloquium – University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON – 24 June 2025. Paper: “Articulating the ‘Canadian Style’ through the National Film Board of Canada’s Multimedia Narratives.”
- American Political Science Association (APSA) Teaching & Learning Symposium: Approaches to Human Rights Pedagogy – APSA Headquarters, Washington, DC, USA – 19–21 June 2025. Paper: “Digital Storytelling and the Public Good.”
- C-CHANGE 2025: Climate Change and Public Engagement – Concordia University, Montreal, QC – 19 June 2025. Paper: “Witnessing the Vanishing: Digital Storytelling, Ecological Grief, and the Aporetic Archive.”
- The Twelfth International Hockey Conference – Fort Garry Hotel, Winnipeg, MB – 18 June 2025. Paper: “The Puck and the Nation: Hockey as a Reflection of Canadian State-Building and Cultural Identity.”
- Canadian Sociological Association – Open Virtual Session: Sociology of Development – 13 June 2025. Paper: “Art and Development: Examining the Role of the NFBC in Fostering Global Discourse.”
- International Festival of Media (IFM) – 11 June 2025. Paper: “Echoes of the Canadian Aporia: NFBC’s Media Resonances and the Democratic Public Sphere.”
- NOMOS 2025 – Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic – 7 June 2025. Paper: “Sovereignty’s Cultural Double Bind: Law, Public Media, and the Aporetic Condition in Canada.”
- Reporting News in a Disbelieving Age – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 5–6 June 2025. Research presentation: “Media as Public Service: Rethinking Credibility through Collaborative Discourse.”
- Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 5 June 2025. Paper: “Reframing Canadian Identity: The NFBC’s Role in Public Discourse and Democratic Engagement.”

- Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 5 June 2025. Paper: “Reframing Togetherness: The Canadian Aporia in NFBC Storytelling.”
- Teaching in a Time of Crisis – University of London History Lab – 4 June 2025. Workshop presentation: “Navigating Crisis through the Canadian Aporia: Pedagogical Innovations Using NFBC Media.”
- Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID) Annual Conference – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 3–7 June 2025. Paper: “Decolonizing Narratives: Exploring the Canadian Aporetic Condition in International Development.”
- Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Annual Conference – George Brown College, Toronto, ON – 2 June 2025. Paper: “Art as a Public Service: Bridging Sociology and Community Engagement.”
- Canadian Society for Digital Humanities (CSDH) Annual Conference – Toronto Metropolitan University, Toronto, ON – 1 June 2025. Paper: “Advancing Togetherness through Digital Storytelling: The Canadian Aporetic Condition in Digital Humanities.”
- Canadian Association for Work and Labour Studies (CAWLS) 11th Annual Conference – McMaster University, Hamilton, ON – 29 May 2025. Paper: “Resilience through Art: Labour, Identity, and Social Reproduction in National Film Board of Canada Narratives.”
- Living With Water: An Online Seminar Series – 23 May 2025. Paper: “Fragile Currents: Water, Art, and the Canadian Aporia in NFBC’s Environmental Documentaries.”
- Rethinking Fables in the Age of the Environmental Crisis – University of Kent, Canterbury, UK – 23 May 2025. Paper: “Digital Fables and the Canadian Aporia: The NFBC’s Role in Mediating Human-Nature Relations.”
- LACUNY Institute 2025 – City College of New York – 21 May 2025. Paper: “Counter-Archives and the Aporetic Condition: Preserving Public Memory through Canadian Digital Storytelling.”
- Imagined Geographies Conference – University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK – 20 May 2025. Paper: “Digital Landscapes in Canadian Cultural Imaginaries: Decolonization and Shaping Spatial Perceptions through Media.”
- Narrative Matters 2025 – Paris, France – 14 May 2025. Paper: “Disparate Narrative Worlds: Environmental Justice and Indigenous Knowledge in NFBC’s Interactive Storytelling and Films.”
- 12th IASA World Congress: Visual Americas – Hacettepe University, Ankara, Türkiye – 14 May 2025. Paper: “Reframing Canadian Identity through Digital Visual Narratives: The NFBC’s Contribution to Public Engagement.”
- Decolonising Cultural Heritage – University for Foreigners of Siena, Siena, Italy – 5–7 May 2025. Paper: “Silenced Narratives: Decolonising the National Film Board of Canada’s Role in Shaping Public Memory.”
- British Association for Canadian Studies (BACS) 50th Anniversary Conference – University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK – 24–26 April 2025. Paper: “Art as a Public Service: Shaping Canadian Identity through Visual Storytelling.”
- Decolonizing Affluent Society (WEHC pre-conference) – 25–26 March 2025. Paper: “Reframing Affluence and Inequality through the Lens of the Canadian Aporetic Condition.”
- Seventh Annual HEX Conference – Tampere University, Tampere, Finland – 11 March 2025. Paper: “Navigating the Canadian Aporia: The Historical Experience of Digital Storytelling in Shaping National Identity.”
- 15th Annual African, African American and Diaspora Studies Interdisciplinary Conference – James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA, USA – 12–14 February 2025. Paper: “Digital Territories: The NFBC’s Interactive Projects as Sites of Land Reclamation and Cultural Freedom.”

RESEARCH-CREATION AND MEDIA PRODUCTION EXPERIENCE

Green Heroes (2007–2015)

Producer, director, writer. Television series (12 episodes), 45 webisodes, and multiplatform environmental campaign supported by the Canada Media Fund; featured Robert Bateman, Farley Mowat, David Suzuki, Ta’Kaiya Blaney, and Jane Goodall.

From Field to Studio: The Art of Paul Kane (2003–2015)

Producer, director, writer. Documentary film, interactive museum exhibit, and Royal Ontario Museum installation examining Paul Kane’s art and cultural afterlives.

Arbor Alma (2008)

Producer, director, writer. Short research-creation film exploring environmental memory and public-facing storytelling. Bravo! Television Network.

Museum Maestros (2007)

Producer, director, writer. Documentary profiling curators and artists behind major museum exhibitions.

Buffy Sainte-Marie: A Multimedia Life (2006)

Producer, writer. Documentary on Buffy Sainte-Marie’s life and career, including her impact on Indigenous activism and music.

C. W. Jefferys: Picturing Canada (2005)

Producer, director, writer. Documentary examining Jefferys’ influence on Canadian historical imagery.

Women of Change (1999)

Producer, writer. Documentary highlighting the contributions of Canadian women in social movements and public service.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Trent University – Peterborough, ON

Doctoral Researcher (Canadian Studies) | 2015–2024

Examined media and communications in Canadian society; public-service cultural institutions; art, technology, community, democratic dialogue, and societal transformation. Conducted interdisciplinary research spanning media arts, public institutions, Indigenous studies, environmental communication, and cultural policy.

York University – Toronto, ON

Graduate Researcher (Political Science) | 1986–1988

Researched Vietnam-China relations after the Second Indochinese War and Canadian foreign policy in the Americas.

Policy and Regulatory Research – Selected themes

Research on Canadian public institutions, cultural policy, media and communications, climate and environmental governance, labour, public administration, human rights, reconciliation frameworks, migration, public memory, and digital infrastructure.

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

- Member, Research Ethics Board, Algoma University | 2026–present.
- Board Member-at-Large, Canadian Studies Network (CSN) | 2025–present.
- Program Committee Member, Canadian Society for Digital Humanities / Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH/SCHN) | 2025–present.
- Member, Frost Centre Advisory Group, Trent University | 2018–2019.
- Member-at-Large, Frost Centre Students Association, Trent University | 2015–2023.
- Representative, Graduate Students' Association, Trent University | 2015–2016.

INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

Reconciliation: Learning from the Land – Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory, Manitoulin Island

Participant | 2023

Participated in land-based experiential learning guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers, including tipi construction, star knowledge sharing, birch bark canoe crafting, quillwork, and firekeeper ceremonies.

Community Outreach and Consultation – Selected

- Conducted community outreach and consultation on land use and economic development issues related to the Toronto Island Airport expansion.
- Participated in meetings and joint actions with the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation addressing environmental concerns, Indigenous land stewardship, and socio-economic impacts of urban expansion on traditional territories.
- Collaborated with Indigenous scholars, activists, and artists in research and media project development.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Translates scholarship on media, democracy, public institutions, environmental history, and cultural memory into public essays, policy-oriented talks, museum and media projects, teaching materials, and community-facing presentations.
- Produced documentary and interactive projects for broadcasters, museums, non-profit organizations, unions, and public-interest campaigns.
- Designs public-facing student assignments including policy briefs, research memos, digital stories, interactive timelines, podcasts, zines, and knowledge-translation projects.
- Collaborates with scholars, artists, activists, and community partners on public-history, cultural, and research-creation projects.

HONOURS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS – SELECTED

- Visegrad Scholarship at OSA, Blinken OSA Archivum (2026).
- Leslie Frost Graduate Scholarship, Trent University (2024, 2018).
- Canada Media Fund, Development Investment (2024).
- Ian and Lorraine Logan Graduate Award, Trent University (2024).
- Chief Keith Knott Bursary, Trent University (2023).
- Catharine Parr Traill Bursary, Trent University (2023).
- W and J Hamlin Award, Trent University (2022).
- Errol Hanbidge Bursary, Trent University (2021).
- Symons Trust, Trent University (2020).
- Jean Evelyn Graves Scholarship, Trent University (2018).
- Harley Richards Cummings Scholarship, Trent University (2016).
- Mary Northway Award, Trent University (2015).
- Juno Award – Nominated (2009).
- WorldFest Houston – Gold Award (2006, 2002).
- 50th Columbus International Film & Video Festival – Bronze, The Humanities (2002).
- Artist in the Workplace, Ontario Arts Council (1999).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Political Science Association (IPSA); Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA); Canadian Studies Network (CSN) – Board member; Canadian Society for Digital Humanities (CSDH/SCHN) – program committee member; Writers Guild of Canada; University Art Association of Canada (UAAC); Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID); Canadian Sociological Association (CSA).

LANGUAGES

English – Native. French – Reading knowledge; developing oral proficiency; working toward B2.