

# John William Roberts

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CMCI CommRap, University of Colorado Boulder  
Buckingham Hall S120, 34 UCB, Boulder, CO 80309  
john.w.roberts@colorado.edu

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Instructor, CMCI CommRAP. University of Colorado Boulder. 2021-Present.

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2019. Department of Film, Media & Theatre, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA.  
Dissertation: *Figures of Conspiracy: Finance Capital and the Aesthetics of Speculation*.  
Chair: Dr. Angelo Restivo. Committee: Dr. Alessandra Raengo, Dr. Jennifer Barker, Dr. Fredric Jameson.
- M.A. 2013. Department of Film and Media Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. Chair: Dr. Tanine Allison. Committee: Dr. Karla Oeler, Dr. Daniel Reynolds.
- B.A. 2010. Philosophy, Florida State University.
- B.A. 2010. International Affairs, Florida State University.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Film Theory	Visual Culture
Aesthetic Philosophy	Digital Media
Critical Race Theory	Global Cinema

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2023 “Dancing the Dance of Another: Allegory, the Diagram, and *Suspiria* (2018).” *Discourse* 45, no. 1 (Winter/Spring 2023): 33-64.
- 2017 “Your Bad Theory Helped a Killer Go Free: Recession Anxiety, Surveillance Labor, and the Hauntology of the Digital in *Sinister*.” *InVisible Culture* 27 (Fall 2017).

### Chapters in Edited Books

- 2021 “Erich Auerbach’s Conspiracy Theory.” *Plots: Literary Form and Conspiracy Culture*, eds. Ben Carver, Dana Crăciun, and Todor Hristov (London: Routledge, 2021): 37-53.
- 2015 “From Hidden Pictures to Productive Pictures: Hitchcock’s Ludic Style.” *Hitchcock Annual* 19 (New York: Columbia UP, 2015): 181-205.

### Public Scholarship

- 2023 “Everything’s Connected: Conspiracy, Critique, and Articulation,” *In Media Res* Curated Multimedia Post, December 11, 2023.  
<https://mediacommons.org/imr/content/everything's-connected-conspiracy-critique-and-articulation>.
- 2017 *Empyre, liquid blackness*, November 20, 2017. Hypertext project mapping the -empyre-soft\_skinned\_space listserv’s April 2016 discourse  
<https://liquidblackness.com/news/introducing-lb-empyre>.
- 2015 “Adam Wingard’s Brian de Palma Moment: Intertextual Reference and the Citational Play of Horror-Comedy,” *In Media Res* Curated Multimedia Post, June 3, 2015.

<http://mediacommons.org/imr/2015/05/25/adam-wingards-brian-de-palma-moment-intertextual-reference-and-citational-play-horror-com>.

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

### Professional Level

- 2023 CMCI Inclusive Pedagogy Ambassador Program Participant, AY23-24. CU Boulder College of Media, Communication, and Information. \$600.
- 2023 Payden Teaching Excellence Grant, CU Boulder College of Media, Communication, and Information. \$3,250.
- 2023 ACUE Teaching Certification Course Cohort Invitee, CU Boulder College of Media, Communication, and Information. \$1,200.
- 2022 CMCI Inclusive Pedagogy Ambassador Program Participant, AY22-23. CU Boulder College of Media, Communication, and Information. \$600.

### Doctoral Level

- 2018 Graduate Assistantship 5<sup>th</sup> Year Funding, Georgia State University Department of Communication/School of Film, Media & Theatre 2018-2019.
- 2014 College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Fellowship, Georgia State University, 2014-2018. \$20,000.
- 2014 Graduate Assistantship, Georgia State University Department of Communication/School of Film, Media & Theatre 2014-2018.

### Master's Level

- 2011 Full Tuition Waiver, Emory University Department of Film and Media Studies, 2011-2013.

### Undergraduate Level

- 2007 Florida Bright Futures Scholarship, 2007-2010.

## INVITED TALKS

- 2019 "Figures of Conspiracy." Invited Talk. Communication Department, Mercer University. March 29, 2019.

## CONFERENCE AND SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 "MVBA: Claiming the B-Side: The Project." Liquid Blackness Presents: Music Video as Black Art: Claiming the B-Side. Georgia State University, September 22, 2023.
- 2023 "S-O-S"? Allegory and Arbitrage in Spike Lee's *Summer of Sam*." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, April 15, 2023.
- 2022 "From Cognitive Mapping to the Dispositif: Conspiracy, Aesthetics, and the Function of Form," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, March 27, 2022.
- 2021 "Dancing the Dance of Another: Allegory, the Diagram, and *Suspiria* (2018)," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, March 17, 2021.
- 2019 "Auerbach to the Future: Figural Interpretation, Cognitive Mapping, and the Aesthetics of Conspiracy," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, March 17, 2019.
- 2018 "Speculations of Violence: Rendering Space, Race, and Value in *Nightcrawler*," Rendering (the) Visible III: Liquidity, February 9, 2018.
- 2017 "Speculative Figures: Finance Capital and the Post-Crisis Conspiracy Diagram," World

- Picture Conference, November 10, 2017.
- 2017 “Towards a Phenomenology of Non-normative Sports Videogames: *Rocket League* and the Semblance of the Athletic Body,” University of Pittsburgh Film Studies Graduate Student Organization Conference, September 29, 2017.
- 2017 “Rhetorical Figures and Figural Forces: ‘Chart Brut’ and the Aesthetic Epistemology of Internet Conspiracy,” Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference, February 17, 2017.
- 2016 “Utopian Figures, Dystopian Forces: ‘Chart Brut’ And the Aesthetics of Online Conspiracy,” South Atlantic MLA Conference, November 6, 2016.
- 2016 “Alfred Hitchcock ‘Presents:’ Authorship and the Lacanian Sinthome,” Southwest PCA/ACA Conference, February 10, 2016.
- 2015 “*Playtime*’s Pedagogy: Spectatorship as Play, Play as Aesthetic Form,” University of Toronto Cinema Studies Graduate Student Conference, February 28, 2015.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### University of Colorado Boulder

- 2023 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Media and Communications History.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Media and Communications History.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Truth, Beauty, and Conspiracy.” Spring Semester.
- 2022 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Media and Communication History.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Media and Communication History.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Conspiracy Theories.” Spring Semester.
- 2021 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Visual Literacy and Design.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Media and Communication History.” Fall Semester.

### Georgia State University

- 2019 Instructor of Record, “Film Aesthetics and Analysis.” Spring Semester.
- 2018 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Spring Semester.
- 2017 Instructor of Record, “Conspiracy Media.” Senior capstone seminar. Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Spring Semester.
- 2016 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Spring Semester.
- 2015 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Large Lecture. Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Fall Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Spring Semester.  
 Instructor of Record, “History of Motion Pictures.” Spring Semester.  
 Teaching Assistant, “Film Theory and Criticism.” Spring Semester.

2014 Teaching Assistant, "History of Motion Pictures." Fall Semester.

### **Emory University**

2013 Teaching Assistant, "Special Topics: Video Games." Spring Semester.

2012 Teaching Assistant, "The Biz." Media Industries seminar. Fall Semester.

2012 Teaching Assistant, "Intro to Film." Summer Semester.

2012 Teaching Assistant, "Content Creation." Senior capstone production course. Spring Semester.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

*liquid blackness* research group. Research assistant, journal issue staff and digital humanities liaison. Georgia State University. 2016-2019. Planned and produced on and off-campus arts events, artist talks, and masterclasses, produced critical race theory research materials, edited journal submissions for content and format, contributed to peer-reviewed journal proposal to Duke University Press, accepted 2020.

### **SERVICE**

#### **Service to the Profession**

SCMS Conference Program Committee, Fall 2023.

#### **Departmental and University-Level Service and Involvement**

2023 Member of CU CMCI Search Committee, CommRAP Director Position, Spring 2023.

2023 Member of CU CMCI Student Scholarship Committee, Spring 2023.

2022 Member of CU CMCI Student Scholarship Committee, Spring 2022.

2022 Organizer of CMCI CommRAP 49-Hour Film Festival, March 2022.

2018 "The Frustrating Games of Bennett Foddy," GSU Playtest Colloquium Presentation, March 7, 2018.

2018 Co-Organizer of GSU Department of Film, Media & Theatre Graduate Reading Group, Spring 2018.

2017 Co-Organizer, IGC@GSU Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference at Georgia State University, November 2-4, 2017.

2017 Leader of GSU Film, Media & Theatre Reading Group for IGC@GSU Keynote Amber Musser's book *Sensational Flesh* (Duke UP, 2014). October 20 and 27, 2017.

2017 "Hitchcock and Games," GSU Playtest Colloquium Presentation, October 25, 2017.

2017 "Nonhuman Embodiment in Driving Games," GSU Playtest Colloquium Presentation, September 6, 2017.

2014 *In Media Res*, Theme Week Coordinator, 2014-2017.

2013 "Simple Facts and Wild Fantasies: Play and Paranoia in Hitchcock Spectatorship," Emory Film and Media Studies Departmental Research Colloquium Presentation, April 11, 2013.

#### **Service to the Community**

2023 Volunteer Shorts Judge, St. Vrain Valley School District Student Film Festival, April 2023.

2022 Guest Participant, *Just King Things* Podcast, Episode: "Just King Things Goes to *The*

- Shining Opera*,” May 16, 2022.
- 2020 Volunteer Shorts Screener, Atlanta Film Festival, 2020-2021.
- 2019 Invited Judge for GSU Uni-Fest Student Film Festival, March 2019.
- 2017 Q&A Moderator, ATLarge Festival Screening of *Horace Tapscott, Musical Griot* (2017) and Q&A with director Barbara McCullough, October 28, 2017.
- 2017 Volunteer, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, 2016, 2017.
- 2015 Invited Introduction and Q&A Moderator, Landmark Midtown Art Cinema screening of *Vertigo*, February 2015.
- 2012 Q&A Moderator, Emory University’s public screening of *Beau Travail*, November 2012.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2015-)  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association (2016)

### **LANGUAGE COMPETENCIES**

Spanish  
French