

Aaron Dickinson (Sachs) Sachowitz

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EDUCATIONAL AND ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Education

May 2009	Ph.D.	Communication Studies	The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
May 2005	M.A.	Communication Studies	The University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa
May 2002	B.A.	Media Studies	Pomona College, Claremont, California

Positions

July 2017- Present	Chair		Saint Mary's College of California Department of Communication
June 2015- Present	Associate Professor Media Technologies and Culture		Saint Mary's College of California Department of Communication
June 2009- May 2015	Assistant Professor Media Technologies and Culture		Saint Mary's College of California Department of Communication
June 2008- June 2009	Seashore-Ballard Dissertation Fellowship		University of Iowa Graduate College
August 2006- May 2008	Teaching Assistant		University of Iowa Department of Communication Studies
January 2007- May 2007	Research Assistant		University of Iowa Department of Communication Studies
August 2003- May 2006	Teaching Assistant		University of Iowa Rhetoric Department
January 2006- May 2006	Discussion Leader		University of Iowa Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Student Development
August 2005- December 2005	Co-Leader		University of Iowa Professional Development Program
May 2005- August 2005	Teaching Assistant		University of California, Berkeley Early Academic Outreach Program, Pre-College Academy
June 2004- August 2004	Research Assistant		University of Iowa Rhetoric Department

ACADEMIC FUNDING AND AWARDS

July 2017-June 2018	Provost's Faculty Research Grant	Saint Mary's College of California
January 2017-December 2017	International Faculty Development Grant Secondary Investigator	Adelphi University
July 2016-July 2017	Sabbatical (in Nicaragua)	Saint Mary's College of California
June 2015	CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar: The Peruvian Food System	Office of the Vice Provost Saint Mary's College of California
January 2012-January 2015	Digital Culture Minor (Grant Participant)	The Keck Foundation
June 2008-May 2009	Seashore-Ballard Dissertation Fellow	University of Iowa Graduate College
2007, 2005, & 2004	Summer Research Fellow	University of Iowa

TEACHING

Saint Mary's

Communication Inquiry (COMM 003/Fall 2009-2014 & 2017, & Spring 2010)

Communication and Social Justice: Food Justice (COMM 161-01/Spring 2012, 2013, and 2015, Summer 2016)

Senior Capstone (COMM 196/Fall 2014 and 2015, Spring 2016)

Media Technologies and Culture (COMM 125/ Spring 2010-2016)

Nicaragua and Costa Rica: Enduring Legacies (JAN 171/JanTerm 2016)

Digital Culture (COMM 163/Fall 2013 and 2015 & Summer 2015)

Culture Clash Japan (JAN 171/JanTerm 2015)

Critical Strategies and Great Questions (SEM 01/Spring 2014)

The Ethics and Impacts of Climate Change in Nicaragua (JAN 171/JanTerm 2014)

Argument and Advocacy (COMM 10/Fall 2013)

Cash, Crops, and Crossing Borders: Food Justice in Nicaragua (JAN 171/JanTerm 2012)

Seminar: Greek Thought (SEM 20-09/Fall 2011)

Urban Food Justice: Reliving, Rethinking, and Remaking Food in the City (JAN 56/JanTerm 2011)

Special Topics: Gender, Sexuality and Media (COMM 163/Spring 2010)

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications (Peer Reviewed)

“Tying Tight or Splitting Up: An Adult’s Perspective of His Parent’ Same-Sex Relationship Dissolution,” In *LGBTQ Divorce and Relationship Dissolution: Psychological and Legal Perspectives and Implications for Practice*. (eds) Abbie E. Goldberg and Adam Romero, Oxford University Press. Forthcoming, 2018.

“A dialogue on hip-hop, social justice and pedagogy,” Aaron Dickinson Sachs and Scott Schönfeldt-Aultman. *Pedagogy, Culture & Society*, October 11, 2017.

“Ancient Grains and New Markets: The Selling of Quinoa as Story and Substance,” John Drew, Aaron Dickinson Sachs, Cecilia Sueiro Mosquera, and J. R. Stepp. In *Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Governance in Ibero-America: Concepts, Perspectives, and Future Trends*. (eds) Lina M. Gómez, Lucely Vargas-Preciado and David Crowther, Emerald Publishing Group. 2017.

“The Question Concerning Technological Humor.” *The Craft of Comedy* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. June 7, 2016. [Online](#).

“The Curious Case of Donald Trumps Doctor: Metonymy in the Age of Memetic News.” *Donald Trump* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. May 30, 2016. [Online](#).

“Sochi Pop: Getting Lucky with Sex, Force, and Proliferating Signifiers.” *Recontextualizing Pop Songs* Theme Week (Organizer), *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. May 5, 2016. [Online](#)

“The Medial Metaphor: Hip Hop as Media.” *Explorations in Media Ecology* vol. 13, Iss. 2, June 2014.

“Who’s Alright?: The Politics of ‘Queerspawn’ Representation in *The Kids Are Alright*.” “*Kids*” *Doing Alright in the Queer Modern Family: Speaking to Our Representations* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. June 18, 2014. [Online](#).

“Marshall McLuhan and Harold Adams Innis Watching Netflix.” *Netflix* Theme Week, December 2, 2013. [Online](#).

“The Lonely Island’s Laughable Activism: The Visual Argument of ‘Spring Break Anthem.’” *Visual Activism* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. September 16-20, 2013. [Online](#).

“Hip-Hopsploitation: Representing 1980s Hip-Hop in *Wild Style* and *Beat Street*.” *Hip-Hop Cinema* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. September 3-7, 2012. [Online](#). Featured in “Most Commented Posts of 2012,” November 2012.

“A Personal History of Desire in Porn and Hip-Hop.” *Liminalities* vol. 7 num. 3, Autumn 2011.

“Father: Not Stated.” In *And Baby Makes More: Known Donors, Queer Parents, and Our Unexpected Families*. Ed. C. Brushwood-Rose and S. Goldberg. Toronto: Insomniac Press, 2009.

“Tupac Shakur.” In *The Encyclopedia of African-American History*. Ed. L. Alexander & W. Rucker. ABC-CLIO, 2010.

Conference Presentations (refereed)

“Chocolate Stories: Voices from Nicaragua.” Northwest Chocolate Festival. Seattle, 2017.

“*Cacao Stories: A Food Manifesto.*” Pluralities Documentary Film Conference, Documentary Film Institute, San Francisco State University, San Francisco, 2017.

“Ethics and Sustainability in Edu-tourism,” *Justice, Ethics, and the Environment: Embracing Opportunities at the Intersection of Communication, Sustainability, and the Environment.* Pre-conference (Organizer and Co-Chair), Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Las Vegas, 2015.

“Bridging Gaps Between ‘Us’ and ‘Them’: Creating ‘We’ In Service-Learning Through Cultural Diversity.” Co presented poster with Tara B. Perry. 17th Annual Continuums of Service Conference, Waikiki, 2014.

“The Medial Metaphor: Hip-Hop as Media.” Media Ecology Association Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Washington D.C., 2013.

“Food Insecurity, Access, and Healthfulness: Helping Disenfranchised Populations Overcome Ongoing and Temporary Food Needs” Co-presented round table with Christina G. Paxman. Experiential Learning Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Washington D.C., 2013.

“How My Donor-Daughter Got Two Queer Grandmothers and a Grand-Donor-Dad: Or An Exploration of Kinship in Multi-Generational Queer Families.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Orlando, 2012.

Giving voice to All that Can Go Wrong with Service-Learning: A Roundtable Discussion to Improve Pedagogy, Panel Presenter. Experiential Learning Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, 2011.

“‘I Re-member’: Re-presenting Hip Hop and Sexual Violence in New Zealand” Australia and New Zealand Communication Association, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2011.

“Hip-Hop is Articulated: Examining What’s At Stake When Hip-Hop Is Defined as Black” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, 2009.

Reclaiming Technodeterminism: Unconventional Approaches for Communication Studies, Panel Respondent and Organizer. Media Ecology Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, 2008.

“Black to the Bronx: Reexamining the Origins of Hip-Hop as Black Popular Culture.” Annual U.S. Conference of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, Iowa City, 2008.

“A Box Full of Angels: Communicating in the Electronic Ether.” Spiritual Communication Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, 2007.

“‘Us Girls Can Boogie Too’: Representations of Gender in *Beat Street.*” Popular Communication Division, 57th Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, San Francisco, 2007.

“‘You the Missionary and I’m the Native’: Cinematic Representations of Race and Class in Hip-Hop.” 2007 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Chicago, 2007.

“Beat Street’ Break Down.” (Panel Chair) Fourth Annual Meeting of the Cultural Studies Association, Arlington, 2006.

“A Box Full of Angels: A Conversation Between McLuhan and Benjamin in the Afterlife.” 6th Annual Craft, Critique, Culture Interdisciplinary Conference, Iowa City, 2006.

“Fragile Masculinity: Performances of Gender and Homophobia in *Matador* and *The Boondock Saints.*” Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual/Transgender Communication Studies Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, 2004.

“My Father is a Piece of Paper: Constructing Masculine Identity as the Son of Two Lesbians.” (Panel Chair) Feminist and Women’s Studies Division/Critical and Cultural Studies Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, 2004.

Invited Presentations and Lectures

“Integrating Sustainability into Our Classes.” Pedagogy presentation. *SEBA Excellence in Teaching Symposia*, St. Mary’s College, March 13, 2014.

“How to Teach Critical Thinking.” Pedagogy presentation. *SEBA Excellence in Teaching Symposia*, St. Mary’s College, October 25, 2013

“Revolutionizing Health as a Social Justice Issue” Presentation with Gillian Cutshaw, Jessica Morello, and Ashton Coelho. *The Crossroads of Social Change*, 2nd Annual Wo/Men’s Conference, St. Mary’s College, 2011.

“Box Full of Angels: An Interactive Mediascape.” Co-authored with Matt Butler. Scholar-to-Scholar Presentation, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, San Diego, 2008.

“Culture and Authenticity: Questioning the Consumption of Pop Music.” Guest lecturer, Media and Society, Department of Communication Studies, University of Iowa, 2007.

“Queer Sexualities Panel.” Participant, Human Sexuality, Department of Counseling, Rehabilitation, and Student Development, University of Iowa, 2006.

“A Gayby Boy: Negotiating Masculinity in a Lesbian Family.” Focus on the Gay Family speaker series, Duke University, 2006.

“Black Masculinity and Feminism in Hip-Hop.” Guest lecturer, Gender and Media, Department of Mass Communication, University of Iowa, 2005.

CREATIVE WORK

“A Box Full of Angels.” Co-authored with Matt Butler. Collaborative interactive webpage, accessible via www.aaronsachs.com. Competitively accepted to be presented in FILE Media Art as part of the exhibition FILE 2009-Electronic Language International Festival, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 2009; and exhibited in the Scholar-to-Scholar session of the National Communication Association annual conference, San Diego, 2008.

“Performing Comprehension: A Webcast Examination,” Internet Performance Piece. University of Iowa, September 28, 2006

“docEdit’s Pure Human Titty Milk Products,” Multimedia Performance Piece, *Intermedia Workshop*, University of Iowa, April 28, 2005.

“Film Dress,” Wearable Sculpture (celluloid and scotch-tape). Intermedia Open House, University of Iowa, March 25, 2005.

“She My Black Skin,” Performance Piece, *Narrative and Racial Performance*, University of Iowa, December 7, 2004.

“Like in a Fantasy: A Performance of Analysis,” Screenplay. *American Visual Culture: Performance Studies*, University of Iowa, 2004.

“Celluloid and Scan Lines,” Multimedia Installation (video, html, oil paint, wood, found objects). The PoSA Gallery, Pomona College, April 19-20, 2002.

SERVICE

Saint Mary's

January Term Committee, 2015-2016. 2017-Present.

Co-Chair, Relational Communication Search Committee, 2015-2016.

Co-Chair, Global Communication Search Committee, 2015-2016.

Advisor, First Year Advising Cohort , 2013-2016.

School of Liberal Arts Representative, Campus Sustainability Committee, 2011-2016.

Faculty Participant, Digital Humanities Minor, Keck Foundation Grant Proposal (successfully funded), 2010-2016.

Legacy Garden Board, 2010-2016.

At-Large Pre-Tenured Faculty Senator, Academic Senate, 2014-2015.

Academic Senate Representative, Campus Facilities Planning Committee, 2014-2015.

Organizational Behavior/Management Search Committee, SEBA, 2014-2015.

Organizer, *Teaching Sustainability Workshop*, Faculty Development and Sustainability Committee, September 20, 2014.

Organizer, *Teachers, Teaching, and the Media Conference 2014*, 2013-2014.

Engaged Teaching Advisory Council, CILSA, 2012-2014.

School of Liberal Arts Representative, Committee on Academic Appeals, 2010-2014.

Co-Leader and Planner, Developing Leaders Retreat, Campus Involvement and Leadership, 2010, 2011, and 2014.

Mackin Debate Adjunct Faculty Search Committee, Communication Department, 2013-2014.

Artistic Understanding Core Curriculum Working Group, 2013-2014.

Co-Presenter and Organizer, "Misconceptions of Masculinity: Men of Color in the Media," Intercultural Center, Fall 2013.

Faculty Moodle Advisory Committee, 2011-2013.

Organizer, Communication Department Research Colloquium, 2010-2013.

Community Partner, COLAGE/Human Sexuality (PSYCH 157), Spring 2012.

Seminar Text Selection Reading Group, Spring 2012.

Advisor. GaelVision, Student Video Club. 2010-2011.

Intercultural Communication and Quantitative Methods Faculty Search Committee, Communication Department, 2010-2011.

Summer Orientation Advisor, St. Mary's. Moraga, 2010 and 2011.

Panelist, "The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict." Panel and Film, Delphine Intercultural Center, 2011.

Co-Leader and Planner, Developing Leaders Retreat, Campus Involvement and Leadership, 2010 and 2011.

Hip-Hop and Social Justice Event Series Committee, Member, 2009-2011.

Panelist, "Redefining Family," National Coming-Out Week Event hosted by the Gay Straight Alliance, 2010.

Faculty Welfare Representative, Campus Facilities Planning Committee, 2009-2010.

Toast Master, "Lavender Grad," Gay Straight Alliance Graduation Celebration, 2010.

MC, "The Bash," Gay-Straight Alliance Cultural Night, 2010.

Panelist, "The Stake of Men," Panel, Women's Resource Center, 2009.

Select External

Chair Emeritus, COLAGE, Non-Profit Community Service and Youth Empowerment Movement, San Francisco, CA, 2012-Present. Previously Vice-Chair, 2009-2010 and Co-Chair 2010-2012. On the board 2008-2014.

"Kids" Doing Alright in the *Queer Modern Family: Speaking to Our Representations* Theme Week Organizer, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*. June 16-June 20, 2014. [Online](#).

Organizer, *Food Media* Theme Week, *In Media Res: A Media Commons Project*, October 14-18, 2013 and November 25-29, 2013. [Online](#).

Reviewer, *Journal For Popular Music Studies*. Journal of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music, US, 2010.

Panel Chair, "The N-Word." Obscenity: An Interdisciplinary Discussion. The 2007 Obermann Center for Advanced Studies Humanities Symposium, Iowa City, 2007.

Panel Organizer, "Locating and Negotiating Masculinities: Boys Will Be . . . ?" Feminist and Women's Studies Division/Critical and Cultural Studies Division, Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, 2004.

Reviewer, Feminist and Women's Studies Division, National Communication Association Conference, 2004.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Peruvian Food Systems: Balancing Growth and Preservation, CIEE International Faculty Development Seminar, Lima, Peru, June 2015.

Buttimer Institute, St. Mary's College of California, Summer 2014.

Faculty Tech Camp, St. Mary's College of California, Summer 2014.

Annual Continuums of Service Conference, Washington Campus Compact, Waikiki, 2014, Portland, 2013, and San Diego, 2011.

"Electronic Rubrics: Creating Immediate Connections with Students." Short Course, Annual Conference of the

National Communication Association, Washington D.C., 2013.

“Straight Talk with Teaching Communication Research Methods.” Short Course, Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Washington D.C., 2013.

Collegiate Seminar Teaching Formation, St. Mary’s College of California, Fall 2013.

Deliberation and Advocacy Workshop, Office of Faculty Development, Moraga, 2013.

“From Famine to Foodies; Pre-Conference Seminar, Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Orlando, 2012.

“COMMunity Connections in the Classroom and Beyond: Service-Learning for the Advanced Practitioner,” Short Course, Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Orlando, 2012.

“Celebrating and Engaging Community in the Basic Course: Approaches to Teaching in the Communication Age,” Short Course, Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Orlando, 2012.

“Modern Teaching Using Social Media,” Short Course, Annual Conference of the National Communication Association, Orlando, 2012.

Rummery Retreat, Office of Mission, St. Mary’s College, Moraga, 2012.

Workshop for Integrating Sustainability in Education, The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education, San Diego, 2012.

Mobile Computing Workshop, Faculty Technology Group, St. Mary’s, Moraga, 2012.

Member, Engaged Faculty Cohort, Catholic Institute for Lasallian Social Action, St. Mary’s, Moraga, 2010-2011.