

TOBY LEE
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Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

- 2004-2013 Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
PhD in Social Anthropology, with Secondary Field in Film & Visual Studies
- 2002-2004 Oxford University, Oxford, UK
M.Phil in European Literature (Modern Greek)
- 1998-2002 Columbia University, New York, NY
B.A. in Anthropology & Modern Greek Studies

POSITIONS

- 2014-present Associate Professor
Co-director, Certificate Program in Culture & Media
Department of Cinema Studies, Tisch School of the Arts, New York University
- 2012-2014 Director
Collaborative Studio
Union Docs: Center for Documentary Art, Brooklyn, NY

PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 *How to Be Public: Cinema, Conflict, and Collectivity in Austerity Greece*
University of California Press (November 2020)
- 2020 “Introduction to ‘Documentary World-making’” (with Josh Guilford)
In *World Records* (October 2020)
- 2019 “Beyond the Ethico-aesthetic: Toward a Re-valuation of the Sensory Ethnography Lab”
In *Visual Anthropology Review*
- 2019 “Filmmaking in a Minor Key: A Conversation with Toby Lee & Lana Lin”
In *Millenium Film Journal*
- 2018 “Making Strange: Encounters with the Parahuman”
In *Non-catalog*, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, pp.100-113
- 2017 “A Politics of Dissonance”
In *Social Text Online* (8 August)
<https://socialtextjournal.org/a-politics-of-dissonance/>
- 2016 “Trauma on a Loop: The National September 11 Memorial Museum”
In *Flow: A Critical Forum on Television & Media Culture*
<https://www.flowjournal.org/2016/10/trauma-on-a-loop/>
- 2016 “Being There, Taking Place: Ethnography at the Film Festival”
In *Film Festivals: Theory, History, Method, Practice*, eds. Brendan Kredell, Skadi Loist & Marijke de Valck (Routledge), pp.122-137

- 2015 “Ruminations on the Return of the Radical Repressed” (with Rebekah Rutkoff)
In *Athens Now*, ed. Stanley Schtinter (Texte und Töne), pp.54-57
- 2012 “Festival City: Producing Place between the Local & the National” [in Greek]
In *Cine-Thessaloniki: Istories apo tin poli kai ton kinimatografo*, eds. Angeliki Milonaki & Giannis Grosdanis (University Studio Press), pp.121-129
- 2012 “Festival, City, State: Cultural Citizenship at the Thessaloniki Film Festival”
In *Coming Soon to a Festival Near You: Programming Film Festivals*, ed. Jeffrey Ruoff (St. Andrews Film Studies), pp.89-100
- 2010 “(Not) Being There: Presence, Absence, Institutional Space, the Politics of Place”
In *Media Res* (15 September)
<http://mediacommons.org/imr/2010/09/13/not-being-there-presence-absence-institutional-space-politics-place>

TALKS / LECTURES

- Oct 2018 “Ethnographies of the Unreal: Engaging the World Otherwise through Documentary”
Invited lecture, Filmmaking & Moving Image Arts Program, Sarah Lawrence College
- Sep 2018 Artist talk
Place is the Space Workshop, UnionDocs: Center for Documentary Art
- Dec 2017 “State, Cinema, & Citizenship in Precarious Times”
Invited lecture, Dept. of Social Anthropology & History, University of the Aegean
- Apr 2017 Class guest lecture
Global Film & Media After 1960, Mount Holyoke College
- Jun 2016 Artist Talk
History & Theory of Documentary Cinema Summer Intensive, New School
- Jan 2016 “Sensory Ethnography Lab: Community of Practice, Space of Play”
Invited lecture, Global Emergent Media Lab, Concordia University
- Oct 2015 “What Remains”
Artist talk, International Intangible Heritage Film Festival, Jeonju, S. Korea
- Oct 2015 “Sensory Ethnography Lab: Community of Practice, Space of Play”
Invited lecture, International Intangible Heritage Film Festival, Jeonju, S. Korea
- Nov 2013 “How to be Public: Conflict & Collectivity at the Thessaloniki Film Festival”
Invited Talk, University Seminars Program, Columbia University
- Mar 2010 “Narrating Histories, Building Place: 50 Years of the Thessaloniki Film Festival”
Invited talk, Dept. of Social Anthropology & History, University of the Aegean
- Oct 2009 “The City of Thessaloniki through the Lens of its Film Festival: Conducting Ethnographic Research in Greece”
Invited talk, College Year in Athens, Greece

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Composite”
Theorizing Portraits in the 21st Century: Images of Social Engagement, Cultural Encounters, and Political Recognition Workshop, University of Southern California

- 2019 “The Radical Unreal: Displacing History, Unsettling Place”
Geosocial Encounters: Ecologies of Documentary Research and Practice Symposium,
University of Pennsylvania
- 2018 “The Radical Unreal: Fabulation, Fiction, & Fantasy in Speculative Documentary”
Visible Evidence XXV Conference, Bloomington
- 2018 “‘The Kids’ Table’: Cinema as a Public Thing”
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Toronto
- 2017 “Making the Rounds: Ethnographic Film in Circulation”
Speaker, Roundtable discussion, Department of Anthropology, NYU
- 2017 “Documenta 14”
Speaker, Roundtable discussion, Vera List Center for Art & Politics, New School
- 2017 “Experiments, Uselessness, Non-mediation”
Technologies, Topologies & Assemblages: Re-theorizing Contemporary Media in
Anthropology Workshop, Swarthmore College
- 2015 “Table Talk: Surveillance”
Co-organizer & speaker, Roundtable discussion, Tisch School of the Arts, NYU
- 2015 “Sensory Ethnography Lab”
Organizer & speaker, Presentation & screening, MoMA PS1
- 2015 “Media States: Political Interventions in Film & TV in Contemporary Greece”
Speaker, Hellenic Studies Series, A.S. Onassis Program in Hellenic Studies, NYU
- 2015 “Making Visible: Surveillance as Spectacle in the 21st Century”
Speaker, Cross-Tisch: The Interdepartmental Faculty Series, NYU
- 2015 “Single Stream: Waste & the Politics of (In)visibility”
Cultures of Energy Spring Research Symposium, Rice University
- 2015 “Media, Memory & Movement: The September 11 Memorial Museum”
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Montreal
- 2014 “The Documentary Loop in the 9/11 Museum”
Codes & Modes: The Character of Documentary Culture Conference, Hunter
- 2014 “Single Stream”
Lines & Nodes: Media, Infrastructure & Aesthetics Symposium, MCC, NYU
- 2014 “Teaching, Making, Doing: Theory in Practice in the Field of Visual Studies”
Look Out! Visual Culture & the Future of the Humanities Symposium, USC
- 2011 “Projected Spaces: Re-imagining Thessaloniki through its Film Festival”
Modern Greek Studies Association Symposium, New York
- 2011 “The Letter of the Law: National Film Policy & the Thessaloniki Film Festival”
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, New Orleans
- 2010 “Festival, City, State: Negotiating Cultural Citizenship at the Film Festival”
European Network for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Istanbul
- 2010 “Festival City: Public Culture & the Production of Locality in Thessaloniki”
Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Los Angeles
- 2008 Interdisciplinary Film Festival Working Group
Organizer, Society for Cinema & Media Studies Conference, Philadelphia

2007 New Voices/New Visions: Experiments from Harvard Media Anthropology Lab
Organizer & speaker, Panel & screening, 10th Royal Anthropological Institute
International Festival of Ethnographic Film, University of Manchester

MEDIA PROJECTS / EXHIBITIONS

Ongoing *WALK*
Medium-length film

2017 *Composite*
Video (23 min)
Camden International Film Festival, Thessaloniki Documentary Festival, SCROLL/The
Reef Creative Habitat

2017 *Composite, Sketch for*
Video (1 min)
Peephole Cinema, Ann Arbor Film Festival; Peephole Cinema, San Francisco

2016 *Distance to Destination*
Video (7 min)
Lot 22: Cosmogonies in Transit, Immersive Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2014 *Single Stream*
Documentary video (24 min.), with Paweł Wojtasik & Ernst Karel
Whitney Biennial 2014, Ann Arbor Film Festival, Flaherty NYC, Film Festival Locarno,
CPH:DOX, Montreal International Documentary Festival (RIDM), Les Rencontres
Internationales, Shenzhen Independent Animation Biennial, Thessaloniki
Documentary Festival, BAFICI, Cachoiera Doc, MoMA PS1

2013 *Single Stream*
Large-scale video installation, with Paweł Wojtasik & Ernst Karel
Museum of the Moving Image, Queens, NY

2013 *Composite*
3-channel video installation, prints
RE-culture 2: 2nd International Visual Art Festival of Patras, Greece

2009 *Pluto*
Light & sound performance, with Carole Kim
Inside Out Group Exhibit, Atlantic Center for the Arts

2009 *Anepikaira*
Video installation & screening, with F. Lazaridou-Hatzigoga
Former Cine-ep theater, Thessaloniki, Greece

2007 *Royal*
Documentary video (28 min.), with F. Lazaridou-Hatzigoga
Platforma Video08 Festival, Oczy i obiektywy V Festival 2008, Strange Screen Film +
Video Festival 2007, SIGGRAPH 2007 Art Gallery: Global Eyes

2006 *pause*
A series of four public performances, with F. Lazaridou-Hatzigoga
Conflux 2006, NYC

2005 *eugene presents*
Collaborative publication of “The Colossus of Long Island” by Ranbir Sidhu
Glowlab: The Open Lab, Art Interactive, Cambridge, MA

PROGRAMMING

- 2019 World Series
Three-part event series, NYU & UnionDocs (co-organized with Josh Guilford)
In conjunction with Fall 2019 special issue of *World Records*
- 2015 “Dark Matter: The Films of Sarah Christman, Matt Town & Carolyn Lazard”
Programmer, Peephole Cinema, Brooklyn, NY
<http://www.peepholecinema.com/new-york-archive/>
- 2013 “In the Valley of the Uncanny: Humans & Humanoids”
Programmer, Panel, UnionDocs: Center for Documentary Art, Brooklyn
<https://uniondocs.org/event/2013-01-12-the-uncanny-valley-humans-and-humanoids/>
- 2008 “The Films of Rob Todd & Rebecca Meyers”
Programmer, Screening, Carpenter Center for Visual Arts, Harvard
- 2007 Ethnographies Without Texts
Organizer, Faculty-student workshop in ethnographic film/video, Harvard

AWARDS

- 2019 Dean’s Grant, NYU Tisch School of the Arts (\$3,780)
- 2018 Individual Artist Grant, NY State Council on the Arts (\$25,000)
- 2018 Conference Fund Grant, NYU Tisch Initiative for Creative Research (\$2,200)
- 2018 Faculty Research Initiatives Grant, NYU Global Research Initiatives (\$1,000)
- 2017 Visiting Faculty Fellowship, Global Research Institute, NYU Athens
- 2017 Nominated by NYU for the Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program (Junior Scholar)
- 2016-2017 Research Fellowship, NYU Center for the Humanities
- 2016-2017 Visual Arts Initiative Award, NYU Arts Council (\$1,000)
- 2016 Dean’s Grant, NYU Tisch School of the Arts (\$6,000)
- 2016 Student Learning Outcomes Assessment Mini-Grant, NYU Office of Academic Assessment (\$2000)
- 2016 Nominated for David Payne-Carter Award for Teaching Excellence, NYU
- 2011-2012 Dan David Prize Scholarship for Young Researchers, Dan David Foundation (\$15,000)
- 2011-2012 Film Study Center-Harvard Fellowship
- 2009 Flaherty Student Fellowship, Robert Flaherty Film Seminar
- 2009 Artist’s Scholarship, Atlantic Center for the Arts
- 2008-2009 Film Study Center-Harvard Fellowship
- 2008-2009 Fulbright Scholarship, Greece
- 2007 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard
- 2007 Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship, Social Science Research Council
- 2005 Ariadne Research Grant, Center for European Studies, Harvard

ARTIST/WRITING RESIDENCIES

- 2019 Hewnoaks Artist Colony, Lovell, ME
- 2009 Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts, Nebraska City, NE
- 2009 Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL

SERVICE AT NYU

- 2017-present Department of Cinema Studies, NYU
Director of Graduate Studies

- 2017-present Center for Experimental Humanities, NYU
Advisory Board
- 2015-2016 Department of Cinema Studies, NYU
MA Program Reassessment
- 2014-present Certificate Program in Culture & Media, NYU
Co-director

SERVICE OUTSIDE OF NYU

- 2019 Sarah Jacobson Film Grant
Jury member
- 2019 Museum of the Moving Image, NYC
Advisory Committee
- 2018 Margaret Mead Film Festival
Jury member
- 2017 Jump into VR Festival
Jury member
- 2017 John O. Iatrides Best Dissertation Prize, Modern Greek Studies Association
Reviewer
- 2017 Punto de Vista International Documentary Film Festival
Jury member
- 2016 7th Annual Cinema Tropical Awards
Jury member, Best Documentary Film & Best Documentary Director
- 2016 Herb Alpert Award in Film/Video
Nominator
- 2015-2018 Global Emergent Media Lab, Concordia University
Faculty Affiliate
- 2015-2018 Flaherty Film Seminar, Fellowships Program
Selection Committee & Fellows Coordinator
- 2015-2016 NEH Post-doctoral Fellowships Program, Getty Research Institute
Selection Committee
- 2015-2016 Doc Fortnight, Museum of Modern Art
Selection Committee
- 2014-present UnionDocs: Center for Documentary Art
Advisory Board
- 2014-2015 Contemporary Greek Film Cultures Conference
Academic Planning Committee