

Curriculum Vitae

Ken Hillis

Department of Communication Studies
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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Education

- 1996 Ph.D.—Human Geography. University of Wisconsin—Madison.
1991 Master of Environmental Studies (M.E.S.). Faculty of Environmental Studies,
York University, Toronto.
1971 B.A.—University of Toronto.

Appointments

- 2005—date Assistant Chair. Department of Communication Studies, UNC-CH.
2003—date Associate Professor. Department of Communication Studies, UNC-CH.
1997—2003 Assistant Professor. Department of Communication Studies, UNC-CH.
1998—date Adjunct Professor. Department of Geography, UNC-CH.

Publications

Books

- 1999 *Digital Sensations: Space, Identity and Embodiment in Virtual Reality*.
University of Minnesota Press (Second Printing, 2003).
(Winner, UNC Philip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Outstanding Artistic and
Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty, 2001.)
Translated to Portuguese (2003), *Sensações Digitais: Espaço, Identidade e
Corporificações* (Leila Mendes, tr.). Unisinos, Sao Leopoldo, Brazil.
- 2006 *Everyday eBay: Culture, Collecting, and Desire*. Routledge (co-edited anthology
with Michael Petit and Nathan Epley).
pp. 1-7 reprinted, *The Australian Financial Review* (November 2006).
Selected by Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies as August 2008 Book of the
Month.
- in press *Online a Lot of the Time: Ritual, Fetish, Sign*. Duke University Press (June 2009).
- under development *The Culture of Search: Google You, Google Me*
Los Angeles: Auto-Biography and Spatial Control (monograph-length).

Articles under Development

- “Ritual Learning and Playful MUVES”
“Virtual Culture and the Logic of Actuality.”

Journal Articles

- 2008 "Building the Cartesian Enlightenment: Los Angeles, Homelessness and the Public Sphere," *City: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action* 12:3 (284-302) (Lead Article).
- "Los Angeles as Moving Picture," *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography*, Volume 2, Fall.
- 2007 "Cosmological Mapping is also a Journey," *Aether: The Journal of Media Geography*, Volume 1, Fall (24-27) (Invited Contribution to Premier Issue).
- 2006 "A Space for the Trace: Memorable eBay and Narrative Effect," *Space and Culture* 9:2 (140-156).
- 2005 "Film Noir and the American Dream: The Dark Side of Enlightenment." *Velvet Light Trap* 55, Spring (1-18) (Lead Article).
Reprinted (2006) in *Multicultural Film: Essays*, Pearson Publishing.
- 2003 "Spatial Technologies for the Mobile Class: Life in the Cooltown Ecosystem," *Geography* 88:4 (338-347) (with Jon Lillie).
- "From Description to Depiction: Free Indirect Discourse and Online Graphical Chat," *Culture, Theory and Critique* 43:2. (73-89).
- 2000 "So Near, So Far, And Both at Once: Telepresence, Telefetishism and Digital Identities." *Space and Culture* 7/8/9. (108-129).
- 1998 "On the Margins: The Invisibility of Communications Geography." *Progress in Human Geography* 22:4. (543-566).
- 1996 "Spatial Technologies, Geographic Information, and the City Some Theoretical and Practical Observations." *Spatial Technologies, Geographic Information, and the City*, Research Conference Report, Technical Report 96-10, National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. (152-155).
- "GIS, Language, and Disadvantage." *GIS and Society: The Social Implications of How People, Space, and Environment are Represented in GIS*, Scientific Report for the Initiative 19 Specialist Meeting, Technical Report 96-7, National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. (33-35).
- 1994 "The Virtue of Becoming a No-Body." *Ecumene* 1:2. (177-196).
- "The Power of Disembodied Imagination: Perspective's Role in Cartography." *Cartographica* 31:3 (1-17) (Lead Article).

1992 "A History of Commissions." *Urban History Review* 21:1 (46-60).

Book Chapters

in press "Historicizing Webcam Culture: The Telefetish as Virtual Object," *Web History*, Niels Brugger, ed., London, Peter Lang. Refereed.

2006 "Auctioning the Authentic: eBay and the Superfluity of Memory," *Everyday eBay: Culture, Collecting, and Desire*, Ken Hillis et al, ed., New York: Routledge (153-170).

"Introducing Everyday eBay," *Everyday eBay: Culture, Collecting, and Desire*, Ken Hillis et al, ed., New York: Routledge (1-18), (with Michael Petit and Nathan Epley).

"Modes of Digital Identification: Virtual Technologies, Webcam Cultures," *New Media, Old Media: Interrogating the Digital Revolution*, Wendy Chun and Tom Keenan, ed. New York: Routledge. (347-357) Refereed.

2004 "Identity, Embodiment and Place: Virtual Reality as Postmodern Technology," *The Cybercities Reader*, Stephen Graham, ed. New York & London: Routledge (reprint of Ch.6, *Digital Sensations*).

"The Dream of a Virtual Life: from Plato to Microsoft," Invited Academic Article for inclusion in the museum catalogue *Dream Extensions*, to accompany the exhibition "Dream Extensions" (Jan 17—Mar 21, 2004), Museum for Contemporary Art/Stedelijk Museum voor Actuele Kunst (S.M.A.K), Ghent, Belgium, (94-108).

Published simultaneously in Dutch.

"Virtual Space," *Patterned Ground: Entanglements of Nature and Culture*, Nigel Thrift, Steve Pile and Stephan Harrison, ed. London: Reaktion Press, (57-59) Refereed.

2002 "'ADVENTURE TRAVEL FOR THE MIND®': Analyzing the United States Virtual Trade Mission's Promotion of Globalization Through Discourse and Corporate Media Strategies," *Geographies of Power: Placing Scale*, Andrew Herod, ed. London: Blackwell (with Michael Petit and Altha Cravey) (154-170) Refereed.

1999 "Toward the Light Within: Spatial Metaphors, New Optical Media, and Changing Subjectivities." *Virtual Geographies: Bodies, Space and Relations*, Michael Crang, Philip Crang, and Jon May, ed. London: Routledge (23-43) Refereed. (Lead Article)

“Insights into . . . Cyberculture.” *Introducing Human Geographies*, Philip Crang, ed. London: Arnold (324-331).

1998 “Human.language.machine.” *Places Through the Body*, Steve Pile and Heidi Nast, ed. London: Routledge (52-71) Refereed.

1996 “A Geography of the Eye.” *Cultures of Internet: Virtual Spaces, Real Histories, Living Bodies*, Rob Shields, ed. London: Sage (70-98) Refereed. Translated to Portuguese (2002). “Tecnologias da Realidade Virtual: Elementos para uma Geografia da Visão.” *Famecos—Mídia, Cultura e Tecnologia* 17 (17-43).

Encyclopedia Entry

2006 “Spatiality,” *Encyclopedia of Human Geography*, Barney Warf, ed. Thousand Oaks, Sage.

Book Reviews

2009 Tara Brabazon, *The University of Google*, Ashgate, *New Media & Society* 11:3.

2003 Scott Lash, *Critique of Information*, Sage, *Space and Culture* 6:4 (451-453).

2002 Andrew Herman and Thomas Swiss, ed. *The World Wide Web and Contemporary Cultural Theory*, Routledge, *Topia* 7, Spring (121-124).

Ken Goldberg, ed. *The Robot in the Garden: Telerobotics and Telepistemology in the Age of the Internet*, MIT Press, *Ethics, Place, and Environment* 5:1 (100-104).

1999 Lisa Parks. “AnOther View: Satellite Technologies and Cultural Practice,” CulturalTurn2 Electronic Conference, University of California—Santa Barbara.

1997 Ralph Schroeder. *Possible Worlds: The Social Dynamic Of Virtual Reality Technology*, Westview, *American Journal of Sociology* 102:6 (1795-1796).

1996 W.J.T. Mitchell, ed. *Landscape and Power*, University of Chicago Press, *Journal of Historical Geography* 22:2 (243-44).

1994 “Fractured Flesh.” Scott Bukatman. *Terminal Identity*, Duke University Press, *CTHEORY* (September).

“A Cartesian View from Nowhere.” Barbara Maria Stafford. *Body Criticism*, University of Chicago Press, *Canadian Journal of Social and Political Theory* 17:3 (86-93). Also published in *CTHEORY* (October).

Invited Presentations

- 2008 “eBay: Auctioning the Everyday,” Markets: From the Bazaar to eBay Conference, Center for Diaspora and Transnational Studies. University of Toronto.
- 2007 “Western Development, Enlightenment Space and the Los Angeles Film,” Geography Colloquium, Department of Geography, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2005 “Everyday eBay: Desire, Performance and Memory,” Herbert Marshall Tory Lecture. University of Alberta, Edmonton AB.
- 2003 “Dark Visions, Sunny Spaces.” Department of Communication Studies Colloquium, UNC-CH.
- “Online Graphical Chat and the Modern Bourgeois Novel: Strategies of Communicating at a Safe Distance.” Department of Communication, North Carolina State University, Raleigh NC.
- 2002 “Fetishism and Webcam Cultures.” John Hope Franklin Center for Interdisciplinary and International Studies, 2001-2002 Seminar on Race, Gender and Sexuality. Duke University, Durham NC.
- “Digital Sensations: Space, Identity and Embodiment in Virtual Reality Updated.” Hettleman Lecture—Distinguished Young Scholar Scholarly Achievement, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2001 “The Tantalizing ‘Space’ of Web-based Desires: Fetishizing Queer Texts/Fearing Queer Bodies.” Keynote Speaker: Sexualities, Medias and Technologies: Theorizing Old and New Practices, University of Surrey, Guilford, UK.
- “The Garden in the Machine: Light, Landscape and Bodies in Immersive Virtual Reality.” Symposium on Immersive Environments. Center for Art and Technology. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 2000 Modes of Digital Identification.” Archaeology of Multimedia Conference, Malcolm Forbes Center and the Department of Modern Culture and Media, Brown University. Providence, RI.
- 1997 “Virtual Reality, Virtual Space.” Geography Colloquium, Department of Geography, UNC-CH, Chapel Hill, NC.

Participation in National and International Societies and Meetings

- 2008 “Interpreting Google’s Global Index through the lens of ‘Don’t Be Evil.’” Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR 9), Copenhagen.

- “Historicizing Webcam Culture: The Telefetish as Virtual Object.”
Website Histories: Theories, Methods, Analysis Conference, Institute of
Information and Media Studies. Aarhus, DK.
- “To Be Home Alone in Cinematic Space.” Association of American Geographers
(AAG), Boston.
- “Herbert Marcuse—Wherefore Virtual Space.” AAG, Boston.
- 2007 “Ritual Learning and Playful MUVES.” (AoIR 8), Vancouver.
- “Enlightenment Spatial Strategies and the L.A. Film Noir.” AAG, San Francisco.
- 2006 “eBay and an Online Space for the Trace.” AAG, Chicago.
- 2005 “eBay: Desire, Performance and Experience,” International Communication
Association (ICA), New York City.
- “Shopping eBay: Archive, Retrieval and Memory,” National Communication
Association (NCA), Boston MA.
- 2004 “Auctioning the Authentic: eBay and the Superfluity of Memory.” AoIR 5
Conference, Sussex, U.K.
- “Auto-Biography: Space, Film and Social Control in the Greater L.A. Basin.”
Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference 5, Champagne-Urbana, IL
- “A Picture’s Worth 10,000 Words: Politics, Novels and Avatars,” Console-ing
Passions Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2003 “Web-based Graphical Chat Environments and The Novel’s Middle Voice.”
AoIR 4, Toronto.
- “Building the Enlightenment: Los Angeles as Mutant Public Sphere.” 3Cities:
New York, Chicago, Los Angeles: Cultures and Representations II Conference,
University of Nottingham, U.K.
- “Armored Silences: Film Noir’s Refusal to Shed Light on The Subject.” Society
for Cinema and Media Studies, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2002 “Experience Without a Subject? The Avatar, The Self and Free Indirect
Discourse.” NCA, New Orleans, LA.

“Virtual Culture and the Logic of Actuality.” Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference, Tampere, Finland.

“Between Emblematism and Free Indirect Discourse.” Critical Cyberculture Studies: Mapping an Evolving Discipline, College Park, MD.

“Actor Network Theory and Geographic Concepts of Place.” AAG, Los Angeles.

“Gay Men’s Use of Online Chat Rooms.” LGBT Health Summit 2002, Boulder, CO.

“Cyberactivism: Promoting LGBT Health on the Internet.” LGBT Health Summit 2002, Boulder CO.

2001 “Corporate Metaphysics, ‘Actuality,’ and the Branding of Reality.” NCA, Atlanta, GA.

“The Culture of Virtuality and the Logic of Actuality.” AoIR 2, Minneapolis, MN.

Panelist: “Sexuality and Fieldwork.” AAG, New York.

2000 “Millennial Geographies, Rhetorics of Globalization.” Disciplinary Diagrams//Political Fields: Mediations of Identity and Space in the Late 20th Century Conference.” Center for International Studies and the Literature Program, Duke University. Durham, NC.

“The ‘Space’ of Telematic Desire.” AAG, Pittsburgh, PA.

“Performing Toughness: The Dark Side of Enlightenment Subjectivity.” Point Blank—Tough Guy Film and Culture, University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ.

“My Fantasy is Real: Digital Identity and Informational Subjectivity.” International Communication Association. Acapulco Mexico.

1999 “So Near, So Far, And Both at Once: Telepresence, Telefetishism and Digital Identities.” Knowing Mass Culture/Mediating Knowledge Conference, Center for Twentieth Century Studies, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Milwaukee, WI.

“Empire at the End of the Millennium.” Theorizing Space and Time at the End of the Millennium, Conference. Athens, GA.

“Promoting Globalization: Examining the U.S. Virtual Trade Mission.” AAG, Honolulu, HI.

“Launching ‘AnOther View’: Social Relations and the Material Practices of Satellite Technology.” CulturalTurn2: Power and Meaning, Electronic Conference. University of California, Santa Barbara, CA.

1997 Discussant “Public Participation GIS: Inquiries into New Paradigms in Geographic Information Systems Technology, Methods, and Institutions.” AAG, Fort Worth, TX.

“The Spatial Irony of Virtual Realities.” AAG, Fort Worth, TX.

1996 National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. “Spatial Technologies, Geographic Information, and the City.” Baltimore, MD.

“Virtual Reality as Schizophrenic Utopian Space.” AAG, Charlotte, NC.

National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. “Initiative 19: GIS and Society. The Social Implications of How People, Space, and Environment are Represented in GIS.” Minneapolis, MN.

1995 “Human.language.machine ” AAG, Chicago.

1994 “Auto-Biography and Spatial Control: Los Angeles—The Disembodied Public Sphere Envisioned.” AAG, San Francisco.

Editorial and Review Service

Editorial Board:

Space and Culture (since 2001); *American Journal of Communication* (since 2000), *Journal of New Media and Culture* (since 2001), *Aether* (since 2007).

Journal Reviews:

American Journal of Communication; *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*; *Cartographica*; *Communication Review*; *Communication Theory*; *Cultural Geographies*; *Cultural Studies*; *Critical Studies in Media Communication*; *Gender, Place and Culture*; *GeoJournal*; *GLQ*; *International Journal of Web-Based Learning and Teaching Technologies*; *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*; *Mosaic*; *Political Geography*; *Professional Geographer*; *Progress in Human Geography*; *Social and Cultural Geography*; *Social Epistemology*; *Space and Culture*; *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*.

Manuscript Reviews:

Duke University Press; University of Minnesota Press; MIT; Peter Lang; Routledge.

Proposal Reviews for National Research Funding Institutes:

Austrian Science Fund (Fonds zur Förderung der Wissenschaftlichen Forschung);
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; The Academy of
Finland (Suomen Akatemia).

Media Interviews

2006 Martha Stewart Living Radio, Living With Technology, "Online Auctions," May 2
CBC-Radio 1, Ideas, "By Design: The Politics of Everyday Objects," Two-part
Documentary, June 5 (Rebroadcast September 10, 2007).

Rocky Mountain News, Denver CO. Interview for article on eBay, Sept.

Teaching

2003 UNC Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship Mentor

Monica Hulsbus 2003-2004; Xavier Livermon 2006-2007.

International Students

James Ash, Geography Ph.D. Candidate, Bristol University, U.K.

Graduate Students

1997-2007 Directed one Ph.D. Dissertation: Kelly Rowett (Communication Studies, 2003).

Directing three Ph.D. candidates: Nathan Epley, Brian Graves, Shelley McGinnis
(Communication Studies); two Ph.D. students: Rolien Hyong, Alex Ingersoll.

Committee Member for eight completed Ph.Ds.: Younghan Cho, Greg Siegel,
Scarlett Wynns (Communication Studies); Tara Kachgal, Jon Lillie, Mark
Pescatore (Journalism and Mass Communication); Joseph Palis, Sally Nash
(Geography).

Committee Member for two Ph.D. Candidates: Young Eun Chae;
(Communication Studies), Craig Dalton (Geography).

Directed nine Masters Theses: James Cahill, Brian Graves, Jennifer Greer, Renee
Lertzman, Shirong Lu, Bob Rehak, Mark Robinson, Kelly Rowett, Jesse Seay.
Committee member for four M.A. Students: Angela Daley, Greg Siegel, Scott
Selberg, Josh Smicker.

Courses Taught

1997-2009

Graduate CommStudies 856, Graduate Seminar in Communication Studies - "History,
Theory, Technology"; CommStudies 856, Graduate Seminar in Communication

Technology - "Electronic Communication, Identity and Social Space";
CommStudies 852, Graduate Seminar in Media History - "Technologies of
Representation"; CommStudies 852, Graduate Seminar in Media Studies - "Film
Noir: City Subjects, Alienated Desires, Millennial Thinking"; CommStudies 852 -
Graduate Seminar in Media Studies - "Thinking Technology: Culture, Meaning
and Technological Change."

Undergraduate

CommStudies 432 – "Introduction to Visual Culture"; CommStudies 450 -
"Media and Popular Culture"; CommStudies 452 "Film Noir"; CommStudies 095
- "Implications of Electronically Mediated Communications"; Honors 032,
Undergraduate Honors Seminar - "Media Artifacts: Morphing the Business of
Popular Culture."

1996-1997 University of Colorado - Boulder, UWRP 3020 - Topics in Writing, "Campaign
96" UWRP 115 - Introduction to Expository Writing.

Service

2008 Advisor, UNC Web Presence Working Group, Office of University
Relations
2007 External Reviewer for Tenure/Promotion: University of Michigan-Ann
Arbor; Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Member, Media Studies Hiring Committee
2005-date Assistant Chair, Department of Communication Studies, UNC-CH
2005 Committee Chair, Media Studies Hiring Committee
2004 Committee Chair, UNC-CH Graduate Student Teaching Award
2003 Member, Interpersonal Communications Hiring Committee
1999 Member, Performance Studies Hiring Committee

Memberships in Professional Associations

2002-date Society for Cinema and Media Studies
2000-date Association of Internet Researchers
1998-date International Communication Association
1997-date National Communication Association
1992-date Association of American Geographers

Honors and Awards

2006 Spray-Randleigh Research Fellowship, UNC (\$15,000).
2003 Distinguished Teaching Award for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction, UNC (\$5,000).
2001 Philip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Outstanding Artistic and Scholarly
Achievement by Young Faculty, UNC (\$5,000.00).
1994 University of Wisconsin - Madison. Ph.D. Qualifying Exams passed "With
Distinction."
Winner, departmental competition for best graduate paper published in a refereed

journal “The Virtue of Becoming a No-Body.” *Ecumene* 1:2 (1994).

Research and Course Development Awards

- 2006 Faculty Fellow, UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Fall 2006.
UNC University Research Council Award (\$500.00).
- 2004 UNC A&S Research and Study semester leave
- 2001 UNC University Research Council Award (\$1,000.00).
FITAC UNC/IBM Instructional Technology Development Grant (\$2,500.00)
Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence Course Enhancement Grant (\$150.00).
- 2000 Brandes Course Development Award, “Media Artifacts: Morphing the Business of Popular Culture.” (\$3,000).
UNC University Research Council Award (\$700.00)
Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence Course Enhancement Grant (\$340.00).
- 1999 UNC A&S Research and Study semester leave
UNC University Research Council Award (\$500.00)
Williamson Foundation Award, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$1,200).
- 1998 Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$5,000.00).
Institute for Research in Social Science Award, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$4,000.00).
Williamson Foundation Award, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$1,500)—support for UNC visit of Canadian performance artist, Paul Couillard.
UNC University Research Council Award (\$500.00).
- 1997 Williamson Foundation Award, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$667.00).
Center for Teaching and Learning Mini-Grant, UNC—Chapel Hill (\$200.00).
- 1993-1996 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Federal Doctoral Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison (\$13,500 Cdn. per annum).
- 1989-1991 Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Graduate Scholarship, York University, Toronto (\$12,000 Cdn. per annum).