Samuel Tobin - Curriculum Vitae

PERSONAL DETAIL

Name: Samuel Tobin

Address: 141 Engert Ave #2L Brooklyn NY, 11122

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E-mail: samueltobin@gmail.com

EDUCATION

New School for Social Research, New York, NY

Ph.d. Candidate in Sociology

-Dissertation (in progress) "Hand Held: The Practice and Theory of Technological Play"

-Advisors: Dr. McKenzie Wark, Dr. Jaeho Kang, Dr. Orit Halpern

abstract

This dissertation explores play and technology by focusing on portable video game systems, their players and cultures of use. The dissertation approaches portable new media through ethnographic methods by examining the use of a handheld video game system, the Nintendo DS, in a variety of settings. In doing so a thick description and understanding of the practices of mobile players is developed and read against theories of play, space and culture. This dissertation argues for the importance of studying technologically mediated play, as play on such devices has assumed near ubiquity in contemporary urban life. The use of the DS is examined in the context of the dynamics of boredom, attention, perception, and urban space. The dissertation's study of how the DS is used has far-reaching implications for the use of other hand-held technology, including mobile phones and computing platforms, and consequently, makes substantial contributions to the sociology of play, media and technology as well as to media studies and to the growing field of video or computer game research.

M.A. in Media Studies, The New School for General Studies, New York, NY 2005

Thesis: "Hands On"

Advisors: Dr. McKenzie Wark, Dr. Paolo Carpignano

Hampshire College, Amherst, MA

B.A. in Cultural and Media Studies 1999

AREAS OF TEACHING EXPERTISE AND RESEARCH INTEREST

Sociology of Play

Media and Technology

Critical Theory

Popular and Cultural Studies

Video Games Studies

TEACHING

Teaching Fellow - Cultural Studies Department, Eugene Lang College, New School for Liberal Arts

Media Ethnography – designed and taught – Fall 2010

Teaching Fellow - Media Studies Department, The New School for General Studies

The Miniature and The Mobile - designed and taught - Fall 2009, Fall 2010

Teaching Fellow - Cultural Studies Department, Eugene Lang College, New School for Liberal Arts

West European Media Cultures - designed and taught -Fall 2008

Media/Theory/Technology - designed and taught - Fall 2008

Teaching Assistant - Media Studies Department, The New School for General Studies

Understanding Media Studies - led discussion sections - Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009

Instructor - Paul McGhee Division, Liberal Arts Program, New York University, New York, NY

Special Subjects In Media Studies: Video Games - designed and taught - Spring 2008

Teaching Assistant - Media Studies Department, The New School for General Studies

Foundations of Media Design - helped students with video, auido and digital media prodcution - Fall 2004

ADVISING

Primary Adviser, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, New York University - Fall 2010

Work with undergraduates concentrating in media, theory and/or cultural studies to develop individual courses of study.

RESEARCH EXPERINCE

Research Assistant to Dr. Paolo Carpignano

Sociology Department, New School for Social Research and the Media Studies Department, The New School for General Studies Fall 2007

Researched media studies and sociology of media pedagogy, academic organization and development of field(s).

PUBLICATIONS

"Masculinity, Maturity, and the End of Pokémon." *Pikachu's Global Adventure The Rise and Fall of Pokémon*, edited by J. Tobin Durham: Duke University Press, 2004.

PUBLICATIONS UNDER REVIEW

"Time and Space in Play: Saving and Pausing with the Nintendo DS." *Games and Culture,* Sage.

ENCYCLOPEDIA PUBLICATION

“Bandai” *Encyclopedia of Play in Today's Society*, edited by R. Carlisle: Sage, 2009.

CONFERENCE PRESENTAIONS

"Ten More Years." Address at Critical Themes in Media Studies Conference, New School University, 2010

"Do You Wish to Save Before You Quit?" Paper presented at The Limits of Memory Conference, New School for Social Research, March 2010.

"Breaking the Code of a Broken Screen." Paper presented at the Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, November 2009.

“Map, Hourglass, Ship – Saving, Pausing and Playing with the Nintendo DS.” Paper presented at Media in Transition 6 Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 2009.

"Benjamin's Dual Screens: Mimesis, Innervation and Play," Paper Presented at the Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Association Conference, Feburary 2009.

“In the Pocket, In the Hand.” Paper presented at the Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, November 2008.

PROFESSIONAL AFFLIATIONS

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts 2008-

American Sociological Association 2007-

-Communication and Information Technologies Section

-Marxist Sociology Section

-Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section

-Culture Section

Digital Games Research Association 2009-

SERVICE

Co-Chair and Organizer - Critical Themes in Media Studies Conference

New School University, 2007

AWARDS

New School for Social Research Tuition Scholarship Fall and Spring Semesters, 2005-2007

Media Studies Scholarship Fall and Spring Semesters, 2002-2004