

AET 102 - GENDER, RACE AND TECHNOLOGY

Tuesdays at 5:00-6:00 PM in CLA 0.126, Liberal Arts Building

Instructor: Yuliya Lanina

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this course is to expand students' awareness of issues affecting women and minorities in the creative and technological fields. The format of our meetings will vary between in-class discussions and guest presentations. Rather than tracing the developments chronologically, we will be looking at the current trends, examining our own attitudes and biases, and coming up with solutions. We will have nationally and internationally renowned guests from various fields at the intersection of art and technology. This would be a great opportunity to find out more about fields within and beyond your interest and to make contacts.

REQUIRED TEXT

There is no required text or readings for this class. I will be posting material each week related to the topics we cover. You are encouraged to look deeper into the subjects that pertain to your interests.

ASSIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Blog Entry. After each class I will be posting a question on Canvas Discussion page related to the material we discussed. Everyone is required to post their response, at least 1 paragraph in length. Feel free to comment on each other's responses. If you are uncomfortable publicly posting your opinion, you can submit it directly to me.
2. Final Statement. At the end of the course, you are required to write a one-page statement reflecting on how and whether your own opinions on the topic of women and minorities in tech shifted over the course of this semester.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is **mandatory**. If there is a valid reason for missing class, please inform me by email no later than the morning of. If you're late, there is a possibility I will forget to mark you present.

EVALUATION

This is a pass/fail course.

In order to pass this class you need to accumulate 65 points or more.

Points breakdown is the following:

Blog entry: 6 points each (90 points total)

Final Statement: 10 points

For each unexcused absence you lose 10 points.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Cell Phones, headsets, tablets and laptops may not be used during class, unless you get my permission.

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office at the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-4641 TTY.

CALENDAR

The schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be announced in class, via email or on Canvas. You are responsible for keeping up with any changes in the syllabus.

January 17	Introduction. Terminology
January 24	Gaming : Maitland Hemby and Grace Blessey
January 31	Digital Art: Carla Gannis
February 7	Artist-in-Residence at the Foundry: Yael Kanarek
February 14	Robotics, Software, Critical Writings: Annina Rust
February 21	Object Art, Performance, Criticism: Katherine Behar
February 28	Entrepreneurship, Diversity: James Preston
March 7	Film: PJ Raval
March 14	SPRING BREAK
March 21	Issues of War, Performance, Technology: Wafaa Billal
March 28	Music Composition, Criticism: Hinkle-Turner, Elizabeth
April 4	Video Art, Russia: Masha Godovannaya
April 11	STEM, Mentorship: Mary Fernandez
April 18	Music Composition, Techology: Kristin McGarity
April 25	Software Development, Reproductive Rights: Shelly Carpenter
May 2	Issues in Tech in Austin, Charlie Jackson, Diversity fund
May 9	No class, Final paper due

SPEAKER BIOS:

Carla Gannis, a Brooklyn-based artist, eclectically explores the domains of “Internet Gothic” cutting and pasting from the threads of networked communication, googleable art history, speculative fiction and feminism to produce dark and often humorous explorations of the human condition. Her practice of collage and remix illuminates the potentialities of democratization and alienation in technology. In her work, she invites viewers to experience inescapably mediated contemporary life “through a digital looking glass” where reflections on power, sexuality, marginalization, and agency, emerge. Since 2003, Gannis’s work has appeared in numerous solo and group exhibitions both nationally and internationally. Her most recent solo exhibitions include “A Subject Self-Defined“ at TRANSFER Gallery, New York, 2016; and “The Garden of Emoji Delights” at Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT 2015. Her work has been featured in press and publications including, ARTnews, The Creators Project, Wired, FastCo, Hyperallergic, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times and The LA Times, amongst others. She has participated on numerous panels regarding intersections in art and technology including “Let’s Get Digital,” Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York in 2014. Her speculative fiction was included in DEVOURING THE GREEN:: fear of a human planet: a cyborg / eco poetry anthology, published by Jaded Ibis Press. Her augmented reality artist book The Selfie Drawings was awarded the Founder's Award from the 2016 Lumen Prize. Gannis is faculty and the assistant chairperson of The Department of Digital Arts at Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York.

carlagannis.com

Yael Kanarek is an Israeli American artist based in New York City that is known for pioneering use of the Internet and of multilingualism in works of art. The main thread through Yael Kanarek’s practice is language. From narrative in her early net artworks through multilingual wall works to text jewelry. Where we write, how we write and whois in the conversation is her area of inquiry. Selected for the 2002 Whitney Biennial, exhibitions of her work also include The Drawing Center, New York; Beral Madra Contemporary Art, Istanbul; National Museum of Contemporary Art, Athens; CU Museum, Boulder; Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University; The Jewish Museum, New York; Exit Art; The Kitchen; American Museum of the Moving Image, New York; LIMN Gallery, San Francisco; Holster Projects, London; Wood Street Galleries, Pittsburgh; bitforms gallery, New York; Nelly Aman, Tel Aviv; Boston CyberArts Festival; HVCCA, Peekskill; Arena 1, Santa Monica; California College of the Arts, San Francisco; Orsini Palace, Bomarzo; and Sala Uno Gallery, Rome. Kanarek’s work has also been shown in New York at Kenny Schachter Contemporary, Silverstein Gallery, Ronald Feldman Gallery, Derek Eller Gallery, A.I.R. Gallery, 303 Gallery, Schroeder Romero Gallery, and the Art in Embassies program of the US States Department. In addition to a Rockefeller New Media Fellowship, an Eyebeam Honorary Fellowship and a LABA Fellowship, Kanarek has received grants from the Jerome Foundation Media Arts and New York Foundation for the Arts; commissions from

the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and Turbulence.org; Kanarek's distinctions also include the 2014 WTN Award in the Arts and 2002 CNRS/UNESCO, Lewis Carroll Argos Prize, Paris. In 1999, she founded Upgrade! International, a network that served the New Media Art community for ten years.

Kanarek holds an MFA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and teaches Net Art at the MFA program at Pratt Institute.

Since 2013, she is a founding partner at KANAREK, a fine jewelry company that specializes in text jewelry.

www.yaelkanarek.com

Annina Rüst is a Swiss artist-inventor and associate professor in the Department of Transmedia at Syracuse University. She is known for her work in new media art including software art and electronics-based art. Her works often focus on political issues within tech culture, including technofeminism and online privacy. Her work has been exhibited & reviewed internationally. She has an MFA from UC San Diego and an MS in Media Arts and Sciences from the MIT Media Lab.

www.anninaruest.com

Katherine Behar is an interdisciplinary artist whose works exploring gender and labor in digital culture have appeared throughout North America and Europe. The Pera Museum in Istanbul presented her 2016 survey exhibition and catalog, Katherine Behar: Data's Entry | Veri Girişi. In 2014, her solo exhibition and catalog, Katherine Behar: E-Waste, premiered at the University of Kentucky before traveling to Boston Cyberarts Gallery. Behar is the editor of Object-Oriented Feminism, coeditor of And Another Thing: Nonanthropocentrism and Art, and author of Bigger than You: Big Data and Obesity. She is assistant professor of new media arts at Baruch College, CUNY.

<http://katherinebehar.com/>

James Preston. A dynamic and creative leader with broad international experience, who prides himself on the ability to effectively lead and collaborate to deliver strong business results on a consistent basis. Throughout his career, Preston has flourished as a motivational and visionary leader who is exceptional in strategic sales planning and new business development. He's also been greatly successful in developing highly valuable strategic partnerships and optimizing operations to accelerate business growth. Though he's spent 20+ years at Dell, Preston is truly an entrepreneur spirit. Prior to Dell, he had worked for young startups and small companies. Even at Dell, he was always drawn to new startup initiatives or "turnaround" challenges, which is where he flourishes. Since leaving Dell in February 2014, he's now able to focus exclusively on his passion for helping innovative Entrepreneurs "change the world", by working with them in an advisory, partner, consultant, mentor and/or investor capacity.

divinc.org

PJ Raval is an American cinematographer and filmmaker. Raval was named one of Filmmaker's 25 New Faces of Independent Film in 2006, and was featured in the 2010 Out 100. PJ Raval's 2008 documentary film *Trinidad* was co-directed with Jay Hodges. *Trinidad* focuses on Dr. Marci Bowers and two of her patients who are going through sex reassignment surgery in Trinidad, Colorado. The documentary *Before You Know It* was released in 2013 and focuses on gay seniors. The film was inspired by a screening of *Trinidad* at the Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center, where Raval met a group of gay seniors.

<http://unraval.com/>

Wafaa Billal. Iraqi-born artist Wafaa Bilal and an Associate Arts Professor at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, is known internationally for his on-line performative and interactive works provoking dialogue about international politics and internal dynamics. For his 2007 installation, *Domestic Tension*, Bilal spent a month in a Chicago gallery with a paintball gun that people could shoot at him over the Internet. The Chicago Tribune called it "one of the sharpest works of political art to be seen in a long time" and named him 2008 Artist of the Year. Bilal's work is constantly informed by the experience of fleeing his homeland and existing simultaneously in two worlds – his home in the "comfort zone" of the U.S. and his consciousness of the "conflict zone" in Iraq. Using his own body as a medium, Bilal continued to challenge our comfort zone with projects like *3rdi* and *...and Counting*. Bilal's most recent body of work, *Canto III*, premiered in a solo booth at the New York Armory Show in 2015 and went on to be shown in the 2015 Venice Biennale.

In 2008 *City Lights* published "Shoot an Iraqi: Art, Life and Resistance Under the Gun," about Bilal's life and the *Domestic Tension* project. He holds a BFA from the University of New Mexico and an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Photography, Chicago, IL; MATHAF: Arab Museum of Modern Art, Doha, Qatar; amongst others.

wafaabilal.com

Elizabeth Hinkle-Turner, received her D.M.A. (1991) in music composition from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has served as acting director of the electronic and computer music studios at Florida International University in Miami and the Experimental Music Studios at the University of Iowa and has been a faculty member at the University of Illinois, the Oberlin Conservatory and the University of North Texas. She served on the board of the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the United States for ten years and has been on the board of the Canadian Electroacoustic Community and the International Alliance for Women in Music (IAWM). Currently she makes her living as Director of Instructional IT Services at the University of North Texas while occasionally teaching courses in UNT's College of Music and College of Visual Art and Design. She is also a karate instructor and national martial arts competitor and champion and currently holds a second-degree black belt in American Karate.

Hinkle–Turner is the author of the book series *Women Composers and Music Technology: Crossing the Line*. Volume one: *United States* was released by Ashgate Publishing (UK) in January 2006 and was the recipient of a 2007 Award for Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections and a ‘highly recommended’ rating from *Choice*, a publication of the American Library Association. She is the creator of the cd–rom *Full Circle* which received an award from the Institut International de Musique Electroacoustique de Bourges. Other prizes and grants have come from ASCAP, Mu Phi Epsilon, Meet the Composer, and the American Music Center. She is the author of the blog, afterthefire1964.blogspot.com, a site devoted to assisting those who are currently dealing with alcoholic or addicted spouses and other loved ones. She is a widow and the mother of two teenaged sons.

Masha Godovannaya, a visual artist, queer-feminist researcher, curator, and educator. Born in Moscow in 1976, Masha studied music, literature, and book publishing before leaving for the United States in 1995.

In New York Masha joined the Mecca of experimental cinema, the Anthology Film Archives. During several years, she devoted herself to programming film series in various cultural institutions and festivals, and in the meantime worked on her own movies.

After living in New York for seven years, she returned to St. Petersburg, Russia, in 2003 where she continued her artistic career and taught film/video classes at the Department of Liberal Arts and Science (Smolny College) of St. Petersburg State University. In 2016 she entered Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria, as a PhD in Practice candidate.

Masha’s films and visual works have been shown at many festivals, screenings and galleries such as Manifesta-10, 7th Liverpool Biennial, Center Georges Pompidou, Rotterdam Film Festival, the Tate Modern, Oberhausen International Film Festival, London Film Festival, etc.; her curatorial projects have been presented at different venues such as, Anthology Film Archives, Cinematexas Film Festival, Independent Film Show E-M Arts, Moscow International Film Festival, Avanto Film Festival, Amsterdam Film Center, etc. She holds MFA degree in Film/Video from Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard College, New York, and MA in Sociology from European University in St. Petersburg, Russia.

At the end of 2015 together with group of artists, activists, and social researchers from St. Petersburg she co-founded a queer-feminist affinity art group “Unwanted Organisation”.

<https://mashagodovannaya.wordpress.com/>

Maitland Hemby, Senior Gameplay Engineer at Arkane Studios
and **Grace Blessey**, Game Designer & AP at Arkane Studios

Arkane Studios, with offices in Lyon, France and Austin, Texas, was founded in 1999 and has earned an enviable reputation for creating distinctive games. Their most recent release, the innovated first-person action game *Dishonored*, has received worldwide critical-acclaim, winning over 50 awards at the 2012 Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) as well as GamesCom's "Game of the Show". Since its release in October 2012,

Dishonored has received over 100 ‘Game of the Year’ and ‘Action/Adventure Game of the Year’ awards from the industry’s most influential media outlets. To be released in August 2015, the Dishonored Definitive Edition will bring the award-winning game to Xbox One and Playstation 4, complete with all downloadable content and fully remastered graphics. The studio is currently working on Dishonored 2 for the PC, Xbox One, and Playstation 4.

www.arkane-studios.com

Dr. Mary Fernández is President of MentorNet, a division of Great Minds in STEM. Great Minds in STEM is a national non-profit with a 27-year history of advancing STEM education in under-served communities. MentorNet is an open social network that provides the opportunity for all STEM students, nationwide and in all levels of higher education, to have access to mentors who are professionals working in STEM fields. MentorNet’s guided, one-to-one mentorships help all students – especially women, under-represented minorities, and first-generation to college – to persist and succeed in their fields. Since 1998, Mary has mentored 18 MentorNet mentees and dozens of graduate students while she pursued a career in computing research. Before joining MentorNet, Mary had a 17-year career at AT&T Labs Research. She received A.B. and Sc.M. degrees in computer science from Brown University and the Ph.D. in computer science from Princeton University. She and her husband have two daughters.

<http://mentornet.org/organization/our-board/mary-fernandez>

www.greatmindsinstem.org

Charlie Jackson is CEO and Chief Happiness Officer at Diversity Fund - a next-generation finance platform for women, minority, veterans, and LGBTQ entrepreneurs and investors. He is a serial entrepreneur who has been involved in technology startups in Austin for two decades. He has also led global projects for Apple, Dell, IBM, Philips and other clients. A native Texan who has traveled the world, Charlie is passionate about social equity, international development and using technology for public good. He holds a BA in Government and an MS in Technology Commercialization from The University of Texas and resides in Austin.

www.texasdiversityfund.com

Kristi McGarity founded the Music Technology degree program at Montana State University, building a new major for aspiring composers and sound engineers. As an academic composer, she earned a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Michigan, and MM and DMA degrees in music composition from The University of Texas at Austin. Today Kristi runs a studio and custom songwriting service in Kyle, TX. Her songs celebrate special people, commemorate events, and enhance websites. As SongInvention, Kristi also produces promotional music for businesses and nonprofits.

mcgaritymusic.com

Shelly Carpenter is a trans woman, queer, VP Engineering at BlackLocus, and board member at the Lilith Fund for Reproductive Equity. She has been a part of the tech industry since 1995, starting off in a call center doing technical support and moving through systems administration to software development. Besides her professional life, she is involved in reproductive justice advocacy as well as the issues facing transgender Texans. She has two kids with her ex-wife and spends way too much time listening to music.

<https://www.lilithfund.org>