

## MFJS Showcase

### Alumni News

Several MFJS alumni recently received special honors and awards.



**Lyndsay Lack, Kyna Moore, Kaitlin Kunkler** (MA, '15)

The production team's film, [Toilet Paper Romance](#), was screened at the Colorado Independent Women of Film annual festival in June 2015.

Still image from *Toilet Paper Romance*

The film was created in DU's 2014 Capstone Narrative course, taught by associate professor Rod Buxton and associate teaching professor Elizabeth Henry. The script is by Lyndsay Lack.

**Jamey Hastings** (BA Communication, Digital Media Studies '04)

Hastings' short film "Clippings" was recently selected to be screened at the River Run Festival in April 2016 (Winston-Salem, NC).

**Leah Schwartz** (BA Film Studies and Production, Digital Media Studies '11)

Schwartz is part of the [Emmy winning teams at KTIV-TV](#) (Sioux City, IA).

**Keli Fenson-Hood** (MA Mass Communications '11)

Fenson-Hood launched a new initiative, [Power of Soap](#), as a part of her organization, Power of Hope, and continued health development work in Kibera, Kenya.

**Mardana M. Mayginnes** (BA Communication '06)

Mayginnes co-wrote and directed the film [Queen of Carthage](#), which had its world premiere at the Montreal International Film Festival in August 2014.

**Christianne Hedtke** (BA Communication, Art '04)

Hedtke's film, *Degenerates*, was selected for the [Sundance Institute's 2015 Episodic Story Lab](#).

### Faculty News

Several MFJS faculty members recently completed publications, presented at conferences around the world, and received special honors.



[Tony Gault](#), Associate Professor

**Film Screening(s)**

[Actual Case History](#)

"Rotoscope animation reshapes a live-action film into an examination of neurosis and its transformative powers."

Tony's film will screen at several upcoming film festivals in November

2015: [Denver Film Festival](#) (Denver, CO), Strange Beauty Film Festival (Durham, NC), New Experimental Works, Other Cinema (San Francisco, CA)

[Erika Polson](#), Assistant Professor and Director of Internships

**Publication(s)**

["A gateway to the global city: Mobile place-making practices by expats."](#)

*New Media & Society*

Polson's qualitative research shows how expatriates use digital media to create a sense of belonging to an "international community" extendable across a series of local places, diverging from studies of migration and media that have focused on how migrants use media to maintain connections to a "homeland" or to reconstitute the home abroad. This article forms part of a larger project combining research on expatriates in Paris, Singapore, and Bangalore, which is featured in Polson's book, *Privileged Mobilities: Professional Migration, Geo-Social Media, and a New Global Middle Class*, forthcoming in Spring 2016 on Peter Lang.

[Lynn Schofield Clark](#), Professor and Chair

Director, Estlow International Center for Journalism and New Media

**Publication(s)**

["Can social media be a space for democratic inclusivity?"](#)

*Social Media + Society* (premiere issue)

This think piece invites readers to imagine what it might be like to seek a technological solution regarding the problems inherent within participatory democracy. The piece suggests that such a process must begin by first identifying the constraints to participation that are structured into society in relation to privilege, and then imagining how social media could be designed to play a role in addressing these constraints in order to work toward a more equitable and participatory future.

**Presentation(s)**

Clark continues to discuss findings from her book on parenting in a digital age in a variety of venues (see [The Parent App: Understanding Families in a Digital Age](#)).

She was an invited speaker at the National Academy of Sciences during their first-ever event focused on *Children and Screens*, a gathering that brought media scholars together with psychologists, sociologists, educators, neuroscientists and pediatricians.

Clark also gave a keynote address at the *Mediatization: Future Directions* conference in Copenhagen (DK) and delivered a paper and chaired three sessions at the annual conference of the Association of Internet Researchers in Phoenix.

### **Other Project(s)**

During the previous academic year, Clark and associate professor [Margie Thompson](#) led high school and university students in a media-rich research project, [Digital Media Club](#). The project explored the relationships between students of color and members of law enforcement and that played a role in informing curriculum for the City of Denver's police department and students. Their findings, co-written with four University of Denver students and 22 students of color and students from new immigrant communities who attend Denver's South High School, were compiled into a Research Brief that the City of Denver circulated to more than 30 stakeholders.

Clark has been named to the Youth Advisory Council for the City of Denver (Office of the Independent Monitor) in recognition of her community engagement efforts.

[Elizabeth Henry](#), Associate Teaching Professor

### **Other Project(s)**

Elizabeth is studying photography and took photos at the student protests during the GOP debate.

[Diane Waldman](#), Associate Professor

["Just Travesties: TV Parodies of Hollywood Films and Copyright Infringement Lawsuits."](#)

*Film History*

This essay investigates *Loew's Inc. v. Columbia Broadcasting System* and *Columbia Pictures v. National Broadcasting Company*, two copyright infringement lawsuits that Hollywood film studios brought against television production companies for parodies of their work that were symptomatic of the fraught relationship between the two industries in the early and mid-1950s. Waldman shows how competing theories of copyright, the particular form of sponsorship of American commercial television and a lack of attention to the specific ways that film and television can generate parody shaped these early decisions and still, to a certain extent, haunt parody-as-fair-use jurisprudence.

[Taylor Nygaard](#), Visiting Assistant Professor

### **Presentation(s)**

Nygaard organized a panel, "Pinning Down Feminisms: A Platform Analysis of Pinterest" at the [Console-ing Passions](#) conference in June, 2015 (Dublin, Ireland). The goal of the panel was to explore the social media platform as a site for feminist politics.

She also presented a paper, "Conspicuous Non-Consumption: Pinterest's Gendered DIY Culture in the Post-Recession Era." After hearing her presentation, an editor at Routledge approached her about writing a short book on Pinterest and Gender for their new "In focus" series.

[Rachel Liberman](#), Visiting Assistant Professor

### **Publication(s)**

['It's a Really Great Tool': Feminist Pornography and the Promotion of Sexual Subjectivity.](#)  
*Porn Studies*

Drawing from a critical cultural studies-based study that included interviews with producers and performers, and focus groups with consumers, the following paper seeks to demystify meaning-making processes among women that consume feminist pornography. Rather than focus on either production practices or consumer patterns, this study engages with both in an attempt to uncover discursive formations and reception. The following paper describes how feminist pornography audiences arrive at this genre, based on both distaste for mainstream depictions of female sexuality and an interest in diversifying their pornography diet; these orientations have led them to develop a 'taste' for ethically produced, or 'feminist', pornography content. In addition, data suggest that consumers engage with negotiated readings patterns and normative viewing practices. Drawing on these findings, this paper argues that feminist pornography offers a unique 'heterotopia' for a particular population of female, feminist-identified consumers to actively explore sexual practices and develop sexual subjectivity.

[Nadia Kaneva](#), Associate Professor

### **Publication(s)**

Kaneva's latest article, "Pin-ups, strippers and centerfolds: Gendered mediation and post-socialist political culture," analyzed why some female politicians in Eastern Europe choose to pose for popular media publications in highly sexualized and sensational ways. The article was published in the *European Journal of Cultural Studies* and won an honorable mention in the Best Article category of the [2015 Heldt Prize](#) awarded by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies.

[Sheila E. Schroeder](#), Associate Professor

### **Presentation(s)**

University Film and Video Association conference in August 2015

Panel presenter: "Setting the Stage: Creating a Statement of Best Practices for the Inclusive Media Production Classroom"

Moderator: "Impact Producing and Impact Assessment: Making Films for Social Change"

Respondent: *Tribe and Prejudice* (short script); *ZB* (short script)

CILECT (The International Association of Film and Television Schools) Global Post-Production [Symposium](#) in October 2015

Panel presenter: "Consume, Create and Connect: Developing critical media literacies through post-production praxis"

Panel presenter: "Representation and Inclusivity in Post-Production: a conversation"

**Film project(s)**

[Happy F!@#ing Valentine's Day](#) won Best Short Screenplay at the Broad Humor Film Festival

[Project DU F.I.L.M.](#) (Film Initiative Linking to Mentors) is a project that involves producing, shooting, editing and distributing a short narrative film, [Happy F!@#ing Valentine's Day](#), which will be shot in Colorado during winter break 2015. [Read more](#) about the project's goals, and [contribute today](#) to support a collaborative, interactive and vibrant film community that gives students an opportunity to work with professionals in meaningful ways.