

Nick Seaver

Curriculum Vitae

updated 9/3/17

Assistant Professor
Department of Anthropology
Tufts University

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Medford, MA 02155
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EDUCATION

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|------|---------------------------------|---|
| 2015 | PhD, Sociocultural Anthropology | University of California, Irvine
<i>Graduate Specialization in Anthropologies of Medicine, Science, and Technology</i> |
| 2013 | MA, Sociocultural Anthropology | University of California, Irvine |
| 2010 | SM, Comparative Media Studies | Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| 2008 | Coursework in bookbinding | North Bennet Street School, Boston, MA |
| 2007 | BA, Literature | Yale University
<i>cum laude, distinction in major</i> |

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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| 2016– | Assistant Professor, Anthropology | Tufts University |
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PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Articles & Book Chapters

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| n.d. | Shaping the Stream: The Techniques and Troubles of Algorithmic Recommendation. With Kariann Goldschmitt. In <i>Cambridge Companion to Music and Digital Culture</i> , ed. Nicholas Cook, Monique Ingalls, David Trippett, and Peter Webb. Forthcoming. |
| 2015 | The nice thing about context is that everyone has it. <i>Media, Culture, and Society</i> 37(7): 1101–1109. |
| 2015 | Bastard Algebra. In <i>Data, Now Bigger & Better!</i> , ed. Bill Maurer and Tom Boellstorff. Chicago: Prickly Paradigm Press. |
| 2011 | ‘This is Not a Copy’: Mechanical Fidelity and the Re-enacting Piano. In “The Sense of Sound,” ed. Rey Chow and James A. Steintrager, special issue, <i>differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies</i> 22(2–3): 54–73. |

Work in Progress

- n.d. Algorithms as Culture: Some Tactics for the Ethnography of Algorithmic Systems. In "Algorithms in Culture," ed. Morgan Ames and Massimo Mazzotti, special issue, *Big Data & Society*. Revised and resubmitted.
- n.d. Knowing Algorithms. In *Digital STS Handbook*, ed. Janet Vertesi and David Ribes. Princeton University Press. In review.
- n.d. Captivating Infrastructures: Recommender systems and the uses of algorithmic enchantment. Special issue of *Journal of Material Culture* on trapping, ed. Chloe Nahum-Claudel, Alberto Corsín-Jiménez, and Rane Willerslev. In preparation.
- n.d. *Computing Taste: The Making of Algorithmic Music Recommendation*. Book manuscript in preparation.

Book Reviews

- 2017 Attending to the mediators. Review of *The Passion for Music: A Sociology of Mediation*, by Antoine Hennion. *Journal of Cultural Economy* (online before print).

Other Publications

- 2017 Proficiency: Arrival. Correspondences, *Cultural Anthropology* website, June 27, 2017. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/1141-proficiency-arrival>.
- 2015 Working with Algorithms: Plans and Mess. In *Serial Nature*, ed. Kai Franz. Stuttgart: Edition Solitude.
- 2013 Commentary on "Toward an Anthropology of Computer-Mediated, Algorithmic Forms of Sociality" (Eitan Wilf, author). With Tom Boellstorff. *Current Anthropology* 54(6): 735–736.
- 2012 Algorithmic Recommendations and Synaptic Functions. *Limn* 2, "Crowds and Clouds." <http://limn.it/algorithmic-recommendations-and-synaptic-functions>.
- 2012 Crowds and Clouds. *Limn* 2. Co-edited with Christopher Kelty and Lilly Irani.
- 2010 *Our Space: Being a Responsible Citizen of the Digital World*. MacArthur Foundation Digital Media and Learning Ethics Casebook. With Howard Gardner, Henry Jenkins, et al. Digital Media and Learning. http://dmlcentral.net/sites/dmlcentral/files/resource_files/Our_Space_full_casebook_compressed.pdf.
- 2009 Let the Ideas Flow. *Threshold: Exploring the Future of Education*, Spring 2009: 30–32. With Lana Swartz.
- 2009 Mapping in a Participatory Culture: Teachers' Strategy Guide. Project New Media Literacies. With Lana Swartz. Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Fieldwork Grants

- 2013 Wenner-Gren Foundation, Dissertation Fieldwork Grant 8797
- 2013 National Science Foundation, Cultural Anthropology Program, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant 1323834

Other Grants and Fellowships

- 2017 Tufts University, Summer Faculty Research Fellowship
- 2016 Tufts University, Neubauer Faculty Fellow
- 2013 Intel Science and Technology Center for Social Computing, Summer Grant
- 2012 UC Irvine Department of Anthropology, Summer Research Fellowship
- 2011 UC Irvine Department of Anthropology, Summer Research Fellowship
- 2010 UC Irvine School of Social Sciences, Social Science Merit Fellowship
- 2010 MIT Comparative Media Studies Travel Grant, Howe Collection of Musical Instrument Literature

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 Caring for Abstractions: On Data Gardeners and Algorithmic Tour Guides. The Ambivalences of Abstraction Workshop. London, UK. June 15–16.
- 2016 Algorithms, and the Forgotten Lessons of the Sociotechnical. With Tarleton Gillespie. Cross-STS Workshop. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. September 29.
- 2016 Algorithmic Cartographies. Algorithm Summer School, Linköping University, Sweden. July 4–8.
- 2016 What do people do all day? Science, Technology, and Society Colloquium, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Troy, NY. April 27.
- 2016 What do people do all day? Comparative Media Studies Colloquium, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. April 14.
- 2016 What do people do all day? Center for Professional & Applied Ethics. University of North Carolina, Charlotte. March 22.
- 2015 Algorithms: Human Influence on the World of Data. Lewis College Roundtable, panelist. Illinois Institute of Technology. Chicago, IL. October 29.
- 2015 Interpretability: Learning to Listen to Algorithms. Algorithms as Devices of Power and Valuation Workshop, Linköping University. Dalarö, Sweden. May 10–12.

- 2015 Captivating Algorithms: Recommender Systems as Traps. Data & Society Research Institute. New York City, NY. April 16.
- 2014 Traps: Data Work and the Anthropology of Technology. New Forms of Data Work. Intel Corporation. Hillsboro, OR. March 10.
- 2013 What are listeners like? Music, Digitisation, Mediation: Towards Interdisciplinary Music Studies Conference. Oxford University, UK. July 11–13.
- 2013 Engineers are People. 'Data Society' Workshop: Lightning Talks. Intel Labs University Collaboration Symposium. San Francisco, CA. June 25–26.
- 2012 Anthropology and Algorithms. Clouds and Crowds Roundtable. University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA. November 7.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panels organized

- 2017 Chair and co-organizer, with Alison Cool and Baki Cakici. "Making Sense of Conferences." Society for Social Studies of Science. Boston, MA.
- 2016 Co-organizer, with Jennifer Carlson, and Moderator. "The Use of Computers in Anthropology." Roundtable sponsored by the Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing. American Anthropological Association. Minneapolis, MN.
- 2015 Co-chair, with Jennifer Carlson. "STS and Anthropology: Reflections on 25 Years of Entanglement." General Anthropology Division, American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 17–22.
- 2015 Co-organizer, with Elizabeth Rodwell. "Anthropologies of Data." Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 17–22.
- 2014 Co-organizer and chair, with Madeleine Elish. "Studying With: Relation and Method in the Technoscientific Field." Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C. December 2–7.
- 2012 Co-organizer, with Beth Reddy and Chima Anyadike-Danes. "Tarde Doing Work: Ethnographic Engagements With a Recently Revived Ancestor." American Anthropological Association. San Francisco, CA. November 13–18.
- 2011 Chair and co-organizer, with Marcel LaFlamme. "Anthropologies of the Automatic." Society for Cultural Anthropology, American Anthropological Association. Montreal, Canada. November 15–20.
- 2011 Chair and co-organizer, with Beth Reddy. "Time Machines." Society for Social Studies of Science. Cleveland, OH.

Papers presented

- 2017 Against Access: Two Ethnographic Vignettes, One Malinowskian Anecdote, a Claim about Corporations, Algorithms, and Anthropological Field Sites, and an Argument about the Sexual Politics of Knowledge. Society for Social Studies of Science. Boston, MA.
- 2016 Algorithms as Culture: Some Tactics for the Ethnography of Algorithmic Systems. Algorithms in Culture. University of California, Berkeley. December 1–2.
- 2016 Care and Scale: Size and Sensibility in Music Recommendation. American Anthropological Association. Minneapolis, MN. November 16–20.
- 2016 After Secrecy: The Ethnography of Algorithmic Systems. Society for Ethnomusicology. Washington, D.C. November 10–13.
- 2016 Internet Industry Research Rules! A Roundtable on Methods. Association of Internet Researchers. Berlin, Germany. Roundtable Participant. October 5–8.
- 2016 The Navigators. Critical Data Studies track, Society for Social Studies of Science. Barcelona, Spain. August 31–September 3.
- 2016 Captivating Algorithms: Recommender Systems as Traps. European Anthropological Association. Milan, Italy. July 20–23.
- 2016 How do neural networks think? Society for Cultural Anthropology. Ithaca, NY. May 13–14.
- 2016 The Return of the Gift. Theorizing the Web. New York City, NY. April 15–16.
- 2016 Programmers and Park Rangers: Craft Visions in the Age of the Algorithm. American Ethnological Society. Washington, D.C. March 31–April 2.
- 2015 Navigating Digital Data. American Anthropological Association. Denver, CO. November 17–22.
- 2015 Parks and Recommendation: Spatial Imaginaries in Algorithmic Systems. Association of Internet Researchers. Phoenix, AZ. October 21–24.
- 2015 Traps: Algorithms and the Anthropology of Technology. Theorizing the Web. New York City, NY. April 17–18.
- 2014 Ethnographic Algorithms and the Kinship of Method. American Anthropological Association. Washington, D.C. December 2–7.
- 2014 Hucksters of the Symbol. Social Science History Association. Toronto, Canada. November 6–9.
- 2014 Bastard Algebra: Notes on the Kinship of Method. Contours of Algorithmic Life. Davis, CA. May 15–16.

- 2013 What Should an Anthropology of Algorithms Do? American Anthropological Association. Chicago, IL. November 20–24.
- 2013 Big Data in Action: Inclusion and Negotiation in Algorithmic Music Recommendation. Society for Social Studies of Science. San Diego, CA. October 9–12.
- 2013 Knowing Algorithms. Media in Transition 8. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. May 3–5.
- 2013 Anthropology and Algorithms. Inventive Methods: Transmissions and Entanglements. UC Irvine. April 8.
- 2012 Every Sensation Is Only a Number: Tardean Statistics, Computer Audition, and Big Data. American Anthropological Association. San Francisco, CA. November 13–18.
- 2012 Hearing Taste: Computer Audition and Automatic Recommendation. Society for Social Studies of Science. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 17–20.
- 2011 Computational Tastemaking: Music Discovery, Massive Datasets, and Automatic Culture. American Anthropological Association. Montreal, Canada. November 15–20.
- 2011 ‘We make data’: Materiality, Liveness, and Pianistic Reproduction. Society for Social Studies of Science. Cleveland, OH. November 2–5.
- 2009 Think Tank: The Unconference Model. New Media Literacies ‘09: Learning in a Participatory Culture. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. May 2.
- 2009 Mapping in a Participatory Culture: Simulation and Boundaries. New Media Literacies ‘09: Learning in a Participatory Culture. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. May 2.
- 2009 Physical Practice: The Artifacts of Noise Art. Media in Transition 6. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. April 24–26.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- 2015 PhD Intern. Microsoft Research Social Media Collective. Cambridge, MA.
- 2012–15 Graduate Student Researcher. Intel Science and Technology Center for Social Computing. UC Irvine.
- 2011–12 Graduate Student Researcher. Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion. UC Irvine.
- 2009–10 Research Assistant. HyperStudio Lab for the Digital Humanities. MIT.
- 2008–09 Research Assistant. Project New Media Literacies. MIT.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Tufts University

How to Pay Attention (Spring 2017), Cultures of Computing (Fall 2016), History of Anthropological Thought (Fall 2016), Introduction to the Anthropology of Science and Technology (Spring 2016, Spring 2017)

University of California, Irvine

Latour: Metaphysics and Ecopolitics. Graduate seminar, co-taught with Bill Maurer and Beth Reddy. Instructor of Record. (Spring 2012)

Music and Human Migration. Teaching assistant for Robert Garfias. (Spring 2011)

Introduction to Sociocultural Anthropology. Teaching assistant for Jim Egan. (Fall 2010)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Experimental Music. MIT High School Studies Program. (Summer 2010)

Anthropology of Sound. Teaching assistant for Stefan Helmreich. (Fall 2009)

Sound in the 20th Century. MIT High School Studies Program. (Summer 2009)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2014– Co-chair. Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing. American Anthropological Association, General Anthropology Division.

2017 Program committee member. Society for Social Studies of Science. Boston, MA.

2013–14 Associate editor. The Committee on the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing Blog. <http://blog.castac.org>.

2013–14 Curriculum analyst. UCI Anthropology Undergraduate Committee.

2012 Co-organizer, with Beth Reddy. Dominique Boullier on the 'Habitele.' Colloquium lecture sponsored by the Critical Theory Consortium.

2012 Co-organizer, with Beth Reddy and Chima Anyadike-Danes. Gabriel Tarde Graduate and Faculty Reading Group.

2011 Co-organizer, with Beth Reddy and Bill Maurer. Sideways: a conversation about anthropology and science and technology studies today. Sponsored by the Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion and Digital/Cultural/Mobile. UC Irvine.

Reviewer for *Cultural Anthropology*; *Big Data & Society*; Ethnographic Praxis in Industry Conference; National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, *Cultural Anthropology*; *Big Data*; *Journal of Anthropological Research*; *Science, Technology, and Human Values*; Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences; *Theory, Culture & Society*; *New Media & Society*; *Journal of Cultural Economy*; *Gastronomica*; *Science as Culture*; *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

OTHER WRITING

- 2016 Pokémon GO and Three Kinds of Capture. *Anthropology and Algorithms*. Medium. <https://medium.com/@npseaver/pok%C3%A9mon-go-and-three-kinds-of-capture-d3d4f574824f>.
- 2016 "Precisely." Medium. <https://medium.com/@npseaver/precisely-e1b995b1b558>.
- 2015 Critical Algorithm Studies: A Reading List. With Tarleton Gillespie. Social Media Collective, Microsoft Research. <http://socialmediacollective.org/reading-lists/critical-algorithm-studies>.
- 2014 Computers and Sociocultural Anthropology. Blog series for *Savage Minds*. <http://savageminds.org/2014/05/19/computers-and-sociocultural-anthropology>.
- 2014 Studying Up: The Ethnography of Technologists. *Ethnography Matters*. <http://ethnographymatters.net/blog/2014/03/10/studying-up>.
- 2014 On Reverse Engineering: Looking for the Cultural Work of Engineers. *Anthropology and Algorithms*. Medium. <https://medium.com/anthropology-and-algorithms/on-reverse-engineering-d9f5bae87812>.
- 2014 The Lost Wanderers: Technology and the Auxiliary Motive. *Anthropology and Algorithms*. Medium. <https://medium.com/anthropology-and-algorithms/the-lost-wanderers-866b60a297ee>.
- 2010 Old Media: Interactivity and Mechanical Music. *Comparative Media Studies Blog*. <http://cmsw.mit.edu/nick-seaver-interactivity-and-mechanical-music>.

AFFILIATIONS

American Anthropological Association: Society for Cultural Anthropology, Society for the Anthropology of Work, General Anthropology Division, Committee on the Anthropology of Science, Technology, and Computing, Digital Anthropology Interest Group, Music and Sound Interest Group

European Association of Social Anthropologists

Society for Social Studies of Science

REFERENCES

Available on request.