

PHILIPPA (PIP) THORNTON

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EMPLOYMENT

Post-Doctoral Research Associate: University of Edinburgh **Feb 2019-present**

I am currently a PDRA on Creative Informatics, attached to Edinburgh College of Art. CI is an AHRC funded project which aims to encourage data driven innovation in the creative industries in Scotland.

Visiting Lecturer: Royal Holloway, University of London **Sept 2018-2019**

I taught the 'Cities' 2nd year undergraduate module in Human Geography at Royal Holloway. Topics include physical and digital surveillance and infrastructure, smart cities, cultural representations of cities, and militarism. Duties included marking and associated admin, and supervision planning for 3rd year dissertations.

Research Assistant: National University of Ireland, Galway **Sept 2016-Feb 2017**

Research assistant to Dr. John Danaher on the Irish Research Council (IRC) Algocracy & Transhumanism project, examining the ethics and practicalities of algorithmic decision-making in a variety of contexts. Position included literature reviews, contributing to the project blog and podcast content, organising workshops and representing the NUIG Technology and Governance cluster with a presentation of my own work.

PhD Researcher: Royal Holloway, University of London **Sept 2013- Feb 2019**

I was a member of the first cohort of students at the Centre for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity at Royal Holloway, and was co-supervised by the Department of Geography. My PhD thesis - *Language in the Age of Algorithmic Reproduction: A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism* - explored the linguistic, economic and political effects of the monetisation of language by Google's search and advertising platforms. The thesis also included an artistic intervention into linguistic capitalism, called *{poem}.py*.

Police Officer: Metropolitan Police (MPS), New Scotland Yard **Nov 1997-Sept 2013**

Branch Detective and Police Constable within Special Branch, the Counter Terrorism Command and the Serious Crime Directorate. Specialised in financial investigation, intelligence and covert surveillance.

Reservist Soldier: British Army **1995-2005**

Served in Liverpool and London as a driver in the Royal Logistic Corps. Lance Corporal, HGV2 (Drops) driver. Service included compulsory call up to Iraq war (Telic 1: 2003) with 3rd Regiment Royal Horse Artillery (3RHA).

EDUCATION

PhD Geopolitics & Cybersecurity, Royal Holloway, University of London	2013-2019
MA English 1850-Present, King's College London (KCL) : Merit	2010-2012
BA Honours (English Literature), Open University : 2:1	1999-2005
BA Honours (Arts) (History & Politics), University of Liverpool : Pass	1992-1995

TEACHING

Digital Sociology MSc, University of Edinburgh **Feb 2020**

Guest lecture and interactive workshop for MSc module *Researching Digital Life*

Design Informatics MSc, University of Edinburgh **Jan 2020**

Guest lecturer for University of Edinburgh MSc Design Informatics module *Designing with Data*

Human Geography, Royal Holloway **2018-2019**

Visiting Lecturer. Taught 2nd year undergraduate Human Geography module on 'Cities'. Redesigned and delivered innovative lectures on a range of urban geography subjects including surveillance and the city, militarism, verticality, and walls. Duties included marking term assignments and associated admin, and mentoring students in developing ideas for 3rd year dissertations.

Digital Sociology Undergraduate, Nottingham University 2018
Guest lecturer for 2nd year undergraduate module #Sociology: *Identity, Self and Others in a Digital Age*

Sociology, Kingston University 2016
Guest lecturer for Sociology undergraduate module on *Militarism, City and Space*

MSc Geopolitics and Security, Royal Holloway 2016
Designed and led Field Course element of MSc module on *The Military and the City*, providing original creative mapping technique to engage students on a walking tour of London's military sites and sentiments

Human Geography, Royal Holloway 2015-2016
Guest lecturer on 2nd year undergraduate 'Cities' module on *Soldier in the City*

MSc Geopolitics and Security, Royal Holloway 2014-2018
Designed and led Field Course aspect of module in critical security mapping, providing original accompanying literature and maps (in the form of a psychogeographical study), mentoring and feedback to final presentations from participating students from Royal Holloway and University of Cergy-Pontoise, Paris. The module involved walking tours of the Olympic Park, London and RHUL campus. **My contribution to this innovative project earned me a RHUL College Teaching Prize in 2014.**

Centre for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity, Royal Holloway 2014-2018
Devised, planned and facilitated the inaugural Cybersecurity and Geopolitics debate and discussion session for the RHUL MSc Geopolitics and the first year Cybersecurity CDT students. The first debate, held in 2014, formed part of the MSc and CDT training modules, and was held on the topic of *Edward Snowden: Naughty Step or Pedestal?* The debate, which brought together several opposing disciplinary, technical and political viewpoints, has continued annually as a key element of MSc module and CDT training.

PUBLICATIONS

Jackman, A., Squire, R., Bruun, J. & **Thornton, P.** (2020) 'Unearthing feminist territory and terrain'. *Political Geography* (under review: minor revisions).

Thornton, P. (2019) 'Subprime Language & the Crash', in Kitchin, R., Graham, M., Mattern, S. and Shaw, J., (eds) *How to Run a City like Amazon and Other Fables*. London: Meatspace Press.

Thornton, P. (2019) '{POEM}.PY', in Balaam, M. and Hansen, L. K. (eds), *Wilful Technologies: Rage and resilience*. Aarhus Press.

Thornton, P. (2019) 'Words as data: The vulnerability of language in an age of digital capitalism', *Crest Security Review* (Spring/09), pp.8-9.

Thornton, P. (2018) 'A critique of linguistic capitalism: provocation/intervention', *GeoHumanities*, 4:2, 417-437.

Thornton, P. (2018). 'Language Redux'. In Anderson C. U. & Cox G. (eds). *A Peer-Reviewed Journal About Research Values*, Vol 7, Issue 1.

Thornton, P. (2017) 'Geographies of (con)text: language and structure in a digital age', *Computational Culture: A Journal of Software Studies*, Vol. Autumn 2017, No. Issue 6.

Thornton, P. (2017) 'The Death of the Reader', *Under the Influence magazine*, Spring/Summer.

Thornton, P. (2016). Diary of a plastic soldier (extracts). *Critical Military Studies*, 2(1-2), 137-138.

Thornton, P. (2015) 'The meaning of light: seeing and being on the battlefield', *Cultural Geographies*, (22/4), pp. 567-583.

EXHIBITIONS/INSTALLATIONS

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- ARCADIA (2020)** **Feb-March 2020**
Commissioned installation for The Fruitmarket Gallery Bookmarket, Waverley Mall, Edinburgh. LED stock market ticker displays the text of Walter Benjamin's *Arcades Project* as priced by Google's algorithms; a critique of capitalism and advertising in both digital and physical spaces.
- NEWSPEAK (2019)** **August 2019**
Displayed as part of Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Data Lates installation, Newspeak (2019) feeds Orwell's 1984 through Google's algorithmic market as a political critique of the power that Google has over language.
- What Are Words Worth?** **August 2019**
Workshop performance as part of the Edinburgh International Festival. Playwrights were invited to negotiate their way through a linguistic landscape restricted by the value of the stories they told.
- {poem}.py: a critique of linguistic capitalism** **July 2019**
A collection of framed poem-receipts and live receipt printing at the Electronic Literature Organization Media Arts Festival, Glucksman Gallery, Cork .
- {poem}.py: a critique of linguistic capitalism** **Oct 2017-Oct 2019**
LMAO Data as Culture exhibition, commissioned installation, Open Data Institute, London.

INVITED TALKS

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- Edinburgh Futures Institute, Futures Seminar : *A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism*** **Jan 2020**
- Beyond Conference on Creativity and AI, Edinburgh: *What are Words Worth to Google*** **Nov 2019**
- Urban Knights, Bristol : *Linguistic Capitalism: Resistance and Intervention*** **Nov 2019**
- ASCEND: Artistic Strategies for Engagement with Data Politics** **Aug 2019**
NCAD, Dublin : *Methodologies of researching Linguistic Capitalism*
- School of Graphic Design, Gerrit Rietveld Academie, Amsterdam** **Sept 2019**
Invited opening lecture for all students and staff on *Linguistic Capitalism, Data & Design*
- DAOWO Summit UK: The 2019 Blockchain & Art Knowledge Sharing Summit** **Feb 2019**
Edinburgh University : *The Value of Words in an Age of Linguistic Capitalism*
- Digital Methods workshop, Durham University : *Researching Linguistic Capitalism*** **Oct 2018**
- Testing Turing: unsettling legacies event, The Alan Turing Institute, London** **Oct 2017**
Invited talk : *A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism & artistic intervention* (October 2017)
- London Design Festival, London College of Communication, University of the Arts** **Sept 2017**
Invited talk at Uncertainty Playground event: *A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism & artistic intervention*
- Science Museum seminar series, The Science Museum, London** **May 2017**
Invited talk : *A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism*
- Engineering Fictions seminar series, CONNECT, Trinity College Dublin** **Feb 2017**
Invited talk and workshop : *A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism.*

CONFERENCE PAPERS (SELECTED)

Algorithms for Her conference, KCL <i>Towards a Digital écriture féminine: Deconstructing the Language of the Digital Economy</i>	Jan 2020
RGS-IBG 'Geopolitics of Language session', London <i>The Geopolitics of Google AdWords</i>	Aug 2019
Electronic Literature Organization annual conference, Cork <i>Towards a Digital écriture féminine: Deconstructing the Language of the Digital Economy</i>	July 2019
Digital Sociology symposium, Web Science Conference, Amsterdam <i>The political economy of a large-scale hypertext search engine: Linguistic capitalism and Google's advertising empire</i>	May 2018
KCL Digital Economy conference, KCL, London <i>A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism</i>	May 2018
Transient Topographies, NUI Galway <i>Subprime Language – the value of language in an age of digital capitalism</i>	April 2018
Face Value workshop and presentation at TRANSMEDIALE Festival, Berlin <i>Subprime Language – the value of language in an age of digital capitalism</i>	Feb 2018
Slow Computing workshop, Maynooth University <i>Language in the Age of Algorithmic Reproduction</i>	Dec 2017
Communication, Art, Media: Probing Impacts and Intersections workshop — organised by ECREA Philosophy of Communication Section in Lisbon, Portugal <i>Critique of Linguistic Capitalism & artistic intervention</i>	Oct 2017
RGS-IBG Digital Power 2.0 session, London <i>Subprime Language – the value of language in an age of digital capitalism</i> , co-presented with Dr. John Morris	Aug 2017
RGS-IBG Museum of Contemporary Commodities (MoCC) session, London <i>A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism & an artistic intervention</i>	Aug 2017
Of Other Cyber Securities conference, RHUL <i>Cyber security beyond the sciences: critique and creative practice</i>	July 2017
Other Codes, International E-Literature & Digital Humanities conference, NUI Galway <i>A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism</i>	May 2017
Research in Real-Time – Practice as Research conference, NUI Galway <i>A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism</i>	May 2017
Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual conference, Boston <i>A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism & an artistic intervention</i>	April 2017
Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual conference <i>On Politics, Poetry & Google</i> in Microsoft lightning talk event at Microsoft Boston	April 2017
From Algorithmic States to Algorithmic Brains workshop, NUI Galway <i>{poem}.py: A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism</i>	Sept 2016
Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual conference, San Francisco <i>The Production of Context and the Digital Reconstruction of Language</i> in 'Towards a geographical software studies' panel session	April 2016
RGS-IBG Algorithmic Practices session, Exeter <i>Language in the Age of Algorithmic Reproduction</i> in Algorithmic Practices: Emergent Interoperability in the Everyday panel	Sept 2015
Association of American Geographers (AAG) annual conference, Chicago <i>The Meaning of Light: Seeing and Being on the Battlefield</i> in panel session on 'Terrain'	April 2015
'Thinking with Algorithms in the work of N. Katherine Hayles' workshop, Durham <i>Language in the Age of Algorithmic Reproduction</i>	Feb 2015
Sensing War conference, London <i>The Meaning of Light: Seeing and Being on the Battlefield</i>	June 2014

PRESS/COVERAGE

NEURAL Magazine: interviewed by Rachel O'Dwyer for 'Surveillance and the Surveyed', #63, 2019
WE MAKE MONEY NOT ART: interviewed on past and future work by Regine Debatty, October 2019
THE SYLLABUS: selected as top pick by guest editor Hito Steyerl, October 2019
PHOX POP magazine: 'What are words worth?' Issue 5, Summer 2018
WIRED (UK): 'Orwell's 1984 is worth £58,318, according to Google AdWords', 25th January 2018
NEW SCIENTIST: 'Data as Culture: Humour and absurdity stalk the internet', 2nd February 2018
RTE CULTURE FILE: 'Pip Thornton's poem.py' (radio & podcast), 6th February 2018

AWARDS/FUNDING

Surveillance Studies Network (SSN) £200 & SSN conference fee waiver, Rotterdam Jan 2020
Honourable mention in SSN biennial Art competition for *Newspeak 2019*

Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI) £2.5K Jan 2020
Projects and Events Funding (PI) for hardware and tech for Arcadia installation at Fruitmarket Gallery

Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTC) £1 million October 2019
Digital art consultancy (£5K) for successful Slough Borough Council UTCF bid

Edinburgh Futures Institute (EFI) £5K March 2019
Research Award holder (PI) for project *How can creative intervention and public art help us to think critically about data and the power of digital technology companies?*

Web Science Summit, Amsterdam 500 Euro May 2018
Winner of poster session: *{poem}.py: a critique of linguistic capitalism*

Cyber 9/12, Geneva March 2017
Semi-finalist with the Royal Holloway team. As part of a team of four, I entered the Atlantic Council's 'Cyber 9/12' cyber policy and strategy competition which was held in Geneva. As well as progressing to the semi-finals of the competition, we were also awarded the 'Most Creative Policy Document' prize.

Living with Algorithms workshop, Royal Holloway £3K June 2016
Applied for and received funding from Humanities and Arts Research Institute and CDT in Cybersecurity.

Information Security Group (ISG), Royal Holloway June 2016
Winner of Open Day poster competition: *Daffodils: A Critique of Linguistic Capitalism*

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Digital Geography and Society (Journal) November 2019 – Present
Invited to be on editorial panel for new Elsevier journal exploring the emergent field of geography and digital technologies. As an editor, I will be encouraging creative approaches that challenge the already rapidly solidifying concept of what 'digital geographies' might or can be.

EVENTS ORGANISED

Beyond Research Symposium, Edinburgh Nov 2019
Co-curated and introduced research symposium which took place after the Beyond Conference on Creativity and AI. Invited keynotes from Dr. Oli Mould (Royal Holloway) and Prof. Vicky Gunn (Glasgow School of Art).

RGS-IBG, London August 2019
Co-organised session on the *Geopolitics of Language* with Dr. Ingrid Medby.

Association of American Geographers (AAG), Boston USA April 2017
Co-organised two panels sessions *Curating (in)security: Unsettling Geographies of Cyberspace* with Dr. Andrew Dwyer, University of Oxford.

Living with Algorithms workshop, Royal Holloway, London June 2016
Co-organised workshop with invited participants with Dr. Mike Duggan.