



RETHINKING THE DISSERTATION

WORKSHOPS FOR
EXPLORING NEW RESEARCH
AVENUES, TEACHING
APPROACHES, AND THE
CIRCULATION OF
SCHOLARSHIP

About the workshops:

Digital and hybrid dissertations are gaining popularity in the humanities, especially as researchers continue leveraging digital technologies and modalities to make arguments, create communication that expands beyond traditional alphabetic texts, and prepare for careers 'outside' the academy.

While the concept of digital or hybrid dissertations is becoming increasingly popular, more models are needed to help students, advisors, and researchers to better understand the implications, exigencies, and requirements of incorporating digital production in academic work. Drawing on my own process of creating a hybrid/digital dissertation I designed these workshops to address the need for examples, models, and guidance as a way to help other graduate students and researchers in their exploration of new avenues for collaborative research, teaching, the production of scholarship, and its distribution.



HALF-DAY WORKSHOPS

Digital/Hybrid dissertations: What you need to know

In this half-day workshop, we explore the challenges and possibilities of digital/hybrid dissertations. Based on my own process of creating a hybrid dissertation, I address issues related to questions of ethics, logistics, and research processes. Rethinking the definition of scholarship, we will also examine how research and the creation of hybrid/digital dissertations can engage communities in meaningful ways and prepare students for careers outside the tenure track system.

This workshop is for graduate students, advisors, and researchers wanting to better understand the implications and demands of the digital dissertation and research projects.

Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Different motivations for hybrid dissertations
- Overview of different approaches (digital, hybrid, practice-based, practice-led)
- Examples of hybrid/digital dissertations
- Tools and technologies that can be used to create a digital or hybrid dissertation
- Making the most of your graduate experience (using seminars and pre-ABD work to hone "digital skills")
- Ethical challenges and affordances of creating digital or hybrid dissertations (e.g. collaboration and navigating consent in digital or hybrid dissertations)
- Logistic and funding mechanisms to support digital or hybrid dissertations
- The prospectus writing process
- Meeting department guidelines while working on digital or hybrid dissertations
- The defense committee & the defense
- (Non-)Academic publishing (accessibility and digital archiving)

Length: 4 hours
Cost: 500 USD

Practice and Theory: Building Bridges

In this half-day workshop, we explore the different role(s) creative practice can play within academic research projects. Unlike traditional dissertations that are text-based, hybrid/digital dissertations require a critical engagement with tools and technologies used, as well as reflective rationalization of the ways in which chosen formats relate to research questions and the contribution of knowledge in one's discipline. This workshop provides examples and direction for graduate students to conceptualize of their creative practice and scholarly inquiries in meaningful ways as these choices relate to the internal coherence of their work. The workshop also addresses questions of academic rigor and how objectivity, reliability, and validity operate in creative-academic practice.

While I will draw on my own dissertation, this workshop does not have to be film-specific. It is great for those concerned with the relationship of practice and theory in general and will provide participants with a variety of examples of creative-academic research projects.

Length: 4 hours
Cost: 500 USD



FULL-DAY WORKSHOP

Filmmaking Workshop: Writing with Images and Sounds

This full-day workshop provides a practical overview of the filmmaking process. It comprises a crash course in filmmaking basics, covering pre-production, production, and post-production, and includes hands-on exercises. The first half of the day focuses on preparing for filming and the most important guidelines for filming and recording sound. The second half of the day consists of a hands-on editing workshop.

This workshop is great for groups of students and faculty who usually analyze films. It is for anyone who would like to work with the audiovisual medium in their research, their presentation of their scholarship, and/or their teaching. It is also a great way to broaden students' media literacy as the hands-on engagement with the medium can improve their ability to critically access, evaluate, consume, and create audiovisual media.

This workshop can be geared towards the specific needs of participants, for example by focusing on the use of video in the language teaching classroom, conducting in-depth interviews, participant observation, and so on.

Length: 8 hours
Cost: 750 USD

COMPLEMENTARY FILM SCREENING

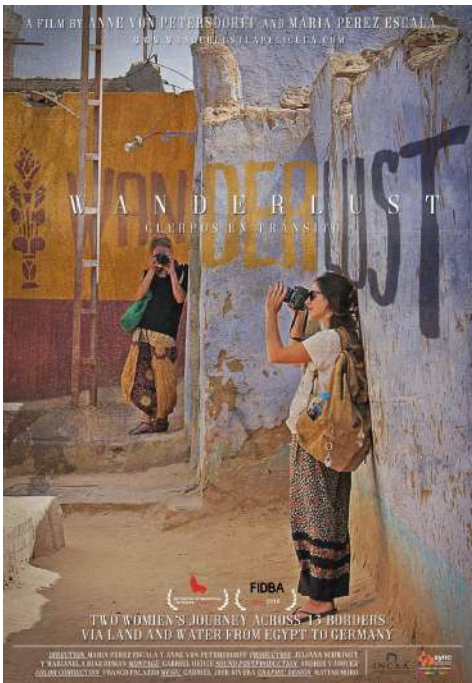
All workshops can be combined with an optional screening of *Wanderlust, cuerpos in tránsito* (2017), followed by a Q&A or a work-in-progress presentation of *Borderlands*, a creative-academic research project born out of my MA and Ph.D. dissertation which explores representational dynamics around issues of global migration, tourism, and travel.

Length: approximately 2 hours
Cost: included in any workshop



"Dr. von Petersdorff facilitated a digital dissertation workshop for our Ph.D. students at The University of Texas at El Paso, and I can say with confidence that I've never seen our students so engaged in a workshop. They left the discussion with Dr. von Petersdorff confident in their own potential, excited about the future of their work, and knowledgeable about opportunities for applying and sharing their research both in and outside of academia. Dr. von Petersdorff led a tailored workshop, engaged with our students in both formal and informal settings, and shared her film in a private screening, after which she answered questions from our students and faculty about the production of her own dissertation and possibilities for future work. We all left incredibly inspired and ready to make changes in our program to better support our students' potential."

*Laura Gonzales, Assistant Professor of English
at The University of Texas at El Paso*



ABOUT WANDERLUST

Wanderlust, Cuerpos en Tránsito (2017) is a 97-minute, bi-autobiographical documentary film that documents the two-month-long journey of two women between Egypt and Germany, via land and water across 14 countries and three continents: Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The film forms part of my dissertation and was produced and directed in partnership with Maria Perez Escala. It provides an example of collaboration across countries and disciplines, how hybrid dissertations can prompt scholars to experiment with a variety of different (non-) scholarly voices (and languages), and how cooperation can open the door to the different types of professional networks and alternative sources of funding.

The film has been invited to international film festivals in Europe and Latin America and aired on national TV in Argentina. (learn more here: wanderlustlapelicula.com)

FILM FESTIVALS (selections):



"Wanderlust accompanies two women, from different origins, on their journey by land and water from Egypt to Germany. As they set out to investigate the experience of the female traveler they focus on their own perspective of crossing places and spaces, emphasizing how the experience of traveling with a woman's body is different from traveling with a man's body. Wanderlust is a filmic journey from Africa to Europe that invites you to take a leap and to discover, as few films do, the beginning of a friendship between two women."

(Ana Laura Lusnich & Andreas Cuarterolo, LASA Film Festival Directors)

ABOUT ME & CONTACT

I received my Ph.D. in German Studies and Digital Humanities from Michigan State University where I found support and inspiration to create my own hybrid dissertation which consists of two equally weighted parts: *Wanderlust, cuerpos en tránsito* (2017), a bi-autobiographical travel documentary, and a theoretical-historical exploration of film aesthetics. Previous to attending graduate school in the US, I studied International Tourism, Leisure, and Strategic Business Management (BBA at the NHVT Breda and Vrije Universiteit Brussels) and Culture and Media Studies (MA at the University of Flensburg.).



If you are interested in organizing a workshop and/or a screening please get in touch with me.



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