

# ALEXANDER MONEA

**E:** amonea@gmu.edu

**A:** 4400 University Drive, MSN 3E4  
Fairfax, VA 22030

**W:** alexandermonea.github.io

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### **Assistant Professor**

2016–Present

George Mason University

English Department (Home Department)

Cultural Studies Program (Core Faculty)

Center for Advancement of Human-Machine Partnership (Core Faculty)

Institute for Digital Innovation (Affiliate Faculty)

Professional Writing & Rhetoric (Affiliate Faculty)

## ACADEMIC DEGREES

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PhD	North Carolina State University <i>Communication, Rhetoric, &amp; Digital Media</i>	2016
M.A.	Bowling Green State University <i>Literary and Textual Analysis</i>	2012
B.A.	Walsh University	2010

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Big Data | AI / Machine Learning | Media Studies | Science & Technology Studies  
Cultural Studies | Communication Theory | Critical Race Theory | Queer Theory

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## BOOK PROJECTS

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**Monea, A.** (2022) *The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Packer, J., de Villavicencio, P., **Monea, A.**, Oswald, K., Maddalena, K., & Reeves, J. (Forthcoming Mar. 2023) *The Prisonhouse of the Circuit: Politics of Control from Analog to Digital*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press.

Smith, P., **Monea, A.** & Santiago, M. (eds.) (Forthcoming Dec. 2022). *Amazon: At the Intersection of Capital and Culture*. London, UK: Roman Littlefield.

**Monea, A.** (TBD) *Governing by Numbers: People, Population, and Race in the IBM Nation*. In development. Expected completion in Fall 2023.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**Monea, A.** (2022). I Know It When I See It: The Heteronormativity of Google SafeSearch. *Porn Studies*.

Hingle, A., Rangwala, H., Johri, A., & **Monea, A.** (2021, October). Using Role-Plays to Improve Ethical Understanding of Algorithms Among Computing Students. In *2021 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE)* (pp. 1-7). IEEE.

Hingle, A., Johri, A., Rangwala, H., & **Monea, A.** (2021, July). Using the Boeing Max Air Disaster as A Role-play Scenario for Teaching Ethical Thinking. In *2021 ASEE Virtual Annual Conference Content Access*.

**Monea, A.** (2021). Captured Time: Eye Tracking and the Attention Economy (pp. 243-262). In Volmar, A. & Stine, K. *Media Infrastructures and the Politics of Digital Time: Essays on Hardwired Temporalities*. Amsterdam, Netherlands: Amsterdam University Press.

**Monea, A.** (2019). Race and Computer Vision. In Sudmann, A. (ed.) *The Democratization of Artificial Intelligence: Net Politics in the Era of Learning Algorithms* (pp. 189–208). Bliefeld, Germany: Transcript (distributed by Columbia University Press).

**Monea, A.** (2018). From Aristotle to Computational Topoi. In Sundvall, S. (Ed.). *Speculative Rhetorics*. Logan, UT: Utah State University Press.

**Monea, A.** (2016). The Graphing of Difference: Numerical Mediation and the Case of Google's Knowledge Graph. *Cultural Studies ↔ Critical Methodologies*, 16(5), 452–461.

**Monea, A.** & Packer, J. (2016). Media Genealogy and the Politics of Archaeology. *The International Journal of Communication*, 10, 3141–3159.

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**Monea, A.** (2016). An Archive for the Future: Paul N. Edwards on Technology, Historiography, Self and World. *The International Journal of Communication*, 10, 3174–3185.

**Monea, A.** (2016). Graph Force: Rhetorical Machines and the N-Arization of Knowledge. *Computational Culture*, 5.

May, M. & **Monea, A.** (2016). Beyond the Possible. *Cultural Critique*, 92, 139–152.

**Monea, A.** (2012). Lomo-Fi: Or, Getting Haecceities to Pose for Your Toy Camera. *Rhizomes*, 23.

**Monea, A.** (2011). Guattari's on Facebook?! Affects, Refrains and the Digital Cloud. *Selected Publications of AoIR*, 12(0).

## IN PROGRESS PUBLICATIONS

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**Monea, A.** & Nichols, T. P. (TBD). The Kids Aren't Alright: GoGuardian and Unchecked Dataveillance in Schools. *Surveillance & Society*. (Revise & Resubmit)

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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REU Supplement for NSF Grant	\$28,800	2022
Curriculum Impact Grant: Race & Ethnic Studies (GMU)	\$51,000	2021
Curriculum Impact Grant: Ethics & AI Minor (GMU)	\$45,000	2021
REU Supplement for NSF Grant	\$27,000	2021
NSF Grant for Data Ethics Research (Co-PI)	\$299,989	2020
Faculty Research Development Award (GMU)	\$4000	2018
Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award (NCSU)		2015–2016
HASTAC Scholar		2015–2016

## EDITORIAL WORK

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**Area Editor** for Ethics, Equity and Trust in Policy Data Interactions at *Data & Policy*

Smith, P., **Monea, A.** & Santiago, M. (eds.) (Forthcoming Dec. 2022). *Amazon: At the Intersection of Culture and Capital*. London, UK: Roman Littlefield.

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**Monea, A.** & Packer, J. (Eds.). (2016). Media Genealogy: A Special Issue of *The International Journal of Communication*, 10.

## IN THE MEDIA

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“How the Internet Became Straight,” (2022). Interview for *The MIT Press Reader*.  
<https://thereader.mitpress.mit.edu/how-the-internet-became-straight/>

“Let’s Talk About Sex: Digital Pornography and LGBTQIA+ Censorship w/ Alex Monea,” (2022). Interview for *The Radical AI Podcast*. <https://www.radicalai.org/digital-closet>

“The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight,” (2022). Interview for the *New Books Network*. <https://newbooksnetwork.com/the-digital-closet>

“The Digital Closet: How the Internet Became Straight – Author Alexander Monea in Conversation with Angel Ysaguirre,” (2022). Book Talk and Interview for the Digital Public Library of America. [https://youtu.be/Rv4r\\_h04Cz0](https://youtu.be/Rv4r_h04Cz0)

“Alexander Monea with Edward Wolcher: How the Internet Became Straight,” (2022). Interview for Town Hall Seattle’s *In the Moment* Podcast.  
<https://townhallseattle.org/podcasts/in-the-moment-podcast/>

“The Digital Closet,” (2022). Interview for *Skylight Books Podcast Series*.  
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/0Ra2YeB31gfPQW3svHu4W8?si=eloQIfZbTE6LSbINckyjoA&nd=1>

“The Future is Now,” (2020). Interview for *With Good Reason*.  
<https://www.withgoodreasonradio.org/episode/the-future-is-now/>

## INVITED TALKS

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Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). CNRS. Paris, France.

Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). The Bureau. New York, NY.

Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). Politics and Prose. Washington, DC.

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Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). City Lights Bookstore. San Francisco, CA.

Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). Brookline Booksmyths. Brookline, MA.

Book Talk for *The Digital Closet* (2022). Harvard Book Store. Cambridge, MA.

Biased Benchmarks and the Case of ImageNet. (2021). AI Tea Seminars at George Mason University's School of Computing. Fairfax, VA.

The Rising Popularity of Data Ethics: Intersections between the Humanities and Computer Science. (2021). Center for Humanities Research at George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.

Ocular Orbits: How Eye Tracking Technology Became the Missing Link in the Attention Economy. (2018). Hardwired Temporalities Workshop. Siegen, Germany.

"I Know It When I See It": An Overview of Google's Safe Search & the Politics of Automating Judgment. (2018). Fenwick Library Research Reflections at George Mason University. Fairfax, VA.

Notes for a Dark Code Studies (2017). Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) Special Interest Group for the Arts & Humanities Virtual Symposium.

Towards a Speculative Code Studies (2016). Mellon DH Seminar hosted by the Price Lab for Digital Humanities at University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA.

Google's Knowledge Graph & Future-Histories of Thought (2016). Control Societies Speaker Series hosted by the Price Lab for Digital Humanities and the School of Social Policy & Practice. Philadelphia, PA.

Facebook Groups and Digital Pedagogy (2014). Campus Writing & Speaking Program Brown Speaker Series at NC State University.

## CONFERENCES DIRECTED

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Media – Epistemology – Power (2015). The 5th Annual Communication, Rhetoric, & Digital Media Symposium. (Co-Directed with Dr. Jeremy Packer.)

(De-)(Re-)Territorializations (2012). A Digital Conference by Bowling Green State University.

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## PRESENTATIONS

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The Digital Closet: Platform Censorship and LGBTQIA+ Independence Online. (2021). Association for Internet Research Annual Conference. Online (due to COVID-19).

The Digital Closet: Heteronormativity in Image Recognition and Content Moderation Algorithms. (2021). Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference. Online (due to COVID-19).

The Digital Closet: Cisheteronormative Content Moderation and the Case of Google and Facebook. (2021). Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society Annual Conference. Online (due to COVID-19).

Using the Boeing Max Air Disaster as A Role-Play Scenario for Teaching Ethical Thinking. (2021). American Society for Engineering Education. Online (due to COVID-19).

Digital Black Face: Towards a History of Race and Accessibility in Computer Vision Systems. (2019). Society for the History of Technology. Milan, Italy.

The Digital Closet: How Machine Vision Became Straight. (2019). Society for the Social Studies of Science Conference. New Orleans, LA.

A Uniquely American Biopower: Correlational Targeting, Racialization, and Segregation in the U.S. (2019). International Communication Association (Surveillance Studies Pre-Conference). Washington, D.C.

Towards a Genealogy of Technical Media and the Case of Computation. (2019). Critical Genealogies Workshop. Eugene, OR.

The Birth of the Quantified Soldier: The Body as Index of Combat Aptitude and Army Medical Statistics in WWI. (2018). Society for Literature, Science and the Arts. Jeremy Packer, co-presenter. Toronto, Canada.

"I Know It When I See It": An Overview of Google's Safe Search & the Politics of Automating Judgment. (2018). Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Toronto, Canada.

Computable Soldiers: Media and Medicine in the First World War (2017). Jeremy Packer, co-presenter. The Conquest of Ubiquity Colloquium. Toronto, Canada.

German Media Studies: From Culture to Technology and Back Again (2016). Crossroads in Cultural Studies Biennial Conference. Sydney, Australia.

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Machinic Rhetoric: Graph Databases and the Future of Common Knowledge (2016). National Communication Association Convention. Philadelphia, PA.

The *n*-arization of Thought: Google's Knowledge Graph and Machinic Epistemologies (2015). Computational Media Workshop, National Communication Association Convention. Las Vegas, NV.

Algorithms and Eschatology: Revisiting the Problem of the Luddites (2015). 17th Annual Conference of the Marxist Reading Group. Gainesville, FL.

Technics of Dispositio: The Externalization of Arrangement in Databases and Search Algorithms (2013). National Communication Association Convention. Washington, D.C.

Stiegler's Technics and the Canons: Concerns with the Externalization of Dispositio in Computer Processing (2013). 43rd Annual College English Association Conference.

Deleuze's Percepts: The Stratification and Territorialization of Sense and Kant's Categories of Understanding (2012). 12th Annual Deleuze Studies International Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Rereading Mass Inertia: The Politics of Affect and the Biopower of Aesthetics and Desire (2011). Aesthetics/Class/Worlds Conference. Minneapolis, MN.

## COURSES TAUGHT (GMU)

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COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	TIMES TAUGHT
CULT 860	Social Media	1
CULT 860	Media, Culture, and Society	1
CULT 816	Science & Technology Studies	2
ENGH 676	Intro to Cultural Studies	4
ENGH 375/507	Web Authorship & Design	5
ENGH 470 RS	Science & Technoculture in Film (Capstone Course)	1
ENGH 451	Science Fiction	1
ENGH 318	Intro to Cultural Studies	4
HNRS 360	Coping with the Internet	3

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## PREVIOUS COURSES TAUGHT

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COURSE NO.	COURSE TITLE	TIMES TAUGHT
COM 395	Activism by Design	1
COM 367	Multimedia Production and Digital Culture	2
COM 267	Electronic Media Writing: Theory & Practice	1
ENGH 331	Communication for Engineering & Technology	4
ENGH 101	Academic Writing and Research	8

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

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Association of Cultural Studies | Cultural Studies Association | HASTAC  
National Communication Association | Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
Association of Internet Research | Society for Literature, Science and the Arts  
Society for the History of Technology | Society for the Social Studies of Science

## DISSERTATION COMMITTEES SERVED ON

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STUDENT	PROGRAM	GRADUATION
David Rheams	PhD in Cultural Studies	Spring 2018
Kellie Gray	PhD in Professional Writing & Rhetoric	Summer 2019
Savannah Fetterolf	PhD in Cultural Studies	Spring 2020
Lindsey Macdonald	PhD in Cultural Studies	Fall 2020
Christina Riley	PhD in Cultural Studies	Spring 2022
Tolga Yalur	PhD in Cultural Studies	In Progress
Peter Wacht	PhD in Professional Writing & Rhetoric	In Progress
Travis Lamken	PhD in Cultural Studies	In Progress
Chelsea Triggs	PhD in Cultural Studies	In Progress



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Terilee Edwards-Hewitt	PhD in Cultural Studies	In Progress
Pavithra Suresh	PhD in Cultural Studies	In Progress
David Richard	MA in English	In Progress
Matthew Staron	MA in English	In Progress
Eunice Kim	MA in English	In Progress
Tamara Moorman	MA in English	In Progress

## SERVICE POSITIONS

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Area Editor for <i>Data &amp; Policy</i>	2021–Present
Reviewer for <i>Science, Technology, &amp; Human Values</i>	2021–Present
Reviewer for <i>Surveillance &amp; Society</i>	2019–Present
Reviewer for <i>IEEE Access</i>	2018–Present
Reviewer for <i>New Media &amp; Society</i>	2017–Present
Reviewer for <i>International Journal of Communication</i>	2016–Present
Faculty Senate	2021-2022
Term Faculty Committee	2018–2019
Intellectual Life Committee	2017–2018
Faculty Committee	2016–2017
CIRCUIT Studio Liaison	2014–2015
Graduate Student Representative to Provost’s Efficiency Task Force	2011–2012
Graduate Student Senate	2011–2012
Treasurer to English Graduate Student Association	2010–2012