



New Technologies/Aesthetics/ Practices in Documentary

Presented by the York University Graduate Program
in Cinema & Media Arts, the Future Documentary
Lab, and the Norman Jewison Speakers Series.

18-19 March 2016
Beit Zatoun
Toronto, Ontario

Welcome to Verging 2016!

We have spent the last four months programming *Verging 2016* endeavoring to incite conversations between documentary scholars and makers. Over the next two days we will interrogate the current landscapes and changing languages of documentary practices across technologies, aesthetics and audiences. Through workshops and panels, *Verging 2016* will examine a curated selection of projects to understand how to incorporate emerging technologies in both documentary making and consumption. Our guiding curatorial question has been: how do we learn, practice, and teach contemporary documentary language?

We are honoured to have Jonathan Harris as our keynote speaker to present his latest project *Network Effect*. Harris has been working in the field of Interactive Documentary since the early 2000s. His productions continue to shape the discussion around conceptualizing, producing and distributing non-linear documentaries today. We intend to interrogate this burgeoning field on Saturday, when scholars representing North American universities, across varied disciplines will speak towards a wide range of documentary technologies. *Verging 2016* will culminate with a live documentary performance and an intimate workshop setting led by multi-media documentary studios Helios Design Lab (Toronto) and Kngfu (Montreal).

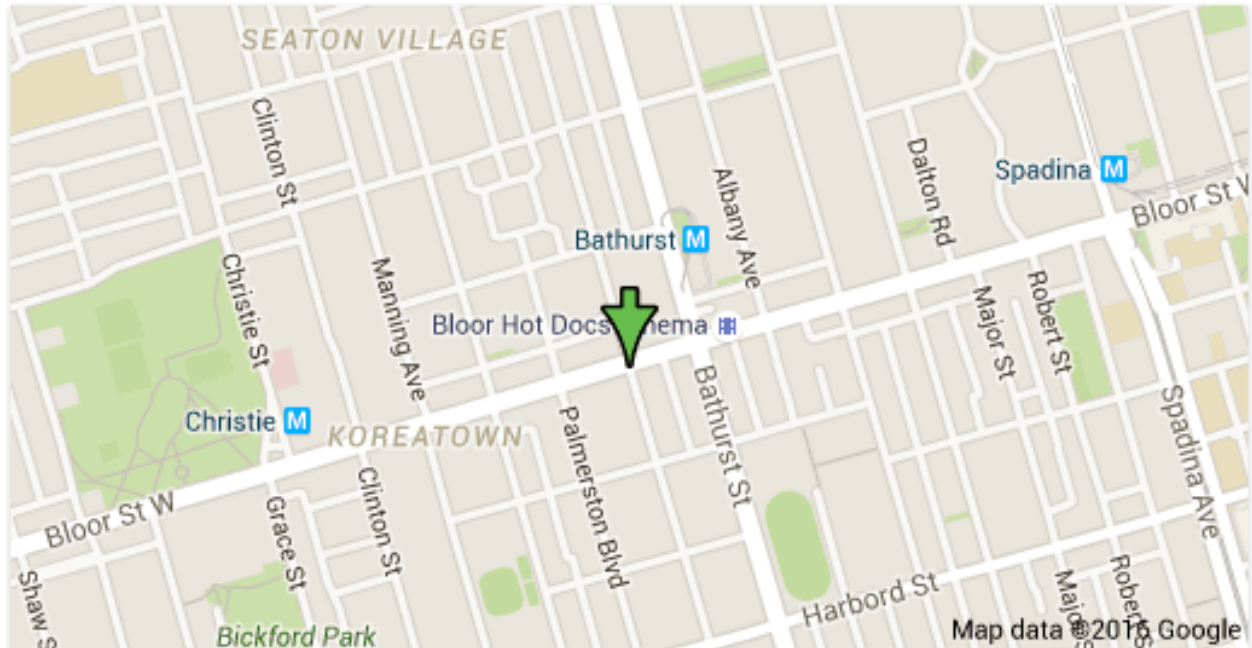
The overwhelming interest and support from local and international academic and documentary communities would not have been possible without the support of our Symposium faculty advisor, Prof. Brenda Longfellow and the many sponsors, volunteers, and speakers who have donated their time and financial support.

What was initially meant as a one-day symposium evolved into an exciting two-day program of scholarship and performances. We look forward to the two days of exchanges, and insights that will continue to cultivate the discipline. This is an exciting time for documentary and we humbly hope our efforts will make a small but lasting contribution to this ongoing discourse.

Sincerely,
Caroline Klimek, Katrina Orlowski, Claudia Sicondolfo and Glen Wood
Verging 2016 Organizers
#Verging2016

Useful Information

**Location: Beit Zatoun, 612 Markham St., Toronto
Bathurst Subway Station**



Places to eat around Beit Zatoun:

There are many delicious dining options around Bloor St., in the Annex neighbourhood of

Toronto. Here are just a few suggestions:

Insomnia (563 Bloor St. West)

Kinka (559 Bloor St. West)

Aroma Espresso Bar (500 Bloor St. West)

The Victory Cafe (581 Markham St.)

Ghazele (504 Bloor St. West)

Green Beanery (565 Bloor St. West)

Smoke's Poutinerie (490 Bloor St. West)

Sushi on Bloor (525 Bloor St. West)

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 18TH

9:30AM--10AM: Registration

10AM – 12PM: Roundtable: Verging: Towards an Emerging Documentary Practice

Nyla Innuksuk (Pinnguaq Productions), **Gerry Flahive** (Modern Story), and **Isaac Rayment** (Shok Kreative).

Respondent: Professor Caitlin Fisher (York)

12PM – 1PM: LUNCH BREAK (not provided)

1PM – 3PM: Presentation of *Life On Hold* (Kngfu and Al Jazeera)

Ralph Dfouni and **Ghassan Fayad** (Kngfu)

Respondent: Professor Sharon Hayashi (York)

3PM – 3:30PM: COFFEE BREAK

3:30PM – 5:30PM: **KEYNOTE ADDRESS:** In Conversation with **Jonathan Harris** (*Network Effect*)

Respondent: Professor Brenda Longfellow (York)

5:30PM – 7:30PM: RECEPTION

Meet and mingle with speakers and conference attendees. Please note it is a cash bar, but appetizers will be provided.

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, MARCH 19TH

9:00--9:30AM: Registration

9:30AM – 11AM: Perceiving the Digital Real: Shifts in Traditional Documentary

Paula John (York): The Documentary Value of Performance Art: Mapping Documentary Film Theory onto Performance Practices

Malcolm Morton (York): The Spectacle of Synthesis: Contemporary Digital Aesthetics and the Blurring of Documentary and Narrative Fiction

Jacqueline Ristola (York): Recreating Reality: The Documentary Genre Within *Waltz With Bashir* and *Persepolis*

Chair: Caroline Klimek (York)

11:00 AM -- 11:15 AM: COFFEE BREAK

11:15 AM – 12:45PM: Interactivities: Interrelational Geographies; Social Autonomies

Mark Terry (York): Contemporary Treatments of Actuality: Digital and Spatial Turns for Social Change

Laura Turnbull (York): Aboriginal Self-Representation and Self--Sovereignty through documentary new media

(Chair) Dorit Naaman (Queen's): From Reel Pasts to Digital Futures: An interactive intervention re--inscribing Palestinians into contemporary Israel

12:45PM – 2PM: LUNCH BREAK (not provided)

2PM – 3:45PM: Digital Prosthesis: Embodiments & Sights

(Chair) Susan McWhinney (SUNY, Rochester): Smart Phones and the Embodied Frame in Documentary Work

Aroussiak Gabrielian (USC): Streetview as Storyspace (via Skype)

Clorinde Peters (McMaster): Total War: Documentary photography in an era of neoliberal conflict

3:45 PM -- 4:00 PM COFFEE BREAK

4PM – 5:30PM: Workshop: In Praxis

4PM -- 4:20PM: Live Performance

Cyrus Sundar Singh (Ryerson): Africville in Black and White: How a National Historic Site and the destruction of a Church have reignited racial hatred in the Canadian City of Halifax

4:20PM --5:30 PM: Virtual/Augmented Reality and Interactive Workshops
Featuring Helios Design Lab and Kngfu

Thank You:

Norman Jewison Speakers Series

Professor Brenda Longfellow

York University Department of Cinema and Media Arts

York University, Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation (VRPI)

York University Graduate Student Association (YUGSA)

Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS)

CUPE 3903

York School of the Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD)

FGS Dean Barbara Crow

Assistant FGS Dean Michael Zryd

Jonathan Harris

Ralph Dfouni

Ghassan Fayad

Gerry Flahive

Nyla Innuksuk

Isaac Rayment

Kngfu

Mike Robbins and Helios Design Lab

Professor Caitlin Fisher

Professor John Greyson

Professor Sharon Hayashi

Professor Ali Kazimi

Beit Zatoun

Raj Grainger

Lauren O'Brien

Kuowei Lee

The Grand Hotel and Suites

Pleasure Dome

SteamWhistle Brewery

Volunteers:

Devon Bond

Evan Boyce

Marko Djurdjic

Ros MacDonald

Meagan Veneracion