

DR. PAUL ALEXANDER AITKEN

Assistant Professor (LDA)
Western University
Faculty of Information and Media Studies

<http://paulaitken.com>

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2012). Institute of Communications Studies, University of Leeds.
Thesis Title: *The Ambivalences of Piracy: BitTorrent Media Piracy and Anti-capitalism.*

M.A. (2007). Department of Music, School of the Arts, McMaster University.
Thesis Title: *Online Music Communities: Challenging Capitalism, Sexism, and Authority in Popular Music.*

B.F.A. (Music) (2002). Department of Music, York University.

Additional studies at: King's College/The University of Western Ontario (1993–94), The University of York, England (1997–98), The University of Western Ontario (1998–99, 2001), and Dalhousie University (2004–05).

RESEARCH KEYWORDS

culture and technology; popular music aesthetics; popular music culture; media piracy; cultural theory; critical anthropology; DIY; “maker” culture; gift theory; media analysis; communication theory; Autonomist Marxism; critical theory; continental philosophy; network theory; media and social activism; media and globalization; anti-capitalism; gender and technology

TEACHING POSITIONS

Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2019– 20

MIT3216 “The Culture of Consumption” (Fall 2019, Winter 2020)

MIT3132 “The Political Economy of the Entertainment Industries” (Winter 2020)

MIT2153 “The Entertainment Industries” (Fall 2019)

*Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2018 – 19*

MIT3130 “The New Political Economy of Media: Networked Capitalism” (Fall 2018)
MIT2153 “The Entertainment Industries” (Fall 2018, Winter 2019)
MIT2100 “The Political Economy of Media” (Winter 2019)
MIT3132 “The Political Economy of the Entertainment Industries” (Winter 2019)

*Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2017 – 18*

MIT3130 “The New Political Economy of Media: Networked Capitalism” (Fall 2017)
DC3205 “NetWork: Labour and Profit in Web. 2.0” (Fall 2017)
MIT3132 “The Political Economy of the Entertainment Industries” (Winter 2018)
MIT2153 “The Entertainment Industries” (Winter 2018)

*Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2016 – 17*

MIT2153 “The Entertainment Industries” (Fall 2016, Winter 2017 x2)
MIT3130 “The New Political Economy of Media: Networked Capitalism” (Fall 2016)
MIT2159 “Introduction to Popular Music Studies” (Fall 2016)

*Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2015 – 16*

MIT2153 “The Entertainment Industries” (Fall 2015 x2, Winter 2016)
MIT3130 “The New Political Economy of Media: Networked Capitalism” (Fall 2015)

*York University Department of Communication Studies
Assistant Professor (Contractually Limited Appointment – 2 Year) 2013-2015*

COMN2500 “Information and Technology” (2013-14, 2014-15)
COMN4201 “Resistance and Subversion on the Internet” (2013-14, 2014-15)
COMN4206 “NetWork: Digital Labour, Profit, and Exploitation” (Winter 2015)
COMN4270 “The Cultural Industries and Work” (Fall 2014)
COMN2830 “Music and Society” (2013-14)

*Western University Faculty of Information and Media Studies
Assistant Professor (Limited Duties Appointment) 2012 – 2013*

MIT2400 “Media and Promotionalism” (Fall 2012, Winter 2013)
MIT3133 “NetWork: Labour and Profit on Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, and Web 2.0” (Fall 2012, Winter 2013)
MIT 3404 “Media Piracy: Past, Present, and Future” (Winter 2013)

*McMaster University, Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia
Sessional Instructor 2009 – 2012*

CMST4E03 “Media and Promotionalism” (2011, 2012 x2)
CMST 4D03 “International Communications” (2010)
CMST 2K03 “Political Economy of the Media” (2009)

*Dalhousie University Department of Music
Sessional Instructor 2006 – 2012*

MUSIC2019 “Popular Music Since 1960: The Rock’n’Roll Era and Beyond” (2006, 2007, 2008
x2, 2009 x2, 2010 x2, 2011 x2, 2012 x2)
MUSIC2018 “Popular Music Until 1960” (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)

*University of Leeds, Institute of Communications Studies
Seminar Leader 2007 – 2009*

“Social Communications: Process and Effects” (2009)
“Introduction to Communications Theory” (2008, 2009)
“Critical Approaches to Internet Research” (2008, 2009)
“Communication Sciences and Technologies” (2008)

Teaching Assistantships

“Film Theory and Aesthetics,” University of Leeds, Institute of Communications Studies (2009)
“Popular Music in North America and the United Kingdom: Pre-World War II,” McMaster
University, School of the Arts (2006, 2007)
“Popular Music in North America and the United Kingdom: Post-World War II,” McMaster
University, School of the Arts (2006)
“Music for Film and Television,” McMaster University, School of the Arts (2005)
“Popular Music Since 1960: The Rock’n’Roll Era and Beyond,” Dalhousie University,
Department of Music (2005)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles

“Attack/Affect: System of a Down and Genocide Activism.” *Musiccultures* 38 (2011): 65-87.

(co-authored with Christina Baade) “Still ‘In The Mood’: The Nostalgia Aesthetic in a Digital
World.” *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 20.4 (2008): 353-377.

Dictionary/Encyclopædia Articles

(co-authored with Jeremy Morris) “Peer-to-Peer Content.” *International Encyclopedia of Digital
Communication and Society*. Robin Mansell, *et al.* eds. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

“Dale, Dick,” “File-sharing,” “MP3,” “MySpace,” “Piracy,” “Internet, Music and the,” and “Creative Commons.” *The Grove Dictionary of American Music*. 2nd ed. Charles Hiroshi Garrett, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Other

“Unity and Form in Miles Davis’s ‘Blue In Green’,” in *McMaster University Music Analysis Colloquium* 4 (2005).

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Plenary Panelist “30th Anniversary: The Past and Future of IASPM.” *Music and Labour*, The International Association for the Study of Popular Music Canadian Chapter Annual Conference. Hamilton, ON, 23 – 26 May, 2013.

“Pirates vs. the Pirate Party: Direct Action and the Representative Politics of Online Media Piracy.” Presented at *Canadian Communications Association Annual Conference*. University of Waterloo/Wilfrid Laurier University, 30 May–1 June, 2012.

“Pirates vs. the Pirate Party: Direct Action and the Representative Politics of Online Media Piracy.” Presented at *Popular Culture Association of Canada Annual Conference*. Niagara Falls, Ontario, 10–12 May, 2012.

“The Pirate Classroom: Popular Music and Teaching Toward the Common.” Presented at *Music and Environment: Place, Context, Conjecture*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music Canadian Chapter Annual Conference. McGill University, Montreal, QC, 16–19 June, 2011.

“Downing Tools in the Media Factory: Music Piracy and the Politics of Refusal.” Presented at *Canadian Communications Association Annual Conference*. University of New Brunswick, 1–3 June, 2011.

“Preferring Not To: Music Piracy and the Politics of Refusal.” Presented at *Popular Culture Association of Canada Inaugural Conference*. Niagara Falls, Ontario, 12–14 May, 2011.

“Attack: System of a Down, Affective Protest, and the Armenian Genocide.” Presented at *Spaces of Violence, Sites of Resistance: Music, Media and Performance*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music Canadian Chapter Annual Conference. University of Regina, Regina, SK, 3–6 June, 2010. *NOTE: Winner of the graduate student paper prize.*

“Righting History: System of a Down and the Armenian Genocide.” Presented at the *36th Annual Conference of the Society for American Music*. Carleton University, Ottawa, ON, 17–21 March 2010.

(with Christina Baade) “Still ‘In the Mood’: The Aesthetics of Nostalgia in the Digital World.” Presented at *Boundaries, Blockades and Bridges*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music-United States/Canada Joint Conference. Northeastern University, Boston, MA, April 2007.

“Sisters Are Doing It For Themselves: Women Musicians and Online Self-promotion.” Presented at *Reconfiguring, Relocating, Rediscovering*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music-United States Chapter Annual Conference. Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN, February 2006.

INVITED TALKS

(with Christina Baade) “Still ‘In the Mood’: The Aesthetics of Nostalgia in the Digital World.” University of York, UK, Department of Music, October 2007.

“Dialogic and Discursive Elements in Online Music Promotion.” Popular Culture Forum. Brock University, St. Catharine’s, ON, February 2006.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

“Swinging Nostalgia: Popular music and the Cultural Memory of World War II.” Dr. Christina Baade, McMaster University, 2006–07. Funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).

ADMINISTRATIVE / EDITORIAL POSITIONS

Web Administrator. *International Association for the Study of Popular Music*, Canadian Chapter. 2009–2015. <<http://iaspm.ca>>.

Web Administrator. *Music and Labour*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music-Canadian Chapter Annual Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 23–26 May 2013.

Instructional Assistant. McMaster University, Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia, January–April 2010

Media coordinator. *Going Coastal: Peripheries and Centres in Popular Music*. International Association for the Study of Popular Music-Canadian Chapter Annual Conference, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, 12–14 June 2009.

Co-organizer, media coordinator. *Communications Spaces/Places*. University of Leeds Institute of Communications Studies Post-graduate Conference, 6 June 2008.

Co-organizer, media coordinator. *Slavoj Žižek: The (Mis)uses of Violence*. University of Leeds, 18 March 2008.

Student Representative. University of Leeds Institute of Communications Studies Web Strategy Group 2007–08.

Administrator. *McMaster Music Criticism Online Discussion Forum*. 2005–06.

Website Design / Technical Adviser. *McMaster University Music Analysis Colloquium* 4, 2005.

Assistant to the International Student Exchange Coordinator. University of Western Ontario, 1998–99, 2001.

Editor. Arts & Entertainment Section. *The Lexicon*, York University Bethune College Newspaper, 1996–97.

Personal/professional website. <<http://paulaitken.com>>.

AWARDS

Graduate Student Paper Prize: *Spaces of Violence, Sites of Resistance: Music, Media and Performance*, International Association for the Study of Popular Music Canadian Chapter Annual Conference, University of Regina, Regina, SK, 3–6 June, 2010.

SCHOLARSHIPS

University of Leeds, Institute of Communications Studies Studentship, 2007–2010.

McMaster University Research Scholarship, 2005–07.

McMaster University Departmental Scholarship, 2005–06.

York University Student Exchange Programme Scholarship, 1997–98.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

The Old East Village Community Exchange Project, London, Ontario, 2015 – 2017

PROFESSIONAL MUSIC EXPERIENCE

Performance

Freelance Guitarist, all styles, 1990–present.

Leader, various small jazz ensembles, *avant garde* improvisatory collectives, funk, and rock bands, 1990–present.

Showband Guitarist, Carnival Cruise Lines: *MS Celebration*, 2000; *Carnival Victory*, 2005; *Carnival Spirit*, 2005.

University of York Jazz Orchestra, 1997–98.

York University Jazz Orchestra, 1993–94.

Awards and Recognition

Winner, Forest City London Music Awards, “Fantasy Band” for Guitar, 2019.

Nominee (with Kevin’s Bacon Train), Forest City London Music Awards, 2019.

Nominee, Jack Richardson London Music Awards, “Jazz Instrumental Solo/Group,” 2018.

Nominee (with Broomsticks & Hammers), Jack Richardson London Music Awards,
“Folk/Roots,” 2018.

Honourable Mention, BBC Big Band Competition, 1998

Commercial Recordings

Wake (2019) Phil Glennie.

Every Flash of Light (2018) Karen Morand.

Mirror Box (2017) Broomsticks & Hammers.

Made In London. Free 98.1 Compilation (2015) (with Kevin Greene & The Awesome Sauce).

York Sessions (2001) Independent release.

Live at the Jack Lyons Concert Hall (1998) Independent release.

Guitar Instruction

Private instruction, 1996-present.

The Canadian Conservatory. Halifax, Nova Scotia, 2005.

Belle Air Music. London, Ontario, 1997.

Cripple Creek Music, Huntsville, Ontario, 1995.

CITIZENSHIP

Canadian, British.

REFERENCES

Dr. David Hesmondhalgh
Professor / Head of Department
Institute of Communications Studies
University of Leeds
d.j.hesmondhalgh@leeds.ac.uk
PhD Internal Examiner

Dr. Paul A. Taylor
Senior Lecturer
Institute of Communications Studies
University of Leeds
p.a.taylor@leeds.ac.uk
PhD Supervisor

Dr. Christina Baade
Associate Professor
Department of Communication Studies and Multimedia
McMaster University
baadec@mcmaster.ca
MA Supervisor

Dr. Jacqueline Warwick
Associate Professor
Department of Music
Dalhousie University

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Professional Mentor