

# BENJAMIN JOSEPH THEVENIN

Associate Professor of Media Arts  
Department of Theatre and Media Arts  
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## EDUCATION

University of Colorado, Boulder

Doctorate of Philosophy in Media Studies awarded 2012

Dissertation: *Critical Media Literacy in Action: Uniting Theory, Practice and Politics in Media Education* (Committee Chair: Stewart Hoover)

Graduate Certificate: Critical Theory

Florida State University

Master's Degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities awarded 2008

Brigham Young University

Bachelor's Degree in Media Arts awarded 2006

## AREAS OF INTEREST

Media literacy education; Youth media; Film; Popular culture; Pedagogy; Eco-criticism; Civic engagement; New media; Games and learning; Social justice; Critical theory; New materialism

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Women & Film: Film Lab	Brigham Young University	2022 -
Black Lives: Film Lab	Brigham Young University	2020 -
Introduction to Graduate Studies	Brigham Young University	2019 -
Issues in Media Arts: Space, Place & Media Arts	Brigham Young University	2019 -
Contemporary Screens: Theories & Practice	Brigham Young University	2018 -
Issues in Media Arts: Superhero Culture	Brigham Young University	2018 -
Marriage & Family in Cinema: Film Lab	Brigham Young University	2018 -
Radical Films: Film Lab	Brigham Young University	2017 -
New Media Producing & Directing	Brigham Young University	2016 -
New Media Conceptualization	Brigham Young University	2016 -
Screens Theory	Brigham Young University	2013 -
Children's Media	Brigham Young University	2013 -
Hands on a Camera	Brigham Young University	2013 -
Media Literacy Education	Brigham Young University	2012 -

Film History	Brigham Young University	2013
Creativity, Research and Visualization	Brigham Young University	2012-2018
History of Non-Fiction Film	Brigham Young University	2012-2015
Contemporary Mass Media	University of Colorado (T.A.)	2010
Film Pedagogy	Brigham Young University	2008
Introduction to Mass Communication	Utah Career College	2008
English Composition	Utah Career College	2008
English Composition	Stevens-Henegar College	2008
Multicultural Film	Florida State University	2006-2008

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member of the Connected Learning Alliance (CLA)	2014 -
Member of National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE)	2011 -
Member of National Council for Teachers of English (NCTE)	2012-2014
Member of International Communication Association (ICA)	2010-2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***Books / Book Chapters***

Thevenin, B. (2022) *Making Media Matter: Critical Literacy, Popular Culture, and Creative Production*. Routledge.

Thevenin, B. (2022). Media Literacy Goes Outside: A Case for Speculative Realism and Environmental Justice in the Media Arts Classroom. In *Media Literacy and Social Justice in Action*. Ed. Belinha de Abreu. Routledge.

Hobbs, R. & Mihailidis, P., Eds. with G. Capello, M. Ranieri and B. Thevenin. (2019). *International Encyclopedia of Media Literacy*. Wiley-Blackwell.

Thevenin, B. (2017). "Remix Politics: Political Remix as an Analytic Framework for Critical Media Literacy." In *The International Handbook of Media Literacy Education*. Eds. Belinha de Abreu, Alice Lee, Julian McDougall, Jad Melki, Paul Mihailidis. Routledge.

Jensen, A.P. & Draper, R.J., Eds. with D. Barney, P. Broomhead, P. Musil, B. Thevenin and J. Wimmer. (2015). *Art Education and Literacies*. Routledge.

### ***Peer-Reviewed Articles***

Thevenin, B. & Parkin, J. (2020). "Storytelling, Theme Parks, and Media Literacy in *Dark Ride: Disneyland*." *Journal of Media Literacy*.

Thevenin, B. (2020, April). "Engaging with Things: Speculative Realism and Ecomedia Literacy Education." *Journal of Sustainability Education* 23.

Thevenin, B. (2020). "*Dark Ride: Disneyland*: Using Educational Games for Critical Media Literacy Education." *Journal of Media Literacy Education* 12(1).

Thevenin, B. (2013). "Princess Mononoke and Beyond: New Nature Narratives for Children." *Interactions: Studies in Communication and Culture* 4(2).

Mihailidis, P. & Thevenin, B. (2013). "Media Literacy as a Core Competency for Engaged Citizenship in a Participatory Democracy." *American Behavioral Scientist* 57(11).

Thevenin, B. with Mihailidis, P. (2012). "The Re-Politicization of Media Literacy Education." *The Journal of Media Literacy Education* 3(3).

### **Reviews & Other Contributions**

Thevenin, B. (2021). "Professional Resource: *Radical Hope: A Teaching Manifesto* (2020) by Kevin M. Gannon" (review). *Journal of Media Literacy Education* 12(4).

Thevenin, B. with Handley, G. & Giddins, C. (2020, April). "The Tree of Life, Eco-theology & Film: A Conversation with Prof. George Handley" (interview). *Journal of Sustainability Education* 23.

Thevenin, B. (2019). "Authorship and Participatory Culture" (entry). *The International Encyclopedia of Media Literacy*. Eds: Renee Hobbs & Paul Mihailidis. New York: Wiley.

Thevenin, B. (2019). "Media Arts" (entry). *The International Encyclopedia of Media Literacy*. Eds. Renee Hobbs & Paul Mihailidis. New York: Wiley.

Thevenin, B. (2017). "Twine as Alternative Media: Video Games, the Culture Industry and Social Change" (lesson plan). *Teaching Media Quarterly*, 5(2).

Thevenin, B. (2016). "Professional Resource: *The Routledge Companion to Remix Studies* (2015)" (review). *The Journal of Media Literacy Education* 8(1).

Thevenin, B. (2014). "Advertising that 'I'm a Mormon'" (sidebar in book). *Media, Religion and Culture: An Introduction*. Jeffrey H. Mahan. New York: Routledge.

Thevenin, B. (2011). "Professional Resource: *RIP! A Remix Manifesto* (2007)" (review). *The Journal of Media Literacy Education* 3(2).

### **Online**

Thevenin, B. (2013, July 2). "Online Discussions of Faith & Feminism in Mormon Culture & Theology." *Third spaces: A group blog from researchers at CU-Boulder's Center for Media, Religion and Culture*.

Thevenin, B. (2013, April 19). "Media and Society: Making Art and Making Change" *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project*.

Thevenin, B. (2012, March 28). "Bread and Circuses: Panem as Dystopian Future or Present?" *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project*.

Thevenin, B. (2012, January 20). "Thing Power: Recognizing Our Reflections (or Not) in Our Tablets." *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project*.

Thevenin, B. (2011, March 16). "All Your Subversion Are Belong to Culture Industry (That Means You Too, Banksy)." *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project*.

Thevenin, B. (2010, August 30). "The Wild Child: A Fresh Look at the Joys and Pains of Childhood in Film." *In Media Res: A MediaCommons Project*.

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- Thevenin, B. & Gale, R. (2022). The Force of Things in the Films of Bong Joon Ho. Southwest Popular and American Culture Association Conference. Albuquerque, NM.
- Thevenin, B., Elton, C., McClellan, M. & Wooley, J. (2021). Integrating Media Education and Environmental Justice Through Site-Specific Art. National Association for Media Literacy Association Conference. Virtual.
- Thevenin, B., Chavez, J., Gale, R. & Hatch, C. (2021). #ABetterBYU: Using Media to Deconstruct White Privilege at Predominately White Institutions. National Association for Media Literacy Education Conference. Virtual.
- Thevenin, B. (2020). Awareness Comes First: Critical Media Literacy in a World of Vibrant Matter. Critical Media Literacy Conference of the Americas. Virtual.
- Thevenin, B. (2019). Playing with Place: Games As Critical and Creative Interventions in the World. Salzburg Academy on Media and Global Change. Salzburg, Austria.
- Thevenin, B., Burton, S., Gold, E. & Lunt, C. (2019). Media Literacy Goes Outside: Object-Oriented Pedagogy & Eco-Criticism in Media Education. National Association for Media Literacy Education Conference. Washington, D.C.
- Thevenin, B. (2019). Media Literacy Fires Back: Object-Oriented Pedagogy in Media Education. International Critical Media Literacy Conference. Savannah, GA.
- Thevenin, B. (2018). Play & Pedagogy: Object-Oriented Media Literacy Education. Taking Back the Web: Critical Media Literacy Conference. Dublin, Ireland.
- Thevenin, B. (2018). Fan Favorites: Using Games to Promote Meaningful Conversations About Media. International Media Literacy Research Symposium/Play2Learn Conference. Lisbon, Portugal.
- Thevenin, B., Hawkes, I. and Bigler, M. (2017). *Dark Ride: Disneyland*: Mobile Games, Theme Parks & Media Literacy Education. National Association for Media Literacy Education. Chicago, IL.
- Thevenin, B., Barson, B., Bowles, C. and Parkin, J. (2016). Deconstructing Disneyland: An Experiment in Theme Park-Based Media Literacy Education. Digital Media and Learning. Irvine, CA.
- Thevenin, B. & Jensen, A.P. (2015). Using Arts Education and the National Core Arts Standards to Enrich Media Literacy Education. National Association for Media Literacy Education. Philadelphia, PA.
- Thevenin, B. with Bauer, B., Lee, M., Ostler, B. (2015). Political Remix in Media Education: 'It's Like Fan-Fiction for Social Justice...In the Classroom.' National Association for Media Literacy Education. Philadelphia, PA.
- Thevenin, B. (2015). Games 4Chan-ge: Twine as Critical Literacy & Empathy Education (and Anti-Troll Measure). Digital Media and Learning. Los Angeles, CA.
- Thevenin, B. with Vance, B. and Walker, A. (2015). Stories for Change: Media Literacy & Civic Engagement through Political Remix. Digital Media and Learning. Los Angeles, CA.
- Thevenin, B. (2013). Critical Theoretical Roots of Media Literacy Education. Historical Roots of Media Literacy Symposium. Providence, RI.
- Thevenin, B. (2013). Media Literacy as Curriculum: How Core Principles Provide a Conceptual Foundation for Critical Creative Work in the Media Arts Classroom. National Association for Media Literacy Education. Torrance, CA.

Giddens, C. & Thevenin, B. (2013). Students Teaching Teachers Isn't Anarchy. It's Necessary to Any Educational Effort, Especially in a Democratic Society. So How Do We Do It? National Association for Media Literacy Education. Torrance, CA.

Thevenin, B. (2012). Critical Agency: Shared Roots of Critical Media Literacy and Mormon Theology. Mormon Media Studies Symposium. Provo, UT.

Thevenin, B. (2012). Discovering Media Literacy's Emancipatory Potential. International Communication Association. Phoenix, AZ.

Thevenin, B. (2012). The Radio & the Road: Driving and Listening as a Heuristic for Social Theory. Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery. Colorado Springs, CO.

Thevenin, B. (2012). Can Dumbledore's Army Save the World? A Study of Fandom, Religion and Social Change. International Conference on Digital Religion. Boulder, CO.

Thevenin, B. (2011). The Re-Politicization of Media Literacy Education. National Association for Media Literacy Education. Philadelphia, PA.

Thevenin, B. & Bergreen, S. (2011). What's in Between Tweens and their Media? A Revised Model of Children, Media and Culture. Western Social Sciences Association. Salt Lake City, UT.

Thevenin, B. (2011). A New Nature Narrative for Children in Hayao Miyazaki's *Princess Mononoke*. Far West Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association. Las Vegas, NV.

Thevenin, B. (2011). *Braveheart* and the Crisis of Masculinity Among Christian Men. International Conference on Media, Religion and Culture. Toronto, Canada.

Thevenin, B. (2007). Homework for Dessert: Multiple Intelligences and Media Studies in the Home. National Association of Humanities Education. San Francisco, CA.

Thevenin, B. (2007). Sharkboy Saves the Day: Multiculturalism in the Children's Films of Robert Rodriguez. Film & Literature Conference. Tallahassee, FL.

## PANEL PRESENTATIONS

Thevenin, B. et al. (2014). Educators in the Evolving Industry of Digital Media. Film Utah & Digital Utah in coordination with the Sundance Film Festival, Park City, UT.

Thevenin, B. et al. (2013). Believing is Seeing--Religious Approaches to Media Literacy Education. National Association for Media Literacy Education. Torrance, CA.

Thevenin, B. et al. (2011). Why Facebook is Important to Your Student (and to You). University of Colorado - Fall Convocation. Boulder, CO.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Media Literacy Researcher Award, NAMLE 2022

Emerging Scholar Award, NAMLE 2011

## SERVICE

### PROFESSIONAL

Advisory Board, *Journal of Media Literacy Education* 2019-

Associate Editor, *International Encyclopedia of Media Literacy* 2019

Leadership Council Member, National Association for Media Literacy Education 2014-2019

Program Chair, NAMLE 2017 Conference	2017
Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Media Literacy Education</i>	2014-2016

UNIVERSITY

Faculty General Education Committee	2019-
Organizer, Media of Today and Tomorrow Symposium	2019
Organizer, BYU Video Game Studies Symposium	2015

COLLEGE

Diversity, Equity & Belonging Committee	2022 -
Laycock Center for Creative Collaboration Committee	2018-2021
Off-Campus Learning Committee member	2014-2016

DEPARTMENT

Media Arts Critical Studies Area Head	2013 -
Teaching and Learning Committee member	2012 -
Associate Graduate Coordinator	2014-2017, 2019-2020
Graduate Coordinator	2017-2019
Critical Studies Faculty Hiring Committee Chair	2016
Design Faculty Pre-Search Committee Member	2015
Documentary/New Media Faculty Hiring Committee Member	2015

ADVISEMENT

Faculty Advisor, <i>Aperture Media Journal</i>	2013 -
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Kennedy Koford	2020 -
Emerging Media Project Advisor, Hali Benabou, Ransie Gale & Chad Harvey "Animated Activists" (educational web-series)	2022
Emerging Media Project Advisor, Jose Chavez, Ransie Gale & Claire Hatch "A Better BYU" (web video & social media campaign)	2021
Emerging Media Project Advisor, Aarron Reupena & Jenna Larsen "Li'i and the Keeper of Whispers" (web-based interactive picture book)	2021
Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member, Alexis Romero-Walker (UNC - Chapel Hill) "Decolonizing Media Higher Education: Building Critical Media Literacy Principles that Adopt Understandings of the Body and Performance"	2021
Emerging Media Project Advisor, MarKaye Hassan "Look Around You" (360 film)	2021
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Brendan Decicio "The Layered Frames of Performed Tabletop: Actual-Play Podcasts and the Laminations of Media"	2020

Master's Thesis Committee Member, Junshik Yun "Representation of the National Trauma in <i>Train to Busan</i> : Based on a Semiotic Approach"	2020
Master's Thesis Committee Chair, Brittany Vance "This action will have consequences: How the video game <i>Life is Strange</i> balances entertainment with empathy"	2019
Emerging Media Project Advisor, Dallin Penrod & Cambree Snow "How Can I Help?" (claymation web-series)	2019
Emerging Media Project Advisor, Sam Burton & Abi Nielson Hunsaker "Radioland" (experimental narrative podcast)	2019
Critical Studies Capstone Advisor, Peter Totten	2017
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Rick Curtiss "It's a drag: Finding the divine in drag performance"	2017
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Tyrel Hanby "The status is not quo: Unraveling music videos"	2017
New Media Capstone Advisor, Malori Bigler "Robin Hoodwyn"	2017
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Amy Roskelly "The modern Mr. Darcy: An analysis of leading men in contemporary romantic comedy film"	2016
Master's Thesis Advisor & Committee Chair, Bob Bauer "Resisting the resistance: The emancipation of students from the hidden curriculum of commodified resistant narratives in young adult dystopian film through open pedagogical space and culture-jamming"	2015
Master's Thesis Committee Member, Reilly Ryan "Where are those good old fashioned values? Family and satire in <i>Family Guy</i> "	2015
Critical Studies Capstone Advisor, Kelyn Ikegami "Portrayals of masculinity in American high school films of the past decade"	2015
Honors Thesis Committee Member, Elisabeth Weagel "Cinelinguistic conflicts created by beautiful violence in cinema"	2015
Non-fiction Capstone Film Advisor, Scott Raia "Pride and Faith" (short documentary film)	2015

## CREATIVE WORK

Writer/Producer, <i>Little Hollywood</i> (feature film, in development) <a href="https://vimeo.com/657679603/e338948214">https://vimeo.com/657679603/e338948214</a>	2021 -
Creator, <i>Movies As Mirrors</i> (podcast) <a href="https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/movies-as-mirrors/id1462808915">https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/movies-as-mirrors/id1462808915</a>	2019-2020
Director, <i>Fan Favorites</i> (table-top game) <a href="http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/fan-favorites/">http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/fan-favorites/</a>	2018

Director, Game-Developer, <i>Dark Ride: Disneyland</i> (mobile game)	2018
Creator/Curator, <i>The Stuff of Nightmares</i> (web art) <a href="http://thestuffofnightmares2016.tumblr.com/">http://thestuffofnightmares2016.tumblr.com/</a>	2016
Creator, <i>a_glitch_aint</i> (digital art) <a href="http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/a_glitch_aint_01/">http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/a_glitch_aint_01/</a>	2016
Writer, <i>superMEN</i> (web comic) <a href="http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/supermen">http://benjaminthevenin.com/making/supermen</a>	2014