

THOMAS CONNER

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Curriculum vitae

Education

Ph.D. candidate in Communication (Science Studies)
at the Univ. of California-San Diego, 2021

M.A. in Communication
at the University of Illinois-Chicago, 2013

B.A. in Mass Communication
University of Oklahoma, 1993

Fellowships

National Arts Journalism Program Fellow
Columbia University (New York City), 2000-2001
— Researched at the Woody Guthrie Archives in New York City.

Pulliam Journalism Fellowship
The Arizona Republic (Phoenix, Ariz.), 1993
— Studied news coverage and covered newsroom features beats.

Teaching

Associate instructor
University of California-San Diego, 2018 to present
— COMM 111P: Performance & Cultural Studies
— COMM 190: Junior Seminar in Communication (My designed subjects: Music as Social Action, Arts Criticism in America)
— COMM 113T: Intermediate Topics in Communication (My designed subject: Music as Social Action)

Instructor
University of California-San Diego, 2016 to 2017, 2019-present
— MCWP 40: Critical Writing
— MCWP 50: Critical Writing (My designed themes: Media & Materiality; The Social Roles of Pop Culture Criticism)

Teaching Assistant

University of California-San Diego, 2014 to 2016

- COMM 100A: Situated Practices
- COMM 10: Introduction to Communication
- COMM 106i: The Internet Industry

Faculty adviser

University of Tulsa, 2004 to 2005

- Advising the annual staff of the student newspaper, *The Collegian*

Adjunct Instructor

University of Illinois-Chicago, 2008 to 2009

- COM 311: Interviewing Skills

University of Tulsa, 2000 to 2005

- COMM 3493: Features Writing
- COMM 3523: Editing for Print Media

Tulsa Community College, 1995 to 2000

- ENG 1113: Freshman Composition I
- ENG 1213: English Literature (Honors)

Publications

Book chapters

Conner, Thomas and Sigrid Schmalzer. (2018). "Technology." In Alyssa Botelho, Daniel S. Chard & Sigrid Schmalzer (Eds.), *Science for the People: Documents from America's Movement of Radical Scientists, 1969-1989*. Amherst: Univ. of Massachusetts Press.

Conner, Thomas. (2015). "Hatsune Miku, 2.0Pac and Beyond: Rewinding and Fast-forwarding the Virtual Pop Star." In Whiteley, S. & Rambarran, S. (Eds.), *Music and Virtuality*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press.

Conner, Thomas. (2007). "Getting Along: Woody Guthrie and Oklahoma's Red Dirt Musicians." In D. Joyce (Ed.), *Alternative Oklahoma: Contrarian Views of the Sooner State* (pp. 87-112). Norman, Okla.: Univ. of Okla. Press.

Peer-reviewed papers

Conner, Thomas. (2020). "Pepper's Ghost and the Augmented Reality of Modernity." *Journal of Science & Popular Culture*, 3 (1): 57-79.

Conner, Thomas. (2015). "'Our Unseen Friend': Early Radio and the Tuning In of Woody Guthrie's Performing Persona." *Woody Guthrie Annual*, 1 (1).

Conner, Thomas. & Jones, Steve. (2014). "Art to Commerce: The Trajectory of Popular Music Criticism." *IASPM@Journal (International Association for the*

Study of Popular Music), 4 (2).

Conner, Thomas. (2002). "Dear Reader: A Pop Critic Responds to the Day's Mail." *ARTicles*, 7, pp. 138-149.

Book reviews

Conner, Thomas. (2019). Review of *Robot Rights* by David J. Gunkel, *New Media & Society*, January.

Conner, Thomas. (2016). Review of *Feed-Forward: On the Future of Twenty-First-Century Media* by Mark B.N. Hansen. *JHistory, H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, December.

Conner, Thomas. (2014). Review of *Writing the Record: The Village Voice and the Birth of Rock Criticism* by Devon Powers. *H-1960s; H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, April.

Conner, Thomas. (2014). Review of *How Does It Feel? Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Bob Dylan, and the Philosophy of Rock and Roll* by Grant Maxwell. *H-1960s; H-Net Reviews in the Humanities and Social Sciences*, November.

Other research

Conner, Thomas. (2001). "From Instinct to Intuition: Tracking Woody's HD." Paper and notes commissioned by the Woody Guthrie Archives and now part of the collection.

Conferences

Conference presentations

Conner, Thomas. (2020). "Pepper's Ghost and the Augmented Reality of Modernity." ZOOMPOSIUM: Performance, Science & Technology, a virtual conference organized by the Australian National Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, Nov. 27, online.

Jones, Steve, Andrea Guzman, Thomas Conner & Ekaterina Pashevich. (2020). "Human-Machine Communication: Ethical Perspectives," a panel at AoIR 2020, Oct. 5, online.

Conner, Thomas. (2020). "The Gesture of Holography." Invited to join the panel "Holographic Art and the Animated Image: Histories and Conservation" at the College Art Association annual conference, Feb. 12, Chicago.

Conner, Thomas, Songyi Lee, et al. (2018). "Presence in Practice: A Discussion About Presence via Telepresence Tech." One of a dozen discussants on this panel of worldwide scholars assembled virtually for the attendees at the PRESENCE 2018 annual conference, May 21, Prague.

Conner, Thomas. (2017). "Holopresence: A theory for augmented modernity." Presented at the International Communication Association annual conference, May 27, San Diego.

Conner, Thomas. (2017). "Holopresence: A theory for augmented modernity." Presented at the biennial UCSD Science Studies Graduate Conference, May 19, UCSD, San Diego.

Conner, Thomas. (2017). "Holograms: Historical Ghosts in the Machines." Presented at the History of Science Graduate Student Seminar, Feb. 25, UCLA, Los Angeles.

Conner, Thomas. (2016). "'Our Unseen Friend': Early Radio and the Tuning In of Woody Guthrie's Performing Persona." Presented at the Woody Guthrie Symposium, April 30, The Univ. of Tulsa, Tulsa, Okla.

Conner, Thomas. (2015). "All Eyez on Me: Virtual Performers and New Media Memories." Presented at 2015 Cultural Studies Assoc. 13th annual Cultural Studies Conference, May 21-24, Riverside, Calif.

Conner, Thomas. (2014). "Hatsune Miku and the Design of the Virtual Pop Star." Presented at the 4S / ESOCITE Joint Meeting, Aug. 20-23, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Conner, Thomas. (2014). "Virtual Pop Stars and the Digitization of Performance." Presented at Theorizing the Web 2014, April 25-26, New York City.

Conner, Thomas. (2013). "Hatsune Miku and the Design of the Virtual Pop Spectacle." Presented at 2013 Cultural Studies Assoc. 11th annual Cultural Studies Conference, May 23-26, Chicago.

Conner, Thomas. (2012). "An Unaccompanied Movement?: Listening for Protest Songs at Occupy Wall Street." Presented at the National Communication Association conference, Nov. 15-18, 2012, in Orlando, Fla.

Conner, Thomas. (2012). "Rei Toei Lives!: Hatsune Miku and the Design of the Virtual Pop Star." Presented at VisCom 26 (visual communication conference), June 20-24, 2012, in Midway, Utah.

Conner, T. (2012). "Oklahoma's Red Dirt Music and Its Debt to Woody." Presented at the Woody at One Hundred: The Woody Guthrie Centennial Celebration, 1912-2012, March 10, 2012, at the Univ. of Tulsa (Okla.).

Conference fellowships

Research fellowship at the conference on Science for the People, April 11-13, 2014, at UMass-Amherst. Assisted in collection of historical materials.

Public lectures & speaking

Conner, Thomas. (2015). Keynote address. Presented at the awarding of the inaugural Changing World Prize, Oct. 11, 2015, at the Woody Guthrie Center, Tulsa, Okla.

Conner, Thomas. (2012). "Woody@100: One Life, Many Legacies." Presented Oct. 19, 2012, at St. Xavier Univ., Chicago.

Editorial activities

Ad hoc peer reviewer for the *Journal of Virtual Worlds Research*, 2019-present.

Ad hoc peer reviewer for the journal *New Media & Society*, 2014-present.

Annual reviewer of conference paper submissions for the Western States Communication Association, 2016-present.

For teaching statement, professional resumé, clips, blog, links to many of the above texts, and more, please visit thomasconner.info.

THOMAS CONNER

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Professional resumé

Media experience

@ the Chicago Sun-Times

— *daily newspaper, circ. 400,000, and website, avg. 1 million unique visits daily (Chicago, Ill.)*

Pop Music Critic, 2010 to 2013

Featured columnist, writing music criticism, features, and news across the Sun-Times platform (print editions, website, my own blog), as well as commentary on trends and issues related to music and the listening experience.

Online Features Editor, 2007 to 2010

Managed all features content at *suntimes.com*, including tailoring print stories for optimal Web readership, generating engaging original content. Improved external performance (boosted unique visits, SEO, social media outreach) and internal (writer training, editor liaison).

Assistant Features Editor, 2005 to 2007

Planning, assigning, editing and proofing of several entertainment sections. Managing small staffs of writers (staff and freelance), copy editors and designers. Budgeting, too.

- During both editorships above I served concurrently as **Music Editor**, overseeing the pop music critic plus two staff writers and a stable of freelance writers, assigning features and reviews, as well as budgeting.

@ the Tulsa World

— *daily newspaper, circ. 160,000 (Tulsa, Okla.)*

Assistant Features Editor, 2002 to 2005

Planning, assigning, editing and proofing of entertainment and lifestyles sections. Managing a staff of 21 writers, copy editors and designers.

Producer, Spot Music Awards, 1999 to 2005

Created, planned, and produced this annual awards ceremony recognizing local musicians and marketing the Tulsa World's weekly A&E tab, Spot. Boosted our visibility in a key demographic, advertising opportunities, and Friday readership.

Pop Music Critic, 1995 to 2002

Award-winning features coverage and arts criticism in this mid-sized market, writing everything from weekly previews and countless CD reviews to breaking news and long-form features.

Freelance

An active freelance writer, my features work has been published in The Washington Post, DownBeat magazine, Obit magazine, Tulsa Voice, among others, and I remain a proud occasional contributor to This Land magazine.

Other work has included a history of the Cain's Ballroom for the venue, as well as various bios and press materials for bands (e.g., the Boondogs, Flick).

Radio

Six years writing and delivering occasional music commentaries called "Warped Vinyl" for KWGS, 89.5-FM (NPR affiliate), 1999 to 2005.

Early experience includes a year as a **Copy Editor** (Tulsa World, 1994 to 1995), a **Reporter** covering three communities (Community World, 1993 to 1994), a **Staff Reporter** covering all beats (The Del City Sun, 1989 to 1990) and a **Consultant** creating a news manual/style guide (Univ. of Oklahoma, 1993).

Publications & theater

Anthologized articles

Conner, Thomas. (2015). "Dispatches From the Weedpatch Camp." In Mason, Michael & Wall, Holly (Eds.), *A Voice Was Sounding: Selected Works from This Land, Vol. 5*. Tulsa, Okla.: This Land Press.

Conner, Thomas. (2014). "The Ghost of Karen Dalton." In Mason, M & Wall, H. (Eds.), *A Voice Was Sounding: Selected Works from This Land, Vols. 3 & 4*. Tulsa, Okla.: This Land Press.

Conner, Thomas. (2012). "Heaven and Heart: The Tense Past of Michael Been." In Mason, Michael & Brown, Mark (Eds.), *A Voice Was Sounding: Selected Works from This Land Vols. 1 & 2*. Tulsa, Okla.: This Land Press.

Books

Conner, T., Wooley, J. & Brown, M. (1999). *Forever Lounge: A Laid-Back Guide to the Languid Sounds of Lounge Music*. Iola, Wisc.: Antique Trader Publications.

Plays

“Time Changes Everything”

Premiered June 25, 2009, as a featured production at the annual SummerStage festival in the Tulsa Performing Arts Center, with a dozen regional productions through April 2013

— A play, co-written with John Wooley, chronicling two fictional conversations between folksinger Woody Guthrie and country bandleader Bob Wills.

Awards & honors

First Place in Arts Criticism at the 2002 Katie Awards (Dallas Press Club), plus consistent top-three showings in the annual awards from both Associated Press/Oklahoma News Executives and the Society of Professional Journalists, as well as several newsroom honors.

For writing samples and more, please visit thomasconner.info.