

CURRICULUM VITAE
March 2009

A. RECORD

1. Name: JON SIMONS

2. Current Contact Details:

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3. Present appointment:

Associate Professor, Department of Communication and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington, USA.

4. Previous appointments:

2002-2006: Associate Professor/Senior Lecturer in Critical Theory, Department of Critical Theory and Cultural Studies, University of Nottingham

1995-2002: Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Postgraduate School of Critical Theory, University of Nottingham.

1993-95: I held concurrent part-time lectureships (adjunct professorships) in the Department of Political Science, Hebrew University; Department of Political Science, Tel Aviv University; Gender Studies Programme, Hebrew University; and The Seminary of Judaic Studies, Jerusalem.

1992-93: Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Department of Government, Harvard University.

5. Qualifications:

1989-93: Ph.D. in Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

1985-88: M.A. in Political Science, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

1979-82: B.A. in Politics and Modern History, University of Manchester.

6. Research fellowships and awards

Indiana University, New Frontiers Arts and Humanities Exploration Travelling Fellowship, Summer 2009, \$2,5000.

Indiana University, College of Arts and Humanities Institute, research fellowship (2008) (one course relief).

Indiana University, College of Arts and Sciences, summer research fellowships (2007-9) (\$8,000 for each summer).

British Academy overseas conference grant: “American Political Science Association,” 2004.

British Academy overseas conference grant: “History, technology and identity: after Foucault,” 2000.

Arts and Humanities Research Board (**AHRB**) research leave award: “Political Thought in the Age of Images.” Salary costs to provide cover for one sabbatical semester, matched by University of Nottingham study leave, 1999.

3 year **British Council** research grant in my capacity as Co-ordinator of a Higher Education Link between the University of Nottingham and the University of Indonesia for a project on “Social Justice, Political Justice, Cultural Justice, Gender Justice,” 1998-2001.

International collaborator for a research project on “Political Communities” directed by Professor Fumio Iida, Department of Political Science, Kobe University, Japan, funded by the **Matsushita International Foundation** (1998). I was funded to make three paper presentations in Japan together with two colleagues from the United States (Professor Stephen Macedo and Professor Nancy Rosenblum).

British Council and University of Nottingham International Office funding for academic visit to Jakarta, July 1997.

Fulbright Postdoctoral Research Fellowship and **Lady Davis** Postdoctoral Fellowship, 1992-1993. The fellowships provided me with funding for my position as Visiting Fellow, Department of Government, Harvard University.

Israeli Council for Higher Education, Planning and Grants Committee, Doctoral Scholarship, 1990-92. Award for fees and maintenance.

7. Prizes

1993: Bloomfield Prize for outstanding doctoral dissertation, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

1989: Israel Political Science Association prize for outstanding M.A. thesis.

B. RESEARCH

1. PUBLICATIONS AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY:

BOOKS

Foucault and the Political (Routledge: London, 1995. Reprinted 1996 and 2000).

EDITED VOLUMES

Culture, Theory and Critique Vol. 50, No. 1 (forthcoming 2009). I edited a special issue on 'Democratic Aesthetics' and wrote an introduction to the issue.

Images: A Reader (co-edited with Sunil Manghani and Arthur Piper) (Sage: London, 2006). In addition to co-selecting and editing 81 selections, I co-authored the anthology's Introduction and the introductions to 13 sections.

Contemporary Critical Theory: From Lacan to Said (Edinburgh University Press, 2004).

This is a companion volume to *From Kant to Lévi-Strauss* (see below). For this volume I wrote the Introduction and the chapter on Foucault.

Culture, Theory and Critique Vol. 44, No. 1 (2003). I edited a special issue on 'Images and Text' and wrote an introduction to the issue.

From Kant to Lévi-Strauss: The Background to Contemporary Critical Theory (Edinburgh University Press, 2002).

For this volume I wrote the Introduction, introductions to each chapter, two chapters (on "Kant" and "Nietzsche"), and co-authored a chapter (on "Weber").

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

"From Visual Literacy to Image Competence". In James Elkins (ed.) *Visual Literacy* (Routledge: New York, 2007), pp. 77-90.

"The Radical Democratic Possibilities of Popular Culture". In Lars Tønder and Lasse Thomassen (eds.) *On Radical Democracy: Politics Between Abundance and Lack* (Manchester University Press, 2005), pp. 149-66.

- “Televisual Popular Politics: Diana and Democracy”. In John Hall, Blake Stimson and Lisa Tamiris Becker (eds.) *Visual Worlds* (Routledge: London, 2005), pp. 44-55.
- “Popular Culture and Mediated Politics: Intellectuals, Elites and Democracy”. In John Corner and Dick Pels (eds.) *Media and the Restyling of Politics* (Sage: London, 2003), pp. 171-89.
- “El sujeto del feminismo y la representación de las mujeres.” In Fabricio Forastelli and Ximena Triquell (eds.) *Las Marcas del Género: Configuraciones de la Diferencia en la Cultura* (Centro de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba: Córdoba, 1999), pp. 85-94.
- “The Critical Force of Fictive Theory: Jameson, Foucault and Woolf.” In Iain MacKenzie and Shane O’Neill (eds.) *Reconstituting Social Criticism* (Macmillan: London, 1999), pp. 83-102. Also published in Ahmad Sahal, Ayu Utami, Eko Endarmoko and Sitok Srengenge (eds.) *Utan Kayu: Tafsir Dalam Permainan* (Yayasan Kalam: Jakarta, 1998), pp.1-24.
- “Foucault’s Mother.” In Susan Hekman (ed.) *Feminist Interpretations of Foucault* (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1996), pp.179-209.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- “Aestheticisation of Politics: From Fascism to Radical Democracy.” *Journal of Cultural Research* Vol. 12, No. 3 (2008), pp. 207-29.
- “Governing The Public: Technologies Of Mediation And Popular Culture.” *Cultural Values* Vol. 6, Nos. 1&2 (2002), pp. 167-81.
- “Aesthetic Political Technologies.” *Intertexts* Vol. 6, No.1 (2002), pp. 74-97.
- “Democracy is a Failure Worthy of Infinite Repetition.” *Critical Horizons* Vol. 2, No. 1 (2001), pp. 127-48.
- “Politics and Truth: Immanence, Practice and Constellations.” *Social Epistemology* Vol. 15, No. 1 (2001), pp. 43-58.
- “Postmodern Paranoia? Pynchon and Jameson.” *Paragraph*, Vol. 23, No. 2 (2000), pp. 207-221.
- “Spectre over London: *Mary Poppins*, Privatism and Finance Capital.” *Scope* (July 2000), <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/film/journal/articles/mary-poppins/htm>.
- “Knowing and Doing, Scepticism and Coherence.” *Political Theory*, Vol. 28, No. 2 (April 2000), pp. 273-278.

“Ideology, Imagology and Critical Thought: The Impoverishment of Politics.” *Journal of Political Ideology* Vol. 5 No. 1 (2000), pp. 81-103.

“Modernist Misapprehensions of Foucault's Aesthetics.” *Cultural Values*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (2000), pp. 40-57.

“The Aestheticization of Politics: An Alternative to Left-Modernist Critiques.” *Strategies*, Vol. 12, No. 2 (1999), pp.173-190.

“The Exile of Political Theory: The lost homeland of legitimation.” *Political Studies*, Vol. 43, No.4 (1995), pp. 683-697.

“Embodying Spirits of Resistance.” [with Paul Routledge, 50% share] *Society and Space*, Vol. 13 (1995), pp. 471-498.

“From Resistance to Polaesthics: Politics after Foucault.” *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, Vol. 17, No. 1 (1991), pp. 41-55.

“Rationalities of Government and Peace: Israeli Thought on the Arab Israeli Conflict.” *Millennium*, Vol. 20, No. 2 (September, 1991), pp.143-153.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“The Dialectics of Diana as Empty Signifier.” *Theory & Event* Vol. 1 No. 4 (1997).
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/theory_and_event

“Beyond Sisterhood and Racism, in the Borderlands: A Response to Rabinowitz.” *Te'oriah U'bikoret*, No.7 (Winter, 1995) (in Hebrew), pp. 20-29.

DICTIONARY AND ENCYCLOPAEDIA ENTRIES

“Israel.” In *Oxford Companion to Politics of the World*, ed. Joel Krieger (Oxford University Press: New York, 1993) [with Baruch Kimmerling, 50% share] pp. 476-8.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

* Indicates that a paper was or will be published, generally after revision and sometimes under a different title.

(i) Papers delivered after peer review of abstract

“Radical Political Action: Contingency, Ontology, Communication,” Roundtable on “Radical Political Action,” *National Communication Association Annual Meeting*, San Diego, November 22nd 2008. (Peer review of roundtable proposal).

- “Stars and Dictators: Benjamin and the Technological Reproduction of Obama,” Roundtable on “Democracy and Images,” *American Political Science Association* Annual Meeting, Boston, August 28-31 2008. (Peer review of roundtable proposal).
- “Democracy’s Mirror Moment of Mis/Recognition,” Visual Democracy conference, Northwestern University, 2-4 November 2007.
- “Democratically Aestheticised Politics,” *American Political Science Association* Annual Meeting, Chicago, 31 August – 2 September 2007.
- “Rehabilitating Affect: Neuroscience And Political-Cultural Theory,” *From the Brain to Human Culture: Intersections between the Humanities and Neuroscience* conference, Bucknell University, April 20-22, 2007.
- “The Science of Emotions: ‘Elite Popularisations’ in Print Media.” *National Communications Association*, San Antonio, 16-19 November 2006.
- “The Power of Political Images.” *American Political Science Association* Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 31 August – 3 September 2006.*
- “From Visual Literacy to Image Competence.” First International Conference on Visual Literacy, University College, Cork, 14-16 April 2005.*
- “The Radical Democratic Possibilities of Popular Culture.” *American Political Science Association* Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2-5 September 2004.*
- “Emotions and Political Judgement.” *Politics and the Emotions* conference, Centre for Critical Theory, University of West England, 16-18 April 2004.
- “The Public sees itself in the Mirror: Populist Media and Popular Protest.” *British Political Studies Association*, Leicester, 17 April 2003.
- “Visual and Verbal Political Styles: Diana and Deliberation,” *Canadian Political Science Association*, Toronto, 29-31 May 2002; and *Visual Worlds* Conference, UC Davis, 25-28 October, 2001.*
- “Images, Ideographs and Critique.” *International Social Theory Consortium*, Annual conference, University of Sussex, 5-8 July 2001.
- “Technologies of Government and Communication.” *Finding the Political* conference, Goldsmith’s College, January 26, 2001.*
- “Critical Images as Critical Theory.” *Social Theory 2000* conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington, May 11-14, 2000.
- “Aesthetic Political Technologies.” Conference on *History, Technology, and Identity: After Foucault*, University of South Carolina, March 16-18, 2000.*

- “The Politics of Difference and the Impossibility of Justice.” Conference on *Nationalism, Identity, Minority Rights*, University of Bristol, September 16-19, 1999.*
- “Secular Truth and Secular Politics.” *American Political Science Association* annual meeting, Atlanta, 2-5 September 1999.*
- “The Impossible Universality of Democracy.” Conference on *Deconstruction Reading Politics*, Staffordshire University, July 26-29 1999.*
- “Subject, Action, Scepticism and Coherence.” *Northeastern Political Science Association*, Boston, November 12-14 1998.*
- “Democracy, Deliberation and Imagology.” Saintsbury Conference on *Rewriting Democracy: Postmodern Cultural Politics*, Edinburgh University, November 6-8 1998.*
- “The Aestheticization of Politics: An Alternative to Left-Modernist Critiques.” *Western Political Science Association*, Los Angeles, March 20-22 1998.*
- “From Ideology to ‘Imagology’: The aestheticization of political thought.” *American Political Science Association* Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., August 28-31, 1997.*
- “Subverting the Space of Mothering: a Strategy for Feminist Resistance.” Conference on *Geographies of Domination/Resistance*, University of Glasgow, September 19-21, 1996.*
- “The Critical Force of Fictive Theory.” Conference on *Reconstituting Social Criticism*, Queen's University of Belfast, June 28-30, 1996.*
- “Postmodern Paranoia? Foucault and Pynchon on Power.” Symposium on *Interrogating Paranoia*, Chelsea College of Art and Design, June 15, 1996.*
- “Fictive Theory as Critical Theory? Jameson, Pynchon, Foucault and Woolf.” The International Workshop on *Contemporary Models of Critique in Society, Science and the Arts*, Tel Aviv University and the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, May 13-16, 1996.*
- “The Representation of Women: Post-colonial feminism in an Israeli context.” Conference on *Feminist Thought and Research in and about Israel*, Tel Aviv University, March 29-31, 1995.*
- “The Lament of Political Theory: A Tale of Exile and Homeland.” *New York State Political Science Association* meeting, Hunter College, March 1993.*

(ii) Invited presentations

- “The Public Sees Itself in *The Mirror*: Popular Media as Technologies of Democratic Government.” Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Department of Political Science, 30 March 2005.
- “Comments for Roundtable on Aryeh Botwinick’s *Skepticism, Belief and the Modern*.” *American Political Science Association* annual meeting, Atlanta, 2-5 September 1999.
- “Aesthetics and Politics: Rhetorical Approaches.” *Theory, Culture and Society* seminar, Nottingham Trent University, 30 June 1999.*
- “The Aestheticization of Politics.” Kobe University, 23 June 1998 and International Christian University, Tokyo, 19 June 1998.*
- “Ideology, Imagology, and Critical Thought.” Waseda University, Tokyo, 20 June 1998.*
- “Foucault’s Aesthetics of Existence: Modernist Misapprehensions and Nietzschean Alternatives.” Manchester Centre for Political Thought, Conference on *Nietzsche and Foucault*, 13 March 1998.*
- “Critical Social and Political Theories.” A series of six lecture-seminars, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, University of Indonesia, July 1997.
- “Fictive Theory as Critical Theory? Jameson, Pynchon, Foucault and Woolf.” Department of Politics, University of Newcastle, November 25, 1996 and Ben Gurion University, Israel, May 1997.*
- “The Exile of Political Theory: Lost Homelands and Nomadic Sojourn.” Department of Government, Harvard University, May 1993.*

(iii) International research workshop papers

- “Justice and Heterogeneity.” Workshop on *Social Justice and Social Movements*, University of Indonesia, March 22-23 1999.
- “Democracy is a Failure Worthy of Infinite Repetition.” Workshop on *Democracy and Legitimacy*, University of Nottingham, December 11-13 1998.*
- “The Subject of Feminism and the Representation of Women.” Workshop on *Gender (The Very Idea)*, University of Nottingham, November 13-14 1997.*

(iv) National research workshop papers

- “Aestheticisation of Politics: Fascism and Democracy,” pre-conference seminar on Democratic Aesthetics” at the National Communication Association’s annual meeting, Chicago, 14th November 2007.*

(v) Local research workshop papers

“Aestheticization of Politics: Benjamin, Fascism, and Communism.” Political Theory Colloquium, Indiana University, Bloomington, October 31st 2008.

“Democracy’s Mirror Moment of Mis/Recognition: Diana and her Public,” Forum on *Images And Public Culture: Understanding Images Across The Humanities*, Indiana University, Bloomington, February 22nd 2008.

SCHOLARLY EDITORIAL WORK

Book Series

Co-editor (with Prof. Simon Tormey, Head of School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Sydney) of a series published by Manchester University Press, *Reappraising the Political*. Approximately 15 books will be commissioned, beginning in 2004-5. Five titles have so far been commissioned and published.

Journals

Member of editorial board of *Culture, Theory and Critique*. I helped transform *Renaissance and Modern Studies*, published by the University of Nottingham, into a new journal published by Taylor & Francis since 2002. I have edited a special issue of the journal on *Democratic Aesthetics* that will be published in 2009, a special issue on *Images and Texts* that appeared in 2003, and an open issue in 2005.

Member of editorial board of *Second Nature: The International Journal of Creative Media*.

I have refereed papers submitted to the journals: *Quarterly Journal of Speech*; *Contemporary Political Theory*; *Theory & Event*; *Foucault Studies*; *Political Studies*; *Theory, Culture and Society*; *History of the Human Sciences*; *European Journal of Political Thought*; *Cultural Values*; and *Iyyun*, as well as manuscripts for *University of Alabama Press*, *Routledge* and *University of Illinois Press*. I have written book reviews for *Post-Structuralism and Radical Politics Newsletter*, *Political Studies* and *Modern and Contemporary France*.

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

2003: I was one of the academic convenors of an international conference on ‘Image and Critique’ held in the University of Nottingham 13-14th September 2003. The conference, which was co-sponsored by the Postgraduate School of Critical Theory and the Nottingham Institute for Research into Visual Culture (NIRV), was partly funded by the British Academy.

1998-2001: As part of a three-year project I organised in Nottingham an international research workshop each year attended by Indonesian colleagues:

March 2001: *Gender Justice and Democracy: Women and Democratisation in Comparative Perspective*.

March 2000: *Regional, Religious and Ethnic Conflicts*.

December 1998: *Democracy and Legitimacy*.

INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH FORUM

Images and Public Culture: Understanding Images Across The Humanities.

I initiated establishment of the Forum on “Images and Public Culture” under the auspices of the Cultural Studies Program, working with Claude Cookman and Radhika Parameswaran (Journalism), Brenda Weber (Gender Studies) and Patrick McNaughton (Art History). The Forum began its activities in the Fall semester of 2007 with regular presentations by Bloomington faculty as well as reading group style meetings. The purpose of this forum is to enable and encourage colleagues from various disciplines to share research and creative production, methodologies and interests, to experience creative encounters, and foster interdisciplinary work.

On behalf of the Images Forum, I successfully nominated Prof. Tom Mitchell of the University of Chicago for a Patten Lectureship at Indiana University in 2009-10. The Lectureship bears an honorarium of \$15,000.

2. RESEARCH ACHIEVEMENTS

My research interests have been developed through 43 different paper presentations at conferences, workshops and other institutions. Most of the papers presented have been published, generally after revision, resulting in 13 published book contributions as well as 17 journal articles. My research has also been published through a monograph, 2 edited volumes, an edited anthology and 2 special journal issues. I have been awarded a British Arts and Humanities Research Board research leave grant, received competitive research funding from Indian University and the University of Nottingham, participated in two funded international research projects, and organised three international research workshops. My expertise in political theory has been recognised by my being invited to become co-editor of an on-going series in that field published by Manchester University Press.

(a) Forthcoming book projects

Politics and Aesthetics: Style, Emotion and Mediation (Edinburgh University Press and New York University Press, manuscript to be re-submitted in 2010).

The book argues for a recuperation of aesthetics in critical political theory, which has generally been antipathetic to the aestheticization of politics, as in Benjamin’s famous ‘sound bite’ about fascism. Antipathy can be traced back to Plato, but is best conceived in modern terms through the Kantian tripartition of

faculties, translated into Weber's cultural value spheres. The book therefore argues that only a non-Kantian notion of aesthetics, to be traced from Nietzsche through Foucault, can inform critical political theory's return to aesthetics. In contemporary terms, the Left's anti-aestheticism translates into a disdain for images, myths and symbols, being evident in condemnations of contemporary 'designer' and 'mediatized' politics (shared with other liberal political commentators, such as Daniel Boorstin). These arguments are rebutted throughout the book, in an attempt to undo the 'bad image' that aesthetic politics have on the Left. Central to my counter-argument is that the problem is not that politics is aestheticized, but some of the ways in which it has been aestheticized. The book will outline an approach to political thought that demonstrates the political, ethical and even critical potential of the aestheticized dimension of politics, arguing that critical thought must itself be aesthetic. The book argues that a vibrant, democratic politics is not foreclosed by aesthetic politics and thought. Rather, aesthetics is the condition of active democratic political life and a critical citizenry.

From Agamben To Žižek: Contemporary Critical Theorists (Edinburgh University Press, manuscript to be submitted in 2010).

I am currently editing a second edited volume about contemporary critical theorists. The book aims to provide students and other readers with an accessible, introductory understanding of key figures in contemporary critical theory. It is designed as a sequel to the volumes *From Kant to Lévi-Strauss: The Background to Contemporary Critical Theory* and *Contemporary Critical Theorists: From Lacan to Said*. It will include chapters on: Laclau and Mouffe; Slavoj Žižek; Gayatri Spivak; Giorgio Agamben; Judith Butler; Alain Badiou; Donna Haraway; Homi Bhabha; Jacques Rancière; Bruno Latour; Antonio Negri; Cornelius Castoriadis; Zygmunt Bauman; Paul Virilio; Green theory.

(b) Future research projects

1. Images of Peace in Israel

In the summer of 2009, with the support of an Indian University New University Exploration Traveling Fellowship, I will begin an interdisciplinary study of images of peace used explicitly and implicitly by the Israeli peace movement. The project will assess the productivity of those images in promoting peace. Images of peace are treated as abstract, complex condensations, manifested through visual and other media, which could potentially change the dominant discourse of "security" and thereby serve as a critical concept, even though those images are not dissimilar to marketing concepts. Records of the activities of various peace organisations will be researched as rhetorical performances and enactments of style that present images of peace.

2. Political Imagery

The project on images of peace in Israel is envisaged as the first episode in a longer research project, to culminate in a book, which both advances the

conceptual understanding of political imagery and analyses specific political images. The research project entails an interdisciplinary approach to the notion of political imagery, drawing from scholarship in the fields of political marketing and political theory, art history, visual studies, and media studies. Political and cultural imagery is generally conceived according to two contrasting approaches, the first descriptive and instrumentalist, the second critical. The first approach associated political imagery with branding, whose exponents conceive it as the inculcation of underlying appeals, designed to create an indelible impression on consumers. The instrumentalist approach to political imagery implied by political marketing has been criticised fundamentally by those for whom politics bears its own normative standards of discursive deliberation and reasoning, in relation to which imagery is said to be simplifying or distorting. This project diverges from these two approaches by taking a path between the uncritical attitude towards imagery in the practice of political marketing (iconophilia) and the critical attack on political imagery as illusionary and ultimately irrational (iconophobia). It is theoretically grounded in an interdisciplinary study of images, extending across much of the humanities, as expressed by W.J.T. Mitchell's groundbreaking work on images. This conceptualization of political imagery will be deployed in relation to a range of images, such as Barack Obama, refugees and asylum seekers in the UK, and socialized medicine in the US.

C. TEACHING

* indicates that the class was team-taught.

1. UNDERGRADUATE CLASSES

2007-8: *Image Cultures*

It is often said that we live in an 'image culture', but what precisely is meant by that? Is it the same as 'visual culture'? This course offers an interdisciplinary and historical context for understanding contemporary Western 'image culture' by addressing the notion of the 'image' in a wide range of its theoretical, critical and practical contexts, uses and history. Images are objects of study in disciplines from art history to neuroscience, from political science to cultural studies. The ubiquity of visual imagery is only half the story of contemporary image culture, given that there is a whole family of graphic, optical, perceptual and mental imagery. We thus need an appreciation of dreams, fantasies, memories, literary images, metaphors, ideas and sense impressions, as well as corporate, political, personal, bodily and commodity images.

2006-8: *Words and Images in Politics and Culture (Senior Seminar in Communication and Culture)*

Much scholarship about democracy argues that its political discourse is sustained by the reasonableness of public, verbal argument and debate, known as deliberation. Frequently, deliberation is thought to be undermined by visual (or audio-visual and multi-media) forms of political discourse. The course assesses

the strength of these arguments by reframing them in terms of an ongoing ideological contest between words and images in Western culture. We ask what is at stake in the contemporary dispute between words and images, in respect of assertions that we live in a predominantly visual culture.

2006-8: *Public Culture and Popular Culture*

The course examines the extent to which contemporary public, political culture is dominated by the forms of popular culture. In particular, is the sort of popularity demanded in politics, for candidates, policies and ideas, akin to the sort of popularity sought in popular culture? At stake in this question is whether perceived shortcomings in popular culture (as commercialized and commodified, trivial, dumb-downed, sensationalist, seductive) undermine the scope and quality of democratic discourse and politics. Popular culture is characterized in relation to contemporary mediated and commercialised forms, in culture and entertainment industries. The key questions posed are the extent to which democratic political culture is governed by the norms and practices of popular culture (in informal political settings as well as electioneering), and whether (and as a consequence) democratic politics is undermined by cultural populism.

2000-06: *Introduction to Postmodernism*

The class introduces step by step the elusive and unstable phenomenon called “postmodernism”. By working through specific examples of postmodernism in architecture, visual art, film, ideas, literature, and TV, the class examines the varieties of postmodernism that are features of contemporary culture. In each case, the class asks what identifies the example as “postmodern” and how it reflects its broader context.

1995-98: *Multiculturalism: Issues and Challenges*

1994-95: *Radical Democratic Theory*

1993-98: *Contemporary Feminist Theory*

1993-95: *Foucault as a Political Thinker*

1991-92: *Contemporary Feminist Theory*

1989-92: *History of Political Thought*

2. GRADUATE CLASSES

2008-9: *Reading the Text*

This seminar aims to develop students’ skills of close reading by focusing on two books which are frequently returned to in the humanities and about which a good deal of secondary commentary has been written, some of which will also be studied. The two texts are Nietzsche’s *Genealogy of Morality* and Michel Foucault’s *Discipline and Punish*. The texts will be read with attention to style and poetics as well as the logic of argument, form as well as content. The text will also be considered in its context, understood as a rhetorical intervention in an intellectual dialogue. In assessments, students will practice explication, historical contextualization, stylistic analysis and critical engagement.

2007-8: *Images and Critique in Public Culture*

The course examines and assesses some contemporary critical thought about images, especially the role of images in politics. Rather than only pursuing various strategies for the critique of images that have become familiar as ideology critique, the course explores the possibility of thinking critically through images. It studies different types of images (in advertising, film, television, history and politics) through a variety of theoretical approaches (Marxist ideology critique, Benjamin's dialectics, semiotics, psychoanalysis, visual culture and rhetoric, and neuroscience). The course also addresses the following questions and issues: whether all types of images can be considered as a category; the relation between the visual and the verbal; the non-visual as well as visual character of images; the pertinence of iconoclastic hostility to images in society and politics; and the potential for critical thought by means of images. The course opens by problematizing the conception of images as only visual, leading to a deeper examination of the relation between words and images in democratic culture. It then examines the view that images are ideological and hence a problem for politics and society, before turning around the opening negative assessment of images by looking at the ways in which media images might provide critical insight or induce critical thinking. We move on to some considerations of the imagistic nature of human thinking drawn from contemporary history of art, cognitive and neuroscience.

2006-7: *Aestheticized Politics: Postmodernism and Democracy (Research Seminar in Rhetoric and Public Culture)*

Critical political theory has generally been antipathetic to the aestheticization of politics, as in Walter Benjamin's famous 'sound bite' about the fascist aestheticization of politics. Such antipathy can be traced back to Plato, but is best conceived in modern terms through the Kantian tripartition of faculties, translated into Weber's cultural value spheres, which is adapted by Jürgen Habermas. In contemporary terms, the Left's anti-aestheticism translates into a disdain for images, myths and symbols, and in condemnations of contemporary 'designer' and 'mediatized' politics (shared with other liberal political commentators, such as Daniel Boorstin). Using Habermas, David Harvey and Terry Eagleton as examples, the course examines the contemporary association of aestheticized democratic politics with postmodernism, and in particular with commodified culture. We then look at Benjamin's own argument that concerned the phantasmagoric dream-world of commodities in modernity. This analysis might allow us to consider other forms of aesthetic experience such as enchanting, mimetic, sensory relation to commodities. Wolfgang Iser's work on postmodernism and aestheticization also opens up the range of meanings to aesthetics to include non-Kantian definitions that might be more appropriate to the conduct of democratic politics. In particular, by working through some positions of cultural pessimists (e.g. Adorno, Jim McGuigan), and populists (e.g. John Fiske, John Hartley) in cultural studies, as well as some mediating positions (notably Stuart Hall) we will explore the potential for popular aesthetics to provide the cultural resources for democratic politics.

2000-04: *Social and Political Theories**

The class provides an introduction into social and political critical theories. It traces the development of such theories from Marx, to neo-Marxism, the Frankfurt School and its contemporary successors (Habermas). The module then confronts these traditions with more recent critical theories that focus on issues of gender, race and ethnicity, i.e. feminism and postcolonialism.

2000-06: *Thought, Image, Critique*

2000-06: *Postmodernisms**

The class addresses the elusive and unstable concept of postmodernism by examining it in terms of postmodern thought in the realms of social and cultural theory, and philosophy. The first seminars will assess attempts to theorize and characterize the postmodern as a sociological, economic, cultural or intellectual condition (Jameson, Harvey, Bauman, Lyotard). Then the class will examine the differences and similarities between thinkers whose work is considered to be postmodern (Lyotard, Baudrillard, Foucault, Deleuze & Guattari, Rorty and feminism) by looking at themes such as power, knowledge, desire and critique.

2000-04: *Tradition of Critique**

Contemporary theorists write against the background of an intellectual tradition of critique that characterised the European Enlightenment. This series of lectures surveys that tradition, addressing the key thinkers and themes that constitute the philosophical background to today's critical theorists, knowledge of which is often assumed by contemporary thinkers.

2000-01: *Postcolonialisms**

1996-98: *Social and Political Theories**
*Tradition of Critique**

1996-98: *Political Theory and Identity*

Identity issues have forced themselves into contemporary political thinking because of two developments: multiculturalism in Western democracies and the resurgence of nationalism in Eastern Europe. The module focuses on the different ways in which issues of identity have become central to contemporary political theory. Examples of post-Marxist (Laclau and Mouffe, Paul Gilroy), feminist (Catherine MacKinnon, Nancy Hartsock, Norma Alarcón, bell hooks), communitarian (Charles Taylor), psychoanalytic (Žižek, Kristeva) and postmodern political theory (Foucault, Butler, Connolly) will be discussed. The seminars will study how these theories deal with issues of social solidarity, nationalism, coalition politics and the recognition or affirmation of cultural and gender difference.

1996-98: *Postmodernisms*
1995-96: *Modernism and Postmodernism**
*Poststructuralism**
*Political Theories**
*Cultural Difference**
1994-95: *The Sources of Feminism*
1993-95: *Postmodernism*

3. METHODS OF TEACHING

(a) General Practices

My teaching stresses active student involvement and independent thinking by means of seminar participation, small group work within seminars, as well as student presentations to the class. Films, novels and both still and moving images are integrated with theoretical texts as the basis for discussion. I use formal lectures where appropriate for the provision of a framework for discussion. Informal techniques, such as simulation games, dynamic discussion processes and improvised presentations are a regular aspect of my pedagogy. I have experimented with involving students in image production as well as analysis, using resources such as Oncourse Wiki. For my classes on images I have devised a series of class exercises that involve the students' abilities to generate and create as well as interpret and analyse images. For example, in the first seminar on political images students in small groups produce the concept for a political campaign that they "pitch" to the rest of the group, with quite startling results.

(b) Teaching technology

I currently make extensive use of Indiana University's Oncourse facility for communicating with students, posting lecture outlines and summaries of student discussions in class, as well as displaying reading and other materials used for class, generating discussion outside of class and responses to reading on the Forum, and sharing student's knowledge through the Wiki pages.

4. RESEARCH SUPERVISION

(a) Masters dissertations

As I was the director of Masters studies in Nottingham, I supervised a large proportion of the dissertations written by MA students each year, across a range of subjects. In 2003-4 I supervised dissertations on the following topics:

Luana Caputo – *Images of Violence and Violent Images*
Amanda Davis – *Toward a Contemporary Aesthetics*
Hazel Li – *Men's Body Images: The Case of Hong Kong*
Kirsty Jamieson – *Representations of Women in Advertisements: Ideology and Resistance*
Arif Mahmoud – *The Contemporary Court Jester: The Simpsons*
Jovita Shek – *A Foucauldian Analysis of the Role of Universities*

(b) PhD Research supervision topics

- 2005- Kezia Picard – *Foucault's Reception in the Disciplines: Subjectivity and Authority* (official supervision ended in 2006 when I left Nottingham, but I continued as an external adviser).
- 2004-6 (part-time from 2005) Mohammed AbuElmeaza – *Edward Said in Postcolonial Literature and Politics* (supervision transferred to another member of faculty in 2006 when I left Nottingham).
- 2001-6: Arthur Piper – (part-time until 2004) *Images and Visuality: Cultural Theory, Philosophy and Neurobiology* (AHRB funded).
- 2001- (co-supervised, part-time until 2005): Francesco Proto – *Architecture as Mass Culture: Icon and Image* (AHRB funded).
- 2000-5: Sunil Manghani – *The Fall of the Berlin Wall: Image, Text and Visuality* (AHRB funded).*
- 2000-2004 - Trudie Ferrada – *Homage to Truth: Truth and Literature in the Spanish Civil War*.
- 1998-2003: Stevie Schmiedel – *Contesting the Oedipal Legacy: Deleuzean vs Psychoanalytic Feminist Critical Theory*.*
- 1996-99: Ben Franks – *Contemporary British Anarchism*.*
- 1995-2003: Larry Brown (part-time, co-supervised) – *Rorty and Humanism*.
Awarded MPhil.

* PhD thesis subsequently revised and published.

5. READING GROUPS

- 1996-9: Organiser “Truth and Truth Tellers” student-faculty study group on epistemology.
- 2000-2: Participant in “Urban and Visual Studies” reading group.
- 2003- 5: Participant in “Culture, Science and Technology” reading group.

D. ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICE

A. Department

Director of Graduate Studies (July 2008-)

Graduate Affairs Committee (2007-)

Member of Colloquia Committee (second semester 2006-7).

Elected to Tellers Committee (2007)

Chaired ad hoc committee for promotion of a lecturer to senior lecturer (2007)

B. University

Served on Summer 2007 Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant Applications Committee (March-April 2007).

Previous departmental responsibilities (Nottingham)

(a) COURSE ORGANISATION AND PREPARATION

1995- 2005 **MA in Critical Theory**

2001- 2005 **MA in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory**

2003- 2005 **MA in Critical Theory and Politics**

2003-4 **MA in Modern Languages and Critical Theory**

My responsibilities for the courses included:

- Inter-school coordination. As the course was taught by an interdisciplinary team, my task involved coordinating approximately 15 teaching staff from 5 different Schools (American and Canadian Studies, English, Modern Languages, Humanities, and Politics), as well as some external lecturers and research students.
- Admissions tutor.
- Personal tutor for all students on courses (approximately 25 each year).
- Examinations and student records.
- Publicity and marketing.
- IT provision and Web pages (until 1999).
- Course review and teaching quality assessment.
- Chair of departmental forum for postgraduate taught and research students.
- Library contact.
- Coordination with other Schools for: **MA in Modern Languages and Critical Theory** (2001); **MA in Politics and Critical Theory** (1998-2003); **MA in Architecture and Critical Theory** (1995-2004).

(b) Other departmental duties

- 2002: Organisation of faculty and PhD student research workshops.
- 1995-2000: Visiting speaker series including international scholars attracting a regional audience. Visitors included: Luce Irigaray, Griselda Pollock, Alex Callinicos, Zygmunt Bauman, Chantal Mouffe, Ernesto Laclau, Stephen White, Terry Eagleton, Chris Norris.
- 1998-99: Organisation and chairing of School's seminar for research students.

(c) Committees

- 2001-5: School of Modern Languages, Learning and Teaching Committee
- 2000-02: University Postgraduate Studies Committee, including:
 - PSC Taught courses working group
 - PSC Programme specifications working group
 - Postgraduate appeals
- 1995-2005: Arts Faculty Library Users Group

(d) External Examining

2000-04: Nottingham Trent University. BA Humanities and Social Theory subject
(Department of English and Media Studies).

Professional organizations

Member of: American Political Science Association
National Communication Association

OTHER

JOURNALISM

1994-5: Columnist for *Jerusalem Post*.