

Piotr M. Szpunar

1400 Washington Ave. | Albany, NY 12222
pszpunar@albany.edu

Academic Appointments

- 2016-present Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University at Albany, SUNY
Director, Communication Honors Program
- 2014-2016 George Gerbner Postdoctoral Fellow, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Education

- 2014 University of Pennsylvania
Dual Ph.D., Communication & Political Science
Chair: Barbie Zelizer
Committee: John Jackson, Marwan Kraidy, Anne Norton & Rogers Smith
- 2009 University of Pennsylvania
M.A., Communication
- 2007 University of Waterloo
B.A., Political Science, *with Honors*
- 2002 Humber College
Adv. Dip., Music (Composition), *with Honors*

Awards, Honors & Grants

- 2019 Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association
- 2019 Faculty Award Research Program, FRAP-B. University at Albany.
Communicating the Future: Place, Technology, and Collective Identity (\$3,500)
- 2017 Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association
- 2014-2016 George Gerbner Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013-2014 Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2013 Top Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
- 2012 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication

- 2012 Top Student Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
- 2011 Top Paper, International Communication Association, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division
- 2010 Top Student Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
- 2007-2012 Annenberg Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication
- 2004 Paul Berg Memorial Award, University of Waterloo

Publications

Books

- Szpunar, P.M. (2018). *Homegrown: Identity and difference in the American war on terror*. New York, NY: [NYU Press](#)
- Semati, M., Szpunar, P.M. & Brookey, R.A. (Eds.) (2018). *ISIS beyond the spectacle: Communication media, networked publics, and terrorism*. New York, NY: [Routledge](#)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The preemptive voice of enemy images: The before-and-after motif in media coverage of women homegrown terrorists. *Journalism*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884919894125>
- Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Communication and (un)inspired terror: Toward a theory of phatic violence. *Communication Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ct/qtz009>
- Hong, S-H. & Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The futures of anticipatory reason: Contingency and speculation in the sting operation. *Security Dialogue*, 50(4), 314-330.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2018). A guileful ruse: ISIS, media, and tactics of appropriation. *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, 15(3), 232-251.
- Shrikanth, S., Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2018). Staying positive in a dystopian future: A novel dissociation between personal and collective cognition. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General*, 147(8), 1200-1210.
- Semati, M. & Szpunar, P.M. (2018). ISIS beyond the spectacle: communication media, networked publics, terrorism. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 35(1), 1-7.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Premediating predisposition: Informants, entrapment and connectivity in counterterrorism. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 34(4), 371-385.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2016). From the other to the double: Identity in conflict and the Boston Marathon bombing. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 9(4), 577-594.
- Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2016). Collective future thought: Concept, function and implications for collective memory studies. *Memory Studies*, 9(4), 376-389.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The horror at Fort Hood: Disseminating American exceptionalism. *Media, Culture & Society*, 35(2), 182-198.

- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Journalism ethics and Levinas' third: Interruption in a world of multiple others. *Social Semiotics*, 22(3), 275-294.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Collective memory and the stranger: Remembering and forgetting the 1918 Finnish civil war. *International Journal of Communication*, 6, 1201-1221.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Western journalism's 'other': The legacy of the Cold War in the study of media systems. *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, 13(1), 3-20.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2011). Neither 'non-' nor 'becoming': American Polonia and the need to reformulate whiteness. *Cultural Studies*, 25(3), 360-382.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Monuments, mundanity and memory: Altering 'place' and 'space' at the National War Memorial (Canada). *Memory Studies*, 3(4), 379-394.

Book Chapters

- Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Archiving ISIS: *Dabiq*, *Rumiyah*, and the Clarion Project. In N. Maurantonio & D. Park (Eds.), *Communicating memory & history* (pp. 39-54). New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The predicament of (journalism) ethics as seen in the about to die image: Levinas' subjunctive mood and the third. In N. Couldry, M. Madianou, & A. Pinchevski (Eds.), *Ethics of media* (pp. 120-135). London: Palgrave.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Media, modernity, and postmodernity. in M.M. Kraidy (Ed.), *Communication and power in the global era: Orders and borders* (pp. 113-115). New York, NY: Routledge.

Edited Journal Issues

- Semati, M. & Szpunar, P.M. (2018). ISIS and media beyond the spectacle. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 35(1).

Public Scholarship

- Szpunar, P.M. (2019, August 19). The limits of the language of terror. [From the Square](#).
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015, May 19). Killing Tsarnaev. [Huffington Post](#).
- Szpunar, P.M. (2014, November 3). Let's reflect on the attacks in Canada, but hold off on legislation. [Huffington Post](#).

Under Review

- Szpunar, P.M. Recalling surveillance work: Informants of the Cold War and war on terror. *Surveillance & Society* (Revise & Resubmit).

In Preparation

- Szpunar, P.M. The banality of phatic violence. (*Writing and development*).
- Szpunar, P.M. Elemental archives: Toward a theory of lieux de futur. (*Writing and revision*).

Szpunar, P.M. Promnesiac futures: Place, class, and race in technological visions of tomorrow. (*Writing and revision*).

Szpunar, P.M. Terrorism as Disruption: Reconsidering terror as a media event. (*Research Stage*).

Invited Lectures/Presentations

Szpunar, P.M. (2019, November 21). Homegrown. Department of Political Science Speaker Series. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019, April 8). Homegrown. University of Pennsylvania Bookstore, Philadelphia, PA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019, March 20). Homegrown. Department of Communication, Boston College. Boston, MA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019, March 19). Homegrown. Spring Colloquium Series. Department of Communication, University of New Hampshire. Durham, NH.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015, April 25). True believer [Play]: Post-performance discussion on identity, radicalization, and terrorism. Theater Lab, New York, NY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015, April 9). Double take: Images of homegrown terrorists. The Philomathean Society of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015, March 6). The problem of internet radicalization? New York University's Governance Lab, New York, NY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014, November 7). Futurity and the problem of horizon. Stanford University's Colloquium on "The Contemporary," Stanford, CA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014, February 6). Digital media, identity and terror. Department of Communication Studies, Baruch College, CUNY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014, February 6). Communicating memory: Media and collective memory. Department of Communication Studies, Baruch College, CUNY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014, January 30). Keeping watch: Homegrown terrorism, global media ethics and citizenship. School of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013, October 29). Power, theory, technology (in Technology and Culture, MSP3421). Media Studies & Production, Temple University.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013, October 16). Semiotics, structuralism and postmodernism (in Introduction to Media Theory, MSP1011). Media Studies & Production, Temple University.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013, March 12). Panel discussion on cultural memory in and as creative practice, *Philadelphia International Festival of the Arts*, Philadelphia, PA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2011, August 3). Introduction to semiotics (in Critical Approaches to Popular Culture, COMM 123). College of Liberal and Professional Studies, University of Pennsylvania.

Conference Presentations

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). Archives at the end of the world: Memory, media, and climate change futures at Svalbard. Accepted for presentation at the Memory Studies Association, June 18-21, Charlottesville, VA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). Mediating everyday spaces into war: antipathy, alliance, unseen bodies. Accepted for presentation at the *Media, War and Conflict* Journal Conference, May 21-22, Florence, Italy.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The elemental archive: Lieux de futur and the limits of survival. Accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association, November 14-17, Baltimore, MD.

Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Promnesiac futures: Place, class, and race in technological visions of tomorrow. Accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association, November 14-17, Baltimore, MD.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Popular futures: promnesia, place, and technology. International Communication Association, May 24-28, Washington, D.C.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The informant as a surveillance medium: Memoirs of the Cold War and the war on terror. The Long History of Modern Surveillance Pre-Conference at the International Communication Association, May 24, Washington, D.C.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Lieux de futur: How the future reshapes the past. Presented at Memories of the Future International Conferences, March 29-30, School of Advanced Study, City University of London.

Szpunar, P.M. (2018). Violence in phatic culture: Theorizing “inspired” terror. Presented at the International Communication Association, May 24-28, Prague, Czech Republic.

Szpunar, P.M. (2018). From Dabiq to Rumiya: ISIS’s tactics of appropriation. Presented at the International Communication Association, May 24-28, Prague, Czech Republic.

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Toward a theory of phatic violence: Communication and homegrown terror. Presented at National Communication Association, November 16-19, Dallas, TX.

Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Mediated allegiance: ISIS, circulation, and networks of belonging. Association of Internet Researchers, October 18-21, Tartu, Estonia.

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). The subjunctive attack. International Communication Association, May 25-29, San Diego, CA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Archiving ISIS: *Dabiq*, *Rumiya* and the Clarion Project. NYU Institute for Public Knowledge Symposium on the Periodical, Printed Matter, and the Digital, May 12, New York, NY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2016). From opaque enemy to opaque community? National Communication Association, November 9-13, Philadelphia, PA.

- Szpunar, P.M. (2016). Internet radicalization: Fear in small numbers, counterterrorism and politics in data. International Communication Association, June 9-13, Fukuoka, Japan.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Laughing at the sky: Drones, secrecy and belonging in contemporary America. American Studies Association, October 8-11, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Tinker, tailor, soldier, traitor: Homegrown terrorism in popular culture. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, July 22-24, Reykjavik, Iceland.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015). ISIS's Americans: Representations of homegrown threat. International Association for Media and Communication Research, July 12-16, Montreal, QC, Canada.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015). "I can't imagine what went through his mind": Narratives of transformation in covering ISIS's Americans. International Communication Association, May 21-25, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Popular articulations of the network in conflict: Circulating threats in the Red Scare and the war on terror. International Communication Association, May 21-25, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2014). The Terrorist next door: Digital media, cultural identity and citizen surveillance in the war on terror. Cultural Studies Association, May 29-31, Salt Lake City, UT.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2014). Prislam reconsidered or, the American-ness of jihad: Race, mass incarceration, and informants in the war on terror. International Communication Association, May 22-26, Seattle, WA.
- Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2014). Collective memory and future thought. International Communication Association, May 22-26, Seattle, WA.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2014). Spies and suspects: the war on terror, the circulation of digital images and citizenship. "Image Not Available" Network Visuality and Its Limits Conference, May 9, American University of Paris.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2013). Homeland: The homegrown terrorist, the enemy, "our" double. International Communication Association, June 17-21, London, England.
- Top Paper, Popular Communication Division**
- Szpunar, P.M. (2013). Homegrown terrorism and the politics of liminality. Canadian Communication Association, June 5-7, Victoria, BC, Canada.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The enemy within. Media, War & Conflict, April 11-12, London, England.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Inspiring guerrilla warfare: Homegrown terrorism as a communication problematic. International Association of Communication and Media Research, July 15-20, Durban, South Africa.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Killing, detaining and stripping citizens(hip): Communication, sovereignty and homegrown terrorism. International Communication Association, May 24-28, Phoenix, AZ.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Even Muslims are afraid of Islam: The Impossibility of communicating moderateness. International Communication Association, May 24-28, Phoenix, AZ.

Top Student Paper, Popular Communication Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Exhuming Nietzsche. New School for Social Research Interdisciplinary Memory Conference, April 16, New York, NY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2011). Neither “non-“ nor “becoming”: American Polonia and the need to reformulate whiteness. International Communication Association, May 26-30, Boston, MA.

Top Paper, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2011). The horror at Fort Hood: American exceptionalism, the military and collective identity. International Communication Association, May 26-30, Boston, MA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Locating limits. National Communication Association, November, 14-17, San Francisco, CA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Western journalism’s “other”: The legacy of the Cold War in the study of media systems. International Communication Association Conference, June 22-26, Singapore.

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Ritual, power, and diaspora: What can the absence of a simple diagonal line through the letter ‘L’ tell us? International Communication Association, June 22-26, Singapore.

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Vuoden 1918 taistelut taas tampereen kaduilla: Remembering and forgetting 1918 in Tampere, Finland.” International Communication Association, June 22-26, Singapore.

Top Student Paper, Popular Communication Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). A particular political parallelism. National Communication Association, November 12-15, Chicago, IL.

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). A politician and his pastor. National Communication Association, November 12-15, Chicago, IL.

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). Let me interrupt! Or ethics after ethical violence: Rethinking Levinas, ethics and news media. Penn Program for Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism Graduate Workshop, September 24, Philadelphia, PA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). Power, sources and parallelism: A point of tension between field theory and political economy in the study of media systems. International Association of Media and Communication Research, July 20-24, Mexico City, Mexico.

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). Western journalism and the Cold War ‘other’: Implications for development.” Beyond East and West: Two Decades of Media Transformation After the Fall of Communism Conference, June 25-27, Budapest, Hungary.

- Szpunar, P.M. (2009). Relieving history: Altering “place” and “space” at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada. International Communication Association, May 21-25, Chicago, IL.
- Szpunar, P.M. (2009). A virtue(-based) ethics of interruption. International Communication Association, May 21-25, Chicago, IL.

Teaching Experience

University at Albany, SUNY

Graduate Level

- COM 502 – Communication Theory and Practice
COM 640 – Risk and Crisis Communication in the Public Interest

Undergraduate Level

- COM 385 – Communicating Terror: Political Violence and Media
COM 378 – Communication, Media, and Memory
COM 381 – Risk and Crisis Communication

University of Pennsylvania

- COMM 290 – Communicating Terror: Political Violence and Media
COMM 291 – Collective Memory/Futures: Strategies, Technologies, and Politics
COMM 339 – Critical Perspectives in Journalism

Teaching Assistant

- PSCI 234 – Civil Rights/Civil Liberties (with Dr. Rogers Smith)
PSCI 181 – Modern Political Theory (with Dr. Anne Norton)

Professional and Skills Development

University at Albany, SUNY—Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership

- 2018 Essential Preparation for Teaching Online
 Course Design Academy
- 2017 Designing for Online Learning

University of Pennsylvania

- 2008 Annenberg Summer Institute for Methods and Statistics

Committee & Journal Involvement

University Service

2017-Present Director of Communication Honors Program
Graduate Admissions Committee
2017 Wilkie Award Committee

Ad-hoc Reviewer

Communication Theory
Journal of Communication
Memory Studies
The International Journal of Press/Politics
Les Cahiers Mémoire et politique
International Journal of Law, Crime, and Justice
Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism
International Journal of Communication
Critical Studies in Media Communication
Global Media and Communication
Television and New Media
Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies
Popular Communication Division, ICA
Philosophy, Theory & Critique Division, ICA
Journalism Studies Division, ICA

Professional Experience

2015-2016 Book Review Editor, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*
2013-2016 Editorial Assistant, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*
2009-2010 Editorial Assistant, *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*
2006 Regulatory Analyst, Treasury Board Secretariat, Government of Canada
2004-2005 Student Regulatory Analyst, Privy Council Office, Government of Canada