

CHRISTINA SPIESEL

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BRIEF CAREER SUMMARY

I have been teaching in the legal academy since 1998, something that came about because I responded to a call for visual education for lawyers made at the College Art Association in 1996. The call came because of the visual turn in culture more generally and in the law specifically. That I was qualified in my view rested on four pillars of previous experience: 1) as an artist I know how visual things are made; 2) as a beta-tester for an advanced natural language database management software program developed in the 1970s, I acquired a general knowledge of how digital technologies work; 3) as a member of city government for nine years, I learned how public policy is formed and implemented in an urban area; 4) as a public figure I served on a law school public interest law board and so knew how law faculty and law students think. Further, I had taught writing to college students using a local area network lab (LAN). This was just at the beginning of the Internet so I understood its potential and its problems from its inception. My research interests track along those elements of my background and have informed my teaching in law schools since.

In recent years I have also acted as a visual consultant on legal cases involving medical malpractice, negligence, counterfeiting, and a criminal appellate matter.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Adjunct Professor, Quinnipiac University School of Law, 2000 – present
Senior Research Scholar in Law, Yale Law School, 1999 – present
Adjunct Professor, New York Law School, 2001 – 2011
Associate, Institute for Writing and Thinking, Bard College 1993-2001
Visiting Lecturer, Yale Law School, 1998 Spring Term

PUBLICATIONS

Book: *Law on Display, The Digital Transformation of Legal Persuasion and Judgment* with Neal Feigenson, New York University Press, fall 2009. Among book talks we addressed Google, Inc. Cambridge, MA, August 3, 2011.

Forthcoming publications -- chapters:

“Jury Decision Making in an Era of Sousveillance: Reactions to Visual Evidence,” Neal Feigenson and Christina Spiesel, in *Criminal Juries in the 21st Century: Psychological Science and the Law*, Oxford University Press.

“Stay the Execution, Don’t Kill the Golden Goose: Fair Use, Creativity, and the Internet” in *Beyond Intellectual Property: International and Comparative Aspects* edited by Shlomit Yanisky-Ravid, Fordham Press, Oxford Press – Distributors.

Forthcoming publications – articles:

“Building Black Mirrors: Computer and human vision(s) in Law” for “Explorations in Sensori-Legal Studies” a special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Law and Society*, edited by David Howes and Sheryl Hamilton.

Chapters

“Chapter Four Animating the Bomber: The Sydney Bomber Trial” with Greg Battye and Neal Feigenson and “Chapter Five Gruesome Evidence: The Use of Beheading Videos and Other Disturbing Pictures in Terrorism Trials” (single author) in David Tait, et. al., *Juries, Science, and Popular Culture in an Age of Terrorism*. Palgrave/MacMillan 2017.

“Trial By Ordeal: CSI and the Rule of Law” in *Law, Culture, and Visual Studies* edited by Anne Wagner and Richard Sherwin, Springer 2013. Earlier version of the text available at SSRN: <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2032745>

“Jurors and the Courtroom of the Future” Neal Feigenson and Christina Spiesel in *The Future of Evidence: How Science and Technology Will Change the Practice of Law*, Jules Epstein and Carol Henderson, eds. American Bar Association, 2011.

“The Fate of the Iconic Sign: Punishing Pictures” in *Courting the Media: Contemporary Perspectives on Media and Law*, edited by Geoff Sykes. Hauppague, NY: Nova, 2010.

“Teaching Visual Rhetoric to Law Students,” co-authored with Neal Feigenson in *Visual Practices Across the University*, James Elkins, ed. Wilhelm Fink Verlag 2007.

“What Is Visual Knowledge, and What Is It Good For? Potential Ethnographic Lessons From the Field of Legal Practice,” co-authored with Richard Sherwin and Neal Feigenson in *Visual Anthropology* 20:143-178, 2007, Taylor-Francis Routledge.

“Reflections on Reading: Words, Pictures, and Law” in *Law, Mind, and Brain*, edited by Michael Freeman and Oliver R. Goodenough, (Surry, England and Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press, 2009).

"A *Las Meninas* for the Law." *Images in Law*, William Penczak and Anne Wagners, editors, Ashgate Press (2006).

"Law in the Age of Images" co-authored with Neal Feigenson and Richard Sherwin, in a volume of the Oñati Institute for the Sociology of Law at Oñati, Spain series: *Contemporary Issues of the Semiotics of Law, Cultural and Symbolic Analyses of Law in a Global Context*, Anne

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Wagner, Tracey Summerfield, Farid Samir Benavides Vanegas, Oxford and Portland, OR: Hart Publishing, 2005.

"Female Trouble" *Trickster and Duality: The Dance of Differentiation*, C.W.Spinks, ed., Ashgate, 2001.

Law Review/Articles

"Eyes on the Horizon" McGill Law Journal Summer 2013. Review of Karen Eltis' *Courts, Litigants and the Digital Age: Law, Ethics, and Practice..* Irwin Law, 2012.

"More Than a Thousand Words in Response to Rebecca Tushnet" Harvard Law Review on-line, February 2012. Response to Rebecca Tushnet's "Worth a Thousand Words: The Images of Copyright" 125 Harv. L. Rev. 683 (2012)

"Digitaal beeldmateriaal: revolutie in de rechtszall" in *Visuele technieken in opsporing en rechtspraak*, Justitiële verkennigen, jrg. 37, nr. 7, 2011.

"Shulamit Almog: *How Digital Technologies are Changing the Practice of Law*" in the *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law*, Volume 23, number 2.

"Law in the Digital Age: How Visual Communication Technologies are Transforming the Practice, Theory, and Teaching of Law," Boston University Journal of Science and Technology Law, Summer 2006, Vol. 12, 2, with Richard Sherwin and Neal Feigenson.

Other

Letter to the Editor in response to David Bromwich, "Trapped in the Virtual Classroom", *The New York Review of Books* (July 9, 2015). My letter, under the title "The Bugged Classroom" was published in *The New York Review of Books* August 13, 2015
<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2015/aug/13/bugged-classroom/>

TALKS

"What's in Black Mirror's Mirror?" ISP-ONO Workshop, New Haven, CT. June 12, 2017.

"Bystander Video in Two Courts: The Court of Law and the Court of Public Opinion," International Communication Association, San Diego, CA, May 29, 2017"

"The Imitation Game: AI in *Ex Machina*", ISP-ONO Workshop Challenges of Artificial Intelligence, New Technologies, and Robots. New Haven, CT May 30, 2016.

"Bystander Video: Cell Phone and Dashcam Videos", AALS, New York, 2016.

"Making Art, Making Law" The Whitney Center, Hamden CT, April 29, 2015.

“Using Visuals in Legal Communication”, Connecticut Legislative Commissioners’ Office and the Office of Legal Research, December 2014 and June 2015.

“Video and Computer Animation in Legal Cases”, University of Connecticut Law School, March 2014.

“We Like to Look: Disturbing, Distressing, Disgusting, Desired Gruesome Pictures, What’s the Law To Do With Them?” International Association for Law and Mental Health, Amsterdam, July 20, 2013.

“After a Rumble in Utopia: What Dashcam Shows”, Law and Society Association, June 1, 2013.

“Visual Persuasion, A Brief Introduction,” Connecticut Bar Association, Younger Lawyers Section, April 24, 2012.

“Law on Display: Persuasion” University of Connecticut Law School, March 28, 2013.

“On Pictures and Fair Use” ONO Workshop, Yale Law School, July 12, 2012.

“What is There” Capture 2012, Yale University, March 2012.

“The Representation of Number”, Yale ACS, December 8, 2011.

“The Rhetoric of the Real Part 2: Facts, Artifacts, Birds and Proofs” Wesleyan University, Nov. 11, 2011.

Response to Resnik and Curtis’ *Representing Justice*, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Oct. 4, 2011.

“High Stakes Pictures”, International Association of Law and Mental Health, Berlin, Germany, July 15, 2011.

“Legitimacy and Democracy in the Face of Electronic Voting” with Michael Fischer, Information Society Project, Yale Law School, Feb. 18, 2011.

“Art and Law” Marist College, Marist College December 2010.

“It’s All About Pictures, Now What?” Law and Society Association, Chicago, 2010.

“Legal Culture Meets Cyber Culture” Third International Conference on Justice Environments, Sydney, Australia, 2010.

“Visual Persuasion in the Law” for the Danbury, CT Bar Association May 2010.

“Law on Display” presented at the Slifka Center for Jewish Life, co-sponsored by Yale Law School, April 2010.

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“On Ethical Issues and On-Line Adjudication”, Technology and Ethics Group, Trinity University, December 2009.

“Outward and Visible Signs” at the annual congress of the International Association for Law and Mental Health at New York University, June 2009.

“What Lies Beneath: What Courts Need To Know About Technology”, the annual On-Line Dispute Resolution Conference at Haifa University, Faculty of Law, June 2009.

“Cinema in the Streets” opening remarks for a panel of that title at the ASLCH in Boston, April, 2009.

“Issues for Teaching Visual Culture” Conference on Pedagogical Encounters in Law, Culture, and Humanities, Carleton University School of Law, Ottawa, Canada, October 2008.

“*Scott v. Harris* and The Rhetoric of the Real” presented at the annual meeting of the Law and Society Association, Montreal, Canada, May 2008.

“The CSI Effect: Modern Ordeal?” Law and Society Association, Berlin, Germany July 2007.

“Representing Numbers in Law and Finance” at the Institute for Law and Finance at the Johan Wolfgang Goethe Institute in Frankfurt, Germany, 2007.

“Truth, Justice, and the Digital Way”, Connecticut Judges Institute, 2007.

“Thoughts on the Digital Future of the Law”, Society for Law, Culture and Humanities, Georgetown Law School, March 2007.

“Writing with Pictures: The Case of Terry Schiavo,” American Society for Law, Culture, and Humanities, March 2006.

“New Visual Technologies in the Practice of Law” (with Neal Feigenson), University of Chicago Alumni Association, Meridan, CT., January 25, 2006.

“Visual Persuasion,” Syracuse University Law School, 2005.

“Making a Visual Argument in Law” First International Conference on Visual Literacy, Cork, Ireland, Ireland, 2005.

“Arguing with Pictures” guest lecturer for course “Pictographs to Pixels”, Yale College, 2005.

“*A las Meninas* for the Law”, International Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law, Lyon, France, July 12, 2004.

“Visual Persuasion,” Cybercrime Conference extra session, Yale Law School, 2004.

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“Teaching Visual Persuasion,” Association of American Law School Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, January 3, 2004.

“Visual Persuasion in the Law”, Yale Law School Information Society Project, New Haven. CT, November 18, 2003.

“Trickster Out of Time: Supermax Prisons” Law and Society Annual Meeting, Budapest Hungary, July 6, 2001.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION SESSIONS

ONO Workshop, Yale Law School 2013-2017.

“Visual Persuasion” Seattle University Law School, April 2011.

“Law’s Digital Way”, Plenary talk. Connecticut Judges Institute meeting at Quinnipiac University School of Law, June 2007.

“The *CSI* Effect” Suffolk Law School, Boston, Massachusetts, May, 2007.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Editorial Board, *International Journal of Law and Semiotics*, Springer 2009--

Editorial Associate, *Southern Semiotics Review*, 2013 – 2015.

Session organizer IALMH 2013.

Session organizer ASLCH 2009 and 2010.

Editorial Board, *Second Nature* (on-line journal) 2008–2010.

Program Committee, Nominating Committee Chair Semiotics Society of America, 2007, 2008.

Board member, International Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law, 2003 --- 2008.

Freshman Advisor, Yale College (Trumbull), 1995—present.

AFFILIATIONS

Science, Technology, and Utopian Visions Working Group, Whitney Humanities Center. Yale University.

Technology and Ethics Working Group, Institute for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University.

Faculty Fellow, Information Society Project, Yale Law School.

Associate Fellow, Trumbull College, Yale University.

Semiotics Society of America.

International Roundtable for the Semiotics of Law.

Law and Society Association.

College Art Association.

EDUCATION

B.A. Shimer College summa cum laude, 1965

Woodrow Wilson Fellowship (supported) 1962-65

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M.A. University of Chicago, Committee on General Studies in the Humanities, 1965