

SHIRA CHESS
Curriculum Vitae

Dept. of Telecommunications
Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communications
The University of Georgia
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Education

2009 Ph.D., Communication & Rhetoric, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
2003 M.A., Media Arts, Emerson College
1995 B.A., English, University of South Florida

Professional Appointments

2013-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Entertainment & Media Studies
Grady College of Journalism & Mass Communication
Affiliate, Institute of Women's Studies
The University of Georgia

2010-2013 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication
Affiliate, Armstrong Institute for Interactive Media Studies
Affiliate, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Miami University, Oxford, OH

2004-2005 Adjunct Instructor, Department of Mass Communication
Endicott College, Beverly, MA

Academic Publications

Books

2017 Chess, S. (Forthcoming). *Ready Player Two: Women Gamers and Designed Identity*. Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota Press.

2014 **Chess, S.** & Newsom, E. (2014). *Folklore, Horror Stories, and the Slender Man: The Development of an Internet Mythology*. New York, NY: Palgrave Pivot.

Refereed Journal Articles

2016 Chess, S. A Time for Play: Interstitial Time, Invest/Express games, and feminine leisure style. *New Media & Society*. (Pre-published version)

2016 **Chess, S.** & Evans, N. (2016). What Does a Gamer Look Like?: Video games, Advertising, and Diversity. *The Journal of Television & New Media* (pre-published version).

- 2016 Chess, S. (2016). The Queer Case of Video Games: Orgasms, heteronormativity, and video game narrative. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 33(1): 84-94.
- 2015 **Chess, S.** & Shaw, A. (2015). A conspiracy of fishes, or, how we learned to stop worrying about GamerGate and embrace hegemonic masculinity. = *The Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media*. 59(1). 208-220.
- 2015 Chess, S. (2015). Uncanny gaming: Video games, *Ravenhearst*, and gothic appropriation. *Feminist Media Studies*. 15(3), 382-396.
- 2014 Chess, S. (2014). Augmented regionalism: *Ingress* as geomediated gaming narrative. *Information, Communication, & Society*, 17(9), 1105-1117.
- 2014 Chess, S. (2014). Strange bedfellows: Subjectivity, romance, and video games. *Games & Culture*, 9(6), 417-428.
- 2014 **Chess, S.,** & Booth, P. (2014). Lessons down a rabbit hole: Alternate reality gaming in the classroom. *New Media & Society*, 16(6), 1002-1017.
- 2012 Chess, S. (2012). Going with the Flo: *Diner Dash* and feminism. *Feminist Media Studies*, 12(1): 83-99.
- 2012 Chess, S. (2012). Open sourcing horror: the Slender Man, *Marble Hornets*, and genre negotiations. *Information, Communication, & Society*, 15(3): 374-393.
- 2011 Chess, S. (2011). A 36-24-36 cerebrum: gendering video game play through advertising. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 28(3): 230-252.
Reprinted in Michael Kimmel (Ed.) (2013) *Gendered Society Reader* (5th Edition). Oxford University Press.

Invited Journal Articles

- 2016 **Chess, S.** & Shaw, A. (2016). We are all fishes now: DiGRA, feminism, and GamerGate. *Transactions of the Digital Games Research Association (ToDiGRA)* 2(2). Available at <http://todigra.org/index.php/todigra/article/view/39>

Book Chapters

- 2016 Chess, S.. (2016). Not Your Mother's Video Game: The Role of Motherhood in Video Game Advertising. In A. Davisson and P. Booth (eds.) *Media ethics: changing ethics in a digital age*. Bloomsbury Press.
- 2016 Shaw, A & **Chess, S.** (2016). Reflections on the casual game market in a post GamerGate world. In T. Lever and M. Wilson (eds.) *Social, Casual, Mobile: Changing Games*. Bloomsbury Press.
- 2015 Chess, S. (2015). "Don't worry, Mama will fix it!": playing with the mama myth in video games. In A. Demo, J. Borda, & C. Krollokke (Eds.) *The*

Motherhood Business: Consumption, Communication, Privilege. University of Alabama Press.

- 2015 Chess, S. (2015). Playing By Heart: A taxonomy of hearts in video games. In J. Envgold and E. Macallum-Stewart. *Game Love: Playing with Affection.* Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press.
- 2013 Chess, S. Youthful white male industry seeks “fun”-loving middle-aged women for video games. No strings attached. (2013). In C. Carter, L. McLaughlin, and L. Steiner (Eds.) *The Routledge Companion to Media and Gender.* (p. 168-178). New York, NY: Routledge.
- 2012 Chess, S. “You can’t sexualize a shrub”: girls, video games, and resistance. In M. Bae and O. Ivashkevich (Eds.) *Girls, Cultural Production, and Resistance* (p. 135-151). New York, NY: Peter Lang.
- 2008 Chess, S. The c-word: queering the cylons. In J. Steiff and T. D. Tamplin (Eds.) *Battlestar Galactica and philosophy: Mission accomplished or mission frakked up?* (p. 87-94.). Chicago, IL: Open Court Press.
- 2005 Chess, S. The Playing the bad guy: Grand Theft Auto in the panopticon. In N. Garrelts (Ed) *Digital gameplay: essays on the nexus of game and gamer* (p. 80-90.). Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press.

Other Publications (Op-Eds, Magazine, and Other Web)

- 2016 Chess, S. (2016.) Sinister Clown Sightings are a Manifestation of Fear. *The New York Times, Room for Debate.*
<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2016/10/14/whats-behind-the-spreading-creepy-clown-hysteria/sinister-clown-sightings-are-a-manifestation-of-fear>
- 2016 Chess, S. (2016). Whose Shield is it Anyway? Some thoughts on GamerGate and Notyourshield.
<http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2016/08/30/whose-shield-it-anyway-some-thoughts-gamergate-and-notyourshield>
- 2014 **Chess, S.,** Consalvo, M., Huntemann, N., Shaw, A., Stabile, C., Stromer-Galley, J. (2014). GamerGate and Academia. *International Communication Association Newsletter*, 42 (9).
http://www.icahdq.org/MembersNewsletter/NOV14_ART0009.asp
- 2014 Chess, S. (2014.) The Two Slender Mans. *Culture Digitally.*
<http://culturedigitally.org/2014/09/the-two-slender-mans/>
- 2011 Chess, S. (2011.) Getting women in the game. *Communication Currents.* 6(5):
<http://www.natcom.org/CommCurrentsArticle.aspx?id=1791>
- 2010 Chess, S. (2010.) How to play a feminist. *Thirdspace,*
<http://www.thirdspace.ca/journal/article/viewArticle/273>
- 2009 Chess, S. (2009.) Playing with your food. *Bitch Magazine.* 44: 30-31.

Book/Game Reviews

- 2010 Chess, S. (2010.) *Dire Grove, Diner Dash Boom, and Avenue Flo*: reviews of recent games in the casual PC market. *Women and Language*. 33(20): 119-121.
- 2009 Chess, S. (2009.) Book review for *Digital culture, play and identity: A World of Warcraft reader*. Resource Center for Cyberculture Studies.
<http://rccs.usfca.edu/bookinfo.asp?ReviewID=622&BookID=432>

Grants

- 2015 Co-PI, Funded by Canadian Social Science and Humanities Research Council (through York University), "Re-Figuring Innovation in Games." 2.5 Million (Canadian) for 5 year project.
- 2016 Key personnel, application to Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant through the National Endowment for Humanities.
"Preservation and Accessibility of Born-Digital Arts at UGA."

Awards and Honors

- 2014 Outstanding Teacher recognition in Telecommunications
- 2010 Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia College, Ellen Stone Belic Institute for the Study of Women & Gender in the Arts & Media,
- 2007-2009 Rensselaer Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences Fellowship, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Invited Talks

- 2016 Ready Player Two: Women, Video Games, and Designed Identity. Presentation at Charis Books and More, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 Who's Afraid of a Slender Man. Presentation for the Athens Science Café, Athens, GA.
- 2015 The Slender Man: The Uncanny Lure of the Digital Campfire. Presentation at the University of Central Florida, Texts & Technology Program.
- 2014 Playing Femininity: The Construction and Commodification of the Woman Gamer. Paper presented at the University of Georgia for the Institute of Women's Studies Friday Speaker Series.

- 2014 Diversity and Gaming. Panel on Diversity and Gaming, Symposium at American University
- 2012 Bodies at play: The anxieties of gendered gaming, Paper presented at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Department of Mass Communication.
- 2009 A time to play. Paper presented at the University of Utah, Department of Communication.
- 2009 Can't get no play! Women, video games, and productivity. Paper presented at the Albany International Game Developer Association, Albany, NY.
- 2005 Playing the bad guy: Grand Theft Auto in the panopticon. Paper presented at the University of Pittsburgh lecture series on new media, Pittsburgh, PA.

Conference Presentations

- 2016 Chess, S. (2016). Invest/Express and the New Femme-pocalypse of Gaming. ReFig (Refigure Games and Feminism). Montreal, QB.
- 2016 Chess, S. (2016). Workforce, Playforce, and Invest/Express: Gender and the Work and Play of Video Games. Console-ing Passions, Notre Dame, IN.
- 2016 Chess, S. (2016). When You See It You'll S**t Brix: Rethinking Horror Aesthetics in Digital Spaces. *Rhetorical Society of America*. Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 Chess, S. (2015). Who <3's Slendy? Making Sense of Slender Man Fandom. Internet Research 16.0 (AoIR). Phoenix, AZ.
- 2015 **Chess, S.** & Evans, N. (2015). What Does a Gamer Look Like? A Study of Video Games, Advertising, and Diversity. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference, San Juan, PR, May 2015.
- 2015 Shaw, A. & **Chess, S.** (2015). 4chan thinks we are scientologists, YouTube thinks we are creationists, and Twitter thinks we are Marxists: GamerGate, anti-intellectualism, and anti-feminism. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference, San Juan, PR, May 2015.
- 2014 Chess, S. The Politics of Casual: Situating Casual Games in a Hardcore Industry. *Meaningful Play 2014*. East Lansing, MI.
- 2014 Chess, S. A Queer Little Story: Orgasms, Heteronormativity, and the Video Game Narrative. *Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA)*. Snowbird, UT.
- 2013 Chess, S. The Mystery of the Hidden Gamer: Women, Leisure, and Hidden Object Games. *Internet Research 14.0*. Denver, CO.
- 2013 Chess, S. Hidden Objects/Hidden Gaming: Women and Video Game Genres. *International Conference on Media and the Public Sphere*. Athens, GA.
- 2013 Chess, S. Strange Bedfellows: Romance, Subjectivity, and Video Games. *Extending Play*. New Brunswick, NJ.

- 2012 Chess, S. Don't worry, Mama will fix it!: Playing with the mama myth in video games. *National Communication Association*. Orlando, FL.
- 2012 Chess, S. Martha Stewart gets a Castleville: The discontents of women, games, and marketing. Midwest Popular Culture Association. Columbus, OH.
- 2011 Chess, S. Just as Good as Mama: *Cooking Mama* and the mama myth. *Internet Research 12.0*. Seattle, WA.
- 2011 Chess, S. Resisting Pink: Interventions and playful pedagogies. *Games+Learning+Society*. Madison, WI.
- 2009 Chess, S. The failure of the Ron Paul rally in World of Warcraft. *National Communication Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2009 Chess, S. Wii are family: Wiis, miis, and family play time. *Internet Research 10.0*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
- 2009 Chess, S. Playing, dashing, and working: Simulated productive play in the Dash Games. *DiGRA*, West London, England.
- 2008 Chess, S. Balancing on the great gender platform (watching the video game sharks below). *Internet Research 9.0*, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2008 **Chess, S.** & Davisson, A. A 36-24-36 Cerebrum: The Nintendo DS and Gendered Advertisements. William A. Kern Conference on Visual Communication, Rhetorics, and Technology, Rochester, NY.
- 2007 Chess, S. What do feminists know about play anyway? Understanding feminism through digital play. *The Society for Social Studies of Sciences*, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2007 Chess, S. My gnome, my guild, my self: MMOs and the collective projective identity. *National Popular Cultural Association*, Boston, Massachusetts.
- 2007 Chess, S. Commentary without pity: Retelling, rewriting, and recapping the television text. *International Conference on Narrative*, Washington DC.
- 2006 Chess, S. The C-Word (Cylon!): *Battlestar Galactica* and the Technoqueer. Midwest Popular Culture Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2004 Chess, S. The Delinquent Avatar: Foucault and *Grand Theft Auto*. Midwest Popular Culture Association, Cleveland, OH.
- 2003 Chess, S. Technology, Femininity, and Fabulous Accessories: *Alias* and Cyborg Representation. Media in Transition 3 (MIT3), Cambridge, MA.

Conference Panels, Roundtables, and Fishbowls

- 2016 #cybermisogyny: Combatting Gendered Hate Online. Console-ing Passions, Notre Dame, IN.

- 2016 Meet me at the Crossroads: Intersectionality and Feminist Game Studies. *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*. Atlanta, GA
- 2015 It's Really About Ethics in Games in Games Research: Reflections on #GamerGate. *Internet Research 16.0 (AoIR)*. Phoenix, AZ.
- 2014 The Playful is Political: A Fishbowl Conversation on Identity and Diversity in Game Culture. *DiGRA 2014*. (Co-Organizer). Snowbird, UT.
- 2013 ARGHHHH!: The Joys and Frustrations of Teaching with Alternate Reality Games. *Internet Research 14.0*. Denver, CO.
- 2013 Power Ups: Iconography in Digital Games. *Digital Games Research Association (DiGRA)*. Atlanta, GA.
- 2011 Videogames and the Need for Feminist Game Studies. *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2010 Taboo: Are there areas in which meaningful play must not, cannot tread? *Meaningful Play*, Lansing, MI.
- 2009 Methodological Issues in Video Game Research. *National Communication Association*, Chicago, Illinois.

Workshops

- 2016 Video Games and Intersectionality. Hosted by the University of Chicago – Illinois. Nov. 4, 2016.

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia, Athens, GA

- JRLC 5400 – Gender, Race, & Class in the Media
- NMIX 4200 – Communities of Play
- EMST/TELE 3010 – Introduction to Telecommunications
- EMST/TELE 3100 – Writing for Digital Media
- EMST/TELE 3510 – Elements of Narrative
- EMST/TELE 5990 – Seminar in Media Arts (Turner Interactive Projects Course)
- EMST/TELE 5990 – The Peabody Awards: Television History & Excellence (online course)

Miami University, Oxford, OH

- CMS 201– Comparative Media Studies
- COM 212 – Media & Representation
- COM 354 – Media & Society
- COM 355 – Media Technology
- COM/IMS/WST 450 – Gender & Gaming (special topics course)
- FST/COM 146 – Media Aesthetics

FST/COM 205 – American Film as Communication
FST/COM 206 – Diversity & Culture in American Film

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY (TA)

COM 6810 – HCI Prototyping – *Instructor of Record: Dan Glaser*
IHSS 1972 – History and Culture of Games – *Instructor of Record: Michael Lynch*
ITEC 2210 – Introduction to HCI – *Instructor of Record: Dan Glaser*
LITR 2450 – Utopian Literature – *Instructor of Record: June Deery*

Endicott College, Beverly, MA

CMM 101 – Introduction to Mass Communication
CMM 380 – Media Ethics and Law

Media Appearances

Aug. 11, 2016 Interview for Atlanta Journal Constitution – About Pokémon Go
Sept. 17, 2014 Interview for WABE – Atlanta – About Facebook
Oct. 10, 2014 Interview for WABE – Atlanta – About Cartoon Network
June 9, 2014 Interview for *The Washington Post* – Follow up about Slenderman
June 9, 2014 Interview for *Huffington Post UK* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 9, 2014 Interview for *O Globo* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 9, 2014 Interview for *Red & Black* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 5, 2014 Interviewed for *Nancy Grace* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 5, 2014 Interviewed for *New York Times* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 4, 2014 Interviewed for NPR *Here and Now* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 4, 2014 Interviewed for Arlene Bynon Show – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 4, 2014 Interviewed for CTV News – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 3, 2014 Interviewed for *Christian Science Monitor* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 3, 2014 Interviewed for *The Guardian* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 3, 2014 Interviewed for Associated Press – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 3, 2014 Interviewed for Associated Press Radio – About Slenderman Phenomenon
June 3, 2014 Interviewed for *The Washington Post* – About Slenderman Phenomenon
Dec. 20, 2006 Interviewed for *The Vancouver Sun* – About gender and gaming

Service to Profession

Journal Editorial Board:
Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer:
Critical Studies in Media Communication
Feminist Media Studies
Games & Culture
Information, Communication, & Society
Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media
Journalism
Sociology Compass

Conference Reviewer:

AEJMC
Digital Games Research Association
Extending Play
Foundations of Digital Games
International Communication Association
Internet Research (AoIR)
Meaningful Play

Committee Work:

Aboriginal Territories in Cyberspace (Concordia University), Nov. 2006-June 2008.

Departmental/University Service

University/Committee Work:

2016 Grady College Graduate Committee
2016 Job Search Committee – Television Studies position
2016 Job Search Committee - Digital Cultures and Industries Committee
2014 Job Search Committee – Telecommunications/Engineering joint position
2014 Digital Media Masters (4+1) Committee, Grady College, University of Georgia
2014 Digital Portfolio Committee, Grady College, University of Georgia
2014 Peabody Award Judge, Grady College, University of Georgia
2013-2015 Undergraduate Admissions Committee, Grady College, University of Georgia
2012 Professorship in Digital Learning Search Committee, Miami University
2009-2012 Mass Communication Curriculum Redesign Committee, Miami University
2009-2012 Communication Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Miami University

Organizer:

2011 Femme Fatale Film Series, Miami University Art Museum
2009 Departmental Colloquium Series, Department of Language, Literature, & Communication, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Graduate Student Committee Work

2016 Ezequiel Korin, Doctoral Committee, University of Georgia
2016 Jessica Hennenfent, Doctoral Committee, University of Georgia
2011 Grant Gerlock, Master's Thesis Committee, Miami University

Media Consulting

2016 Turner Entertainment Networks, Burbank and Atlanta, Academic Consultant
2015 *Beware the Slenderman* (HBO documentary), Director Irene Taylor Brodsky, Academic Consultant

Community Involvement/Outreach

2009 Co-Instructor, SUNY Youth Institute
2009-2010 Games in Education Symposium, 1st Playable Production

Non-Academic Work

2012-2013 Beacon Initiative, Game Designer
2006-2010 1st Playable Productions, Game Designer, Troy, NY
2001-2005 Houghton Mifflin Publishing, Academic Web Developer, Boston, MA
2001-2002 Children's Progress, Game Designer, Somerville, MA
1999-2001 Inc.com, Web Developer, Boston, MA
1998-1999 Nova Southeastern University, Academic Web Designer, Ft. Lauderdale, FL