

Form 39.08

2017

Court Administration

DEC 15 2017

Halifax, N.S.

Hfx. No. 463399

**SUPREME COURT OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**BETWEEN:**

LORNE WAYNE GRABHER

Applicant

– And –

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA as  
represented by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles

Respondent

**Affidavit of Professor Carrie A. Rentschler**

I, Carrie Rentschler, affirm and give evidence as follows:

1. I am a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University and the William Dawson Scholar of Feminist Media Studies.
2. I have been retained by the province of Nova Scotia and, as such, have knowledge of the evidence affirmed to in this affidavit except where otherwise stated to be based on information or belief.
3. Attached to this Affidavit as **Exhibit A** is a copy of my report dated December 15, 2017.
4. A copy of my *curriculum vitae* is attached to this Affidavit as **Exhibit B**.

5. A copy of the retainer email I received from the lawyer for the Province of Nova Scotia is attached to this Affidavit as **Exhibit C**.
6. In addition to the articles I have listed in the bibliography attached to my report, I have also reviewed the Notice of Application, the Notice of Contest and Mr. Grabher's affidavit filed with the court on November 1, 2017.

Affirmed to before me on \_\_\_\_\_, at  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alison Campbell  
Barrister of the Supreme Court of Nova  
Scotia

\_\_\_\_\_  
Professor Carrie A. Rentschler

TAB

A

2017                      Hfx. No. 463399  
This is Exhibit "A" referred to  
in the Affidavit of Carrie Rentschler  
affirmed before me on December 15, 2017

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Signature



**Expert Report Prepared for  
Grabher vs. Nova Scotia Registrar of Motor Vehicles Charter of Rights s.2(b) and s.15} Matter  
No. [17-1864]**

**Submitted by Prof. Carrie A. Rentschler  
December 15, 2017**

I, Carrie Rentschler, have prepared this report at the request of the Government of Nova Scotia. I have been retained by the Solicitor's Office of Nova Scotia to provide an objective opinion for assistance to the court. I am prepared to testify at the trial or hearing, comply with all directions of the court, and apply independent judgement to the court in my role as an expert. This report includes everything I have deemed relevant to the expressed opinion on the case at hand and the questions I have been posed as an expert witness. It also draws attention to anything that could reasonably have led to a different set of conclusions.

This report begins with a brief explanation of my qualifications, experience and background as an expert. I then explain how I have formed my expert opinion in answer to the questions I have been posed, through my consultation of key literatures and research, and the approaches I draw upon in my assessment. The report then continues by answering three questions posed by the Government of Nova Scotia regarding the offensive nature of the appearance of the phrase "GRABHER" on a government-issued license plate.

### **BACKGROUND, EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS**

I am a tenured Associate Professor in the Department of Art History and Communication Studies at McGill University and the William Dawson Scholar of Feminist Media Studies. The latter is a university-funded research chair dedicated to the study of media and feminist issues, and the training of highly qualified personnel in this area. I have been a professor at McGill University for 13 years; before that I was a Visiting Assistant Professor of Women's Studies at the University of Pittsburgh. Between 2011 and 2015, I was Director of the Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at McGill University. I have held visiting positions at the Centre for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Communication at Stanford University (2010-11), and the Centre for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany (Fall 2017). I received my doctorate in Communications Research (2002) and my MA in Speech Communication (1996) from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. I graduated with an honours BA magna cum laude from the University of Minnesota with a major in Humanities and a focus on Women's and Gender Studies.

I examine how social movements and advocates use media to respond to violence and seek to prevent it. Most of my research focuses on how gendered violence appears in public and across media platforms, as well as activist responses to it. I have researched feminist activism online, with special attention to social media; the use of media and communication networks in

feminist anti- violence organizations; and the adoption of survivor-centred ways of reporting by journalists and news organizations. My other research examines the role bystander intervention plays in responding to gendered social violence online and offline, and the role feminist self-defense pedagogy has played in anti-violence movements. Full citation information on the publications that have resulted from this research can be found in my curriculum vita, which accompanies this report.

I am a lead researcher on the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Partnership grant "IMPACTS: Collaborations to End Rape Culture on University Campuses" (funded 2016-2023). On this funded research partnership, I oversee the research axis on activism in arts and popular culture. I am also a research member of the SSHRC Partnership Development grant "Bridging with STEAMM" which develops feminist collaborative educational tools to address gender violence through technological learning; I am one of two faculty members on the team in Montreal. My individual research has been funded by SSHRC, the Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC), the National Endowment of the Humanities, the Beaverbrook Foundation through Media@McGill, and McGill University. My research expertise draws in addition from my prior experience as an anti-violence educator and co-founder of a feminist self-defense teaching collective in Champaign-Urbana, IL.

### **APPROACH AND METHODS TAKEN IN WRITING THE REPORT**

To write this report, I have consulted the relevant literatures on violence against women and the continuum of sexual violence in order to explain the contributive role offensive and rape supportive expression plays in promoting violence against women. I have drawn from existing research on the use of social media and other cultural and media practices to define and respond to rape culture and its articulation in speech, image, and action. I discuss critical scholarship on Donald Trump's use of the phrase "grab them by the pussy" as reported during the 2016 US presidential election, and cultural responses to it within the context of his campaign. Some of the research on which I draw is my own, including research that analyzes similar cases of speech supportive of the oppression of women and responses that oppose them. I also draw evidence from established international, national and other non-governmental organizations who have commissioned key research reports related to gender violence and harassing and hateful speech. These actors play an important role in defining why and how sexist speech is offensive and harmful, as well as documenting the extent and magnitude of the problem.

### **CONTENT OF THE REPORT**

I have been asked to provide an opinion on the case around three specific questions. I include each question below, the answers to which constitute my expert opinion on the matter.

**1. Is the appearance of the word/phrase "GRABHER" on a government-issued license plate offensive? Why or why not?**

The appearance of the phrase "GRABHER" on a government-issued license plate would commonly be considered offensive. I offer two explanations for why in the answer to this first question. The first addresses the location and appearance of the phrase on a license plate. The second explains how the phrase, "grab her," connotes the support of physical violence against women that many people would find offensive (that is, if they believe violence against women is wrong).

**A. The Appearance of the Phrase on a Government-Issued License Plate is Offensive**

The appearance of the word "GRABHER" on a personalized, government-issued license plate is an offensive public speech act. A word/phrase on a license plate is not only a personal expression, it is also a governmental one. The location of the phrase on a government-issued license plate gives the phrase more authority. It also adds to the offense members of the public could take regarding the meaning of the phrase, because the statement appears as a government-endorsed speech act.

On a government-issued plate, the "speaker" or "author" of the phrase includes not only the owner of the registered vehicle. It also includes the province of Nova Scotia, whose office of the Registrar of Motor Vehicles approves and disapproves personalized expressions on government-issued license plates. As an expression/phrase on a license plate, it occurs within the same purview of other government regulated signage. The province's Registrar of Motor Vehicles also provides the platform – the painted metal license plate – on which the phrase appears in public, as a "licensed" statement. License plates are a form of government speech, and are regulated in several ways: all license plates within a province in use at one time are unique, and each serve to identify the vehicle (for people not in it). Normally, the government selects the letters and numbers of the plate. In these cases, the plate is understood entirely as government speech, rather than as the self-expression of the driver/owner. In the case of a personalized plate, it is a shared speech act between the province and the person who pays for the plate.

If the statement appeared elsewhere and *not* on a government-issued license plate, say on a bumper sticker, then the government would not be considered a co-author/co-speaker of the phrase. Members of the public could still find the phrase offensive, however, and likely would. But in this instance, were the offensive speech not on a license plate, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles would not be a "co-author"/"co-speaker" of the phrase/statement nor would it provide government legitimacy to its offensive meaning.

## B. What Makes the Word/Phrase "GRABHER" Offensive?

By referring to the word/phrase on the license plate as a public speech act<sup>1</sup>, I mean that "GRABHER" is expressed in a context where members of the public are its expected recipients or witnesses – whether known or unknown to the speaker or "utterer" of the expression. The personalized license plate is a performance of speech/expression in a particular social context. I address what a speech act is before turning to analysis of why and how the phrase "grab her" is offensive.

J.L. Austin (1962), a philosopher of language, conceptualized language as speech acts, or what he called "performatives." As performatives, words do not only denote things (such as by naming them), they also *do* things and have effects. A speech act comes into being around the utterance or appearance of a phrase/statement, and then continues as the phrase is received and interpreted by its addressees. Other participants in a speech situation co-construct the meaning of a phrase/word along with the agent who utters it (Austin 1962, 8; see also Butler 1997). Meaning is "collectively defined"; there is "mutual dependence between someone's words and the audience's response and interpretation" (Duranti 1986, 241). Even before a statement is made, prior and co-existing meanings shape what an uttered phrase means. These other meanings are made in relationship to other cultural materials, words, and images.

A statement is made, then, in conditions where the parameters for what can be said have already been, to some degree, established by prior speech acts, expressions, images and other practices of meaning-making (see e.g. Bakhtin 1981). Social life is made up of people making meanings with each other over time, through symbolic and embodied acts of communication, or speech acts (see Carey 1988/2005, Fiske 1990). Speech acts and the signs used in them are not simply ideas or shared ways of thinking; they also constitute social and political forces that have social effects (see Fiske 1990, 172). They are, in this way, ideological.

Before continuing, a point of clarification: in the context of contemporary internet culture, it would be very common to read "GRABHER" as "grab her," adding in a space between "grab" and "her." Online "tags," or "hashtags," establish keywords that assist in online searches for information. The hashtagging of a keyword then connects all statements using the #keyword into a networked conversation, what social media scholars Axel Bruns and Jean Burgess (2015) call the "ad hoc publics" that form online. These tags are often more than one word in length, and are written without spaces between them. Some example hashtags include: #mencallmethings, #EverydaySexism, #YesAllWomen, #RapeCultureIsWhen, #MeToo, #NotOkay, and #BindersFullOfWomen (see Megarry 2014, Rentschler 2015, 2017, Rentschler and Thrift 2015, Thrift 2014). In the context of online culture and social media platforms –

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<sup>1</sup> Speech acts are not always spoken words. They also include written language, nonverbal signs, images and sounds.

which is also where most adults get their news<sup>2</sup> – a statement like “GRABHER” would easily connote something like a keyword. Cultural awareness of the problem of sexist, harassing and offensive speech directed at girls and women comes in part from the conversations that happen around the hashtags listed above (among others), the testimonial content through which they circulate, and the news coverage and popular press attention they achieve.

Many of the public conversations about offensive speech directed at girls and women occurs online and in social media. On social media, girls and women share experiences of harassment and testify to their experiences of it (e.g. Keller et. al. 2016, Powell 2015, Sills et. al. 2016, Rentschler 2014). While street harassment is a particularly gendered phenomenon affecting girls and women (see Kearl 2010), studies also demonstrate that harassing and offensive speech online is most often directed at girls and women as well. It is also an extensive, growing problem on social media (Banet-Weiser and Miltner 2016, Citron 2014, Levmore and Nussbaum 2010, Massanari 2015, Penny 2014). Women’s experiences of harassment online and in social media reinforces their experiences of harassment offline. Hashtagged responses to those experiences feed cultural debates, research studies, and media coverage of the magnitude of online harassment and its relationship to the harassment and violence committed against girls and women offline.

The phrase “grab her” is uttered/enacted in relation to other similar or “like” cultural phrases and practices. It is part of larger contexts of debate and discussion -- such as hashtag conversations -- where the meaning of phrases and their effects in speech acts are also debated. According to Stuart Hall, a major cultural theorist of communication and culture, meaning is “encoded” and “decoded” (made and deciphered/interpreted) in relations of power that are enacted through rituals of communication (1980, 117; see also Hall 1981, Williams 1977). Individuals are part of this process, but so are government institutions, organizations, movements, and corporations, among others. No one part of the communication process determines the full meaning of a message, including the intent of the speaker. An act of communication is always part of historically specific set of conditions that shape how and why meanings are made, challenged, and changed, and through what means.

The meaning of “grab her” is offensive because it supports, condones and encourages violence against women. “Grabher” – read as “grab her” -- is a speech act that causes offense, “crossing over from expressive activity to threat” (Butler 2017). As an injunction, the phrase encourages its recipients to grab or grope female individuals with or without their consent. “Grab her,” then, is a command that targets a particular class of people: girls and women. Those who belong to and identify with the class of people targeted by the phrase could reasonably be assumed to find this phrase offensive, and potentially threatening. The “fact” of targets’ gender identity is only one piece of the proof of offense; it is also how people interpret the speech act

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<sup>2</sup> An estimated 62% of adults in the US get their news from social media, according to a 2016 Pew Research Center study (Gottfried and Shearer 2016), rather than reading newspapers in print or online, watching TV news, or listening to radio news.



because of the reality of who is primarily targeted by it (girls and women), why, how, and with what social effects.

People who do not belong to the category of targeted individuals can find the statement offensive because they interpret it as supportive of violence against women. Those who find it offensive are likely to be opposed to violence against women and the cultural expressions that support it. Those who do not find it offensive would, in turn, be supportive of (or would condone) violence against women and the cultural expressions that represent it as legitimate. People come to these frameworks of interpretation via their concrete experiences and the ways of knowing that emerge from them (see Anzaldua 2007, Belenky et. al. 1986, Crenshaw 1989, 1991, Hill-Collins 2000, Harding 1991, Haraway 1991, Warner 2002).

Some speakers' words carry more weight because of the power they represent in their social position. The power of the offense in the statement "grab her" on a license plate is conferred by the province, which amplifies and legitimates the speech act and its misogynist meanings. The province's speech act also connects it and the car's owner to others who express harassing speech acts against women. Therefore, a key part of the offense committed by the license plate phrase is that the province and owner speak it together in a context in which sexually harassing speech and comments, and sexual violence, are a serious social problem and have increasingly been recognized as such.

The offensive and injurious nature of the speech act, constituted by the appearance of "grab her" on a license plate, rests in the unequal relations of power in which that speech act occurs. In the current context, the statement "grab her" would be understood to condone a culture supportive of sexual violence, or what is commonly referred to as "rape culture" (Buchwald et. al. 2005, Keller et. al. 2016, Rentschler 2014). Rape culture is:

A complex of beliefs that encourages male sexual aggression and supports violence against women. It is a society where violence is seen as sexy and sexuality as violent. In a rape culture, women perceive a continuum of threatened violence that ranges from sexual remarks to sexual touching to rape itself. A rape culture condones physical and emotional terrorism against women *as the norm.*" (Buchwald, Fletcher, and Roth, 2005, xiii)

Today the concept of rape culture is widely used among educators, social movements, activists, bloggers, Twitter users, and others to interpret the range of behaviors and practices in which violence against girls and women is encouraged and legitimated (Phillips 2017, Rentschler 2014). It has become the subject of major public awareness campaigns such as #MeToo and #mencallmethings and anti-violence initiatives in communities and across college campuses (Rentschler 2014). As of 2013, popular media coverage of the problem of rape culture dramatically increased, as have Google searches using the term (which is one sign of the currency of particular keywords; see Phillips 2017).

The speech act “grab her” is located on a continuum of violence against women (Kelly 1988, Leidig 1992) which includes catcalling, rape jokes, verbal harassment, unwanted touching, non-consensual sexual behavior, physical and psychological abuse, sexual assault, and sexualized murder or femicide: acts which make up rape culture and the normative gender roles that reproduce it. Other behaviors and acts may appear on the continuum based on different ways in which it is enacted to control, degrade, harm, and hurt girls and women. Verbal expressions, phrases and jokes that are supportive of violence against women – that support rape culture – contribute to a climate of fear in which many girls and women live (Fine and Weis 1998, Gordon and Riger 1989, Stanko 1990, Pain 1991, Valentine 1989; see also Marcus 1992, McCaughey 1997, Rentschler 2004, Rentschler 2015, Stabile and Rentschler 2005). The structural supports for gendered violence get reproduced through powerful cultural scripts that teach girls and women to fear gender violence while boys and men learn to enact it (see Cuklanz 2000, Davis 1981, Fine and Weis 1998, Gordon and Riger 1989, Hollander 2001, Hlavka 2014, Madriz 1997, McCaughey 1997, Meyers 1997, Projansky 2001, Stanko 1990, Rapping 2003). These scripts of violence become part of the ways young people learn and enact gender (Hlavka 2014, Jane 2014, Pascoe and Hollander 2016, West and Zimmerman 1987).

If you are the subject of the speech act “grab her,” (e.g. girls and women), you will very likely interpret the phrase not only as offensive, but also as hateful and threatening. The phrase “grab her,” then, is offensive because it condones acts of physical aggression and violence against female-identifying persons and contributes to a culture in which girls and women fear for their safety. The speech act does not have to be intentional in order for it to contribute to a culture that supports and condones gendered and sexual violence.

## 2. Has the meaning of the phrase “GRABHER” changed over time?

Since 2016, the meaning of the phrase “GRABHER” has significantly changed and has a direct cultural referent in statements made public during the US presidential election campaign that year. Those latter statements achieved extensive coverage in Canada<sup>3</sup> and launched 700 Women’s Marches across the US, Canada, and the world, post-election (Bore et. al., 2018). I refer to Donald Trump’s statement “grab them by the pussy,” a comment he made while boasting to another man about how he harassed, groped and physically assaulted women and got away with it. I explain the significance of this context below and how it shapes the meaning of the license-plate phrase “grab her.”

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<sup>3</sup> See “America Votes” 2016, “Donald Trump Banalise Les Aggressions Sexuelles” 2016, “From ‘Locker Room’ Video to Nasty Debate” 2016, Harpaz 2016, McMartin 2016, Murphy 2016, “New Allegations Against Trump” 2016, Offman 2016, Pelley 2016, Russel 2016, Scoffield 2016, “Sexual Assault Allegations Against Trump” 2016, “Sexual Assault in the Age of Trump” 2016, Shaw 2016, Simpson 2016, Stepan 2016, “Trump Caught on Video” 2016, “Trump’s 2005 Comments Disgust Women,” “Video: Trump Brags about Ability to Grope Women” 2016,

#### A. The Timing of the Meaning of the Phrase in 2016

While the phrase “grab her” on the license plate in question does not include the words “by the pussy,” as of October 8, 2016, when the recording of a statement by Donald Trump was made public by *The Washington Post* and then went viral, the phrase “grab her” had a direct cultural reference point in the phrase “grab them by the pussy.” This does not mean “GRABHER” was not offensive before the timing of the statement or December 9, 2016, when the complainant was informed by the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in Nova Scotia that the license plate would be revoked. It means that conditions changed such that one or more individuals made the effort to file a complaint (or complaints) regarding the offensiveness of the phrase. The fact that a complaint was not made to the Registrar prior to this time does not constitute proof that people did not find the phrase offensive before 2016. As a phrase, “grab her” still would have signified support for the groping and physical assault of women, even 27 years ago.

Conditions changed in 2016, when talk of grabbing women and doing other kinds of violence to them became the subject of high profile, international media coverage and public debate about misogyny and sexism.<sup>4</sup> By October 8, 2016, the statement “grab her” would have been interpreted in relation to Donald Trump’s offensive and sexually abusive statement about grabbing women by their genitals. The significance of the revelation of Trump’s statement bears directly on the context in which someone or someone(s) would find the license plate phrase “grab her” especially offensive at the time. I quote from the *Washington Post* transcript of the statements Trump made and then explain how his statements were found to be highly offensive and supportive of violence against women.

#### B. The Meaning of “Grab Her” in the Context of Donald Trump’s Statement “Grab them by the Pussy”

The following is a transcribed portion of the 2005 videotaped recording in which Trump boasts to Billy Bush of the “Access Hollywood” TV show that he gropes and otherwise physically assaults women and gets away with it due to his celebrity, wealth, and power. The transcription was first published in a news story that appeared on October 8, 2016 in *The Washington Post* (Fahrentholdt, 2016):

Trump: You know, I’m automatically attracted to beautiful ---- I just start kissing them. It’s like a magnet. Just kiss. I don’t even wait. And when you’re a star, they let you do it. You can do anything.

Bush: Whatever you want...

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<sup>4</sup> Misogyny is defined as the hatred of women, or more capaciously as the “tendency to dismiss and deride femaleness and femininity” (Serano 2009, 14). Sexism is prejudice and discrimination against girls and women coupled with the power to enforce it.



Trump: Grab them by the pussy. You can do anything.<sup>5</sup>

While the words themselves are offensive, the fact that a presidential candidate is heard saying them (even 11 years prior to their revelation) adds to the offense because of the power his position confers onto the words he says -- as party candidate, as corporate executive, and as a celebrity. His statement provides legitimacy to the belief that it is okay to commit violence against women, and to take pleasure in it, so long as you are a powerful man, as the recording so clearly demonstrates.

There are direct links between Trump's statement about grabbing women by their genitals and kissing them without their consent and reports of his commission of violence and sexual harassment against women. Twenty women have come forward and brought legal cases against Trump for being sexually harassed, groped and assaulted by him (Graves and Morris 2017, Douglas 2017). News coverage of the *Access Hollywood* videotaped conversation led to an increase in coverage of these women's suits against Trump. It also led to reports by thousands more women who shared stories of harassment committed by other men, making even more public the connection between statements about groping and assaulting women and sexually violent behavior committed against them (see Blumell and Huemmer 2017, Harpaz 2016, Joseph 2016, Pelley 2016, Wang 2017).<sup>6</sup> In addition to these cases, NBC correspondent Katy Tur reported to *The Guardian* that she was non-consensually kissed by Donald Trump at one of his rallies while covering his campaign ("Katy Tur on Covering Trump's Lies," 2017).

Trump's answer to questions about his statements added to their offense because they minimized the harm and injury his words represented (his doing violence to women) and enacted (threatening to harass and assault more women). As the press reported, Trump stated: "This was locker room banter, a private conversation that took place many years ago. Bill Clinton has said far worse to me on the golf course—not even close. I apologize if anyone was offended" (Fahrenthold 2016). Trump did not apologize for the content of his speech or what it revealed about his attitudes toward women. Instead his explanation contributes to the idea that violence against women is acceptable and that verbal statements of threat and boasts of

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<sup>5</sup> A copy of *The Washington Post* story, with the full transcript of the recording is included in the Appendix.

<sup>6</sup> In addition to the harassment and sexual assault cases against Donald Trump, several other high-profile cases of sexual harassment and sexual assault have been reported by women and men against US actors Bill Cosby and Kevin Spacey, CBC personality Jian Ghomeshi, and Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, among others that bear on the context in which this case is understood. These cases brought broad public attention to the problem of sexual harassment and sexual violence, while also revealing the ways male power and privilege protect those who commit acts of violence against women, and in the case of Spacey, men. Trump's statement and the reports women have made of his assaults against them have fueled responses to the assaults by Weinstein and others subsequent ones (see Douglas 2017).

having assaulted women should not be taken seriously and are not important; it's just "men being men" – reproducing three key cultural myths about sexual assault (see Lonsway et. al. 1999). In the process, he shifts responsibility for the role his speech act plays in legitimating violence against women and the harms such a speech act can incur onto those who find the statements offensive.

Many interpreted Trump's recorded statement as an admission that he has physically assaulted women and also takes pleasure in women not consenting to being grabbed. The high-profile news stories of the recording spawned vocal outcry against the candidate's treatment of and attitudes toward women, including by former Canadian Prime Minister Kim Campbell, BC Premier Christy Clark, and US first lady Michelle Obama (Shaw 2015, Simpson 2016). Outraged responses circulated in mainstream media and in social media channels (Richardson 2016). Reporters covering his campaign, former employees and other women assaulted by him, members of his own party, and members of the public all found his behavior and statements to be not only offensive, but violent and potentially criminal (see Tur 2017).<sup>7</sup>

In fall 2016, the license plate phrase "grab her" thus appeared in the context of Trump's statements about grabbing women by their genitals, and could easily have been interpreted as an endorsement and echo of Trump's statement. On the license plate, "grab her" picked up the gendered meanings and cultural references from the discussion of Donald Trump's remarks, in a communication environment that included Twitter conversations, Facebook posts, and TV, print and online news stories of the Trump recording and responses to it.<sup>8</sup> Social media have become important sites of public opinion expression and formation, replacing letters to the editor as the main source for representations of what people think about current issues (see Wahl-Jorgensen 2014). Social media posts reveal a certain measure of what people think and how they judge the offensiveness of a statement, constituting contemporary public spheres.

On January 21, 2017, the day after Trump's formal inauguration as US president, millions of people participated in Women's Marches around the world (including Canada) to protest the election of an admitted sexual harasser and assailant. Some estimates counted over 5 million participants in 82 countries, with Twitter reporting over 11.5 million tweets using

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<sup>7</sup> Members of the public include those who pay witness to harassing speech and statements as its bystanders, offline but also online, through links and shares that spread offensive speech through social media networks (see Duggan 2014, Rentschler 2011, 2015, 2016). They provide some of the evidence for the range of people and institutions that took great offense to his statements and related behaviors.

<sup>8</sup> Trump's self-promotional celebrity persona and particular rhetorical style were honed in the context of 14 seasons of his reality TV show *The Apprentice*. Numerous studies in media studies communication have explained the particular contexts of production, social impact and meaning of Trump's speech acts, particularly the spectacular and offensive nature of them. See Andrejevic 2016, Couldry and Littler 2011, Dubrofsky 2016, Elmer and Todd 2016, Guthey 2016, Ouellette 2016, Hall, Goldstein and Ingram 2016, Hearn 2016, 2017, Littler 2013.

#Women'sMarch in just over 24 hours (Cohen 2017). Another study of Twitter posts between January 12 and 28 before and after the Women's March found over 14.4 million unique tweets from over 3.5 million users (Ruest 2017). This level of response provides crucial evidence for the ways people organized online and in the streets to express their concern and outrage over his offensive, misogynist speech and behavior and the ways that oppression has been institutionalized into the highest office in the US. Many of the protest symbols and slogans also specifically referenced or challenged Trump's "grab them by the pussy" statement (Larabee 2017, Bore et. al. 2018). The revocation of the complainant's license plate on January 13, 2017 occurred 8 days prior to these marches, in the midst of intensive social movement organizing against the sexism and bigotry of Trump and his election as president of the United States.

Trump's statement about grabbing women by their genitals has also been linked to increases in hate crimes. Studies show an increase of hate crimes committed over the course of his election campaign and as a consequence of his election. A study published by the *Southern Poverty Law Center*, a non-governmental organization that documents the commission of hate crimes and hate speech in the U.S., documented over 867 hate crimes in the 10 days after the U.S. election in November 2016. ("Ten Days After" 2016). Additionally, the news outlet *USA Today* reported "a massive increase in hate speech on Twitter during the presidential election" in 2016 (Ott 2016, 66 citing Guynn 2016), while the group Human Rights Watch warned that the US election and the rise of European ethnic nationalist parties posed a serious threat to human rights (*World Report* 2017). Trump's talk of doing violence to women by grabbing them by the genitals creates conditions in which others feel emboldened to use hateful speech and commit violence against others due to their gender, as well as race, immigrant status, and/or religion (see Giese 2016, McGranahan 2017). The license plate statement "grab her" also participates in an environment in which hateful speech supports violence and other violations of human rights to safety and the autonomy of persons.

Trump's statement and his power as president of the US also reinforces certain norms of aggressive and aggrieved white masculinity that support violence against women (see Kimmel 2013, Connell 2010). While his statements degrade women, they are also part of a gender system in which men in positions of dominance police other men and the ways they enact their masculinity (see Rose 2016). Trump's use of term "pussy" has additional meaning when it is communicated in the context of other men – as it was in the recording -- to set expectations for masculine behavior. Calling men "pussies" or implying they may be one is used to police and discipline how men embody and express their masculinity.

In Trump's world...it is OK to grab a pussy but not to be one. This crude formulation, in which a derogatory term for women's genitals has a secondary meaning as a weak, emasculated person, is both offensive (at least to some) and telling in an ethnographic sense. It is to position oneself as the supposed opposite of both women and one's enemies: strong, certain, and in charge (McGranahan 2017, 246).

The offense of "grab her" thus opens onto a hierarchical system of violent and violence-supporting gender norms in which femaleness and femininity are understood as violable and

able to be dominated, and in which subordinate forms of masculinity<sup>9</sup> are policed and disciplined in the process (Butler 2009, Connell 2010, Kimmel 2005, 2013, Reiheld 2017). The license plate phrase in question may not state the words "by the pussy," but it infers them. In its expressed support of violence against women, it also produces a model of dominant masculinity in which men feel empowered, and are empowered, to do violence to girls, women and other female or feminine-identified individuals.

**3. Does the fact that Grabher is someone's surname change your opinion as to whether a license plate with the word/phrase "GRABHER" is, or is not, offensive?**

While "GRABHER" is the complainant's name, it is at the same time a public phrase that would commonly be found offensive. Both the surname *and* the phrase appear on the government-issued license plate. The fact that Grabher is someone's surname does not change my expert opinion that the phrase "GRABHER" would commonly be interpreted as offensive, particularly in the context of the 2016 US presidential election and in light of increasing public awareness of the problem of harassment and sexual violence against girls and women, online and offline.

Speech acts are not simply words; they are performatives: acts that involve words, images, signs and other signifiers that occur in historically specific contexts and locations. They do not simply name reality, e.g. "I am named Grabher." They also, in this case, make a command with implicit expectations of behavior, to "grab her," expressed by and through the province on the license plate. "Grabher," then, is not only a word or name; it is a speech act that condones violence against girls and women. Someone may say "Grabher is just my name," but for others, it is a statement of support in favor of grabbing women that is a clear example of rape culture. For them it would not matter that "Grabher" is someone's surname, because it is also a statement in support of physical violence against women.

While I do not expect my opinion to change on this case, were anything to come to my attention that could reasonably affect my expert opinion on the matter, I will notify each party in writing of said change as soon as possible.

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<sup>9</sup> Forms of masculinity are subordinated within interlocking systems of oppression and privilege according to social status, class position, employment status, racial identity, sexual identity, citizenship status, physical ability and other forms of social difference (see Kimmel 2013 and Connell 2010).

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Politics

# Trump recorded having extremely lewd conversation about women in 2005

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By David A. Fahrenthold October 8, 2016

Donald Trump bragged in vulgar terms about kissing, groping and trying to have sex with women during a 2005 conversation caught on a hot microphone, saying that “when you’re a star, they let you do it,” according to a video obtained by The Washington Post.

The video captures Trump talking with Billy Bush, then of “Access Hollywood,” on a bus with the show’s name written across the side. They were arriving on the set of “Days of Our Lives” to tape a segment about Trump’s cameo on the soap opera.

Late Friday night, following sharp criticism by Republican leaders, Trump issued a short video statement saying, “I said it, I was wrong, and I apologize.” But he also called the revelation “a distraction from the issues we are facing today.” He said that his “foolish” words are much different than the words and actions of Bill Clinton, whom he accused of abusing women, and Hillary Clinton, whom he accused of having “bullied, attacked, shamed and intimidated his victims.”

“I’ve never said I’m a perfect person, nor pretended to be someone that I’m not. I’ve said and done things I regret, and the words released today on this more than a decade-old video are one of them. Anyone who knows me knows these words don’t reflect who I am,” Trump said.

In an apparent response to Republican critics asking him to drop out of the race, he said: “We will discuss this more in the coming days. See you at the debate on Sunday.”

The tape includes audio of Bush and Trump talking inside the bus, as well as audio and video once they emerge from it to begin shooting the segment.

Trump recorded having extremely lewd conversation about women ... <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-recorded-having-e...>  
In that audio, Trump discusses a failed attempt to seduce a woman, whose full name is not given in the video.

"I moved on her, and I failed. I'll admit it," Trump is heard saying. It was unclear when the events he was describing took place. The tape was recorded several months after he married his third wife, Melania.

"Whoa," another voice said.

"I did try and f--- her. She was married," Trump says.

Trump continues: "And I moved on her very heavily. In fact, I took her out furniture shopping. She wanted to get some furniture. I said, 'I'll show you where they have some nice furniture.'"

"I moved on her like a bitch, but I couldn't get there. And she was married," Trump says. "Then all of a sudden I see her, she's now got the big phony tits and everything. She's totally changed her look."

At that point in the audio, Trump and Bush appear to notice Arianne Zucker, the actress who is waiting to escort them into the soap-opera set.

"Your girl's hot as s---, in the purple," says Bush, who's now a co-host of NBC's "Today" show.

"Whoa!" Trump says. "Whoa!"

"I've got to use some Tic Tacs, just in case I start kissing her," Trump says. "You know I'm automatically attracted to beautiful — I just start kissing them. It's like a magnet. Just kiss. I don't even wait."

"And when you're a star, they let you do it," Trump says. "You can do anything."

"Whatever you want," says another voice, apparently Bush's.

"Grab them by the p---y," Trump says. "You can do anything."

A spokeswoman for NBC Universal, which produces and distributes "Access Hollywood," declined to comment.

"This was locker-room banter, a private conversation that took place many years ago. Bill Clinton has said far worse to me on the golf course — not even close," Trump said in a statement. "I apologize if anyone was offended."

Billy Bush, in a statement released by NBC Universal, said: "Obviously I'm embarrassed and ashamed. It's no excuse, but this happened eleven years ago — I was younger, less mature, and acted foolishly in playing along. I'm very sorry."

After the video appeared online Friday afternoon, Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton wrote on Twitter: "This is horrific. We cannot allow this man to become president." Her running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine (Va.), told reporters, "It makes me sick to my

Trump recorded having extremely lewd conversation about women ... stomach," while campaigning in Las Vegas.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-recorded-having-e...>

Planned Parenthood Action Fund, which has endorsed Clinton, issued a statement from Executive Vice President Dawn Laguens saying: "What Trump described in these tapes amounts to sexual assault."

Trump was also criticized by members of his own party. House Speaker Paul D. Ryan, who said he is "sickened" by Trump's comments, said the Republican presidential candidate will no longer appear with him at a campaign event in Wisconsin on Saturday.

"Women are to be championed and revered, not objectified. I hope Mr. Trump treats this situation with the seriousness it deserves and works to demonstrate to the country that he has greater respect for women than this clip suggests," Ryan said in a statement.

In a short statement issued moments after Ryan's, Trump said his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, "will be representing me" at the Wisconsin event.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte (N.H.), who is running for reelection and has said she will vote for Trump, called his comments "totally inappropriate and offensive."

Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, who has stood by Trump uncritically through numerous controversies, said in a statement: "No woman should ever be described in these terms or talked about in this manner. Ever."

Former presidential candidate Mitt Romney, a Trump critic, said in a statement: "Hitting on married women? Condoning assault? Such vile degradations demean our wives and daughters and corrupt America's face to the world."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said the comments are "repugnant, and unacceptable in any circumstance" and made clear Trump's brief statement would not suffice.

"As the father of three daughters, I strongly believe that Trump needs to apologize directly to women and girls everywhere, and take full responsibility for the utter lack of respect for women shown in his comments on that tape," he said late Friday.

One of Trump's most prominent social-conservative supporters, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council, told BuzzFeed's Rosie Gray: "My personal support for Donald Trump has never been based upon shared values."

Trump's running mate, Pence, was at a diner in Toledo when the news broke — about to view the diner's collection of signed cardboard hot-dog buns, which includes one signed by Trump. But the reporters traveling with Pence were quickly ushered out of the diner by campaign staff, before they could ask Trump's running mate about it, according to Politico. Politico reported that the journalists, traveling in Pence's "protective pool," were not permitted to film Pence as he left the diner.

The tape appears at a time when Trump, the Republican presidential nominee, has sought to make a campaign issue out of his opponent's marriage. Trump has criticized former president Bill Clinton for his past infidelity and criticized opponent Hillary



Trump recorded having extremely lewd conversation about women ... Clinton as her husband's "enabler."

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-recorded-having-e...>

"Hillary Clinton was married to the single greatest abuser of women in the history of politics," Trump told the New York Times in a recent interview. "Hillary was an enabler, and she attacked the women who Bill Clinton mistreated afterward. I think it's a serious problem for them, and it's something that I'm considering talking about more in the near future."

Trump carried on a very public affair with Marla Maples — his eventual second wife — while still married to first wife Ivana Trump.

Trump has been criticized in this campaign for derogatory and lewd comments about women, including some made on TV and live radio. In an interview Wednesday with KSNV, a Las Vegas television station, Trump said that those comments were made for entertainment.

"A lot of that was done for the purpose of entertainment. There's nobody that has more respect for women than I do," he told the station.

"Are you trying to tone it down now?" asked the interviewer, Jim Snyder.

"It's not a question of trying, it's very easy," Trump said.

The tape obtained by The Post seems to have captured Trump in a private moment, with no audience beyond Bush and a few others on the bus. It appears to have been shot around Sept. 16, 2005, which was the day media reports said Trump would tape his soap-opera cameo.

The video shows the bus carrying Trump and Bush turning down a street on the studio back lot. The two men cannot be seen.

"Oh, nice legs, huh?" Trump says.

"Oof, get out of the way, honey," Bush says, apparently referencing somebody else blocking the view of Zucker.

The two men then exit the bus and greet Zucker.

"We're ready, let's go," Trump says, after the initial greetings. "Make me a soap star."

"How about a little hug for the Donald?" Bush says. "He just got off the bus."

"Would you like a little hug, darling?" Zucker says.

"Absolutely," Trump says. As they embrace, and air-kiss, Trump says, "Melania said this was okay."

The video then follows Trump, Bush and Zucker into the studio. Trump did appear on "Days of Our Lives" in late October. In a



Trump recorded having extremely lewd conversation about women ... <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-recorded-having-e...>  
tape of that cameo posted online, Zucker's character asks Trump — playing himself — for a job at his business, and tells him suggestively, "I think you'll find I'm a very willing employee. Working under you, I think, could be mutually beneficial."

Trump's character gives her the brushoff.

"That's an interesting proposition," Trump says on-screen. "I'll get back to you."

A publicist for Zucker did not immediately respond to questions on Friday afternoon.

*Rosalind S. Helderman, Mike DeBonis, Jenna Johnson and Sarah Parnass contributed to this report.*

 **29432 Comments**

David A. Fahrenthold is a reporter covering the Trump family and their business interests. He has been at the Post since 2000, and previously covered Congress, the federal bureaucracy, the environment, and the D.C. police.  Follow @Fahrenthold

TAB

B

2017                      Hfx. No. 463399  
This is Exhibit "B" referred to  
in the Affidavit of Carrie Rentschler  
affirmed before me on December 15, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

## Carrie A. Rentschler

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McGill University  
W-115 Arts Building  
853 Sherbrooke Street West  
Montreal, QC H3A 0G5  
Office Phone: (514) 398-4932

### Education

Ph.D., Communications, Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2002.  
M.A., Speech Communication, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, January 1998.  
B.A. magna cum laude, Humanities, University of Minnesota, 1994.

### Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University, 2010-present  
Director, Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University, 2011-2015  
Visiting Scholar, Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies, Humboldt University (Berlin), Fall 2017.  
Visiting Scholar, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and the Department of Communication, Stanford University, 2010-11.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University, 2004-2010.  
Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, 2003-2004.

### Grants and Fellowships

#### Awarded:

SSHRC Connection Grant, P.I., "While No One Was Looking: Art and Decolonial Action in Montreal," with co-applicants Mary Hunter and Johanne Sloan and four MA students (Sofia Misenheimer, Victoria Lessard, Lindsay Corbett and Sandra Evoughlian), 2017-2018, \$12184.  
Internal SSHRC, P.I., "Bystander Programming and the Practice of Intervention into Campus Rape Culture," McGill University, 2016-17, \$5000.  
SSHRC Partnership Grant, co-applicant, project committee lead, steering committee member and advisory board member, "Defining the Policy Lines: Examining the

- Role of News and Social Media, Popular Culture and the Justice System in Reducing and Mobilizing Change, or Sustaining Sexual Violence and Rape Culture in Universities” (“A SSHRC Partnership Project on University Policies and Educational Responses to Sexual Violence” for short), with P.I. Shaheen Shariff, McGill University, 2016-2023, \$2 million.
- SSHRC Partnership Development Grant, **co-applicant**, “Bridging with STEAMM” with P.I. Paula Gardner, McMaster University, 2016-2018, \$150836.
- Internal SSHRC, **P.I.**, “Agency via Proximity: Feminism, Social Media Activism and the Bystander Problem, McGill University, 2015-16, \$5000.
- International Partnerships for Sustainable Societies (IPaSS), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), **co-applicant**, “Networks for Change and Well-Being: Girl-led ‘From the Ground Up’ Policy Making in Addressing Sexual Violence in Canada and South Africa,” 2014-2020, \$2.4 million.
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), **co-applicant**, Connection Grant for “Affective Encounters: Tools of Interruption for Activist Media Practice” with co-applicants Alanna Thain (McGill University), Domi Olivieri (Utrecht University), and Marta Zarzycka (Utrecht University, 2015, \$26000.
- Fonds Québécois de la Recherche sur la Société et la Culture (FQRSC) Soutien aux Équipes de Recherche, **P.I.**, “Études féministes des mouvements et leurs infrastructures culturelles” (Feminist Studies of Movements and their Cultural Infrastructures), with co-applicants Adrienne Hurley, Krista Lynes and Elizabeth Miller, 2013-2016, \$56213.
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Connection Grant, **P.I.**, “Girlhood Studies and the Politics of Place: New Paradigms of Research,” with co-applicants Claudia Mitchell, Marnina Gonick and Catherine Driscoll, 2012-13, \$46776.
- SSHRC Standard Research Grant, **P.I.**, “Phantom Witness: The 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder and its Cultural Legacies,” 2011-2014, \$79799.
- NEH Summer Institute in Digital Humanities and American Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, 18 July -11 August 2011, \$3000
- McGill University research fund, **P.I.**, 2010-2011, \$2500.
- Internal SSHRC, **P.I.**, “Witness Failed: Cultural Legacies of the Kitty Genovese Murder,” McGill University, 2010, \$3500.
- SSHRC Standard Research Grant, **P.I.**, “Remaking Victims: News and the Politics of Victims’ Rights,” Canada, 2006-2009, \$150711.
- FQRSC Nouveaux Professeurs-Chercheurs Grant, **P.I.**, “The Grammar of Victims’ Rights,” Quebec, 2006-2009, \$39586.
- Beaverbrook Strategic Research Grant, **co-applicant** with Dr. Will Straw, “Crime, Media and Culture,” 2006, \$16000.
- Internal SSHRC, **P.I.**, “Victims’ Rights and the Media,” McGill University, 2005, \$4500.
- Fellowship in Gender and Media Studies, 1999.
- Women’s Studies Summer Scholarship, 1999.
- Graduate College Travel Grant, 1998.
- Unit for Criticism Travel Grants, 1995-1998.
- Department of Speech Communication Travel Grant, 1995.

**Research Awards with Students (McGill University, unless noted otherwise):**

Arts Research Internship Award, “Bystander Inaction, Accountability and Social Media” with Benjamin Nothwehr, summer 2017, \$4000.

Arts Research Internship Award with Patrick Dedauw, summer 2013, \$4000.

Arts Research Internship Award with Sarah Woolf, summer 2012, \$4000.

**Academic Honors, Distinctions, and Awards**

**National/International**

International Communication Association Award for Outstanding Teaching, 2000.

**McGill University**

William Dawson Scholar of Feminist Media Studies, McGill University, 2010-2020.

Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision & Teaching, 2011.

**University of Illinois**

Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 1999.

College of Communications Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, 1999.

Graduate College Fellowships, 1997-1999.

LAS Outstanding TA Award, 1994/5.

Outstanding Instructor Ranking, 1994-1999.

**University of Minnesota**

Phi Beta Kappa, 1993.

**Publications**

**Books**

*Girlhood and the Politics of Place*. New York: Berghahn Press, with co-editor Claudia Mitchell, 2016.

Reviewed in *Children, Youth and Environment* (2016).

*Second Wounds: Victims' Rights and the Media in the U.S.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2011.

Reviewed by Rachel Hall, *Cultural Studies* (2014); Jennifer Petersen, *International Journal of Communication* 5(2011): 2059-2061; Carolyn Byerly, *Journalism History* 37:3(2011): 184-185; Wendy Townley, *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator* 67:1(2012): 93-95; David Green, *Law and Society Review* 46:2(2012): 454-456; Steven Chermak, *Theoretical Criminology* 16:3(2012): 369-372.

**Edited Journals**

“Doing Feminism: Event, Archive, Techné.” Co-editor, with Samantha Thrift, of a special issue of *Feminist Theory*, 16:3 (2015).

“Cultural Studies and the Re-Description of Girlhood in Crisis.” Co-editor, with Claudia Mitchell, of a special issue of *Girlhood Studies* 7:1 (2014).

“States of Insecurity and the Gendered Politics of Fear.” Co-editor, with Carol Stabile, of a special issue of the *NWSA Journal* 17:3 (2005).

**Journal Articles (refereed unless otherwise noted)**

“Bystander Intervention, Social Media Testimony and the Anti-Carceral Politics of Care,” *Feminist Media Studies*, special issue “Affective Encounters” 17:4 (2017): 565-584. Published first digitally at <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2017.1326556>

“Filmic Witness to the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder,” *Urban History* 43:4 (2016) special issue “Visual Culture and Urban History,” (word count 11744). DOI: 10.1017/S0963926815000875. The article is published in Scalar and can be viewed in full at: <http://scalar.usc.edu/anvc/urban-sights-visual-culture-and-urban-history/index>

“Doing Feminism in the Network: Networked Laughter and the Binders Full of Women Meme” co-authored with Samantha Thrift for *Feminist Theory* special issue 16:3 (2015): 329-359.

“Doing Feminism: Event, Archive, Techné,” Introduction co-authored with Samantha Thrift for *Feminist Theory* special issue 16:3 (2015): 239-249.

“Distributed Activism: Domestic Violence and Feminist Media Infrastructure in the Fax Age” *Communication, Culture & Critique* 8:2 (2015): 182-198. Published first online at: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cccr.12079/pdf>

“#safetytipsforladies: Feminist Twitter Takedowns of Victim Blaming” *Feminist Media Studies* 15:2 (2014): 353-356, commentary piece.

“The Re-description of Girls in Crisis” (co-authored with Claudia Mitchell), *Girlhood Studies* 7:1 (2014): 2-7, non-refereed. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3167/ghs.2014.070102>

“Rape Culture and the Feminist Politics of Social Media,” *Girlhood Studies* 7:1 (2014), 65-82. <http://dx.doi.org/10.3167/ghs.2014.070106>

“On S’En Câlisse, La Loi Speciale: The Music Festival that Wasn’t” *Wi: Journal of Mobile Media*, (2012). Invited contribution, 1500 words. <http://wi.mobilities.ca/on-sen-calisse-la-loi-special-the-music-festival-that-wasnt/>

Republished as “Grab your drum and join us: Montreal’s street music festival like no other” 6 June 2012 at rabble.ca: <http://rabble.ca/news/2012/06/grab-your-drum-and-join-us-montreals-street-music-festival-no-other>

Republished 1 July 2012 at nomorepotlucks.org:  
<http://nomorepotlucks.org/site/on-sen-calisse-la-loi-speciale-the-music-festival-that-wasnt>

“An Urban Physiognomy of the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder,” *Space & Culture* 14:3 (2011), 310-329.

“The Physiognomic Turn,” *International Journal of Communication* 4 (2010): 1-6.

“Trauma Training and the Reparative Work of Journalism.” *Cultural Studies* 24:4 (2010): 447-477.

“Sarah Palin, Sexual Anomalies and Historical Analogues.” *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies* 4:3 (November 2008), 1863 words. Available online at: <http://liminalities.net/4-3/palin.html>.

“Risky Assignments: Sexing ‘Security’ in Hostile Environment Reporting.” *Feminist Media Studies* 7:3 (2007), 257-279.

“Victims’ Rights and the Struggle over Crime in the Media.” *Canadian Journal of Communication*, 32:2 (2007), 239-259.

“Review Essay: Militarized Media at War and at Home.” *The Communication Review* 9:1(2006), 143-154, non-refereed.

“Introduction: States of Insecurity and the Gendered Politics of Fear” (co-authored with Carol A. Stabile) *National Women’s Studies Association Journal* 17:3 (2005), vii-xxv.

“Witnessing: U.S. Citizenship and the Vicarious Experience of Suffering” *Media, Culture and Society* 26:2 (2004), 296-304.

“Designing Fear: Environmental Security and Violence against Women” *Cultural Studies: A Research Annual* 5 (2000), 281-307.

“Women’s Self-Defense: Physical Education for Everyday Life” *Women’s Studies Quarterly* 26:1 (1999), 152-161.

#### **Book Chapters**

“Making Culture and Doing Feminism” **accepted for publication** in the *Blackwell Handbook of Contemporary Feminism*, Blackwell, co-edited by Tasha Oren and Andrea Press.



“Hollaback: How an App Models a Movement Against Street Harassment” **accepted for publication** in *Appified*, co-edited by Jeremy Morris and Sarah Murray, University of Michigan Press.

“Affect” in *Keywords in Media Studies*, New York University Press, co-edited by Jonathan Gray and Laurie Ouelette (2017), 12-14 (2000 words).

“The Significance of Place in Girlhood Studies” (co-authored with Claudia Mitchell). *Girlhood Studies and the Politics of Place: Paradigms of Contemporary Research*. Berghahn Press (2016), 1-18.

“Technologies of Bystanding: Learning to See Like a Bystander” *Shaping Inquiry in Culture, Communication and Media Studies*, ed. Sharrona Pearl. London: Routledge (2015), 15-40.

“From Danger to Trauma: Affective Labor and the Journalistic Discourse of Witness.” In *Media Witnessing: Testimony in the Age of Mass Communication*, ed. Paul Frosh and Amit Pinchevski. Palgrave Macmillan (2009), pp. 152-175.

“Securing Profits.” In *Collective Action: A Bad Subjects Anthology*, ed. Joel Schalit and Megan Shaw Prelinger. London: Pluto Press (2004), pp. 198-205.

“Designing Fear: How Environmental Security Protects Property at the Expense of People.” In *Foucault, Cultural Studies and Governmentality*, eds. Jack Bratich, Jeremy Packer and Cameron McCarthy. Albany: SUNY Press (2003), pp. 243-272.

“Expanding the Definition of Media Activism.” In *Blackwell Companion to Media Studies*, ed. Angharad Valdivia. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers (2003), pp. 529-547.

#### **Published Interviews**

Lisa Lynch, “Crime Reporting in the Age of Victims’ Rights: An Interview with Carrie Rentschler” *J-Source: The Canadian Journalism Project*, October 11, 2011. Available at: <http://j-source.ca/article/crime-reporting-age-victims-rights-interview-carrie-rentschler>

Zack Furness, “Walking Wounded: Author Carrie A. Rentschler Reframes the Discourse of Victimization.” *Bitch Magazine: Feminist Responses to Pop Culture* 52 (2011), 19-21.

Dylan Mulvin, “Kitty Genovese: 1964,” Interview with Carrie A. Rentschler. *Seachange* journal, September 2011, 187-201. Available at: [www.seachange.ca](http://www.seachange.ca).

#### **Reviews**

Review of Amanda Third's *Gender and the Political: Deconstructing the Female Terrorist*. *Australian Feminist Studies* 30 (2016): 448-451.

Review of Krista Lynes' *Prismatic Media, Transnational Circuits: Feminism in a Globalized Present*. In *Feminist Media Studies* 14:5 (2014): 1-3.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2014.952880>

Review of Jennifer Petersen's *Murder, Media and the Politics of Public Feelings*. In *International Journal of Communication* 7 (2013): 1514-1517.

"Widows, Mothers and War Children" review of Cynthia Enloe's *Nimo's War, Emma's War: Making Feminist Sense of the Iraq War*. *London Times Higher Education Supplement*, August 26, 2010.

### **Other Publications**

"Binders Full of Women: A Feminist Meme to Bind Them All" with Samantha Thrift, *FlowTV* (26 November 2014), word count 1910. Online at:  
<http://flowtv.org/2014/11/binders-full-of-women/>

"Transformative Re-Use: The Re-Circulation of Fair Use Materials" *Culture Digitally* (August 2014), word count 1167. Online at: <http://culturedigitally.org/>

"The Confederate Flag in East Montreal" *Bad Subjects* #74 (January 2006), word count 4409. Online at <http://bad.eserver.org/issues/2006/74/rentschler.html>.

"United We Stand: Fresh Hoagies Daily" with Carol Stabile and Jonathan Sterne, *Bad Subjects* #59 (February 2002), word count 2407. Online at  
<http://bad.eserver.org/issues/2002/59/rentschler.html>.

"Securing Profits," *Bad Subjects* #48 (March 2000), word count 1647. Online at  
<http://bad.eserver.org/issues/2000/48/rentschler.html>.

"Perpetrate My Fist: Women's Self-Defense as Physical Education for Everyday Life," *Bad Subjects* #22 (October 1995), word count 2329. Online at  
<http://bad.eserver.org/issues/1995/22/rentschler.html>.

### **Reprinted Articles**

"Perpetrate My Fist! Women's Self-Defense as Physical Education for Everyday Life," *Rain and Thunder: A Radical Feminist Journal of Activism and Discussion* (Winter 2003), 6-8.

### **Under Review**

"Culture is a Weapon: The Digital Media Activism of Third World Majority" chapter accepted for Scalar digital book and archive, Kara Keeling and Thenmozhi Soundarajan, eds. *From Third Cinema to Media Justice: Third World Majority and*

*the Promise of Third Cinema*. Online at <http://scalar.usc.edu/nehvectors/keeling-thenmozhi/culture-is-a-weapon-women-of-colour-media-activism-in-the-2000s>.

### **Writing in Progress**

*Proximate Agency: Feminist Activism and the Redefinition of the Bystander*, **book manuscript in process**.

“Consent” (with Elizabeth Groeneveld), **chapter under contract** with Ann Braithwaite and Catherine Orr for inclusion in *Rethinking Gender and Women's Studies II* (Routledge).

“Rape Culture – The Meaning of a Feminist Concept,” **article manuscript in process**.

“Grief Work and ‘The Other Side’: The Ideology of Balance in Video Testimonial to Israel’s Occupation of Palestine” **article manuscript in process**.

### **Conference and Symposium Organizing**

Co-organizer (with McGill Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies), “Why We Remember: HIV/AIDS Media Now” International Symposium, Montreal QC, 12-13 February 2016.

Co-organizer (with Anuradha Dugal, Canadian Women’s Foundation, and Allan Vicaire, Indigenous Education at McGill), “Resisting Gendered and State Violence: Indigenous Women’s Activism” Symposium. Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies and Indigenous Awareness Week, McGill University, Montreal QC, 24-25 September 2015.

Co-organizer (with Sophie Le-Phat Ho and Katja Melzer, HTMIles), “Feminist Technics, Queer Machines: Imagining Better Futures” Symposium, Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, McGill University, Sala Rosa, Montreal QC, 7 November 2014.

Co-organizer (with Anuradha Dugal, Canadian Women’s Foundation), “Consenting Sexualities: Teens, Social Media and Anti-Violence Activism” Symposium. Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC, 3-4 October 2013.

Co-organizer (with Prof. Claudia Mitchell), “Girlhood Studies and the Politics of Place: New Paradigms of Research,” International Symposium. Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC, 10-12 October 2012.

Co-organizer (with Prof. Marguerite Deslauriers), “Making Contact: A Symposium on Affect, Sexuality and Power” (featuring Wendy Chun, Lisa Henderson, and Elizabeth Povinelli), Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University, Montreal QC, 29 October 2009.

Co-organizer (with Prof. William Straw and Anna Leventhal). "Crime, Media and Culture: A Symposium." McGill University, Montreal, QC, 18-19 May 2007.

### **Invited Lectures and Keynotes**

"Pedagogies of Re-Enactment: Bystanding and the Media of Re-Experiencing Violence," keynote lecture for International Association of Media History, Paris, France, 12 July 2017.

"Feminist Media Activism and the Magnitude of Small Interventions," keynote lecture for graduate symposium "Small Packages," Department of Communication Studies, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, 15 April 2016.

"Rape Culture, Social Media and College Life," Women's Studies Department, Edgewood College, Madison, WI, 30 March 2016.

"Gender, Rape Culture and Media Activism," Women's Studies Department, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 17 November 2015.

"Talking Back: Campus and Community Responses to Gender Violence", Women's Center and Women's Studies Department, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, 16 November 2015.

"Bystander Intervention and the Feminist Politics of Witness," presented at Affective Encounters in Feminist Media Studies, Invite-only workshop hosted at McGill University, 16 August 2015.

"The Feminist Media Infrastructures of Activism against Rape and Domestic Violence," Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of North Carolina-Charlotte, NC, 14 April 2015.

"Witnessing as Middleware," Plenary Speaker, Genres of Scholarly Knowledge Conference, Umea University, Sweden, 12 December 2014.

"Social Media and Feminist Activism against Rape Culture," Umea Centre for Gender Studies, Umea University, Sweden, 9 December 2014.

"High Rise Anxiety and the Failure of Community: Paying Filmic Witness to the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder" HumLab, Umea University, Sweden, 5 December 2014.

"The Future of Women's and Gender Studies Institutes" Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, 30 October 2014.

“Doing Feminism in the Network: Feminist Meme Events and the New Infrastructures of Online Response-Ability” Department of Communication, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 2 May 2014.

“What Does It Look Like to Take Responsibility?” the Department of Art History and Communication Studies Faculty Symposium, McGill University, 16 April 2014.

“Doing Feminism in the Network: Twitter Feed Hijacks, Amazon.com Reviews, and the New Infrastructures of Feminist Activism” with Dr. Samantha Thrift, Feminist Media Studio, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, 26 March 2014.

“Teaching Feminist Digital Pedagogies” Feminist Digital Pedagogies Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 24 January 2014.

Invited Panelist, author meets critics session with Krista Genevieve Lynes *Prismatic Media, Transnational Circuits: Feminism in a Globalized Present*, Screen Culture Research Group, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, 16 January 2014.

Invited Panelist “Because I am a Girl: Feminist Critique Now” at the Communication and Global Power Shifts Conference, 40th Anniversary of Communication Studies at Simon Fraser University, 8 June 2013.

“STFU Rape Culture and the Politics of Social Media,” Department of Media, Culture and Communication, New York University, New York, NY, 7 May 2013.

“STFU Rape Culture and the Politics of Social Media” Department of Communication, Fordham University, New York, NY, 1 May 2013.

“Video Witness and the Re-Definition of the Bystander,” Media, Art & Text, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, 22 April 2013.

“Technologies of Bystanding: Seeing Like a Bystander,” Faculty of Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, 28 January 2013.

“Seeing like a Bystander” at “Images, Ethics, Technology,” Scholars Program in Culture and Communication, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 30 November 2012.

“Methods in Movement Studies and Affect Theory” Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 29 November 2012.

Invited panelist for plenary session “The Justice We Need,” McGill Institute for the Study of Canada conference *Crime and the Law: The Future of Justice in Canada*, 16 March 2012.

- "What Makes a Case? Cultural Legacies of the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder and Constructions of the Bystander Problem," Carleton University, Ottawa, CA, 20 January 2012.
- "What Makes a Case? A Feminist Intervention in the Kitty Genovese Murder and the Construction of the Bystander Problem" Esquisses lecture series, Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, 6 December 2011.
- "The Trial of Winston Moseley" Institute for the Public Life of Arts and Ideas, McGill University Great Trials series, Atwater Library, Montreal, to be given 29 November 2011.
- "Second Wounds: Victims' Rights and the Media in the U.S." Talk sponsored by Department of Sociology Speaker's Series, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 3 June 2011.
- "Failed Witness: Cultural Legacies of the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder Case" Talk co-sponsored by the Departments of Sociology, Women's and Gender Studies and the Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 2 June 2011.
- "Second Wounds: Victims' Rights and the Media in the U.S." Talk jointly sponsored by Department of Film and Media Studies and Department of Feminist Studies, University of California-Santa Barbara, 10 November 2010.
- "Failed Witness: Cultural Legacies of the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder," Presented at the Inaugural Faculty Symposium, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University, 23 April 2010.
- "A Circulation Theory of Victims in the Media." *Crimen: Sociedad y medios en Norteamérica (Crime: Society and Media in North America)*, National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), Mexico City, 18 February 2010, declined due to special circumstances.
- "The 'Identity Problem' and Some Possible Futures of Feminist Media Studies," Presented at Connections: Media Studies and the New Interdisciplinarity, Department of Media Studies, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, 4 April 2009.
- "Physiognomies of Murder: Kitty Genovese, the Faces of Victims and Places of Violence against Women." Presented at the School of English, Media Studies and Art History, Queensland University, Brisbane, Australia, 8 August 2008 and the Department of Gender and Cultural Studies, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia, 15 August 2008.

"News, Labor and the Training of Trauma Culture." Presented at the Journalism and Media Research Center, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, 1 August 2008.

Invited participant, "Witnessing: Cultural Roots, Media Forms and Cultural Memory." Research symposium funded by the German Research Council, Villa Vigoni, Menaggio, Italy, 27-30 April 2008.

Arts/Law Colloquium, Response to Robert Leckey's (Prof. of Law) "Thick Instrumentalism and Comparative Constitutionalism: The Case of Gay Rights," 14 March 2008.

"Faces of Victims, Places of Murder," presented at "Crime, Media, and Culture: A Symposium," McGill University, Montreal, QC, 18 May 2007.

"Trauma Training, Gender, and the 'Place of Painful Feeling' in Journalism" presented at the McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, Montreal, QC, 24 March 2005.

"States of Insecurity and the Gendered Politics of Fear" plenary panel speaker, Annual Meeting of the Association for American Women in Psychology, Tampa, FL, 26 February 2005.

"A Feminist Theory of Self-Defense" presented at Gender Week panel on "Theories of Rape," SUNY-Buffalo, 24 September 2004.

"Trauma Training and the Emergence of a Therapeutic Culture of the U.S. News Industry" presented at "Constructing the Current: Theorizing Media in a New Millenium," University of Chicago, 14 May 2004.

"Addicted to War: Masculinity and War Correspondence." Women's Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, 25 February 2004.

"Journalists, Trauma, and the Ethos of Interventionism." University of Central Oklahoma Victims in the Media Program, Edmond, OK, 4 April 2002.

"Victim's Rights Activism during the Time of Reaganism." Women's Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, 20 September 2000.

"Dealing with Bias-Related Violence." Parkland College, Champaign, IL, 9 October 1998.

"A Political and Practical Introduction to Women's Self-Defense." *Women's Studies 112*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 1997, April 1998.



“Women's Physical Self-Defense.” National Organization of Women Self-Defense Seminar, Champaign County Chapter, 26 January 1996.

### Conference Participation (all refereed)

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Doing Feminism and Making Media: Critical Approaches to Transformative Media Praxis” to be presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 14-18 March 2018.

“Training the Habits: How Social Media Apps Model Responding, Reporting, and Politicizing Violence in the Streets,” Affective Politics and Social Media Conference at the University of Turku, Finland, 12 October 2017.

“Hollaback: How an App Models a Movement Against Street Harassment,” International Communication Association Annual Conference, 25 May 2017.

Chair, “Legal Subjectivities,” Law, Culture and Humanities Association Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, 1 April 2017.

“Rape Culture and the Problem of Accountability for Sexual Violence” Law, Culture and Humanities Association Conference, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA, 31 March 2017.

“Activist Feeling,” Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, QC, 14 November 2016.

“From Bystander to Feeling Witness: Learning How Not to be a Bystander,” Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, QC, 14 November 2016.

“Role Play, Re-Enactment, and the Process of Learning How Not to Be a Bystander,” declined participation at Ask First: Creating a Culture of Consent Symposium, University of Calgary, 15 October 2016.

“Bystander Intervention and the Feminist Politics of Witness,” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta, GA, 30 March 2016.

“Racialized Sexual Violence and Feminist Hashtag Politics,” Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, 14 November 2015.

Chair, “Knowledge Production and Pedagogy,” *Humorous Disruptions*, Concordia University, Montreal, QC, 16 October 2015.

“Hashtag Hijacks and Social Media Responses to Rape Culture,” presented at the annual conference of the International Association for Mass Communication Research, Montreal, QC, 13 July 2015.

Chair and Discussant, “Journalistic Experience, News Coverage of Sexual Assault and Violence Internationally,” panel at the annual conference of the International Association for Mass Communication Research, Montreal, QC, 14 July 2015.

“Feminist Hashtag Politics: Calling Out Neoliberal Rape Prevention Advice to Women” declined presentation at the bi-annual conference Consoleing-Passions, Dublin, Ireland, 18-20 June 2015.

“Social Media and Feminist Activism against Rape Culture” presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Montreal, QC, 26 March 2015.

“Doing Feminism in the Network: Twitter Feed Hijacks, Amazon.com Reviews, and the New Infrastructures of Feminist Activism” presented by co-author Dr. Samantha Thrift at the Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, 7 November 2014.

Panel Organizer, “Doing Feminism: Archive, Techné, Event” Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, 7 November 2014.

Panel Participant, “Scripted Romance and Violence? An Exploration of the Intersection of Media, Adolescents and Dating Violence” Annual Conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Montreal, QC, 7 August 2014.

“Doing Feminism in the Network: Twitter Feed Hijacks, Amazon.com Reviews, and the New Infrastructures of Feminist Activism” co-authored and presented by Dr. Samantha Thrift at the Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Women’s, Gender Studies and Recherches Feministes, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, 27 May 2014.

Panel Organizer, “Doing Feminism: Archive, Techné, Event” Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Women’s, Gender Studies and Recherches Feministes, Brock University, St. Catharines, ON, 27 May 2014.

“Grief Work and Video Testimonials of Victimization” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Association, Seattle, WA, 19-23 March 2014.

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Affective Economies of Cinema and the Labors of Reparative Criticism” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Association, Seattle, WA, 19-23 March 2014.

“Activist Media Networks and the Infrastructures of Anti-Violence Response” Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, Washington, D.C., 22 November 2013.

“Grief Work and the Politics of Representation” Annual Conference of the Canadian Communication Association, Victoria, B.C., 7 June 2013.

“Witnessing Theory and its Origins in the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder” Annual Conference of the Canadian Association for Women’s, Gender Studies and Recherches Feministes, Victoria, B.C., 2 June 2013.

Panel Organizer, “Seeing like Subjects of the State: Visual Technologies of Citizenship at Risk” Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, presented 16 November 2012.

“Seeing Like a Bystander” presented at the Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 16 November 2012.

“Don’t be a Bystander: Rethinking Distance, Apathy and the Politics of Responsibility” International Conference Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Paris, France, 3 July 2012.

Chair and Panel Organizer, “Feminist Interventions into Contemporary Techno-Cultures of Surveillance” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA, 22 March 2012.

“Gender Violence, the Problem of Bystanding and the Covert Seeing Eye of Intervention” to be presented at the Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, MA, 22 March 2012.

“A Historical Case of Media Witnessing: The 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder” presented at the Canadian Association of Cultural Studies Bi-Annual Conference, Montreal, QC, 5 November 2011.

Panelist on “Re-Envisioning Militarism: A Roundtable Conversation on Transforming Visual Cultures of War” presented at the Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 21 October 2011.

Chair and Panel Organizer, “Bodies, Technologies and the Performance of Media Witnessing,” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, New Orleans, LA, March 2011.

“Film Proxies and the Phantom 38 Witnesses to the 1964 Kitty Genovese Murder,” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 4 March 2011.

“From Bodies to Physical Traits and Affective States,” Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 24 May 2009.

“How to Feed a Feminist Curiosity about the Work of Institutions,” Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 22 May 2009.

“A National Victim Composite: Family Resemblance and the Typification of the Twice-Wounded Victim,” *Conjunctures: A Conference in Cultural Studies*, Montreal, QC, 19 May 2008.

“From Danger to Trauma: Affective Labor and the Discourse of Journalistic Witness,” Canadian Journalism Forum on Violence and Trauma, *Journalism in a Violent World*, University of Western Ontario, London, ON, 10 February 2008.

Chair, “Bodies, Technologies and Surveillance” Annual Conference of the Canadian Communication Association, Saskatoon, SK, 1 June 2007.

“Faces of Murder” Annual Conference of the Canadian Communication Association, Saskatoon, SK, 1 June 2007.

Chair and Organizer, “The Face: Physiognomies and Technologies of Representation” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL, 10 March 2007.

“Faces of Murder” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL, 10 March 2007.

“Profiles of Life and the Grammar of Victims’ Rights.” National Convention of the National Women’s Studies Association, Oakland, CA, 17 June 2006.

“Profiles of Life and the Grammar of Victims’ Rights.” Console-ing Passions, International Conference on TV, Video, Audio and New Media, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, WI, 25 May 2006.

Chair and Organizer, “The Changing Grammars of Crime and Fear in North American Media.” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Vancouver, BC, 4 March 2006.

“Portraits of Life and the News Grammar of Victims’ Rights.” Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Vancouver, BC, 4 March 2006.

Chair, Panelist and Organizer, “Witness/Mediation/Testimony: A Roundtable.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Boston, MA, 18 November 2005.

“Victims’ Rights and Journalists as Crime Victims.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Boston, MA, 17 November 2005.

“The Victims’ Rights Movement and Anti-Crime Politics, 1974-1994.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 13 November 2004.

Chair, Panelist and Organizer, “States of Insecurity and the Gendered Politics of Fear: Feminist Media Scholars Respond, Roundtable Discussion” Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 30 May 2004.

Panelist, “Governing the Present: A Roundtable Discussion on Foucault and Cultural Studies.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Miami, FL, 21 November 2003.

Panelist, “Marxism and Communication Studies: A Roundtable Discussion.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Miami, FL, 21 November 2003.

Chair and Respondent, “Citizens’ Imaginaries/Imaginary Citizens.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Miami, FL, 21 November 2003.

“An Education in Trauma: News Industry Response to Catastrophe.” Inaugural Convention of the Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA, 8 June 2003.

“Wounded Journalists and the Cosmopolitan Ideal.” Inaugural Convention of the Cultural Studies Association, Pittsburgh, PA, 5 June 2003.

Chair, “The Embodiment of Citizenship.” Inaugural Conference of the Cultural Studies Association, 5 June 2003.

“Media Training and the Meaning of Expertise in the Crime Victim Movement.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 21-24 November 2002.

“What Does it Mean when Journalists are Traumatized?” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA, 21-24 November 2002.

“Crime News and the Trauma Curriculum.” Conference of the Union for Democratic Communication, Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA, 10-13 October 2002.

“Consolation or Trauma? News Media Criticism of 9/11 Television Coverage.” Annual Institute for Culture and Society, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 19 June 2002.

Chair, “Public Culture, Private Rights.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, 1 November 2001.

- “Victims’ Rights Activism and the Political Economy of Rights.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, 1 November 2001.
- “Digestive Remedies for the Political Rhetoric of Injury.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Atlanta, GA, 2 November 2001.
- “Making Victims of Us All? The Role of the Victimization of Women in the Victims’ Right Movement.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA, 9 November 2000.
- “The Customer Service Ethos in the Property Protection Industry.” Annual Institute for Culture and Society, Washington, D.C., 15 June 2000.
- “Rethinking the Property of the Self.” Annual Institute for Culture and Society, Washington, D.C., 12 June 2000.
- “Refusing to be a Victim: Re-Organization within Security Industries and the Perceptual Homologies among Institutions.” Annual Convention of the National Communication Association, Chicago, IL, 5 November 1999.
- “Refusing to be a Victim: Personal Security Technology and Middle Class Mobility.” 17<sup>th</sup> Union for Democratic Communication Conference, Eugene, OR, 15 October 1999.
- “Designing Fear: Architecture, Security and Neo-liberal Politics.” Annual Conference of the American Studies Association, Seattle, WA, 19 November 1998.
- “Designing Fear: Architecture, Security and the US Police State.” Annual Institute for Culture and Society, Chicago, IL, 13-20 June 1998.
- “The Politics of Resentment in the American Victims’ Rights Movement.” 7th Annual Cultural Studies Symposium, Manhattan, KS, 14 March 1998.
- “Sexual Violence on University Campuses.” Annual Conference of the Central States Communications Association, St. Louis, MO, 12 April 1997.
- “Marx Meets the Modern Girl.” Annual Convention of the Speech Communication Association, San Diego, CA, 25 November 1996.
- “Transnational Feminist Politics: Questions of History and Place.” 15<sup>th</sup> Union for Democratic Communication Conference, Loyola University, Chicago, IL, 13 October 1996.
- “Spaces of Gendered Violence.” “Against the Grain,” Second National Graduate Conference in Cultural Studies, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, 1 March 1996.

“The Field of Meat: Downsizing and Struggle in the Meat Industry 1977-1987.” “Pierre Bourdieu: Fieldwork in Culture” Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, 22 April 1995.

“An Economics of Striptease as a Service Industry.” Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA, 15 April 1995.

“The Commodification of Striptease.” “Constructing a Dialogue: Current Work on the Americas,” American Studies Association Graduate Conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 1 April 1994.

### **Courses Taught (graduate seminars noted with asterisk)**

#### **McGill University**

\*WMST 601: *Feminist Theories and Methods*

\*COMS 633: *Feminist Media Studies*

\*COMS 613: *Crime, Media and Culture*

\*COMS 639: *Media Witnessing and the Politics of Distant Sensing*

\*COMS 639: *Media Dissent: Theory and Practice (collaborative course)*

\*COMS 643: *Cultural Studies of News*

\*COMS 647: *Cultural Politics of Emerging Media*

\*COMS 655: *Media and the Senses: Affect Theory and Media Studies*

COMS 310: *Media and Feminist Studies*

COMS 492: *Affect Theory: Identity, Affinity, Sociality*

COMS 492: *New Media and Contemporary Theories of Social Collectivity*

#### **University of Pittsburgh**

Women's Studies 1140: *Gender, Social Movements and the Media*

Women's Studies 1140: *Sexuality, Violence and the Media*

Women's Studies 1142: *Feminist Theory*

Communication 1122: *Media Criticism*

Communication 1105: *TV and Society*

Communication 530: *Interpersonal Communication*

Communication 520: *Public Speaking*

#### **University of Illinois**

Communications 231: *Mass Communications in a Democratic Society*

Communications 101: *The Social and Cultural Foundations of the Mass Media*

Speech Communication 221: *Persuasion*

Speech Communication 101: *Principles of Effective Speaking*

### **Academic Service**



## **Departmental**

### Institute for Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (formerly McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women)

Director, 2011-2015

Chair, Sexual Diversity Studies teaching program, Fall 2011

Chair, joint reappointment and tenure committees Law/IGSF, 2013, 2014

Steering Committee Member, Graduate Option in Gender, Sexuality and Women's  
Studies, McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women (MCRTW), 2004-2007

Research Committee, 2007-2009, 2011-2015

Committee on Prizes and Awards, 2008, 2011-2015

Sexual Diversity Studies Academic Advisory Committee, 2011-2015

Women's Studies Academic Advisory Committee (WSAAC) 2005-2008, 2011-2016

WSAAC Visiting Faculty Lecturer Hiring Committee, 2007

WSAAC TA Hiring Committee, 2006

### Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University

Director, Undergraduate Program in Communication Studies, 2005-2010

Chair of Graduate Admissions Committee, Communication Studies, 2013-2014, 2015-  
2016

Graduate Admissions Committee, Communication Studies, 2007-2010, 2013-2017

Departmental Reappointment and Tenure Committee, 2012-2016

Steering Committee Member, Media@McGill, 2011-2013

Selection Committee for Nomination of Department Chair, 2004-2005, 2009-2010, 2015-  
2016, 2016-2017.

Departmental Graduate Fellowships Committee, 2015-2016

SSHRC Departmental Review Committee, 2011-2012

Communication Studies Review Committee on Graduate SSHRC Applications, 2004-  
2005 (M.A. and Ph.D.), 2005-2006 (for M.A.), 2006-2007 (M.A. and Ph.D.), 2007-  
2008 (M.A. and Ph.D.)

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2004-2005

Hiring Committee, Media and Sexuality Studies TT position, 2015-16

### Women's Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh (2003-2004)

Undergraduate Adviser

Internship Program Supervisor

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Teaching Fellow Hiring Committee

## **University (McGill)**

### University

Faculty of Arts Representative, University Council on Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies,  
2009-10, 2011-2013

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Standing Committee on Fellowship and Awards,  
2012-14

Carrie M. Derick Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching and Supervision, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Committee, 2012-13  
New Faculty Orientation, Panelist, "Student Life and Learning" 2013  
Office for Sponsored Research, Panelist, "Applying for SSHRC Insight Development Grants" November 26, 2013

Faculty of Arts

Chair, Advisory Committee of the Sexual Diversity Studies Program, 2011  
Member, Women's Studies Academic Advisory Committee (WSAAC), 2005-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2015 (ex-officio capacity)  
Member, Advisory Committee of the Sexual Diversity Studies Program, 2011-2015 (ex-officio capacity)  
Departmental Representative, Faculty of Arts Committee on Student Affairs, 2004-2010  
Departmental Representative, Faculty of Arts Committee on Student Standing, 2004-2010  
Faculty of Arts Dean's representative, Department of East Asian Studies hiring committee for tenure track position (literature and media) in China Studies, Fall 2009  
Faculty of Arts Dean's representative, Department of East Asian Studies hiring committee for two tenure track positions (film and literature) in Japanese Studies, Fall 2007  
Departmental Tenure Committee, East Asian Studies, 2013-14  
Mellon Postdoctoral Committee, 2015-2016

**Professional**

Academic Journal Boards

*Communication Theory*, Editorial Board  
*Feminist Media Studies*, International Editorial Board  
*Feminist Theory*, International Advisory Board

University Press Boards

University of Illinois Press, Book Series Editorial Board, *Feminist Media Studies*

Other Boards

FemTechNet Advisory Board

Journal Reviewer (one manuscript/journal unless otherwise noted in ( ))

*American Quarterly*, 2011  
*Atlantis*, 2015  
*Canadian Journal of Communication*, 2006, 2008  
*Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice*, 2008  
*Canadian Journal for Law and Society*, 2008  
*Communication, Culture & Critique*, 2016  
*Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*, 2009 (2), 2011, 2016 (2)  
*Communication Review*, 2000

*Communication Theory*, 2009, 2016  
*Educational Researcher*, 1997  
*Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 2010  
*Feminist Criminology*, 2015  
*Feminist Media Studies*, 2011 (2), 2014 (2), 2015 (3), 2016  
*Feminist Theory*, 2013, 2014  
*Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*, 2016  
*International Journal of Communication*, 2013, 2014 (2), 2015, 2016 (3)  
*International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 2015  
*Journal of Gender Studies*, 2015  
*Outskirts (Australia)*, 2015  
*Participation*, 2013  
*Philosophy of Photography*, 2013  
*Social Epistemology*, 2007  
*Social Problems*, 2012, 2013  
*NWSA Journal*, 2006  
*Small Group Research*, 1999  
*Signs*, 2016  
*Topia*, 2006, 2012  
*The Sociological Quarterly*, 1998  
*Violence Against Women*, 2015  
*Western Journal of Communication*, 2009  
*Women's Studies International Forum*, 2017

Book Manuscript/Proposal Reviewer

Blackwell, 2014 (proposal)  
Duke University Press, 2004 (proposal), 2013 (book manuscript), 2014 (book manuscript)  
Fordham University Press, proposal (2015), 2017 (book manuscript)  
Oxford University Press, 2003 (book manuscript)  
Polity Press, 2009 (proposal)  
Routledge, 2006-2009 (5 proposals), 2014 (proposal)  
Rowman & Littlefield, 2011 (book manuscript)  
Rutgers University Press, 2014 (proposal)  
University of Illinois Press, 2015 (manuscript)  
University of Minnesota Press, 2012 (proposal), 2013 (2 book manuscripts)

Grant Reviews

Insight Grant, SSHRC: 1 (2014)  
Humanities in the European Research Area "Uses of The Past" Joint Research Program, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (major partnership grant proposal, 2015)

Tenure and Promotion Dossiers

Annenberg School of Communication, University of Southern California, 2017  
Department of Communication, Tel Aviv University, 2016

Department of Rhetoric and Communication Studies, University of Syracuse, 2015  
University of Prince Edward Island (full professor dossier), 2014  
Department of Communication Studies, Fordham University, 2014  
Department of Media and Communication Studies, University of Maryland-Baltimore County, 2014  
Department of Communication Studies, Carleton University, 2013  
Faculty of Information & Media Studies, University of Western Ontario, 2012  
Department of Communication, Humboldt State University (Arcata, CA), 2007  
Department of Speech Communication, North Central College (Naperville, IL), 2007

Grant Evaluation Committees

Insight Development Grant Selection Committee, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, 2012-2013

Professional Association Positions

Canadian Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Aid to Scholarly Publications Committee, Women's Studies Representative, 2011-14  
Canadian Association for Cultural Studies, Member, Committee on Cultural Action and Activism, 2008-9  
Canadian Communication Association, Board Member-at-Large, 2006-8

Conference Submission Reviewer

International Communication Association, Philosophy of Communication, 2013, 2014  
International Communication Association, Journalism Studies Division, 2006  
National Communication Association, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, 2005

**Professional Memberships**

American Studies Association  
International Communication Association, Philosophy of Communication and Feminist Studies Division  
Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
Canadian Communication Association  
National Women's Studies Association  
Women's and Gender Studies et Recherches Féministes (Canada)

**Community Service**

National

Member, Advisory Council of the Law Commission of Canada, 2006 (de-funded Oct 2006).  
Member, Review Committee of Scholar-in-Residence Grant on "Law and Risk," Law Commission of Canada, 2006.

Montreal

Blue Metropolis, Montreal International Literary Festival, Écrivains en Peril Committee, 2007-9, 2011.

Invited speaker, annual memorial to the victims of the 1989 École Polytechnique murders, December 6, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011.

#### University

Invited speaker, "Responding to Online Violence," Her Campus, 15 February 2017, McGill University.

Invited panelist "Gender in the Academy" Forum, 21 November 2014, Department of Art History and Communication Studies, McGill University.

Co-organizer, Consent Week McGill, 21-24 October 2014, McGill University.

Invited panelist on "Building a Culture of Consent at McGill" organized by SSMU Equity Committee and the Office of Harm Reduction, Dean of Students, McGill University, 23 October 2014.

Faculty Facilitator, McGill University Forum on Consent, February 26, 2014.

Invited speaker to "Train the Trainers" workshop for Journalists for Human Rights, McGill University chapter. Talk title: "Challenging Empire: How to Tell the Story of Human Rights Violation," 25 September 2009.

Invited panelist on "Women in the Media," Concordia University, sponsored by *The Link* student newspaper, March 7, 2008.

Invited panelist on "Gender, Violence and Making Change," McGill University White Ribbon Club event sponsored by men working against violence against women, McGill University, November 27, 2007.

Invited panelist on "Looking toward the Future: Making Gender-based Analysis Work," One-week Intensive course Introduction to Gender-Based Analysis: Engendering Change," McGill Centre for Research and Teaching on Women, July 12, 2007.

Invited panelist on "Countering the Backlash against Feminism" at McGill University, March 16, 2006 (organized by Graduate Group for Feminist Studies).

### **Media Appearances**

#### Print

*The Guardian*, April 19, 2016, "Online Abuse: We Need Good Samaritans on the Web".

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/apr/19/online-abuse-bystanders-violence-web>

*Associated Press*, March 6, 2014, interviewed for story by Karen Matthews on the 50-year anniversary of the Kitty Genovese murder in New York City.

*Elle Quebec*, February 2014, interviewed for story by Marie-Claude Elle-Morin for a story on young feminists and social media.

*Montreal Gazette*, 25 November 2013, interviewed for a story by Karen Seidman on McGill's response to sexual assault allegations against 3 McGill football players.

*McGill Tribute*, 26 November 2013, interviewed for a story by Erica Friezen about the planning for a January 2014 Forum on Consent at McGill University.

*San Francisco Weekly*, 6 December 2012, interviewed for story by Albert Samaha on social media and the documentation of people about to die.

*Toronto Star*, 15 July 2010, interviewed for story by Andrew Chung, "Extra, extra! Women fill the anchor chair."

*Maclean's* magazine, June 2009, interviewed for story by Joanne Latimer on resurgence of charm schools for girls.

*Marie Claire* magazine, Australia, August 2009, interviewed for a story on charm schools in Montreal.

#### Television

CTV News, December 24, 2014: "The year women joined forces online and the Internet listened," interviewed by Marlene Yeung.

<http://www.ctvnews.ca/world/2014-the-year-women-joined-forces-online-and-the-internet-listened-1.2161217>

CBC News: Montreal at Six, Montreal, 1 April 2009, interviewed by Anna Asimakopulos on the phenomenon of web-based television programming.

CBC TV, The National, March 2009, interviewed by Nancy Wood on CRTC licensing of a 24-hour obituary channel in Quebec.

#### Radio

CHQR 770 AM, Calgary, interviewed about female TV news anchors in Canada, 16 July 2010.

Wisconsin Public Radio, "Here on Earth: Radio without Borders," live hour-long broadcast on the question of how we witness the earthquake in Haiti, 21 January 2010.

CJAD 940 AM, Montreal, interviewed on recent crime surveys, October 2006.

TAB

C



2017                      Hfx. No. 463399  
This is Exhibit "C" referred to  
in the Affidavit of Carrie Rentschler  
affirmed before me on December 15, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

**Campbell, Alison W.**

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**From:** Campbell, Alison W  
**Sent:** 2017/12/05 09:37 AM  
**To:** carrie.rentschler@mcgill.ca  
**CC:**  
**BCC:**

**Attachments:**

**Priority:** Normal  
**Request:** None  
**Security:** Normal  
**Deliver After** 0 days(s)  
**Subject:** Retainer {Grabher v. Nova Scotia Registrar of Motor Vehicles - Charter of Rights s.2(b) and s.15}{Matter No.[17-1864]}

Dear Professor Rentshler,

Thank you for agreeing to give evidence in this proceeding.

Please provide your opinion on the following:

1. In your opinion is the appearance of the word/phrase "GRABHER" on a government issued license plate offensive? Why or why not?
2. Has the meaning of the word/phrase "GRABHER" changed over time?
3. Does the fact that Grabher is someone's surname, change your opinion as to whether a license plate with the word/phrase "GRABHER" is, or is not, offensive?

Please be sure to note any resources you rely upon in a bibliography. I have previously sent you a copy of Rule 55 of Nova Scotia's Civil Procedure Rules. Please ensure that you comply with the requirements for an expert's report, in particular Rule 55.04.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Alison Campbell

Alison Campbell

Solicitor, Legal Services Division

Nova Scotia Department of Justice

1690 Hollis Street

PO Box 7

Halifax, NS B3J 3J9

Phone: 902-424-2231

Fax: 902-424-1730

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