Piotr M. Szpunar

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Academic Appointments

University at Albany, SUNY
      Associate Professor, Department of Communication, 2023-
      Affiliate Faculty, Informatics, 2022-
      Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, 2016-2023

University of Pennsylvania
      George Gerbner Postdoctoral Fellow, Annenberg School for Communication, 2014-2016

Education

2014   Dual Ph.D., Communication & Political Science, Annenberg School for Communication and the Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
2009   M.A., Communication, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania
2007   B.A., Political Science, *with Honours,* University of Waterloo
2002   Adv. Dip., Music (Composition), *with Honours,* Humber College

Publications

Monographs

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

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Szpunar, P.M. (2024). Mediated futures in anesthetic space: Noise, speculation, and Lowell's telescope. *Media Theory 8*(2): 37-62. https://doi.org/10.70064/mt.v8i2.1117
Modjtahedi, G. & Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Soft news in soft war: Maximum pressure, Voice of America, and outrage media in Iran. *International Communication Gazette 84*(7-8): 613-632. https://doi.org/10.1177/17480485221088395
      *Graduate Student Co-Author
Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Memory politics in the future tense: Exceptionalism, race, and insurrection in America. *Memory Studies 14*(6): 1272-1284.
Szpunar, P.M. (2021). The preemptive voice of enemy images: The before-and-after motif in media coverage of women homegrown terrorists. *Journalism*, *22*(12): 3066-3082. https://doi.org/10.1177/1464884919894125

Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Promnesic futures: Technology, climate, déjà vu. *Memory Studies, 14*(4): 747-761. https://doi.org/10.1177/17506980211024318

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). The I's of the informant: Memoirs of surveillance society. *Surveillance & Society, 18*(4): 481-492

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). Communication and (un)inspired terror: Toward a theory of phatic violence. *Communication Theory, 30*(3), 310-329. https://doi.org/10.1093/ct/qtz009

Hong, S-H. & Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The futures of anticipatory reason: Contingency and speculation in the sting operation. *Security Dialogue, 50*(4), 314-330.

Szpunar, P.M. (2018). A guileful ruse: ISIS, media, and tactics of appropriation. *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies, 15*(3), 232-251.

Shrikanth, S., Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2018). Staying positive in a dystopian future: A novel dissociation between personal and collective cognition. *Journal of Experimental Psychology: General, 147*(8), 1200-1210.

Semati, M. & Szpunar, P.M. (2018). ISIS beyond the spectacle: communication media, networked publics, terrorism. *Critical Studies in Media Communication, 35*(1), 1-7.

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Premediating predisposition: Informants, entrapment and connectivity in counterterrorism. *Critical Studies in Media Communication, 34*(4), 371-385.

Szpunar, P.M. (2016). From the other to the double: Identity in conflict and the Boston Marathon bombing. *Communication, Culture & Critique, 9*(4), 577-594.

Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2016). Collective future thought: Concept, function and implications for collective memory studies. *Memory Studies, 9*(4), 376-389.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The horror at Fort Hood: Disseminating American exceptionalism. *Media, Culture & Society*, *35*(2), 182-198.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Journalism ethics and Levinas' third: Interruption in a world of multiple others. *Social Semiotics, 22*(3), 275-294.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Collective memory and the stranger: Remembering and forgetting the 1918 Finnish civil war. *International Journal of Communication, 6*, 1201-1221.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Western journalism's 'other': The legacy of the Cold War in the study of media systems. *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism, 13*(1), 3-20.

Szpunar, P.M. (2011). Neither 'non-' nor 'becoming': American Polonia and the need to reformulate whiteness. *Cultural Studies, 25*(3), 360-382.

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Monuments, mundanity and memory: Altering 'place' and 'space' at the National War Memorial (Canada). *Memory Studies, 3*(4), 379-394.

Book Chapters

Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (*forthcoming*). Media and future thinking. In A. Erll & W. Hirst (Eds.), *Breaking down the silos: Memory between cognition, culture, and political momentum.* Oxford University Press.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). Archiving ISIS: *Dabiq, Rumiyah,* and the Clarion Project. In N. Maurantonio & D. Park (Eds.), *Communicating memory & history* (pp. 39-54). New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The predicament of (journalism) ethics as seen in the about to die image: Levinas' subjunctive mood and the third. In N. Couldry, M.Madianou, & A. Pinchevski (Eds.), *Ethics of media* (pp. 120-135). London: Palgrave.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Media, modernity, and postmodernity. in M.M. Kraidy (Ed.), *Communication and power in the global era: Orders and borders* (pp. 113-115). New York, NY: Routledge.

Public Scholarship

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

Works in Progress

Articles Under Review

Szpunar, P.M. The temporality of climate witnessing: Ice, simulation, image. *Memory Studies Review*
Szpunar, P.M. Les lieux de future: Between tomorrow and to-come.

Monographs in Preparation

Szpunar, P.M. Violence as phatic communication. (*Working on Proposal, Research Stage*).

Articles in Preparation

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

Honors & Awards

2024   Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association
2021   Top Journal Article Award, Philosophy of Communication Division, National Communication Association
2019   Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association
2017   Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division, National Communication Association
2013   Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2013   Top Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
2012   Dissertation Research Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication
2012   Top Student Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
2011   Top Paper, International Communication Association, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division
2010   Top Student Paper, International Communication Association, Popular Communication Division
2007   Annenberg Fellowship, Annenberg School for Communication (*Through 2012*)
2004   Paul Berg Memorial Award, University of Waterloo

Grants

2024   James S. McDonnell Foundation, Collective Memory Research Group.
Project: *Landscapes of Tomorrow* ($4,000)
2022   James S. McDonnell Foundation, Collective Memory Research Group.
Project: Transnational Flashbulb Memory ($31,065)
Co-PI with Magdalena Abel (University of Regensburg), Astrid Erll (Goethe University), and William Hirst (New School for Social Research)
2021   James S. McDonnell Foundation, Collective Memory Research Group.
Project: Collective Temporal Thought ($25,000)
Co-PI with Adam Putman (Furman University), Karl Szpunar (Ryerson University), Meymune Topçu (New School for Social Research) and Jeremy Yamashiro (University of California, Santa Cruz)
2019   Faculty Research Award Program, FRAP-B, University at Albany.
Project: Communicating the Future: Place, Technology, and Collective Identity. ($3,500)

Invited Lectures/Presentations

Szpunar, P.M. (2024, May 17). Les lieux de futur: Between tomorrow and to-come. Collective Memory/Collective Future Thought California Meeting.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023, May 20). The memory politics of future thinking. McDonnell Collective Memory Conference. Washington University in St. Louis.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023, May 19). Sites of future: Media, place, imagination. McDonnell Collective Memory Conference. Washington University in St. Louis.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023, April 13). Memory politics on Mars. Conversations in Standish, University at Albany, SUNY.

Szpunar, P.M. (2019, November 7). Homegrown. Department of Political Science Speaker Series. University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Conference Presentations

Szpunar, P.M. (2024). Les lieux de futur: Between tomorrow and to-come. Accepted for presentation at the National Communication Association Conference, New Orleans, LA, Nov. 21-24.
Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2023). Between mind, media, and society: Visions for the interdisciplinary future of memory studies. Roundtable at the Memory Studies Association Conference, Newcastle, UK, July 7-9.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023). After the flood: memory, resilience, and circulation on New York's East River. International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada, May 25-29.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023). In the dust of another planet: Media, noise, and telescopic visions. International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada, May 25-29.

Szpunar, P.M. (2023). The archival time of terrorism. Reimagining the Field of Media, War and Conflict in the Age of Information Disorder (ICA Preconference), Toronto, Canada, May 25.

Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Mediating hope: memory, circulation, storage. Utopian Studies Conference, University of Brighton, England, July 13-15. (*Virtual*)

Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Spectroscopic pasts and tele-scoping futures on the Red Planet. Mediating Scale, Institute of Communication Studies, Université Catholique de Lille, June 16-18. (*Virtual*)

Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Walled shores, waning futures. Reframing Water and Climate Resilience Symposium, University or Reading, Institute of Development Studies, and European Communication Research and Education Association, May 27. (*Virtual*)

Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Heavy media: the elements, time, and politics of *lieux de futur*. International Communication Association, May 26-30, Paris, France

Szpunar, P.M. (2022). Future cultures: Media, politics, and speculative thinking on Mars. International Communication Association, May 26-30, Paris, France.

Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Mars as frontier: Optical media and visions of colonization. Society for the Social Study of Science, October 6-9, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (*Virtual*)

Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Archives at the end of the world: Memory, media, and climate

change futures at Svalbard. Memory Studies Association, July 5-9, Warsaw, Poland. (*Virtual*)

Modjtahedi, G. & Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Soft news in soft war: Maximum Pressure, Voice of America, and Regime Change in Iran. International Communication Association, May 27-31, Denver, Colorado (*Virtual*).

Szpunar, P.M. (2021). Terrorism at the end of the world. 9th International Conference on Conflict, Terrorism, and Society, April 13-14, Istanbul, Turkey (*Virtual*).

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). Future-oriented ecologies: The elemental archive and the world after climate crisis. Media Ecology Association, June 17-20. Garden City, NY (*Virtual*).

Szpunar, P.M. (2020). Mediating everyday spaces into war: antipathy, alliance, unseen bodies. *Media, War and Conflict* Journal Conference, May 21-22, Florence, Italy. (*Canceled due to COVID pandemic*)

Szpunar, P.M. (2019). The elemental archive: Lieux de futur and the limits of survival. National Communication Association, November 14-17, Baltimore, MD.
Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division

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

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

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

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

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

Szpunar, P.M. (2018). From Dabiq to Rumiyah: ISIS's tactics of appropriation. International Communication Association, May 24-28, Prague, Czech Republic.

Szpunar, P.M. (2017). Toward a theory of phatic violence: Communication and homegrown terror. National Communication Association, November 16-19, Dallas, TX.
Top Paper, Rhetoric and Communication Theory Division

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

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

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

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

Szpunar, P.M. (2016). Internet radicalization: Fear in small numbers, counterterrorism and politics in data. International Communication Association, June 9-13, Fukuoka, Japan.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Laughing at the sky: Drones, secrecy and belonging in contemporary America. American Studies Association, October 8-11, Toronto, ON, Canada.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Tinker, tailor, soldier, traitor: Homegrown terrorism in popular culture. Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, July 22-24, Reykjavik, Iceland.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015). ISIS's Americans: Representations of homegrown threat. International Association for Media and Communication Research, July 12-16, Montreal, QC, Canada.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015). "I can't imagine what went through his mind": Narratives of transformation in covering ISIS's Americans. International Communication Association, May 21-25, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Szpunar, P.M. (2015). Popular articulations of the network in conflict: Circulating threats in the Red Scare and the war on terror. International Communication Association, May 21-25, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014). The Terrorist next door: Digital media, cultural identity and citizen surveillance in the war on terror. Cultural Studies Association, May 29-31, Salt Lake City, UT.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014). Prislam reconsidered or, the American-ness of jihad: Race, mass incarceration, and informants in the war on terror. International Communication Association, May 22-26, Seattle, WA.

Szpunar, P.M. & Szpunar, K.K. (2014). Collective memory and future thought. International Communication Association, May 22-26, Seattle, WA.

Szpunar, P.M. (2014). Spies and suspects: the war on terror, the circulation of digital images and citizenship. "Image Not Available" Network Visuality and Its Limits Conference, May 9, American University of Paris.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013). Homeland: The homegrown terrorist, the enemy, "our" double. International Communication Association, June 17-21, London, England.
Top Paper, Popular Communication Division

Szpunar, P.M. (2013). Homegrown terrorism and the politics of liminality. Canadian Communication Association, June 5-7, Victoria, BC, Canada.

Szpunar, P.M. (2013). The enemy within. Media, War & Conflict, April 11-12, London, England.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Inspiring guerrilla warfare: Homegrown terrorism as a communication problematic. International Association of Communication and Media Research, July 15-20, Durban, South Africa.

Szpunar, P.M. (2012). Killing, detaining and stripping citizens(hip): Communication, sovereignty and homegrown terrorism. International Communication Association, May 24-28, Phoenix, AZ.

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

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

Szpunar, P.M. (2011). Neither "non-" nor "becoming": American Polonia and the need to reformulate whiteness. International Communication Association, May 26-30, Boston, MA.
Top Paper, Ethnicity and Race in Communication Division

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

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

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

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

Szpunar, P.M. (2010). Vuoden 1918 taistelut taas tampereen kaduilla: Remembering and forgetting 1918 in Tampere, Finland." International Communication Association, June 22-26, Singapore.
> **Top Student Paper, Popular Communication Division**

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

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

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

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

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

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). Relieving history: Altering "place" and "space" at the National War Memorial in Ottawa, Canada. International Communication Association, May 21-25, Chicago, IL.

Szpunar, P.M. (2009). A virtue(-based) ethics of interruption. International Communication Association, May 21-25, Chicago, IL.

Teaching Experience

University at Albany, SUNY
> COM 502 – Communication Theory and Practice (IP, OS)
> COM 640 – Risk and Crisis Communication in the Public Interest (OA)
> COM 385 – Communicating Terror: Political Violence and Media (IP, H, OA)
> COM 378 – Social Media & Memory (IP, H, OA)
> COM 381 – Risk and Crisis Communication (IP, OA) (now: *Media Advocacy*)

> *IP – in person; H – hybrid (50/50); OS – Online Synchronous; OA – Online Asynchronous*

University of Pennsylvania
> COMM 290 – Communicating Terror: Political Violence and Media
> COMM 291 – Collective Memory/Futures: Strategies, Technologies, and Politics
> COMM 339 – Critical Perspectives in Journalism
> PSCI 234 – Civil Rights/Civil Liberties (with Dr. Rogers Smith)
> PSCI 181 – Modern Political Theory (with Dr. Anne Norton)

Professional & Skills Development

University at Albany, SUNY—Institute for Teaching, Learning and Academic Leadership
2018 Essential Preparation for Teaching Online
          Course Design Academy
2017 Designing for Online Learning

University of Pennsylvania
2008 Annenberg Summer Institute for Methods and Statistics

Committee & Journal Involvement

University Service
> University Senate, 2019-2023
> University Life Council, 2018-2021
> Governance Council, 2021-2023
> Communication Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2023-
> Senate Forum Planning Committee on Indigenous Erasure and Agency, 2021
> Director of Communication Honors Program, 2017-2020, 2022-
> Graduate Admissions Committee, 2017-2019
> Wilkie Award Committee, 2017, 2021, 2022, 2024 (Chair)

Editorial Board
Memory Studies
Memory, Mind & Media

Ad-hoc Reviewer

Communication Theory; Journal of Communication; Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism; The International Journal of Press/Politics; Les Cahiers Mémoire et politique; International Journal of Communication; *Critical Studies in Media Communication; Global Media and Communication*; *Television and New Media*; *Communication, Culture & Critique; Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies; History of Rhetoric; Memory & Cognition;* International Communication Association (Pop. Comm., Philosophy, Theory & Critique, and Journalism Divisions); Memory Studies Association; Association for Internet Researchers

Professional Experience

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