

DR. DIANA CHESTER

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

- Lecturer in Media Production: Audio and Video, University of Sydney July 2018 - Present
- Assistant Professor of Media and Arts, Duke University July 2020 – December 2020
- Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Arts, Yale-NUS College July 2017 – July 2018
- Lecturer, Interactive Media, NYU Abu Dhabi August 2015-August 2016
- Lecturer in Music Technology, NYU Abu Dhabi April 2013-May 2015
- Capstone Advisor in the Arts, NYU Abu Dhabi April 2013-May 2015
- Instructor of Arts and Media, NYU Abu Dhabi Spring 2011-April 2013

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- Visiting Scholar, Yale-NUS College, Singapore December – February 2019
- Artist in Residence, InterArtsCenter, Sweden July 2019
- Visiting Scholar, Tisch School of the Arts at New York University December 2018 – February 2019
- NMEMNM Digital Residency for Music and Sound Cultures October 2018- December 2018
- NYU Abu Dhabi, Research Grant for Doctoral Studies September 2015–August 2016
- Art Hub Liwa: Artist Residency, UAE December 2014
- William J. Clinton Fellowship, India August 2007-July 2008
- Columbia University, Scholarship for Graduate Studies September 2004 – May 2006

PUBLICATIONS

- Chester, D. (forthcoming 2021) *Sonic Encounters: The Islamic Call to Prayer*. Rowman and Littlefield. London.
- Chester, D., Carey, B., Bray, L., (forthcoming 2021) Creatively Processing the Pandemic: Sonification of COVID19 Data, *ECHO Journal*, Orpheus Institute. Belgium
- Chester, D., & Stalla, H. (2019) Sound Puppet: A Pen Friendship Between East and West, *Sonic Argumentation II*, *Seismograph Peer*. <https://seismograf.org/peer>.
- Chester, D., & Stalla, H. (2019) Let Me Recite What History Teaches, *Speculative Nonfiction*. https://www.speculativenonfiction.org/contributions/2019/10/15/let-me-recite-what-history-teaches?fbclid=IwAR0hYbHWxhbD_WMYWJSUIZytmk38ZSFhw_YaOgQ21_OcLomYu0M6sKpfV64
- Chester, D. (2019). Sound Mapping as a Tool for Sharing Sonic Cultures. *International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) Journal*, (50), 20-24. <https://doi.org/10.35320/ij.v0i50.99>
- Chester, D. (2019). Beyond the Azhan: Abu Dhabi's Cacophonous Soundscape. *Journal of Sonic Studies*, (18) Materials of Sound II. <https://www.researchcatalogue.net/view/653359/653360>
- Chester, D. (2018). Form Shifting Gertrude Stein, *Representations and Reconfigurations of the Digital*, Conference Proceedings, Linköping University.
- Chester, D., & Doyle, T. (2018) Women in Sound Women on Sound: Active Strategies to Address the Gender Imbalance in Sound, Music and Technology, *The Eaves*. <http://the-eaves.org/wiswos.html>.

- Chester, D. (2017). Composition as Exploration. *The Eaves*. <http://the-eaves.org/sound-on-writing-5.html>
- Stalla, H., & Chester, D. (2016). Acquisition as Appropriation: From the Parthenon to the Abu Dhabi Guggenheim. *Affirmations: Of the Modern*, 4 (1), 127–142. <https://affirmationsmodern.com/articles/40/>
- Chester, D. (2016). Lest We Forget: In Conversation with Susan Meiselas and Michele Bambling, *Tribe Magazine*, Issue 38. March 2016. https://issuu.com/tribephotomagazine/docs/tribe_issue_2_-issue_2-v4-final/124
- Stalla, H., & Chester, D. (2015). Artists, Archivists, and Community. *International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives (IASA) Journal*, (45), 59–61. <https://doi.org/10.35320/ij.v0i45.85>
- Chester, D. (2012). The telematic learning environment: Experiences and outcomes teaching via network audio. *2012 International Conference on Audio, Language and Image Processing*, 756–762. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICALIP.2012.6376715>

CONFERENCE PAPERS & INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Using Sonic Material to Deepen Literary and Art Historical research,” Panel presentation at Sound Instruments and Sonic Cultures Conference, England, December 2020.
- “Creative Collaborations Across Oceans During COVID,” paper presented at ACUADS 2020: Crisis and Resilience, Sydney, November 2020.
- “BIRTH,” 8th RE:SOUND International Conference in the Histories of Media Art, Science, and Technology, Hosted by Aalborg University, Denmark, August 2019. (forthcoming)
- “Composition and New Technologies,” 2nd Annual International Conference of the Modernist Studies in Asia Network, Hosted by Aoyama Gakuin University, Japan. September 2019. (forthcoming)
- “The Sonic Storyboard,” [Public Lecture](#), InterArtsCenter, Malmö, Sweden, June 2019.
- “Form Shifting: The Development of Hybrid Media Compositions,” Conference Hong Kong Baptist University, May 2019.
- “Modernism Meets the Oscillator,” Audio Paper Symposium: Performative Formats and Sonic Argumentation, Hosted by Lund University, Sweden, December 2018.
- “Sound Mapping as a Tool for Connecting Communities to Sound Recording,” International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, Hosted by Legon University, Ghana, October 2018.
- “Audience as Performer: Interactive Exhibitions and the Call to Prayer,” Performance Studies Network Conference, Hosted by The Norwegian Academy of Music, July 2018.
- “Deep Listening: To Women” A Lecture on Women in Sound, Yale-NUS College, March 2018.
- “Form-Shifting Gertrude Stein,” Thinking Through the Digital, Hosted by Linköping University, Sweden, December 2017.
- “The WISWOS Database and Reading List,” Sounds Like Her Exhibition Conference, Hosted by the New Art Exchange (NAE), Nottingham, UK, November 2017.
- “Found in Translation: Connecting Cultural Heritage and Community through Sight and Sound,” panel convener and chair, NonfictionNOW Conference, Hosted by the University of Iceland, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2017.
- “Mapping the *adhan*, the urban soundscape of Abu Dhabi City,” Urbanisms Conference, Hosted by Yale- NUS College, Singapore, April 2016.
- “How Does Modernist Work Work Where? Art and Politics in Modern Day India,” Australian Modernist Studies Network Conference: Modernist Work, Hosted by the University of New South Wales, Australia, March 2016.
- “Digital Media Archivism: Considering the Role of Creative Scholars and Artists in Preserving Cultural Heritage,” UWC Mahindra Faculty Lecture Series, October 2015.
- “Composition as Appropriation: Claim and Resist, Resist and Claim,” Australian Modernist Studies Network Conference: Transnational Modernisms, Hosted by the University of Sydney, Australia, December 2014.

- “Artist as Archivist,” Plenary Speaker at International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives Conference, Hosted by the National Library of South Africa’s Center for the Book, Cape Town, South Africa, October 2014.
- “Sonic Storyboard: The Call to Prayer,” Noise from the Middle East: A Micro-Festival of Electronic Music, Abu Dhabi, UAE April 2014.
- “Art as Music: Travelling Cortex/Unravelling Core Text,” New York University Abu Dhabi Music Lecture Series, Abu Dhabi, April 2014.
- “Effective Classroom Design for Information Literacy and Learning,” Information Literacy Network of the Gulf Region, Abu Dhabi, 2012.
- “The Telematic Learning Environment: Experiences and Outcomes Teaching via Network Audio,” International Conference on Audio, Language and Image Processing, Shanghai, 2012.

EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- *Sound-mapping the UAE*, Smithsonian Museum Folkways Festival, Washington DC, USA, June 2022 (forthcoming)
- *Sounding Nature*, Gallery25, Perth, Australia 2021.
- *Trees of Kabul*, Arboreal Stories, [Web Exhibition](#), April 2021.
- [Sounding Islam, The Sonic Storyboard](#), Exhibition, Inter Arts Center, Malmo, Sweden, June 2019.
- *Global Queerscape*, “I Fought - Therefore I Am,” Pride Art Group Show, Oslo, Norway June 2019.
- *JESSE, The Others*, Hobart Triennial, Australia May 2019.
- *Global QueerScape*, Kerrie Lowe Gallery, Sydney, Australia, February 2019.
- *Jungle Dreamscape*, Royal Botanic Gardens, Sydney Australia, October 2018.
- *Women in Sound, Women on Sound*, Website Resource of Women Sound Artists and Musicians, Administrator and Curator. Ongoing
- *Sound Map of the Islamic Call to Prayer*, A sonic mapping projects that chronicles the Adan from mosques around the world. Ongoing.
- *Etsy Biennale*, Group Art Show in DUBMO, Brooklyn. *Ghost, Organ, and Untitled 2016*, All Gelatin Silver Prints shot on 4x5 film.
- *Theyyam Ritual, Nature, and People*, A walking art installation in collaboration with visual artist Dhanaraj Keezhara. February 2017 in Keezhara village, Kerala and April 2017 in Folklore Village Kannur, Kerala.
- *Theyyam Nilathezhuthu*, A floor mural in collaboration with visual artist Dhanaraj Keezhara. February 2016 in Keezhara village, Kerala.
- *Rub Al Khali (The Empty Quarter)*, Sound Design for film by French Director Sophie Bachelier, on Artists in the United Arab Emirates. April 2015.
- *Kalima wa Nagham*, Arabic language book authored by Nasser Isleem and Ghazi Abuhakema, Audio Book by Diana Chester, February 2015.
- *Ramsah Emirati Dialect Language Book*, Co-Authored by Nasser Isleem and Ayesha Al Hashemi, Audio Book by Diana Chester, April 2014.
- *Everyday Life: A Repertoire of Ritual and Performance*: A multimedia exhibition in collaboration with Indian artist Dhanaraj Kheezara, fusing painting, drawing and spacialized sound composition in exploration of caste marginalization in Theyyam, IMA Hall, Kannur, India. December 2014.
- *Adan Sonic Storyboard*, An interactive installation exploring the sonic nuance of the call to prayer, fusing digital images, recorded sound, and sensor based data collection via microcontroller, Gallery 4211, Al Ain Tower, Abu Dhabi, UAE, May 2014.
- John Cage’s Radio Music reimagined by William David Fastenow, Performer via twitter from the Middle East, *Beyond the Machine*, Julliard, New York, 2012.
- *Babel*, 8-channel audio installation inspired by the story of the tower of babel, co-composed with Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology Martin Daughtry, Abu Dhabi, 2011

SELECTED COMPOSITIONS

- [Jungle Dreamscape](#), Sonic Field, March 2019
- [The Adventures of Unblocked Ears #3: Work](#), Sonic Field, February 2019
- Album: [Theyyam](#), Sonospace Archive, March 2018.
- Album: [Soundmap for the Dreamer II](#), SonoSpace Sound Archive, January 2018.
- “Movement 2: Wind” (13:00), “Call to Prayer” (4:02), “Rain Frog” (00:40), and “work” (1:50), *Framework Radio: phonography: field recording: the art of sound-hunting*. January 2018.
- [“Tartaria”](#) (4:03), *Sono Space*, December 2017.
- “Stein in Translation,” (5:51), *Radiophrenia*, Special Broadcast on Sound and Transmission Artwork, 87.9FM, Glasgow, UK, November 2017.
- *Destination Somewhere*, soundscape for film, Abu Dhabi and New York, 2012.
- *Traffic Jam*, Basement Records, Delhi, India, 2008 (1 piece by D. Chester)
- Album: *When Not In Your Head*, People Pin Productions, New York, 2007 (8 original compositions by D. Chester dianachester.com, iTunes)
- *Three Bodies*, film score composition for Turkish director Elif Refig, 2006.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Art of Interpretation: Images and Sound – Duke Kunshan University Spring 2020
Students develop skills and sophistication in viewing and analysis of images, art objects, film, and new media; and in sound studies, including sonic culture, film music, and traditional musical arts. The goal is audiovisual literacy – the creation and interpretation of sound and image.

Cultures of New Media – Duke Kunshan University Spring 2020
In this course students explore the increasingly embedded role new technologies and media practices play in shaping culture and society, from the invention of the printing press to documentary film. Students learn diverse perspectives and conceptual approaches to thinking about and making media, as well as the social meanings and communities born out of them.

Sound for Film and New Media – University of Sydney Fall 2020 & 2021
This graduate course explores sound design, recording, and editing for film and new media projects. Students are taught the basics of Pro Tools, location recording, and foley, along with sound design and analysis fundamentals for film.

Audio Production and Podcasting – University of Sydney Spring 2019
This undergraduate course focuses on storytelling through sound, podcasting as an industry, and audio recording and production tools and techniques. Students work in a podcasting studio, conduct interviews, capture sound in the field, and produce their own original 15-minute audio piece.

PG Podcasting – University of Sydney Fall 2018
Graduate students explore the technique and technology of podcasting. The course focuses on podcasting as an industry, a storytelling technique, a journalistic form, and an emerging field. Students work in a podcasting studio, conduct interviews, and produce their own original podcast.

Research Practices: Ethnographic Research – University of Sydney Spring 2018 & 2019
Students learn ethnographic research methods and how to think critically about the intersection of visual and sonic media and research. Students write a research paper deconstructing the ethnographic research elements of a piece of media and develop a research proposal for a semester-long media project.

Critical Practice: Digital Narratives – University of Sydney Fall 2018, 2019, 2020

Students take on a semester long critical practice in Media project in their fourth year. The class provides an overview to digital narrative theory and forms and explores a variety of digital approaches to storytelling including animation, film, sonic narrative, podcasting, and photography.

Art and Ethnography – Yale NUS College

Spring 2018

Students learn about ethnographic research methods, with a specific focus on digital ethnography, and arts production tools. They combine an exploration in ethnographic research of communities in Singapore with narrative media making, and work on four projects in which they spend time within and documenting a community through both traditional written methods, and research documentation methods including photography, audio recording, and video recording.

Interactive Narrative in Game Design – Yale NUS College

Spring 2018

Students learn about the interaction of narrative design, through navigating the pre-production, production, and post-production phases of creating a game in Unity located in the city of Singapore.

Capstone Advising – Yale NUS College

AY 2017-2018

Serve as lead reader and advisor for two senior capstone projects in the Arts and Humanities. The first a Virtual Reality Animation Project exploring vulnerability, and the Second a Film Project exploring the Heritage Coffee movement in the Philippines. Hold weekly tutorial sessions; provide guidance on resources, texts, and thinking for project. Evaluate final Capstone.

Digital Narratives – Yale NUS College

Fall 2017

Students explore narrative through trans-media storytelling, and learn techniques used in the development digital narratives including; the role of visual culture, the role of oral history, the 'ethnographic ear' and theories and methods of 'soundscape research', collective and digital memory, and web-based storytelling.

Notions of Identity Through Travel, Writing, and Arts Practice (Kerala, India)

February 2016

Students are led in a weeklong investigation of place, transport, and personal identity. The course is designed to provide students with new ways of looking at and writing about evidence through written reflections, sonic recordings, and visual interpretations of place.

Writing, Art, & Notions of Identity (Abu Dhabi, UAE)

February 2015

Students explore notions of cultural identity and heritage, through a class designed to help them develop a method for creation. Students develop creative pieces in response to prompts and their surroundings.

Live Mixing Workshop – Yale NUS College

Spring 2015

This workshop series focuses on preparing students for class projects and live and recorded events. The workshop provides a synthesized overview of analog and digital sound.

Sound Design for Scene and Screen - NYU Abu Dhabi

Fall 2014

Students are introduced to the fundamentals of sound design for theater and film, exposed to techniques and topics including ADR, Foley, post-synchronized sound and musique concrete.

Music Technology Fundamentals – NYU Abu Dhabi

Fall 2014

This course is the Gateway to the Music Technology disciplinary area courses in the NYUAD Music Program and is mandatory for all Music majors. Students learn the fundamentals of digital audio, studio and location recording, audio and MIDI sequencing using Logic and Live, music production, and audio programming using Max/MSP.

Independent Study in Music Production – NYU Abu Dhabi

Spring 2014

Students create an EP of original composition in this class. Students learned intermediate level recording and producing techniques; chord charts for singer songwriters; mixing techniques; and the art of creating unique recorded sounds in unique spaces.

Arts Capstone Design Workshop - NYU Abu Dhabi

Fall 2013

Students learn the fundamentals of design theory, including a basic overview of set, lighting, sound, and video design, to support their senior capstone projects.

Directing the Camera II (Workshop) - NYU Abu Dhabi Fall 2013

Film Majors learn the basics in audio theory, sound design for film, location sound recording, microphones, recording technique, post-production, and sound editing.

Capstone Production and Advising – NYU Abu Dhabi Fall 2013

Met with Theater and Music capstone students weekly. Reviewed their project proposals and budgets and guided their technical design process, and project production.

Independent Study in Recorded Music – NYU Abu Dhabi Fall 2012

Students learn music technology fundamentals, microphone technique, recording studio basics, signal flow, post-production, production technique, business of producing, midi controllers, and introduction to mixing.

Single Shot Cinema - NYU Abu Dhabi Fall 2012

Guest Lecturer for location sound for film, sound stage boom operation technique, lavalier microphones, recording and placement technique, sound mixer basics, hands-on mentoring within production shoots.

Sound, Image, Story (Lab Component) – NYU Abu Dhabi Spring 2012

Through the labs, students learn about sound design fundamentals, location sound, interview technique, and microphone technique for video projects. Worked with students on voice over recordings and post-production sound.

Global Telematic Music Ensemble – NYU Abu Dhabi Fall 2011

Students learn music technology fundamentals, signal flow and routing, recording equipment basics, digital audio recording, Logic and JacTrip software, microphone basics, microphone building exercises, microphone placement, internet audio transmission and technology, multi-channel audio.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE IN ACADEMIA

- Editor, Interference Journal: A Journal of Audio Cultures (2020)
- ECR Ambassador to FASS, Sydney Nano Institute, University of Sydney (2019)
- Faculty Advisor, Filmmakers Society, Yale NUS College (2017-2018)
- NYU Abu Dhabi Campus Advisory Committee, Chair (2015-2016)
- Music Faculty Curriculum Planning Committee (2014-2015)
- Capstone Implementation Coordination Working Group, Arts Capstone Advisor (2013-2015)
- Arts Capstone Festival Committee, Member (2013-2016)
- Master Work Plan Committee Member– institution-wide planning for campus opening (2010-2014)
- Human Rights Committee Member – (2011-2016)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy

Digital Media, University of Porto, December 2016

Dissertation Title: *“Creative Response - A New Look at Archiving: The Role Artists Play in Developing Creative Response from Field Recordings of Ethnographic Research”*

Master of Arts

Interdisciplinary Studies: Sociology and Education, Columbia University, May 2007

Bachelor of Arts

Religion, Mount Holyoke College, May 2004

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

GLOBAL LEARNING SYSTEMS MANAGER

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

ETSY

August 2016 – May 2017

Responsible for developing and implementing a global digital learning strategy to grow and scale learning and professional development offerings for employees at Etsy, across their 9 offices in 7 countries. The role demanded strong project management skills to oversee a companywide needs analysis, assessing key needs and gaps to achieving a global digital learning strategy, defining a scope for the project, developing relationships with key stakeholders, conducting market research on digital tools and resources that meet Etsy's professional development and learning needs, conducting vendor evaluations, choosing a vendor(s), leading rollout of new tools, developing communication strategy and guidelines for rollout. Leading content migration to seamlessly bring existing content into the new tools, work with vendors to hold trainings for Etsy employees on new tools.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Library, New York University Abu Dhabi

October 2010 – April 2013

Member of the Library team with a particular focus on the academic technology and academic computing environments; instructional design of campus classrooms; telematic music & recording/production spaces; designed the Digital Media Studio environment; designed and implemented Global courses and classrooms. Provided technical expertise, vision, and leadership, in consultation with other responsible parties, for the planning and development of an innovative academic technology environment that places students, faculty, and staff at the center of globally cutting-edge classrooms, web-based learning teaching tools, equipment, and technical resources. As a leader in Academic Technology, design innovative classroom spaces, integrated technical environments for teaching and learning over distance, and policy design and implementation for the deployment, upkeep and development of technology tools housed within the library. Served as liaison to the Dean and faculty of the Arts and Humanities on library, IT, and academic technology resources and services. Developed educational training workshops for faculty and students, on digital recorded sound, video/audio digitization and post-production, and field recording.

ACADEMIC TECHNOLOGY PROJECT MANAGER

ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

IT, New York University Abu Dhabi

April 2010-October 2010

Member of ITS Project Management Team responsible for audiovisual and IT readiness of NYU Abu Dhabi's Downtown Campus Classrooms, residential facility, and science and Engineering Labs. Responsible for developing a retrofit project plan, gathering stakeholder requirements, defining retrofit system revisions, and AV oversight. Developed readiness guidelines with faculty and staff, defined and designed downtown campus AV retrofit requirements, served as conduit between NY and AD for AV readiness in conjunction with campus opening. Managed installation of AD instance of Echo 360 Lecture capture system.

TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

NEW YORK, NEW YORK, USA

Global IT, New York University

November 2008-April 2010

Responsible for readiness of instructional technology spaces, video conferencing service model, research institute video archive model and process, website, and technical operations for both of NYU Abu Dhabi's New York operations offices, the Silk Offices located at 14 east 4th St, and 19 Washington Square North.