

Kyle Riisman
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Education

Ph.D., American Studies, George Washington University, 2010
Committee: Chad Heap (Chair), Melani McAlister, Suleiman Osman

M.A., American Studies, Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, 2002

B.A., History, The College of New Jersey, 2000

Academic Appointments

Director, Graduate Program in American Studies, Rutgers-Newark University, August 2021 – Present

Associate Teaching Professor of History and American Studies, Federated Department of History, Rutgers-Newark University, Fall 2021 – Present

Interim Director, Law, Technology, and Culture Program, New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark, Federated Department of History, Fall 2019 – Summer 2021

Senior University Lecturer, New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark, Federated Department of History, Fall 2017 – Summer 2021

University Lecturer, New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark, Federated Department of History, Fall 2012 – Spring 2017

Adjunct Professor, New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark, Federated Department of History, Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Publications

Neighborhood of Fear: The Suburban Crisis in American Culture, 1975-2001, Johns Hopkins University Press, November 2020.

Smithsonian Scholars Favorite Book of 2020

“‘Say You Love Satan’: Teens and Popular Occulture in 1980s America,” in *Growing Up America: Youth and Politics since 1945*, Sara Fieldston, Susan Eckelman, and Paul Renfro, eds., University of Georgia Press, December 2019.

“Columbus and QUBE: Democracy, Interactive Cable Systems, and the Digital Town Square in the Early 1980s,” *MediaCommons*, June 14, 2019.

“Mallrats and Arcade Addicts: Producing and Policing Suburban Public Space in 1980s America,” *Environment, Space, Place*, Vol. 5, Issue 2, Fall 2013, 65-89.

“Suburban Youth Culture” and “Mall Rats,” *Encyclopedia of Youth Cultures*, Simon J. Bronner and Cindy Dell Clark, eds., New York: M.E. Sharpe, March 2016.

“Parents Music Resource Center,” *Encyclopedia of American Reform Movements*, John R. McKivigan and Heather L. Kaufman, eds., New York: Facts on File, 2011.

“Suburbs,” with Simon J. Bronner, *Encyclopedia of American Folklife*, Simon J. Bronner, ed., New York: M.E. Sharpe, August 2006.

Works in Progress

Remote Control: An Analog History of the Digital World since 1970

“Suburban Security Culture,” Made by History, *Washington Post*

“The Call is Coming from Inside the Home(land): Popular Culture, Domestic Terrorism, and the Cultural Response to 9/11”

Awards and Honors

One of 13 Instructors of the Year, NJIT, Albert Dorman Honors College, 2019-2020

Excellence in Scholarship, University Lecturer Category, NJIT, College of Science and Liberal Arts, 2019-2020

Excellence in Teaching Award, University-wide, NJIT, University Lecturer/Program Coordinator/Adjunct Category, 2014-15

Outstanding Teaching Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, NJIT, University Lecturer Category, 2014-15

Fellow, Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, 2015-Present Research Associate, NJIT, Albert Dorman Honors College, 2015

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of American Studies, George Washington University, 2002-2008

Graduate Assistantship, The Center for Pennsylvania Culture Studies, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, 2001-2002

University Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, 2000-2001 Phi Alpha Theta, The College of New Jersey, Chapter TAU-PSI, 2000

Teaching – 12 preps

Student Evaluations – Teaching Effectiveness

AY2019-2020 Weighted Average – 3.84/4 AY2020-2021 Weighted Average – 3.75/4

Undergraduate (New courses created in bold)

Surveys

The 20th Century World

Technology and Culture in American History (co-created with Dr. Elizabeth Petrick) – Offered as Honors section

Introduction to American Studies

Contemporary America

Electives

B-boys, Punks, Gangstas, and Slackers: Space, Place, and Power in American Music

Cities in History – Offered as Honors section

Historical Problems Through Film: Conspiracy and Paranoia in 1970s America – Offered as Honors section

History of Technology: Technology and the Consumer's Republic, 1945-Present

Legal Issues in Media History – Offered as Honors section Taught as a converged classroom in Fall 2016

Senior Seminars

The History of the American Suburb – Offered as Honors section Taught as a converged classroom in Fall 2015 and Spring 2016

Law and the Digital World – Offered as Honors section

Graduate

History and American Studies Research Seminar: The Urban Experience

Master's Theses and Essays

Director – Master's Essay

Sam Wallman, "Prime Time Television During Women's Liberation - A Cultural Analysis," May 2020

Director – Master's Thesis

Zack Kellet, "Anime and Affect: Professional Fandom and the YouTube Platform in the Age of Monetization," August 2021

Reader – Master’s Thesis

Thomas Derr, “Gaming and Gender: The Disenfranchisement of Women in Gaming Culture, 1970-2000,” May 2021

Independent Studies

Graduate

The History of Sexuality in 20th Century America

Undergraduate

Jersey City and the Film Industry

Community Development Corporations and the Growth of Newark Common Core Teaching Standards in New Jersey

United States Middle East Policy after Vietnam

Legal Reexamination of Authorized Stop and Frisk Policies

Conferences and Invited Presentations

“Neighborhood of Fear: Productive Victimization and Suburban Power in Modern America,” January 13, 2022, Western Ontario University

“That Old Devil Rumor: Save the Children, Satanic Panic, and QAnon,” Panelist and Organizer, American Historical Association, January 2022 – Accepted but could not present due to Covid

“Whose Cities? Cultural Approaches to (Sub)Urban Studies,” with Dr. Mary Rizzo, School of Arts and Sciences, Rutgers-Newark, February 17, 2021

“Neighborhood of Fear: Productive Victimization in Suburbs Past and Present,” Albert Dorman Honors College, NJIT, December 11, 2020

Guest Speaker, Contemporary Issues through Videoconferencing, History and Contemporary Society, Passaic Valley High School, Little Falls, New Jersey, March 6, 2020

“Living in the Material World: Bridging the Analog/Digital Divide in Bulletin Board System Communities in the 1980s,” The Digital as Material: Encounters with Space, Physicality, and Objects in Computer History, Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society part of the Society for the History of Technology Conference, October 27, 2019 – Accepted but could not present due to family emergency

Panelist, Constitution Day, NJIT, September 17, 2019

Presenter, Teach-In, “White Backlash in Postwar America,” Federated History Department, Rutgers-Newark/NJIT, February 28, 2017

“Transparency and Teaching: Building and Maintaining Student Trust,” Lunch at ITE, Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, November 15, 2016

Panelist, “Converged Learning Success Stories: A Panel Discussion,” Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, May 18, 2016

“Sounds of the City in Crisis: Hip-Hop in the Postwar South Bronx,” Department of History, Albright College, February 9, 2016

“The University in the Neo-Liberal City: Rethinking Civic Engagement and Service Learning in Newark,” Albert Dorman Honors College, NJIT, October 1, 2015

“Fear Stalks the Streets’: Crime and the Making of the Carceral Suburb in 1980s America,” Department of History, Seton Hall University, February 4, 2015

Panelist, “A New Public Square: The Economics of Politics and Today’s Social Media,” The Transforming Horizon: A Flat World Perspective for Business Today, School of Management Fourth Annual Business Conference, NJIT, November 20, 2014

Chair, “Popular Culture and the Making and Remaking of the American City,” Urban History Association Conference, October 28, 2012

Commenter, “Vietnam Represented: Image, Sound, and Word.” Graduate Student History Conference, Rutgers-Newark/NJIT, March 29, 2012

“Passive Intervention: The V-Chip as Suburban Media Regulation,” United States Intellectual History Conference, November 17, 2011

“Punks, Muggers, and Vigilantes: Producing Urban Crime in the 1970s,” Accepted for Presentation, Urban History Association, October 2010

“New Trouble in River City: Arcades and the Regulation of Teens in Suburban Public Space,” American Studies Association Conference, November 2009

“Know Your Enemy: Understanding, Organizing, and Regulating Suburban Criminals in the 1990s,” National Center for Suburban Studies Conference, The Diverse Suburb: History, Politics, and Prospects, October 2009

“Fear Stalks the Streets: Discourses of Crime in 1980s Suburban America,” Urban Studies Seminar, George Washington University, April 2009

“Parental Advisory—Explicit Lyrics: The Culture Wars Construct the Suburbs in the 1980s,” American Studies Association Conference, October 2008.

Organized panel – “At the Crossroads of Representation and Use: Negotiating Conflict and Distinction on the Postwar Sub/Urban Landscape”

“Popular Culture and the Turn Against Nuclear Power: The China Syndrome and Three Mile Island,” Mid-Atlantic Popular/American Culture Association Conference, October 2006

Professional Activities and Service

President, Lecturers and Educators Congress, NJIT, Fall 2015 – Summer 2021, Founding Member

Teaching Mentor, New Faculty Orientation, NJIT, Fall 2015 – Summer 2021

Fellow, Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, Fall 2015 – Summer 2021, Founding Member
“Transparency and Teaching: Building and Maintaining Student Trust,” Lunch at ITE, November 15, 2016

“Class to Class: Student Recaps and Knowledge Retention,” Lunch at ITE, February 2, 2021

LEC Representative, Faculty Senate, NJIT, Fall 2013 – Summer 2021, Founding Member

Representative, Committee on Faculty Rights and Responsibilities, NJIT, 2016 – Summer 2021

Representative, Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Department Bylaws, NJIT, Fall 2016 – Summer 2021

Representative, Human Resources Committee, NJIT, Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

History and Humanities Departmental Reorganization Committee, NJIT, Fall 2019 – Summer 2021

Instructional Staff Representative, Campus Climate Working Group, NJIT, Fall 2020 – Summer 2021

COVID-19 Advisory Committee, NJIT, Spring 2020 – Summer 2021

History Department Representative, Committee on Honors Undergraduate Education, NJIT, Fall 2015-Spring 2020, Founding Member

Panelist, Constitution Day, NJIT, September 17, 2019

Panelist, “Converged Learning Success Stories: A Panel Discussion,” Institute for Teaching Excellence, NJIT, May 18, 2016

Panelist, “A New Public Square: The Economics of Politics and Today’s Social Media,” The Transforming Horizon: A Flat World Perspective for Business Today,

School of Management Fourth Annual Business Conference, NJIT, November 20, 2014

Planning Committee and Facilitator, “Talk Back to Hate” Teach-Ins, NJIT, November 11, 2017 and February 16, 2018

Chair, Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Instructional Staff, NJIT, Spring 2017 – Spring 2018

Representative, Subcommittee on Instructional Staff, NJIT, Fall 2014 – Fall 2017

Representative, Student Conduct Committee, NJIT, Summer 2016 – Spring 2019

Representative, Search Committee for Associate Dean of Students, NJIT, Spring 2021

Representative, Search Committee for Associate Dean of Students, NJIT, Spring 2018

Representative, Student Health Director Search Committee, NJIT, Fall 2016

Representative, University Senate Finance Committee, NJIT, Fall 2016 – Fall 2017

Media Appearances/Book Reviews

Print/Web

Pauline Voss, “Interview with Kyle Riisman,” *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, May 18, 2021

David Helps, “Abolishing the Suburbs: On Kyle Riisman’s Neighborhood of Fear,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 13, 2021

Sarah Holder, “How Fear Took over the American Suburbs,” *Bloomberg CityLab*, January 14, 2021

Podcasts and Livestreams

Nostalgia Trap Podcast with David Parsons, July 25, 2021, July 27, 2021, and August 11, 2021.

The David Pakman Show, “The Disturbing History of the Suburbs,” May 23, 2021.

Podopticon with Randal Hendrickson, “Suburbs and the Politics of Safety,” May 16, 2021

The Majority Report with Sam Seder, “How American Suburbanites Came to Fear Everything,” April 28, 2021

The Road to Now Podcast with Ben Sawyer and Bob Crawford, “The Rise and Fall of the American Suburbs,” April 12, 2021

Covid Calls Podcast with Dr. Scott Knowles, March 15, 2021 Axelbank Reports: History and Today Podcast, February 23, 2021 Democracy Nerd Podcast, XRAY-FM, February 3, 2021 New Books Network Podcast, Dec 29, 2020

Professional Memberships

American Historical Association

American Studies Association

Society for the History of Technology

Urban History Association

References

Cameron Logan, Senior Lecturer, School of Architecture, Design, and Planning Director, Master of Heritage Conservation

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Neil Maher, Professor of History

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Stephen Pemberton, Associate Professor of History

New Jersey Institute of Technology/Rutgers-Newark University Cullimore Hall 329

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