

Nick Sousanis
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EDUCATION

Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC
Doctorate of Education, Interdisciplinary Studies, May 2014
Dissertation: *Unflattening: A Visual-Verbal Inquiry into Learning in Many Dimensions*
Advisors: Dr. Ruth Vinz, Dr. Robbie McClintock, Dr. Maxine Greene

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Master of Arts (Painting), Dec 2002
Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (Mathematics & Art), May 2002

Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI
Bachelor of Science (Mathematics), May 1995

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Calgary, Calgary, AB
Eyes High Postdoctoral Fellow in *Comics Studies* (Department of English),
Dec 2014-Present
Instructor: *Comics as a Way of Thinking*, Fall 2015
Co-Instructor: *Comics and Graphic Novels*, Winter 2016

Parsons | The New School for Design, NYC
Adjunct Faculty: *Reading Graphic Novels*, 2013-14

Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC
Instructor (course creator): *Comics in Teaching & Learning*, 2011-2014

University of Michigan School of Art & Design, *Work: Detroit*, MI
Director of Exhibitions, 2006-2008

thedetroiter.com [arts-culture web-magazine], Detroit, MI
Co-founder/Editor-in-Chief/Primary Arts Writer, 2002-2008

The Metro Times & Real Detroit Magazine, Detroit, MI
Contributing Arts Writer, 2004-2008

Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
Adjunct Faculty: *Intro to Public Speaking/Intro to Writing*, 2004-2007

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Unflattening. (2015). Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Select Reviews: Douglas Wolk, [Sunday Book Review](#), *The New York Times* (May 29, 2015); [Review](#), *Publishers Weekly* (Mar 16, 2015); Neel Mukherjee, Review [Beyond the Frame](#), *New Statesman* (UK) (Oct 3, 2015); Jan Gardner, [Book Discovery](#), *The Boston Globe* (May 23, 2015); Ian Daffern, [Review](#), *Quill & Quire* (Jun 2015); Peter Wilkins & Damon Herd, Review: “[Unpacking Unflattening](#),” *The Comics Grid* (Aug 14, 2015); Von Marc-Oliver Frisch, Review: “[Unflattening the World](#),” *Der Tagesspiegel* (Berlin) (Aug 20, 2015); Matt Finch, Review: “[On the Shores of Word and Image](#),” *The Brooklyn Rail* (May 6, 2015); Neel Mukherjee, [Best Graphic Novels](#)

[2015](#), *Independent (UK)*; David Dabscheck, [10 Best Books on Innovation](#), *The New York Observer*; Rob Salkowitz, [10 Best Graphic Novels of 2015](#), *Forbes*; [25 of the Best Design Books of 2015](#), *PrintMag*; Don O'Mahony, [Best Comics of 2015](#), *Irish Examiner*; [Recommended Reading 2015](#), *Kenyon Review*.

Select Interviews: Timothy Hodler, "[Thinking through Images](#)," *The Paris Review* (Jul 20, 2015); Steven Heller, "[Doctoral Dissertation as Graphic Novel](#)," *PrintMag* (Aug 5, 2015); Kaitlin Mulhere, "[Seeing in New Dimensions](#)," *Inside Higher Education* (Mar 17, 2015); Henry Jenkins, "[Geeking Out About The Comics Medium with Unflattening's Nick Sousanis](#)," (in 4-parts) Jenkins's *Confessions of an Aca-Fan* (Sept 21, 2015); Cory Doctorow, "[Doctoral Dissertation in Graphic Form](#)," *BoingBoing* (Jun 21, 2015); Calvin Reid, [More to Come](#) (podcast), *Publishers Weekly* (Apr 03, 2015); Carla Nappi, [Interview](#) (podcast), New Books Network (Jun 12, 2015); Bruna Souza Cruz, "Professor Publishes Doctoral Thesis in the Form of a Comic in US," *UOL (Brazil)*, (Jul 26, 2015); Eric Volmers, [Interview](#), *The Calgary Herald* (May 9, 2015); Sydni Dunn, "[Amazing Adventures of the Comic Book Dissertator](#)" *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (Feb 28, 2014). John O'Reilly, "Visual Scholarship: Flatland, After Flatland." *Varoom Magazine 23 (UK)* (Autumn, 2013); Katya Korableva, "[Scientist Nick Sousanis: 'Comics are a natural way of expressing our thoughts'](#)," *Theory & Practice* (Russia, [English text here](#)), (Oct 6, 2012); Anthony Salcito, "[Drawing on Inspiration: Challenging the World of Learning through Comics](#)," *Microsoft's Daily Adventures* (Apr 4, 2012). (All press links available www.spinweaveandcut.com/press)

Articles/Chapters

"[The Fragile Framework](#)." Climate change comic. (Nov 2015). Co-authored with Richard Monastersky. *Nature*, 527, p. 427–435.

Chapter on Comics-Based Research in *The Handbook of Arts-Based Research*. (Forthcoming, 2017). Co-authored with P. Kuttner & M. Weaver-Hightower. Guilford Press.

"[Behind the Scenes of a Dissertation in Comics Form](#)." (2015). *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, Vol. 9, No. 4.

"[Against the Flow](#)." (Oct 4, 2015). Comic in *The Boston Globe* Ideas Section.

"[Grids and Gestures: A Comics Making Exercise](#)." (2015). *SANE journal: Sequential Art Narrative in Education*. Vol. 2: Iss. 1, Article 8.

"Continuing a Conversation with Maxine Greene in Comics." (2015). (Co-authored with Daiyu Suzuki). *Teachers College Record*, Vol. 117 No. 10, p. 1-6.

"[Upwards](#)." (May 24, 2015). Comic in *The Boston Globe* Ideas Section.

"[Envisioning possibilities: visualising as enquiry in literacy studies](#)." (Jan 2015). (Co-authored with Anna Smith and Matthew Hall). *Literacy*, Vol. 49, Iss. 1, p. 3-11.

"[Threads: A Spinning Fable](#)." (Dec 2014). Comic in *Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy*, Vol. 11, Iss. 2, p. 102-106.

- [“Reconsidering Scholarship through a Dissertation in Comics Form.”](#)
(Dec 30, 2014). Media Commons.
- [“Why not? A partial postmortem on creating a dissertation in comics form.”](#) (Nov 11, 2014). Media Commons.
- [“Reframing the Discussion—a brief reflection on Genres of Scholarly Knowledge Production.”](#) Jan 22, 2015. Medium.com.
- [Cover](#) for *Association of American Colleges and Universities* special issue on Diversity & Democracy, Winter 2015.
- [“Comics as a Tool for Inquiry.”](#) (2012). Image-text conference paper in *Juniata Voices*, Vol. 12, p. 162-172.
- “101 Miles of Monument.” (2012). Comic (illustrator, story by Jim Ottaviani) in *District Comics: An unconventional history of Washington, D.C.* Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing.
- “The Shape of Our Thoughts.” (Summer, 2012). Comics Essay in *Visual Arts Research*, Vol. 39, No. 1.
- “The Importance of Seeing Double.” (Mar 2011). Comics Essay in *Integrative Pathways*, Vol. 33, No. 1.
- “Mind the Gaps.” (2011). Comics Essay, chapter in Vinz & Schaafsma *On Narrative Inquiry*, New York: Teachers College Press.
- “A different kind of diversity: Collaboration across content areas intensifies learning.” (Oct 2010). (Co-authored with Ryan Goble) *The Journal of Staff Development (JSD)*, Vol. 31, No. 5.
- “Creativity Reconsidered: Incorporating Care.” (Jul 2011). In *International Online Journal of Learning and Teaching in Higher Education*, Vol. 3: Proceedings of the 2009 Conference of the European Affective Education Network (EAEN).
- “Journeys Past; Futures Forged.” (2010). Comics Essay, *Speaking Worlds: Oral Histories from... (District 79)*, [Student Press Initiative](#), Teachers College.
- “Maxine Says.” (2010, 2008 original). Comics Essay in *Dear Maxine: Letters from the Unfinished Conversation*, Teachers College Press.
- “What’s Next, Charles?” & “A Conversation with Charles.” (2010). Essay & Comics Essay in the monograph, *Charles McGee: Eminent Artist*, *The Kresge Foundation*.
- “Game Show Detroit: Possibilities.” (2006). Comics Essay, *Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit (CAID)*. (Reprinted for *Games+Learning+Society Conference, 2012*)

INVITED TALKS
Upcoming

National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C., 2016

Sketching in Practice Symposium (keynote), Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC, 2016

Prior

College for Creative Studies: Toyota Lecture, Detroit, MI, 2016

Franklin Humanities StoryLab @ Duke, Raleigh, NC, 2016

Tapestry: Data Storytelling Conference (Keynote), Denver, CO, 2016

Miami University: McComb Conference on Creative Writing
(Keynote), Miami, OH, 2016

Kent State University, OH, 2016

University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign, 2016

WHERE NEXT?: Creative Writing, Narrative, Film and Contemporary Art (Panelist), Alberta College of Art & Design, Calgary, 2016

Centre for Contemporary Arts (virtual), Glasgow, 2016

NYC Department of Education: Comics in the Classroom Conference (speaker/panelist/workshop), NYC, 2016

Vanderbilt Film Theory & Visual Culture Seminar, Nashville, TN, 2015

Moscow International High-Quality Fiction and Non-Fiction Book Fair (*Virtual*), Moscow, Russia, 2015

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR, 2015

Notre Dame, South Bend, IN, 2015

Texas Book Festival (invited author), Austin, TX (2015)

Science Meets Comics/Anthropocene Kitchen Symposium, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, 2015

Harvard Graduate School of Education, Cambridge, MA, 2015

Microsoft Research Cambridge, MA, 2015

College Unbound, Providence, RI, 2015

Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC, 2015

Brooklyn Book Festival (invited author), NYC (2015)

University of Washington Simpson Center for the Humanities, Seattle, 2015

Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, 2015

Princeton University Department of English, NJ, 2014

Toledo Museum of Art, OH, *International Visual Literacy Association Conference* (Keynote), 2014

CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, (Panelist), *What Is a Dissertation? New Models, New Methods, New Media*, 2014

UCLA – Charles E. Young Research Library, Los Angeles, CA, 2014

Reform Symposium Free Online Conference (RSCON5): The Future of Education (Virtual Keynote): “Thinking through Comics,” 2014

- Visitors Studies Association Conference** (Keynote) Conference, Milwaukee, WI, 2013
- Microsoft Research** Redmond, WA (alongside solo exhibition), 2013
- Stanford University: Graphic Narrative Project**, CA, 2013
- Oakland University**, MI, 2012. “Comics and education”
- Detroit Opera House**, MI, 2007. “Detroit Arts Spaces.”
- Panelist, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit** (MoCAD), MI, 2007: “State of the Art: Arts writing in Detroit.”
- University of Michigan School of Art & Design**, MI, 2007. Guest critic.
- Guest Speaker (in-person & virtual)** 2010-Present. Select locations: USC – Henry Jenkins’s grad seminar; Teachers College; NYU Steinhardt; Marymount Manhattan College, NY; UPenn; Northern Illinois University; Penn State; University of Washington; Providence College; Charles Darwin University (Australia); Glenbard School District (IL); University of Calgary; Adelphi University, NY; Kutztown University, PA; YouthWrite Camp, Calgary; CLmooc education network.

ACADEMIC
CONFERENCES
Organizer

- Creativity, Play, and the Imagination across the Disciplines**
2011 Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC
Awarded \$20,000 *Provost Investment Fund*, competitive grant by the Office of the Provost, Teachers College; \$10,000 sponsorship from *Microsoft Research*
Conference wiki: <http://createplayimagine.wikispaces.com>
- Game Show NYC** (Concurrent art exhibition)
Co-organizer, co-curator
Exhibition website: www.gameshownyc.com

Presenter

- American Education Research Association (AERA)**
2015 Chicago, IL
Symposium, *Aesthetics and Analysis as Self-Collaboration in Comics*
Workshop, *Idea Generation through Improvisational Drawing*
Invited talk, *Tribute to Maxine Greene: “Seeing Possibilities with Maxine”*
- 2014 Philadelphia, PA
Symposium, *Comics as Research: Toward an Imaginative Methodology*
Demonstration/Performance, *Aesthetics and Analysis: Method in the Practice of Arts-Based Educational Research (Beyond Illustration: Shaping Thought Through Comics)*
- 2013 San Francisco, CA
Group, *Unflattening: Reimagining research through a visual-verbal dissertation*
Group, *Blurring the boundaries: Emerging literacies research methods*

Roundtable, *Comics as a tool for inquiry*

Presentation, *Reenvisioning scholarly inquiry: A dissertation in comics form unites visual and verbal*

2012 Vancouver, BC
Presentation, *Reuniting visual and verbal: Integrating comics for expansive thinking across the curriculum*

2011 New Orleans, LA
Presentation, *Comic Books as Narrative Research Representation Method*

Modern Language Association (MLA)

2016 Austin, TX
Panel, *Developments in Comics Pedagogy*

2014 Chicago, IL
Panel, *Beyond the Protomonograph: New Models for the Dissertation*

National Art Education Association (NAEA)

2016 Chicago
Workshop, *Making Comics: Pedagogical Possibilities for Visual Literacy*

Panel, *Graphic Transpositions: Traversing Race, Gender, and Social Justice Through Comics*

2015 New Orleans
Presentation, *Research Works-in-Progress: Questioning the Answers*

Presentation, *Emergent Aesthetics: Image and Text in Arts-Based Research*

2013 Fort Worth, TX
Presentation, *Drawing Together: A Discussion on Graphic Novels in Art Education*

Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS)

2014 Michigan State University
Workshop/presentation: *Integrating the Visual into Interdisciplinary Inquiry through a Comics Dissertation*

2013 Miami University, OH
Presentation, *Interdisciplinarity meets Multimodality: A Comics Dissertation Reinvents Inquiry*

2012 Oakland University, MI
Presentation, *Integrating visual and verbal: A dissertation in comic book form re-envisions inquiry*

2011 Grand Valley State University, MI
Presentation, *Unflattening: A visual-verbal dissertation reimagines research*

HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory)

2015 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
Symposium, *Remix the Diss: Transforming the Dissertation*

Symposium/Workshop, *The Future of Text*

2013 Toronto, CA

Presentation, *Unflattening: A visual-verbal inquiry into learning in many dimensions*

2011 University of Michigan, MI
Presentation, *Rethinking (through) comics*

Imagining America (IA)

2013 Syracuse, NY
Group, *Incorporating Visual Thinking into Research Methodology and Representation*

2012 New York City
Group, (Session organizer w. Anastasia Salter & members of *Hack the Dissertation*): *Expanding forms of inquiry*

2011 Minneapolis, MN
Poster, *Unflattening: Reinventing research through a visual-verbal dissertation*

Genres of Scholarly Knowledge Production

2014 HUMLab, Umeå University, Sweden
Invited talk, *Unflattening: A Comics Dissertation Imagines Scholarship*

Thinking through Drawing Conference

2013 Teachers College, NYC
Presentation, *Comics as a Way of Thinking*

Graduate Research Arts Education (GRAE)

2012 Ohio State University, OH
Presentation, *Unflattening: A visual-verbal inquiry into learning in many dimensions*

Rocky Mountain Comics Conference

2012 Denver, CO
Presentation, *Comics as a tool for inquiry: A dissertation in comic book form reimagines scholarship*

Sequential Smart Conference

2012 Juniata College, PA
Presentation, *Comics as a tool for inquiry*

Creativity, Play & the Imagination across the Disciplines Conference

2011 Teachers College, Columbia University, NYC
Presentation (w. Michele Root-Bernstein), *Haiku and Comics: A conversation about Constraints and the Creative Process*

1st Annual International Conference on Fine and Performing Arts

2010 Athens, Greece
Presentation, *Unflattening Education: Creating Possibilities*

European Affective Education Network (EAEN) 10th International Conference

2009 University of the West of Scotland, UK
Presentation, *Creativity Reconsidered: Incorporating Care*

GRANTS

Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Development Grant, for *What Were Comics* (as co-applicant with Bart Beaty and Benjamin Woo), 2015

\$280,879 (CDN)

Office of the Provost, Teachers College Provost Investment Fund, for *Creativity, Play, and the Imagination across the Disciplines* conference (co-applicant with Suzanne Choo), 2011
\$20,000

Microsoft Research sponsorship for *Creativity, Play, and the Imagination across the Disciplines* conference, 2011
\$10,000

HONORS/AWARDS

2016 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Award) in Humanities

2016 American Publishers Awards for Professional and Scholarly Excellence (PROSE Award) in Media & Cultural Studies

Lynd Ward Prize for Graphic Novel of the Year, 2015
University of Calgary

2016 Eisner Award Nomination for Best Academic/Scholarly Work

Students' Union Teaching Excellence Award Winner 2015-16

National Art Education Association
Elliot Eisner Doctoral Research Award, Runner-Up, 2015

Teachers College, Columbia University
Provost Doctoral Dissertation Grant, 2014

HASTAC Scholar, 2011-12

Imagining America
Publicly Active Graduate Education (PAGE) Fellow, 2011-12

Crain's Detroit Business
"40 Under 40" Class of 2006

Almont High School
Commencement Speaker, 2005

Western Michigan University
Grover C. Bartoo Scholarship for excellence in mathematics, 1995

ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIPS

American Education Research Association (AERA), 2011-Present

National Art Education Association (NAEA), 2012-Present

Association for Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS), 2010-Present

Modern Language Association (MLA), 2012-Present

EDITORIAL/
CONSULTING

External Dissertation Advisor for Doctoral Candidate Michele Mercer Lee,
California Institute of Integral Studies (2015-Present)

Ideograph: Stanford Graphic Narrative Journal (*Forthcoming*)
Art & Innovation Editor (2013-Present)

ethnoGRAPHIC: Ethnography in Graphic Form, University of Toronto Press
Series Advisor (2015-Present)

EXHIBITIONS

- University of Amsterdam**, the Netherlands, 2016 [solo exhibition]
Educating Interdisciplinary: The Unflattening Exhibition
- Moscow International High-Quality Fiction and Non-Fiction Book Fair** [solo exhibition], Moscow, Russia, 2015
- Utrecht University**, the Netherlands, 2015 [solo exhibition]
Educating Interdisciplinary: The Unflattening Exhibition
- Graphic Design Festival**, Breda, The Netherlands, 2015
- Microsoft Research**, Redmond, WA, 2013 [solo exhibition]
- Detroit Artists Market**, Detroit, MI
John Korachis Scholarship/Distinguished Alumni Show, 2013, 2010, 2007
- Gallery Project**, Ann Arbor, MI
Grammar of the Elite (2012), *Quantified Self* (2012), *Imaging the Future* (2010), *Change* (2009), *Visual Storytelling* (2009)
- The Peoples Art of Portland/Po Boy Art Gallery**, *The Comic Show*,
Portland, OR, 2011
- The Ladybug Gallery**, *EXIT Detroit*, Detroit, MI, 2010
- Macy Art Gallery, Teachers College**, *Studio Practices*, NYC, 2010
- Detroit Artists Market**, *That DAM Box Show*, MI, 2006
- Detroit Opera House**, *Bravo, Bravo*, MI, 2005
- Zeitgeist Gallery**, *Restoring the Tree of Liberty*, Detroit, MI, 2004
- Detroit Public Art Billboard**, Ferndale, MI
"Free-Way" Public Art Billboard [solo project], 2005

ADDITIONAL
EXPERIENCE

- Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit (CAID)**, Detroit, MI
Board Chairman, 2005-2007 (Board member, 2004-2007)
- Manhattan Plaza Racket Club, NYC/Peachtree & Port Huron Tennis Clubs**, MI
Professional Tennis Instructor, 2008-2014/1997-2008

REFERENCES

- Cathy N. Davidson
Distinguished Professor/Director, The Futures Initiative
The Graduate Center, CUNY Office 3314
365 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10016
Ph: 212 817 7247
cdavidson@gc.cuny.edu
- Bart Beaty
Professor of English, University of Calgary
Social Sciences 1138
2500 University Dr. NW

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Graeme Sullivan

Director/Professor of Education, School of Visual Arts
Penn State University
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University Park, PA 16802
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Timothy K. Eatman

Assistant Professor of Higher Education, Syracuse University
Co-Director, Imagining America (IA)
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