

# MARISA BRANDT

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Lecturer, UC San Diego Dept. of Communication

Research Health Science Specialist – Veterans Administration Health System San Diego

## **EDUCATION:**

Ph. D., UC San Diego Dept. of Communication & Science Studies Program. (May 17, 2013)  
Chandra Mukerji (Advisor), David Serlin, Kelly Gates, Joseph Dumit (UC Davis,  
Anthropology), Charles Thorpe (Sociology)

C. Phil. UC San Diego, Dept. of Communication & Science Studies Program (June 2010)

B. A., UC Berkeley, English (Honors), Creative Writing Minor (May 2004)  
Hill Scholarship (2003-04), Dean's list (F 02, Sp 03, Sp 04), Phi Beta Kappa (2004)

## **RESEARCH:**

### **Dissertation:**

War, Trauma, & Technologies of the Self: The Making of Virtual Reality Exposure Therapy

### **Publications:**

#### **Articles:**

2014 "Zapatista Corn: A Case Study in Biocultural Innovation." *Social Studies of Science*, published online July 22, 2014, doi: 10.1177/0306312714540060, <http://sss.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/07/19/0306312714540060.abstract>

2013 "Cyborg Agency and Individual Trauma: What *Ender's Game* Teaches Us about Killing in the Age of Drone Warfare" *Media/Culture*, 16.6. Web. <http://journal.media-culture.org.au/index.php/mcjournal/article/viewArticle/718>

2013 with Daniel C. Hallin & Charles L. Briggs "Biomedicalization and the Public Sphere: Newspaper Coverage of Health and Medicine, 1960s-2000s," *Social Science & Medicine*, 96, 121–128.

#### **Book Chapter:**

2013 "From the Ultimate Display to the Ultimate Skinner Box: Virtual Reality and the Future of Psychotherapy." In Kelly Gates (ed), *International Encyclopedia of Media Studies Vol. 6: Media Studies Futures*. London: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 518–539.

#### **Book Reviews:**

2014 "Interview with Joy V. Fuqua, *Prescription TV: Therapeutic Discourse in the Hospital and the Home*." Books Aren't Dead. Fembot Collective <http://fembotcollective.org/blog/2014/01/01/books-arent-dead-fuqua/>

2013 "Subject/Object Relations in Wireless Worlds: Review of *Wirelessness* by Adrian Mackenzie." *Science as Culture*, 22:3, 414–418.

2013 "Doctored: The Medicine of Photography in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century America by Tanya Sheehan." *Technology & Culture*, 54:3, 666–669.

### Conference Presentations:

- 2014 Society for the Social Studies of Science, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
“The Ultimate Skinner Box? How Therapists Explain Using Virtual Reality to Treat Military PTSD”
- 2014 Comic Arts Conference, San Diego, CA  
“Using Comics-Creation as Therapy for Military Post-Traumatic Stress.”
- 2014 Culture, Power, & Materiality: A Festschrift for Chandra Mukerji, La Jolla, CA  
“Reading *Impossible Engineering*.”
- 2014 Contours of Algorithmic Life, UC Davis Mellon Research Initiative of Digital Cultures Conference, Davis, CA  
“Chatbot Counseling and the Search for a Therapeutic Alliance Algorithm.”
- 2013 American Anthropological Association, Chicago, IL  
“Imagining a Game-Like Solution: The Promotion of Virtual Reality Therapy for Combat Trauma.”
- 2013 Society for the Social Studies of Science, San Diego, CA  
“Theorizing Virtual Environments as Technologies of the Self”
- 2013 Governing Technology: Material Politics and Hybrid Agencies; Stanford University Graduate Studies in Science and Technology, Stanford, CA  
“Zapatista Corn: Translating Transgenics to Create a Transnational Anti-GM Social Movement.”
- 2012 Cultural Studies Association meeting, San Diego, CA,  
“From the Ultimate Display to the Ultimate Skinner Box: Virtual Reality and the Future of Psychotherapy.”
- 2011 Society for the Social Studies of Science, Cleveland, OH  
“Not a Game: The Boundary-Work of Making Virtual Iraq the Right Tool for Treating Combat-Related PTSD.
- 2011 Mediating War & Technology, International Communication Association Communication History Division, Boston, MA  
“Militarized Therapy for the Digital Warrior?: Virtual Technologies for Addressing Combat PTSD.”
- 2011 Soldiering, the Afterlife of Modern Experience; Annual Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Student Conference; Harvard Univ. Humanities Center, Cambridge, MA,  
“Militarized Therapy? A Comparison of Virtual Technologies for Addressing Combat PTSD”
- 2010 Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association, Singapore  
“Health and the Public Sphere: The Politicization of Health Reporting, 1960s-2000s,”  
Presented by Daniel C. Hallin and Charles L. Briggs
- 2010 Popular Culture Assoc./American Culture Assoc., St. Louis, MO  
“Ender's Game Revisited: PTSD, UAVs, and simulation.”
- 2010 Cultural Studies Assoc., Berkeley, CA,  
“Virtual Iraq as Closed World: Virtual reality exposure therapy for PTSD as the heir to Cold War discourse.”
- 2009 Society for the Social Studies of Science, Washington D.C.,  
“Virtual Iraq: Creating a Virtual Therapeutic Space for OIF Veterans with PTSD.”
- 2009 Binacom 16<sup>th</sup> Encuentro, San Diego, CA  
“Zapatista Corn: Creating an indigenous anti-GMO social movement in the Chiapas highlands.”
- 2008 Popular Culture Assoc./American Culture Assoc., San Francisco, CA  
“Helmets Off: Representations of Soldiers Returning Home with PTSD in the News Media.”

- 2008 The Comic Arts Conference, San Diego, CA with Evan Moreno-Davis  
“Making Science Real: The role of scientific authority in the comics of Jim Ottaviani”
- 2007 Comic Arts Conference, San Diego, CA  
“Off With the Helmet: Military, Trauma, and Identity in Doonesbury.”

**Invited Lectures and Presentations:**

- 2014 UCSD Graduate Women in Science and Engineering  
Panel on *Miss Representation* (2011) and women in the media
- 2014 University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Dept of Communication Studies  
“Configuring Therapy, Remediating Trauma: An Analysis of Virtual Reality Therapy Systems for Treating Military PTSD”
- 2013 Powers, Publics, & New Media: UCSD Dept. of Communication 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
“The Materiality of Zapatista Corn: An STS Reading of an Indigenous Response to GMOs in Mexico.”
- 2013 Virtual Ethnography/Military Subjects Pop-Up Panel, UCSD  
“War, Trauma, and Technology: The Making of Virtual Iraq.”
- 2013 University of Toronto Mississauga ICCIT  
“Confiding in Computers: What are Chatbots and Can They Make Good Therapists?”
- 2013 New Jersey Institute of Technology, History Dept.  
“From ‘The Ultimate Display’ to ‘The Ultimate Skinner Box’: A History of Virtual Reality in American Clinical Psychology, 1968-1999.”
- 2012 Audacious Speculations Series, UCSD Sixth College and Center for the Humanities  
“Not a Game: The Cultural Work of Making Virtual Iraq the Right Tool for Treating PTSD.”
- 2010 Science Studies Program Colloquium, UCSD  
“Zapatista Corn: Creating a transnational anti-GMO movement around material-semiotic flows.”
- 2008 Intellectual Life Committee Panel on Disability Studies, UCSD Communication  
“Disabled by Memory: Disability Compensation & the Struggle to Stabilize the Meaning of PTSD.”

**Workshops and Seminars:**

- 2014 Consortium for the Science of the Socio-Technical, Columbia, MO
- 2014 FemTechNet Summer Workshop, Santa Monica, CA
- 2013 Crafiting the DigitalSTS Handbook, San Diego, CA
- 2013 Feminist Infrastructures & Technocultures: Cross-Disciplinary Legacies & Futures, UCFemTechNet, hosted by UCSD
- 2014, ‘12, ‘10, ‘09, & ‘08 Cal.STS, Translation & Innovation Workshop; 2012 org committee.
- 2008 UC-wide Workshop on Disabilities Studies, hosted by UCSD, Assistant Coordinator
- 2008 Technology & Formations of Power, UCSD Science Studies Program, Respondent
- 2007 Health & Disease, UCSD Science Studies Program

**Research Assistantships:**

- Politicization of Health News Content Analysis Project (Jun –Dec 2008; Jun –Dec 2012)  
Dr. Daniel C. Hallin, (UCSD Comm) and Dr. Charles Briggs, (UC Berkeley Anthro).
- Disability, Architecture, and Modernity in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America (Summer 2010, Winter 2013)  
Dr. David Serlin, (UCSD Comm)

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS:**

- 2012 UC Humanities Research Institute Andrew White Vincent and Florence Wales White Graduate Scholarship in Theoretical Social Sciences and Medicine (\$20,000)
- 2012 Communication Department Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$6,000)
- 2011 Center for Teaching Development Summer Teaching Fellowship (\$1,200)
- 2010 Science Studies Dissertation Research & Writing Fellowships (\$10,600)
- 2010 Center for Global California Studies Summer Research Fellowship (\$3,000)
- 2006 UCSD Dean of Social Science Fellowship (\$18,000)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

### **Instructor of Record:**

- Introduction to Communication, UCSD COMM (Spring 2014)
- Gender and Science, UCSD Comm (Winter 2014)
- Junior Seminar: Cyborg Selves in Digital Culture, UCSD Comm (Fall 2013)
- Communication and the Individual, UCSD Comm (Summer 2011)
- Thinking about Our World Through Food and Culture, Summer Discovery (Summer 2008)

### **Teaching Assistantship in the Culture, Art, and Technology (CAT) Program, UCSD:**

- Public Rhetoric and Practical Communication: Demonstrating Expertise through Digital Media (Summer 2012)
- Public Rhetoric and Practical Communication: Communicating Expertise (Head TA) (Fall 2011).
- The Society of the Spectacle (Head TA) (Winter 2011)
- Origins of Culture, Art, and Technology (Fall 2009 and Fall 2010)
- Medical Technology and Ethics (Winter 2010)
- Sensory Perception and Social Experience (Spring 2010)

### **Teaching Assistantship in the Department of Communication, UCSD:**

- Advertising and Society (Spring 2009)
- Communication and Social Force (Winter 2008, Winter 2009)
- Gender and Science (Winter 2008)
- Communication and the Person (Fall 2008)
- Introduction to Communication (Spring 2008)
- Communication and Human Information Processing (Fall 2007, Summer 2009)

### **Other Teaching Assistantships:**

- Introduction to Science & Technology Studies, UCSD Extension/Academic Connections Program (Summer 2013)
- Sociology of Mental Illness in Contemporary Society, UCSD Sociology (Fall 2008)
- Neuroscience in Contemporary Literature, UC Berkeley Molecular & Cell Biology (Spring 2004)

### **Curriculum Development and Administration:**

- Administrative Liaison and TA Mentor/Head TA for the Culture, Art and Technology Program Courses: "Social Text" and "Global Hip-Hop Culture" (Spring 2012)
- Something from Nothing: Fearless Speculations in Art, Science and Activism, UCSD Center for the Humanities Research Group. (Winter 2012)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

Vice-Chair: Cultural Studies Association Working Group on Culture and War (2014-15)  
Co-organizer: Culture, Power, Materiality: Festschrift for Chandra Mukerji (2014)  
UC Office of the President Graduate Advocacy Day Representative for UCSD (June 2013)  
Co-organizer: Science Studies Student Speaker Workshop with Donna Haraway (2012-13)  
UC San Diego Center for the Humanities Graduate Advisory Committee (2012-13)  
SIGGRAPH Computer Human Interaction Paper Reviewer (2012)  
Faculty Search Committee Member: Digital Media, Dept of Communication (2012)  
Organizing Committee Member: Science & Society Lecture Series (Fall 2007- Spring 2009)  
Contributing Writer: Science Studies Program Newsletter (Fall 2009)  
Submissions Reader/Contribution Editor: *Science, Technology & Human Values* (2007-08)  
Program Volunteer: National Communication Association Annual Meeting, San Diego (2008)  
Graduate Student Association Representative (2006-07)

### **OTHER WORK IN MEDIA & COMMUNICATION:**

Feb – Sep 2007      The Science Network, The Salk Institute, UCSD  
Science Writer & Editor

Jan – Jul 2006      Planned Parenthood of Western Washington, Seattle, WA  
*Volunteer Connections* Newsletter Coordinator

Oct 2005 – Jul 2006 Story Worldwide, Seattle, WA  
Associate Editor, *Lexus* Magazine. General Project Editor.

May – Jul 2005      Richard Hugo House Literary Center, Seattle, WA  
Newsletter Writer & Program Assistant

Oct 2004 – May 2005      All Star Directories, Seattle, WA  
Production Editor for Educational Program Listings

Jun – Aug 2004      University Students Cooperative Association, Berkeley, CA  
Summer Communications Coordinator

Jun – Aug 2002; Feb – Jul 2003      Small Press Distribution, Berkeley, CA  
Acquisitions & Marketing Director's Assistant

Sep 2002 – Jun 2004; Apr 2005      Berkeley Poetry Review, UC Berkeley, CA  
Editor-in-Chief & Layout Designer

Jun – Aug 2002      City Lights Publishing, San Francisco, CA  
Summer Intern: Marketing Director's Assistant & Acquisitions Editor's Assistant

Aug 2001 – May 2002      University Health Services, Berkeley, CA  
Health Worker (Para-intern)

Jul 1999 – July 2003 Writers & Books Literary Center, Rochester, NY  
Summer Writing Camp Teaching Assistant: *Writing for Radio, Word & Image* (Jul 2003)  
Editor: *The Prodigy Review*, youth literary journal, and *A Star Sprouted*, compilation of children's writing. (99-00 Academic Year)

**REFERENCES:**

**Chandra Mukerji, Dissertation Advisor**, Professor of Communication & Science Studies  
UCSD Department of Communication, 9500 Gilman Dr. Mail Code 0503, La Jolla, CA 92093  
(858) 534-6325; cmukerji@ucsd.edu

**Lucy Suchman**, Professor of Anthropology of Science and Technology,  
Co-Director Centre for Science Studies; President-Elect of Society for Social Studies of Science  
Lancaster University, Department of Sociology, Lancaster LA1 4YT UK  
l.suchman@lancaster.ac.uk

**Joseph Dumit**, Professor of Anthropology, Director of Science & Technology Studies  
UC Davis Department of Anthropology, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616  
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**David Serlin**, Associate Professor of Communication & Science Studies  
UCSD Department of Communication, 9500 Gilman Dr. Mail Code 0503, La Jolla, CA 92093  
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**Elizabeth Losh**, Director of Academic Programs  
UCSD Sixth College, 9500 Gilman Dr. Mail Code 0054, La Jolla, CA 92093  
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