

## KEVIN B. LEE

Born 1975 in San Mateo, California  
Lives in Stuttgart, Germany  
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### EDUCATION

- MFA in Film, Video, New Media and Animation (2015), School of the Art Institute of Chicago
  - MA in Visual and Critical Studies (2016), School of the Art Institute of Chicago
  - BA in English and Asian Studies (1997), Williams College
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### ARTISTIC AND FILMMAKING PRACTICE

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS AND SCREENINGS

- 2016 *The Aesthetics of Analysis: Kevin B. Lee and the Video Essay*, Austria Filmmuseum, Vienna  
*The Aesthetics of Analysis*, Other Cinema, San Francisco

#### GROUP EXHIBITIONS AND SCREENINGS

- 2020 *Media Crossings*, Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Stuttgart
- 2019 *Online Imaginaries*, Oodi Central Library and m-cult, Helsinki  
*Politiques de la distraction*, LiveinYourHEAD, Geneva
- 2018 *Algorithmic Superstructures*, IMPAKT, Utrecht  
*Error*, Ars Electronica, Linz
- 2017 *Bestiale!*, Museo Nazionale del Cinema, Turin  
*The New Normal*, Ashkal Alwan, Beirut
- 2016 *Nightmare of the Exhibition*, PSA, Shanghai
- 2015 *Keep the Dream Alive*, GalleryM29, Cologne  
*Vive le Capital*, MAB BANK Gallery, Shanghai  
*Network*, Times Museum, Guangzhou
- 2014 *Media Futures*, Sullivan Galleries, Chicago
- 2013 *Chinese Realities, Documentary Visions*, Museum of Modern Art, New York

#### AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

- 2019 Eurimages Creative Lab Project Award
- 2018 Sundance Documentary Fund Art of Nonfiction Grantee  
European Media Art Platform / European Media Artists Residency Exchange, m-cult, Helsinki
- 2017 Inaugural Artist in Residence, Harun Farocki Institute, Berlin
- 2016 New City Film 50: Chicago's Top 50 Film People of 2016 (#12), New City Weekly  
(Article: <https://newcityfilm.com/2016/10/13/film-50-2016/3/>)
- 2015 ARTE Creative Newcomer Award European Media Art Festival, Osnabruck, Germany  
(for "Transformers: The Premake")
- 2014 New City Film 50: Chicago's Top 50 Film People of 2014 (#23), New City Weekly  
Top ten films of 2014: "Transformers: The Premake," Desistfilm  
Top Documentaries of 2014: "Transformers: The Premake", Sight & Sound Magazine

## SELECT FILMOGRAPHY AND FESTIVALS

### *Learning Farocki: A Video Essay Series (2019)*

Three part video essay series consisting of:

- *Harun Farocki: The Counter Image (2019, 10 minutes, digital video)*

- *Harun Farocki: Lexicon (2019, 15 minutes, digital video)*

- *Harun Farocki: Presented (2019, 11 minutes, digital video)*

Rotterdam International Film Festival

Open City Documentary Festival London

Munich Dok.fest

Curtocircuito International Short Film Festival

### *Bottled Songs 4: The Spokesman*

Part of work in progress *Bottled Songs*

2018, 12 minutes, digital video

Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria

Impakt Festival, Utrecht, Netherlands

Bandits-Mages Festival, Bourges, France

Visite Film Festival, Brussels

### *Reading / Binging / Benning*

2018, 9 minutes, digital video

International Film Festival Rotterdam

### *#movieofmylife*

2017, 2 minutes, digital video

Locarno International Film Festival

### *Not Another Camelot*

2017, 7 minutes, digital video

International Film Festival Rotterdam (Critics Choice)

### *Occupation*

2016, 9 minutes, digital video

Edge of Shelter, Buchanan Chapel, Chicago

### *Right Now Then Wrong*

2016, 7 minutes, digital video

International Film Festival Rotterdam (Critics Choice)

*Transformers: The Premake*

2014, 25 minutes, digital video

Berlinale International Film Festival Critics Week, Opening Night Selection

Viennale International Film Festival, Vienna, Austria

International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

European Media Art Festival, Osnabruck, Germany (winner: ARTE Creative Vision Award)

Hamburg International Short Film Festival, Hamburg, Germany

True/False Film Fest, Columbia, MO

Busan International Short Film Festival, Busan, South Korea

NexT International Film Festival, Bucharest, Romania

Cologne Unlimited Short Film Festival, Cologne, Germany

San Diego Asian Pacific Film Festival, San Diego, CA

*Chinese Realities, Documentary Visions*

2013, 6 minutes, digital

Museum of Modern Art, New York

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017- present Professor, Department Leader, Cross-Media Publishing  
Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany

2017 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Theater, Film and Media  
Goethe Universität, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany

2016 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Art and Art History  
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Film, Video, New Media and Animation  
The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL

COURSES TAUGHT AND DESIGNED

Merz Akademie:

- "Screen Stories" "Creative Research and the Video Essay" Undergraduate studio project seminar (Winter 2019-2020)
- "Crossmedia Fachkolloquium: Media Innovation and Disruption" Crossmedia colloquium (Summer 2020)
- "Crossmedia Fachkolloquium: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mediascapes" Crossmedia colloquium (Summer 2019)
- "Sharing Deep Spaces." Undergraduate studio project seminar (Summer 2019)
- "Feeling Media Environments." Undergraduate studio project seminar (Winter 2018-2019)
- "Crossmedia Storytelling." Undergraduate studio course (Winter 2018-2019)
- "Audiovisual Publishing." Undergraduate studio course (Summer 2019, Winter 2018-2019)
- "Introduction to Crossmedia Publishing." Undergraduate studio course (Winter 2018, Summer 2019)

Film Akademie Baden-Württemberg, Germany:  
"Aesthetics of Video Essays." Two day seminar. Summer 2020

Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main:

- "Virality: Social Media Economies and Ecologies." Block seminar (Summer 2018)
- "The Lives of Images." Block seminar (Summer 2018)

School of the Art Institute of Chicago:

- "Form and Meaning." Undergraduate studio course (Autumn 2017)

The University of Illinois at Chicago:

- "Documentary Media." Graduate and Undergraduate studio course (Autumn 2017)

#### OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2020 Masterclass, Dutch Film Academy

Guest Artist, California Institute of the Arts

Guest Artist, Northwestern University

Guest Artist, University of Minnesota

2019 Guest Speaker, Berlinale Talent Press Brazil

Instructor, Video Essay Workshop, Charles University, Prague

Instructor, Desktop Documentary Workshop, Nonlinear Narrative Masters Program, Royal University of the Arts, The Hague

2018 Instructor, Videographic Film Scholars Workshop  
Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

Critic Mentor, Berlinale Talent Press  
Berlinale International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany

Instructor, Video Essay Workshop  
FAMU, Prague

2017 Instructor, Videographic Film Scholars Workshop  
University of Miami at Ohio

Critic Mentor, Berlinale Talent Press  
Berlinale International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany

2016 Head, Cairo International Film Critics Week Workshop for Emerging Critics  
Cairo International Film Festival, Cairo, Egypt

Critic Mentor, Berlinale Talent Press  
Berlinale International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany

2015 Head, Ebert Foundation Young Writers for the Arts Program  
Hawaii International Film Festival, Honolulu, HI

Critic Mentor, Melbourne International Film Festival Critics Campus  
Melbourne International Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia

Guest Lecturer, Videographic Film Scholars Workshop  
Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

#### MEDIA PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2007- present Video Essay Producer and Editor  
over 350 video essays produced, including:  
Fandor Keyframe (2010-2016) 250 video essays  
Sight & Sound (2012-present) 7 video essays  
Indiewire Press Play (2012-2013) 20 video essays  
Focus Features (2009-2010) 10 video essays  
Shooting Down Pictures (2007-2010) 53 video essays

2004- present Film Critic and Writer:  
Chief Video Essayist, Fandor (2010-2016)  
Contributor, Slate (2012-2015)  
Contributor, New York Times (2014)  
Editor in Chief, Indiewire Press Play (2012)  
Contributor, MUBI (2009-2010)  
Contributor, Chicago Reader (2005)  
Contributor, Senses of Cinema (2004-2005)

2008- 2014 Vice President of Programming and Education,  
Dgenerate Films, New York, NY

2011 Supervising Producer  
Roger Ebert Presents At the Movies, PBS, Chicago, IL

2007- 2010 New Media Production Manger  
American Management Association, New York, NY

2007- 2008 Community Media Producer  
The Sikh Coalition, New York, NY

2006- Community Media Producer  
2007 Coalition for Asian American Children and Families, New York, NY

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## WRITING

### PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC WRITING

Medienakteure. Parallele Fragmente” (“Media Agents, Parallel Fragments”) chapter published in [Propaganda des ‘Islamischen Staats’: Formen und Formate](#) (“The Islamic State: Forms and Formats”) ed. Bernd Zywiets, published by Verlag Springer VS. 2020.

“Instrument of Reflection: A Study in Smartphone Filming” published in [Performance Matters Vol. 6 No. 1](#), eds. Lynette Hunter, Alex Lichtenfels, Heather Nolan, John Zibell.

“Decoding or Re-Encoding?” published in Malte Hagener, Vincenz Hediger, Alena Strohmaier (Eds.), *The State of Post-Cinema: Tracing the Moving Image*. Palgrave Macmillan. 2016.

“Active Encounters: A Conversation Between Alejandro Bachmann and Kevin B. Lee,” Found Footage Magazine, Issue No. 3, 2016. <http://foundfootagemagazine.com/en/issue-3/>

“Conversation with Kevin B. Lee and Eric Faden.” In Christian Keathley, Jason Mittel (Eds.), *The Videographic Essay: Criticism in Sound and Image*. 2016. Caboose. <https://www.caboosebooks.net/the-videographic-essay>

“The Audiovisual Essay.” [in] *Transition Journal for Videographic Film Studies*, March 2014. <http://reframe.sussex.ac.uk/audiovisualessay/reflections/intransition-1-3/kevin-b-lee/>

“Containing Possibilities: The founding history of dGenerate Films.” (Original German title: “Kontraintuitiver Möglichkeitssinn. Die Gründungsgeschichte des Distributionslabels dGenerate films.”) In: Lukas Foerster, Nikolaus Perneczky, Fabian Tietke, Cecilia Valenti (Eds.): *Traces of a Third Cinema: The Aesthetics, Politics and Economy of World Cinema (Spuren eines Dritten Kinos. Zu Ästhetik, Politik und Ökonomie des World Cinema)*, Bielefeld: 2013, S. 79-85.

### PUBLISHED ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND OTHER WRITING

Kino-Perspektiven: Das Video Essay als mediale Kritik. Interviewed by Johannes Duncker. Filmszene Köln. June 15 2020. <https://filmszene.koeln/2020/06/15/kinoperspektiven-das-video-essay-als-mediale-kritik/>

“The Best Video Essays of 2017.” (co-authored with David Verdeure). Sight & Sound, Dec 7 2017. <https://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/polls-surveys/annual-round-ups/best-video-essays-2017>

“Critique, Protest, Activism and the Video Essay,” Institute for Contemporary Arts, London. March 30 2017: <https://www.ica.art/whats-on/essay-film-festival-2017-critique-protest-activism-and-video-essay-lecture-performance>

Harun Farocki Institut Residency Blog. January 1 – March 31 2017. <https://residency.harun-farocki-institut.org/>

“What I Learned About Hollywood by Shooting a Guerrilla Documentary About the Next *Transformers* Movie.” Slate, June 18 2014 <http://slate.me/1ngiOYz>

“The Gender Gap in Film.” New York Times, Feb 27 2014.  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/movies/awardsseason/cinematics-extracts-statistical-data-from-movies.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/03/02/movies/awardsseason/cinematics-extracts-statistical-data-from-movies.html?_r=0)

“The Essay Film: Some Thoughts of Discontent.” Sight & Sound, Sep 7 2013  
<http://www.bfi.org.uk/news-opinion/sight-sound-magazine/features/deep-focus/video-essay-essay-film-some-thoughts>

“Argo, F—k Yourself.” Slate, Feb 25, 2013  
[http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2013/01/down\\_with\\_argo\\_ben\\_affleck\\_s\\_iran\\_hostage\\_movie\\_is\\_the\\_worst.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/arts/culturebox/2013/01/down_with_argo_ben_affleck_s_iran_hostage_movie_is_the_worst.html)

“Pre-Making a Chinese Hollywood Blockbuster: Transcultural Flows and the Culture of Anticipation in *Transformers: Age of Extinction*.” Incite! Fall 2014

#### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2018 “La sideration selon Steven Spielberg,” Gabriel Coutagne, *Le Monde*, Feb 11
- 2017 “Medienkritik mit *Transformers*,” Andreas Busche, *Der Tagesspiegel*, Feb 2  
„Superstars der Filmkritik. Video-Essayisten – Gute Filme teilen sich mit“, Philipp Bovermann, *Süddeutschen Zeitung*, Jan 4
- 2016 “Desktop Movies,” *Cahiers du Cinema*, November  
“Aggregate States of the Moving Image,” Volker Pantenburg, “Re-Mediating the Cinematic Experience,” Vienna, Oct 7
- 2015 “Film criticism, film scholarship and the video essay,” Andrew McWhirter, *Screen*, Autumn  
“From a Voyage to the North Sea to a Passage to the North-West; Journeys Across the Contaminated Histories of Art and Film,” Miriam da Rosa, *Filmforum*, Mar 19
- 2014 “The Art Institute of Chicago's Video Collection Is on YouTube.” *Chicago Tribune*, Dec 26  
“Desktop-Arbeit,” Simon Rothohler, *Merkur*, August  
“‘*Transformers: The Premake*’ makes Chicago critic a filmmaker” *Chicago Tribune*, Jun 18 <http://trib.in/1qKawbh>  
“Transforming Phone Video Into Publicity and a Film.” *The New York Times*, Jun 14 <http://nyti.ms/1mdOXjU>

#### PROGRAMMING AND PRESENTATIONS

##### CURATORIAL PROGRAMMING

- 2020 The Black Lives Matter Playlist. Co-curated with Cydnii Wilde Harris and Will DiGravio.  
<https://thevideoessay.com/blacklivesmatter/>
- 2018 “Welcome to the Real World.” Lecture series on Crossmedia, Merz Akademie, Stuttgart  
*Critique, Protest, Activism and the Video Essay*, Hamburg Documentary Week
- 2017 *Critique, Protest, Activism and the Video Essay*, Essay Film Festival, Institute for Contemporary Art, London, UK  
*The Best Video Essays of 2016*, Stuttgarter Filmwinter, Stuttgart
- 2016 *The Art of the Video Essay*, Chicago Independent Film Critics Circle Festival
- 2013 *Chinese Realities, Documentary Visions*, Museum of Modern Art, New York

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## PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND LECTURES

- 2018    10.5    Workshop, “Media (Text) Rhetoric and Video Essays: Dealing Analytically and Creatively with ISIS videos. [with Chloé Galibert-Lainé and Bernd Zywiets]. Jihadi Audiovisualities Conference, Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany.
- 9.29    “From Eisenstein to #Screenlife.” Moscow International Experimental Film Festival.
- 9.17    “Bottled Songs.” Andorra Theatre, Helsinki, Finland.
- 9.9    “Future Innovation Summit.” Ars Electronica Festival, Linz, Austria.
- 9.8    “Error, Fake and Failure.” Ars Electronica Film Festival, Linz, Austria.
- 3.31    “Dreams and Terrors of Desktop Documentary.” Theory/Practice: Expanding  
Scholarship in the Age of Digital Media, Yale University.
- 3.23    “Conversations in Contemporary Art.” Concordia University, Montreal.
- 3.19    “Beyond Filmsplaining: Exploring Gender Dynamics in the Video Essay.” Smith College.
- 3.17    “Transactions and Translations of World Cinema: Videographic Approaches.” Panel  
Respondent, Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Meeting, Toronto.
- 2.20    “Visual Storytelling.” Berlinale Talents, Berlin International Film Festival.
- 2.13    Keynote Address: “Dreams and Terrors of Desktop Documentary.” Film und Fernsehwissenschaftliches  
Kolloquium, Ruhr-Universität, Bochum Germany.
- 2017    10.21    “Desktop Intervention.” Harun Farocki Academy, Berlin.
- 9.30    “Co-Presence With the Camera.” University of California at Davis.
- 9.28    “A Brief History of Video Essays.” University of Miami at Ohio.
- 9.26    “A Brief History of Video Essays.” State University of New York at Purchase.
- 9.25    “What Makes a Video Essay Great?” Middlebury College, Vermont.
- 9.22    Keynote Address: “Viewing Under Surveillance.” Documentary Symposium, Temple University.
- 9.20    “A Brief History of Video Essays.” Columbia University Film Seminar.
- 6.9    “Reformatting and Recontextualizing Content.” Deutsches Filminstitut, Hamburg International Short Film  
Festival, Hamburg, Germany.
- 5.30    “10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Video Essay.” Merz Akademie, Stuttgart, Germany.
- 5.16    “Desktop Documentary and Curation.” Museum of Contemporary Art (GfZK), Leipzig, Germany.
- 4.23    “Life Navigation.” Roaming Assembly Symposium, Dutch Art Institute, Arnhem, Netherlands.
- 4.14    “Martyrs for the Mass.” Visual Practices Symposium, University of California, Davis, CA.
- 4.5    “A Brief History of Video Essays.” Werkleitz, Halle, Germany.
- 4.2    Keynote Lecture, Videographic Film Studies Workshop. University of Reading, UK.
- 3.30    “Critique, Protest, Activism and the Video Essay.” Essay Film Festival, Institute for Contemporary Art,  
London, UK.
- 3.13    “Light Typing Lecture.” University of California, Davis.
- 3.08    “L’Art de l’observateur distrait / The art of the Distracted Observer.” École normale supérieure, Paris.
- 3.06    “Post-Cinema.” École normale supérieure, Paris.
- 2.06    “The Bottled Songs of Lost Children.” Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany.
- 1.14    “Light Typing Lecture.” Harun Farocki Institut, silent green, Berlin, Germany.
- 1.12    “Shucking the Oyster Princess: Live Video Essay Cooking Class.” Deutsches Filmmuseum, Frankfurt,  
Germany.



- 1.10 "The Next Big Thing: You Don't Get To 5 Million Facebook Views Without Making a Few Compromises."  
Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany.
- 2016 12.10 "Aesthetics of Analysis." Other Cinema, San Francisco, CA.  
12.8 "Light Typing Lecture." Poetry Theater Festival, Chicago, IL.  
8.10 "Cultures of Criticism in the Digital Age." Locarno International Film Festival, Locarno, Switzerland.  
6.22 "Indefinite Visions symposium." Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK.  
4.19 "Masterclass on video essays." University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria.  
4.09 "Masterclass on video essays, NexT International Film Festival, Bucharest, Romania.  
2.29 "Videographic Film Criticism and the Video Essay." Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.  
2.27 "The Art of the Video Essay." Williams College, Williamstown, MA.  
2.15 "In Reference to Video Essays." Berlin International Film Festival, Berlin, Germany.  
1.31 "Whose Cinema? Critics Choice." Rotterdam International Film Festival, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 2015 10.13 "The Art of the Video Essay." University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.  
9.22 "Kevin B. Lee and the Video Essay." Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA.  
8.06 "Video Essay Masterclass." Melbourne International Film Festival, Melbourne, Australia.  
3.28 "What Farocki Teaches." Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.  
3.06 "The New Chinese Nonfiction." True/False Film Fest, Columbia, MO.  
3.17 "Desktop Documentary." University of Sussex, Sussex, UK.  
3.14 "On the Video Essay." Glasgow International Short Film Festival, Glasgow, UK.  
3.13 "Desktop Documentary." Glasgow International Short Film Festival, Glasgow, UK.  
2.13 "Media, Art and Law." Sullivan Gallery, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL.  
1.30 "The Return of Critics Choice." Rotterdam International Film Festival, Rotterdam, Netherlands.
- 2014 11.26 "Desktop Documentary." Bauhaus University, Weimar, Germany.  
11.24 "The Next Big Thing: *Transformers: The Premake*, Screen Transformations of the New Desktop Cinema."  
Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany.  
6.07 "The Future of Film Criticism." Seattle International Film Festival.  
2.26 "Digital Journalism." True/False Film Festival, Columbia MO.
- 2013 4.20 "The Art of the Video Essay." Roger Ebert Film Festival, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois.
- 2012 11.08 "Reflexivity and the Small Form." University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL.  
4.27 "Teaching Cinema On TV and the Web." Oberhausen International Short Film Festival,  
Oberhausen, Germany.
- 2010 4.17 "Chinese Independent Cinema." Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA.