

# Amy Rust

University of South Florida • Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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- 2017 – Present Associate Professor, Humanities & Cultural Studies, University of South Florida
- 2010 - 2017 Assistant Professor, Humanities & Cultural Studies, University of South Florida
- 2010 – Present Affiliate Faculty, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, University of South Florida

## EDUCATION

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- Ph. D. / 2010 University of California, Berkeley, Rhetoric / Film Studies  
*Dissertation Committee: Linda Williams, Carol J. Clover, Martin Jay*
- M. A. / 2001 University of Chicago, Humanities  
*Thesis Adviser: Tom Gunning*
- B. A. / 1997 De Paul University, English & Communication  
*Highest Honors*

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

*Passionate Detachments: Technologies of Vision and Violence in American Cinema, 1967 – 1974* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 2017).

### Articles & Book Chapters

Special Effects,” *Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Animation*, Volume 3 (under contract)

“Action at a Distance or, Props for an Ecological Age.” *Screen* (under review)

“Ecologies of Scale in the Age of Satellites and Television,” *Media + Environment* 5, no. 1 (2023):  
<https://doi.org/10.1525/001c.88125>.

“Action at a Distance: The Promise of Props in *Stranger Things*,” *Post45* (2019):  
<https://post45.org/2019/07/analog-nostalgia-and-the-promise-of-props-in-the-digital-age/>.

“‘Going the Distance’: Steadicam’s Ecological Aesthetic,” *Sustainable Media: Critical Approaches to Media and Environment*, eds. Nicole Starosielski and Janet Walker (New York: Routledge, 2016), pp. 146 – 59.

“Figuring Violence,” *Films for the Feminist Classroom* 6, no. 1 (2015):  
[http://ffc.twu.edu/issue\\_6-1/feat\\_Rust\\_6-1.html](http://ffc.twu.edu/issue_6-1/feat_Rust_6-1.html).

“Plugging In and Bugging Out: The Circuitous Logic of Contemporary Horror,” *Quarterly Review of Film & Video* 31, no. 6 (2014): pp. 513 – 30.

“Hitting the “Vérité Jackpot”: The Ecstatic Profits of Freeze-Framed Violence,” *Cinema Journal* 50, no. 4 (2011): pp. 48 – 72.

### Position Papers

“Performing Ecology through Props” / Things Normally Unseen Seminar / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference, 2022

“Impure Abstractions” / Film and Media Theory Beyond the Ends of the Earth: New Concepts and Narratives for the Anthropocene Seminar / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference, 2019

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

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- 2025** A Horse Called Jean Jacket: Remediating America’s Props / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Chicago: April 3 – 6 (proposed)
- 2023** Animating Props /World Picture Conference / Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin: November 18  
Animating Props / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Denver: April 12
- 2022** Action at a Distance or, Props for an Ecological Age /World Picture Conference / Colorado Springs: April 22  
Occult Ecologies: Dependency, Telepathy, Props / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Online: March 31
- 2020** Action at a Distance: Approaching Ecology through Props / Media and the Environment Scholarly Interest Group, Society for Cinema & Media Studies / Online: March 28
- 2018** Digital Props: Recycled Media and the Upside Down / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Toronto: March 16  
Ecologies of Scale / Wounded Galaxies: 1968 Beneath the Paving Stones, the Beach / Indiana University: February 10
- 2016** Passage Within Limits: Ecology, Scale, and the Long Take / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Atlanta: March 31  
*Grey Gardens* / Tampa Bay Institute for Psychoanalytic Studies / Tampa: January 24
- 2015** Ecology, Scale, and the Long Take / Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts / Houston; November 15  
Nostalgia for the Light: Lens Flares & J. J. Abrams’s *Super 8* / Precarious Aesthetics Conference, Berkeley Center for New Media / UC Berkeley: October 15

- Media, Ecology, and the Long Take / Screen Studies Conference / University of Glasgow: June 27
- Extraction and Exchange: The Zoom and Environmental Intension / University of Central Florida, Orlando; January 30
- 2014** *Night of the Living Dead* / Tampa Bay Institute for Psychoanalytic Studies / Tampa: November 16
- “Going the Distance”: Steadicam’s Ecological Aesthetic / Society for Literature, Science, & the Arts / Dallas: October 9
- Extraction and Exchange: The Zoom and Environmental Intension / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Seattle: March 22
- A Parallax View: Television, Cinema, and Multiple-Camera Montage / Seminar at Miami University / Oxford, Ohio: March 5
- Violence Incarnate: Squibs, Artificial Blood, and Wounds That Speak / Public lecture at Miami University / Oxford, Ohio: March 4
- The Act of Killing* / USF Humanities Institute / University of South Florida: January 14
- 2013** Technologies of Film Violence, or, Figuring the Sense in Sensation / Film & Philosophy: Corpus - Bodies / University of Florida: February 16
- Extraction and Exchange: The Zoom and Environmental Intension / Body & Technology Conference / Florida Atlantic University: January 25
- 2012** Technology and “Torture Porn” / All Power to the Imagination Conference / New College Florida: April 21
- Twin Images: *Sisters*, Conjoined Media, and the Limits of Visual Pleasure / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Boston: March 24
- 2011** Undead Cinema: Reanimating the Present / USF Humanities Institute / University of South Florida: October 27
- Hiroshima mon amour* / USF Humanities Institute / University of South Florida: April 3
- A Parallax View: Television, Cinema, and Multiple-Camera Montage / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / New Orleans: March 12
- 2009** Walter Benjamin & “The Work of Art in the Age of Its Technological Reproducibility” / California College for the Arts / Oakland: February 16
- 2008** Plugging In and Bugging Out: The Torturous Logic of Contemporary Horror / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Philadelphia: March 8
- 2007** Too Scary for Television ... Redefining “Horror” / Epicenter: Arts and Gen Art / San Francisco: July 17

“Hitting the Vérité Jackpot”: The Ecstatic Profits of Freeze-Framed Violence / Real Things: Matter, Materiality, Representation, 1880 to the Present / The University of York: July 7

“Hitting the Vérité Jackpot”: The Ecstatic Profits of Freeze-Framed Violence / Cultures of Violence Conference / UC Irvine: April 6

Death in Freeze Frame / Film 140: Death & Cinema / UC Berkeley: March 14

*The Conversation* / Film 50: Introduction to Film for Non-Majors / UC Berkeley: March 7

**2003** Irruptive Openings: Vietnam, *The Wild Bunch*, and Wounds that Speak / The Berkeley Symposium: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Visual Representation / UC Berkeley: March 8

## CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED / CHAIRED

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**2025** Ecologies of the Prop / Graig Uhlin, co-chair / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Chicago: April 3 – 6 (proposed)

**2023** Some Thing Else: Props and Other Cinematic Things / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Denver: April 12

**2022** Hidden in Plain Site: Ecology, Mediation, & the Profilmic / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Online: March 31

**2020** Reinventing the Reel: Screen Technology, Apparatus, and Practice Through an Environmental Lens / Jennifer Cazanave, co-chair / Media and the Environment Scholarly Interest Group, Society for Cinema & Media Studies / Online: March 28

**2016** Ecologies of Scale / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Atlanta: March 31

**2013** Neoliberalism, Film Grammar, and Anxieties of Influence / Society for Cinema & Media Studies Annual Conference / Chicago: March 9

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### University of South Florida (2010 – )

*Introduction to Film & New Media* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*Introduction to the Humanities* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*Foundations of Film & New Media* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*Film & American Society* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*Media, Ecology, & the Moving Image* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*The American Horror Film* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*Documentary & Experimental Cinema* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*Global Cinema before 1960* • Graduate Requirement

*Research Seminar* • Graduate Seminar Requirement

*Media, Ecology, & the Moving Image* • Graduate Elective

*The American Horror Film* • Graduate Elective

*Documentary & Experimental Cinema* • Graduate Elective

## **California College of the Arts (2010)**

*Foundations in Critical Studies* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

## **University of California, Berkeley – Instructor of Record (2003 – 2010)**

*The Craft of Writing* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*Seriality, Repetition, Genre* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*Silent Film History* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*A History of Sound Cinema* • Lower-Level Undergraduate Requirement

*America's Violent Cinema* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*The American Horror Film* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*Robert Altman & P. T. Anderson* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

*The Films of Quentin Tarantino* • Upper-Level Undergraduate Elective

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

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<b>Summer 2022</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida
<b>Summer 2018</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida
<b>Summer 2016</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida
<b>Summer 2014</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida
<b>Spring 2013</b>	College of Arts & Sciences Research Award / University of South Florida
<b>Summer 2012</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida
<b>2011 – 2012</b>	Creative Scholarship Grant / University of South Florida
<b>Summer 2011</b>	Humanities Institute Summer Grant / University of South Florida (award declined)
<b>Spring 2009</b>	William T. and Helen S. Halstead Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>Summer 2008</b>	Department of Rhetoric Block Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>2007 – 2008</b>	Townsend Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship / UC Berkeley
<b>Summer 2007</b>	Department of Rhetoric Block Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>Spring 2007</b>	Department of Rhetoric Block Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>Fall 2006</b>	Townsend Center for the Humanities Conference Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>Fall 2005</b>	Dean's Normative Time Fellowship / UC Berkeley
<b>Summer 2005</b>	Graduate Division Summer Grant / UC Berkeley

<b>Spring 2004</b>	Academic Progress Award / UC Berkeley
<b>Summer 2003</b>	DAAD Alumni Association Scholarship / Freie Universität, Berlin
<b>Spring 2003</b>	Department of Rhetoric Block Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>Summer 2002</b>	Graduate Fellowships Office Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>2001 – 2002</b>	Department of Rhetoric Block Grant / UC Berkeley
<b>1993 – 1997</b>	Cardinal Newman Scholarship / De Paul University, Chicago

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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<b>2020 –</b>	Media and the Environment Scholarly Interest Group Mentorship Program / Society for Cinema & Media Studies
<b>2020 – 2022</b>	Media and the Environment Scholarly Interest Group Faculty Co-Chair / Society for Cinema & Media Studies
<b>2018 –</b>	<i>Journal of Environmental Media</i> Advisory Board
<b>2018</b>	Society for Cinema & Media Studies Program Committee

## **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA SERVICE**

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<b>2023 –</b>	Department Chair / Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
<b>2021 – 2022</b>	Search Committee Chair / Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
<b>2018 – 2023</b>	Graduate Adviser / Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
<b>2018 –</b>	Faculty Advisory Committee / Institute for Research in Art
<b>2017 –</b>	Anthropocene Working Group / Institute for the Advanced Study of Culture and the Environment
<b>2017 – 2018</b>	Graduate Coordinator / Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
<b>2017 – 2018</b>	Executive Committee / Department of Humanities & Cultural Studies
<b>2016 – 2017</b>	Faculty Adviser / Bull's Eye View Videography Club
<b>2014 – 2017</b>	Faculty Council / College of Arts & Sciences
<b>2012 – 2014</b>	Faculty Development Committee / College of Arts & Sciences
<b>2010 – 2014</b>	Computer Committee / College of Arts & Sciences

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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### **Society for Cinema & Media Studies**

Gender & Feminisms Caucus

Scholarly Interest Group: Media and the Environment

Scholarly Interest Group: Media, Science, and Technology

Scholarly Interest Group: Experimental Film & Media

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

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German: basic reading and writing

Spanish: basic reading and writing