

EAAS REPORT – VASILEIOS DELIOGLANIS

Thanks to the support of the 2018 EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant, I was able to conduct research at the University at Buffalo, State University of New York, U.S., and specifically at the School of Architecture and Planning as well as the Department of Media Study, in September 2018. In my Ph.D. dissertation I investigate the ways in which locative media — a term referring to location-aware and mobile technologies — challenge the concept of narrativity with emphasis placed on contemporary American-authored literary texts (print and digital) as well as on US-designed locative games and (site-specific) projects.

This university-specific visit enabled me to gain access to a number of specialized bibliographical sources (books and articles on locative media) that are not available in Aristotle University Library. Being currently towards the end of the third year in my Ph.D. research, I am working on the last part of my dissertation, which will concentrate on locative (site-specific) narratives. In the Lockwood and the Abbott Hall Libraries of the North and South Campus of UB respectively, I consulted books and articles on locative games that have helped me consolidate the arguments of the second chapter of my Ph.D. research, while I was also able to consult an array of articles and books on locative (site-specific) narratives for my consequent chapters.

Besides the research I conducted in the UB libraries, this visit has also offered me the unique opportunity to access certain locative narratives that will constitute the primary material of two of my Ph.D. chapters. In order to access and study locative narratives, one needs to be physically present at the location where they have been installed. Thanks to the grant, I managed to experience certain seminal site-specific works/installations produced by UB-based faculty members. These works/installations site-specific sound-walks are located in Buffalo, New York's Outer Harbor and in Boston, Massachusetts' Back Bay. The narrative potential of such works has not been adequately explored so far, which is the reason why these works constitute the main focus of my Ph.D. study. Being able to have access to these works, I had the rare opportunity to see in real time how physical space is digitally augmented instead of only reading about it in my theoretical explorations.

Furthermore, while being at UB, I was able to visit the Center for Architecture and Situated Technologies (CAST) in the School of Architecture and Planning, where locative-media research is carried out and additional bibliographical resources are held. In particular, having access to the Situated Technologies Pamphlet Series, which focus on ubiquitous computing,

architecture and urbanism, I was able to consult indispensable material that directly corresponds to the central argument of my Ph.D. research. I would like to thank Professor Mark Shepard and Professor Josephine Anstey for their hospitality and constructive advice that has enriched my knowledge of digital and locative narratives. I would like to thank them for the valuable material they helped me access. I would also like to thank Professor Teri Rueb for our discussion on her site-specific sound-walks.

Ultimately, I would like to thank EAAS for making it possible for me to gain access to resource materials and location-specific projects that are absolutely necessary and mandatory for the completion of my Ph.D. project. Thanks to the EAAS Transatlantic Grant, this trip has been such an enriching experience both on a research and cultural level. Importantly, I will have the opportunity to share certain research findings on contemporary American locative-media literary practices as these result from this trip through the organization of specialized workshops for the MA students at School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and the HELAAS member community as part of the Young Scholars Symposium to take place in Athens in December 2018.



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