

CURRICULUM VITAE DEB ELLIS

Associate Professor and Director, Film and Television Studies Program

Co-Director, Reporting and Documentary Storytelling Minor

<https://www.uvm.edu/cas/english/profiles/deborah-ellis>

www.debellisprojects.com

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Education

1986 M.F.A. Film and Video Production
Radio, TV, Film Department, School of Communications
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

1981 Certificate in Film
Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA

1979 B.A. History
Lawrence University, Appleton, WI

Professional Experience

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT

2012 – present Associate Professor, Film and Television Studies Program

2007 - 2012 Assistant Professor, Film and Television Studies Program

2017 – present Director, Film and Television Studies Program

2018 – present Co-Director, Reporting and Documentary Storytelling

2011 – 2017 Director, Integrated Fine Arts Program

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT

1995 - 2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Film and Media Culture Program

Hannaford Career Development Center, Middlebury, VT.

1995 – 1997 Video Tech Arts Instructor, Developed video program at Technical Center.
Taught year-long, half day program. Developed curriculum, set up studio and edit facilities.

Community TV Network, Chicago, IL

1990 – 1992 Business Manager: Directed income-generating arm of organization that used video as an incentive to encourage low-income teens to remain in school.
Produced and directed videotapes for clients, ran advanced training program for youth.

Independent Programmers Associates, Chicago, IL.

1989 – 1990 Assistant Editor: Technical support, character generator and audio during on-line editing sessions at state-of-the-art post-production house.

KBJR-TV, Duluth, MN.

1988 – 1989 Edited local news and special projects. Initiated, produced, directed and edited *Northland Originals*, a weekly series of portraits of local residents.

Adjunct Teaching

1987 – 2007 Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; DePaul University, Chicago; Columbia College, Chicago; Rosary College, River Forest, IL; Champlain College, Burlington, VT; Burlington College, Burlington, VT

Community TV Network, Chicago, IL.

1983 -1984 Video Production Instructor/Supervisor. Taught video to students attending alternative high school. Used video to involve students in their community and produced videotapes on community issues.

Select Freelance Work

1992 - 1993 Production Manager, [*The End of the Nightstick: Police Brutality in Chicago*](#), 60 min. Documentary, aired nationally on PBS's POV Series, Dir. Peter Kuttner, Cindi Moran, and Eric Scholl

1992 Unit Production Manager, [*Thieves' Quartet*](#), Feature Film, Dir. Joe Chappelle.

1992 - 1994 Freelance set design, assistant director and production assistant

Interests and Specialties

Film/Video Production, Documentary Film, Video Art, Experimental Film/Video Production, Documentary Production, Film Festivals

Select Awards

Vermont Arts Council Juried Artist, 2002 and 2005
State of Vermont, recognition for contribution to the WEB Project, a nationally recognized program in educational technology, 2000
Illinois Arts Council Special Assistance Grant, 1994
Illinois Arts Council Fellowship Grant, 1990
Center for New Television Access Award, 1990
Regional Fellowship, National Endowment for the Arts, 1988

Select Grant Support

Puffin Foundation
Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund
A.J. Muste Memorial Institute
Green Valley Media
Yip Harburg Foundation
Anne Slade Frey Charitable Trust
Green Valley Media
Illinois Arts Council
Resist Foundation
Vermont Arts Council
Vermont Community Foundation/Vermont Arts Endowment

Internal Funding (University of Vermont)

- 2019 Faculty Development Grant for the Arts, *Willie James Blues*
2015 Interdisciplinary Experiential Engagement Fund, with Andrew Barnaby for Shakespeare 2016 - The Soliloquies on film.
2015 Multidisciplinary Collegial Network Humanities Center, for Integrated Fine Arts.
2014 Small Grant Research Award CAS *Peace Has No Borders*
2013 Lattie Coor Faculty Development Award, *End of Love*
2013 REACH Program Grant, *End of Love*

Research and Creative Activity www.debellisprojects.com

- Development *Willie James Blues*, Experimental Documentary. Producer/Director/Editor. A meditation on music, race and family.
- In-Progress *End of Love*, Documentary. Producer/Director/Editor. Investigation of the confluence of the developing adolescent brain, access to on-line pornography, and the criminal justice system. Supported by UVM Reach Grant, Lucias and Eva Eastman Fund, Vermont Community Foundation, Vermont Arts Council, Green Valley Media, many generous individuals through crowd-funding.
- 2017 *Storytelling Booth*, a portable video recording structure made out of interlocking PVC tubing, a cardboard exterior used for writing event/site specific questions and/or statements that participants can respond to on video, a backdrop, and a video camera and microphone. The booth invites participants to write on the outside of the structure, and to enter and tell a story about their experiences. Prototype for on-going development at future sites. Initial 30 min. compilation has been used to instigate discussion about race in our local public schools.
- 2016 *Peace Has No Borders*, 64 min., Documentary, Co-Producer/Director/Editor. Iraq War veterans wage a 10-year fight to avoid deportation from Canada after crossing the border to resist another deployment. Distributed by Indiecan Entertainment, Toronto, CA. Vermont International Film Festival; Lake Champlain International Film Festival; Big Muddy Film Festival, Lake Placid Film Festival, White River Indie Festival. Screenings at Chicago Filmmakers, Lake Placid Film Festival, community settings and university/college presentations. Broadcast on RT (Russia Today), DirectTV, and several PBS affiliates. Available as VOD on Amazon Prime, Google Play, Vudu, etc.
- 2011 *Furies*, 11 min., Experimental Video, Carmel Film Festival, CA; St. John's International Women's Film Festival; University Film and Video Association Annual Conference; Solo Workshop "Significant Others" at Flynn Center for the Performing Arts in Burlington, VT
- 2004 *Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral On A Moving Train*, 79 min., Feature Documentary, Co-Producer/Director/Editor. Short-listed for Academy Award, 2005, Feature Documentary Category; Supported by grants from the Illinois Arts Council, the Illinois Humanities Council, Eastman Foundation, Anne Slade Frey

Trust, Vermont Arts Council and the Puffin Foundation, and individual contributions.

Distributor: First Run Features, NYC; Nationwide Theatrical Release June – December 2004; DVD Release May 2005; Commemorative DVD Release 2010. Cablecast on Sundance Channel 2005 – 2006, Link TV 2007-2010 and Free Speech TV. Screened at over 100 festivals, including the Havana Film Festival; International Human Rights Film Festival, Paris; Festoria International Film Festival, Portugal; Provincetown International Festival “Audience Award”

In 2008 the film was chosen by the Zinn Education Project (a collaboration of two national organizations, Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change) to be included in an education package sent to 4000 high school and junior high school teachers across the country.

Select Festival Screenings

- Provincetown International Festival, 2004, Audience Award Best Doc
- Big Muddy Film Festival, Carbondale, IL, John Michael Memorial Award
- Rehoboth Beach Film Fest, November 2004, Audience Award Best Doc
- Festival internacional dell Nuevo cine latinoameicano (North American Showcase), Havana, Cuba
- Montreal International Human Rights Festival
- International Human Rights Film Festival, Paris
- Festoria International Film Festival, Portugal
- Palm Springs International Film Festival
- Big Sky Documentary Film Festival, Missoula, MT,
- Green Mountain Film Festival, Montpelier, VT
- Mountaintop Film Festival, Waitsfield, VT
- Vermont International Film Festival, Burlington, VT

Television Broadcasts include

- Sundance Channel 2005 – 2008
- FreeSpeech TV 2008 – 2009
- Vermont Public Television 2018

Invited Presentations include

- *Time and Space Limited*, Hudson NY
- *Jacob Burns Film Center*, Pleasantville, *Siskel Center*, Chicago, IL
- *IDFA – International Documentary Film Association Docs For Sale – Amsterdam International Documentary Market*

1997

Skin Deep: Norplant in Poor Communities, (English and Spanish), 15 min., Documentary, Co-Producer/Director/Editor.
Funding from the Playboy Foundation, Open Meadows Foundation, Lucius and Eva Eastman Fund, Crossroads Fund, and The Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media. Distributed by Women Make Movies.

- 1990 *The FBI's War on Black America*, 49 min. Documentary Co-Producer/Director/Editor. Originally distributed by MPI Home Video, currently self-distributed. Underground classic still relevant today. First Prize, Documentary Category, Athens Film and Video Festival 1990 Broadcast on PBS stations in New York, San Francisco, Washington Numerous screenings across the country at colleges, organizing events, and Black History events.
- 1989 *Unbidden Voices*, 32 min, Experimental Documentary, Co-Producer/Director/Editor. First Place, Experimental Documentary Category. Athens International Film Festival, 1990. Women in the Director's Chair/All the Angles, 1990. In Her Own Image: Films and Videos Empowering Women for the Future, a guide produced by Media Network. Distributed by Women Make Movies, NYC until 2005
- 1986 *Doris Eddy*, 22 min., Documentary, 16mm film, Producer/Director/Editor, Winner, Documentary Category, Regional Student Academy Award. Cine Eagle Award. Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Contribution to Independent Filmmaking, Big Muddy Film Festival.
- 1985 *Before She Knew*, 8:30 min. Experimental Video, Producer/Director/Editor, "NO-TV" Cable TV Series, produced by Visual Studies Workshop, 1986
- 1985 *Dream/Flap*, 5 min., 16mm film, Experimental, Producer/Director/Editor Land O'Lincoln - The Next Wave, Juried exhibition of Illinois Artists. 24th Ann Arbor Film Festival.
- 1985 *Snap*, 1 min. 16mm film, Experimental. Producer/Director/Editor. New Generation Film '85, a works by new American Filmmakers at Tokyo's Experimental Film Festival,

Professional Experience: Video Producing/Directing/Editing

- 1986 – present Production in collaboration with community organizations, artists, and activist groups that is closely related to my independent production work, engaging me with new subjects and questions about how to present information for a specific mission.
- 2010 -2013 [*Freedom and Unity: The Vermont Movie*](#), Producers' Committee and interview segment director
- 2012 *Vermont Head Start Tooth Tutor Program*, Director/Editor, 6:30 min., Vermont Dental Society
- 2010 *Vermont Dental Society Recruitment Video*, Director/Editor, 8 min.
James Harvey: A Master at Play, Camera, 50 min., dir. Alison Segar
- 2009 - 2010 *Art and Soul: Community Storytelling*, 12 min.
Art and Soul: The Artist and the Community, 30 min.
Art and Soul: From Art to Action, 12 min.
Editor, a project of the Orton Family Foundation, Dir. Mary Arbuckle

- 2009 *Portrait of Poet Major Jackson* (revised excerpt from *6 Vermont Artists*), incorporated as part of *More than Bilingual: William Cordova and Major Jackson* exhibit at the Fleming Museum, Jan – May 2009, Producer/Director/Editor
- UVM Summer Transportation Institute Recruitment Video*, 8 min., UVM Transportation Research Center, Producer/Director
- TV Ads: Sandi & Bobbi and Gail & Mark*, :30 each, Director/Editor, Vermont Freedom to Marry Task Force, aired throughout the state in the days leading up to Vermont's Equal Marriage Vote in April '09.
- 2008 *Six Vermont Artists*, 40 min. Producer/Director/Editor, Video portraits of five Vermont artists, commissioned by the Vermont Arts Council
- 2006 *Voices of Vermonters*, 13 minute video produced for the Vermont Task Force for the Freedom to Marry legislative advocacy project
- 2004 *Waltz #6 and Never Swim Alone*, created video montage that developed into an integral part of set design for theatrical production. Director, Claudio Medieros, Middlebury College Theatre Department
- Melting Pot*, video backdrop and collaboration with lighting and set design for theater, directed by Richard Romagnoli, Middlebury College Theatre Department

Additional work includes

Burlington Color, 2002, a 12 minute introduction to first person experiences of living as a person of color in Vermont, created with youth and Shades of Ebony

Complex Instruction in Vermont, 2003 about a pedagogical approach

Nursing as a Career, created for young children

ARRT: Art Responding Through Technology and *The MIDI Project*, about technology and art education in Vermont schools, for the WEB Project

From Inside Out: Creating in a Public School for the Vermont Arts Assessment Project.

Recent Select Invitations

- 2016 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival DocShop Pitch Session, *End of Love*
- 2015 American Documentary Film Festival AmDocs Film Fund Pitch, Palm Springs, CA, *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2012 Camden International Film Festival Points North Documentary Forum/Pitch, *Peace Has No Borders*

Recent Conference Presentations

- 2019 Digital Public Library of America, Chicago, IL., *Telling the Peoples History from the Cutting Room Floor*, with Jordana Dym, Skidmore College and Sara Chapman, Media Burn Archives
- 2018 Ray Browne Conference on Cultural and Critical Studies, Borders and Borderlands, Bowling Green University, Ohio, *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2017 Peace & Justice Studies Association Conference, Birmingham, AL, *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2017 University Film Video Association Conference, Los Angeles, *Service Learning with Filmmakers: Some Reflections on Process*, with Heather McIntosh
- 2017 CamraPenn Screening Scholarship Media Festival/The Psyche and the Boundaries of the Political, Philadelphia (UPenn) *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2017 University Film Video Association Conference, Los Angeles, Juried Screening, *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2013 Global Challenges and Opportunities Facing Children, Youth and Families, Wheelock College, MA. Panel: An Effective Advocacy Tool: Media for Social Causes - *Long Form Documentary in the Age of Social Media*
- 2008 University Film and Video Association Conference, presented work-in-progress, *Peace Has No Borders*
- 2004 & 2005 Human Rights Film Network annual meetings at Amnesty International headquarters, Amsterdam. Representing the Vermont International Film Foundation, a partner organization.
- 2004 Union for Democratic Communication Conference, St. Louis, Panel on Distribution of Activist Media

Evaluation of Festivals and Competitions

- 2019 Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, Media Development Grants
- 2018 Middlebury New Filmmakers Festival, Middlebury, VT
- 2017 Festival Judge, Lake Champlain Film Festival, Plattsburg, NY
- Additional Judge: Chicago International Film Festival, Chicago, IL; Freedom & Unity Competition, Vermont; Vermont International Film Festival, Burlington, VT; Digital Cinema Production Contest/Skills US

Department Committees

- Current Film and Television Studies Program Committee, Chair
English Department Executive Committee
- 2017 English Department Personnel Committee

College and University Committees

Current	College of Arts & Sciences Curriculum Committee University Educational & Research Technologies Committee
Fall 2017	First Year Experience Committee, planning for new College of Arts & Sciences Arts Initiative residential course
2017 – 2018	Ad-hoc Committee - Planning for Cohen Center for the Arts
Spring 2017	Educational & Research Technologies Committee - one semester replacement

Additional Department/College Service

2018	Feverish World Symposium, Art & Public Space Committee, organized by UVM's EcoCulture Lab
2017	College of Arts and Sciences Ad Hoc Committee on the First-Year Experience
2016	Tenure Track Search Committee - Art Department/Motion Picture/Media Artist
2016	Theatre Chair Review Committee

Panel and Speaker Coordination, including

- Bess Obrien, Independent Filmmaker, *Coming Home* (hosted post-screening discussion)
Sponsored by the Center for Research on Vermont
- Mark Covino, Independent Filmmaker, *The Crest* (screening, meeting with students)
- Judy Hoffman, Professor of Practice, Department of Cinema and Media Studies,
University of Chicago *Voices of Cabrini*, (screening, class visit, meetings with students)
- Dinesh Sabu, Independent Filmmaker, *Unbroken Glass*, (public screening, class visit)
- Timothy Corrigan, Professor of English, Cinema Studies, and History of Art, Department
of English, University of Pennsylvania (public talk, class presentation, meetings with
faculty and students)
- Rick Prelinger, Professor Film and Digital Media, UC Santa Cruz, Burack Distinguished
Lecture
- Alex Halkin, Director, Americas Media Initiative, several campus visits with Cuban
filmmakers

Board Membership

2015 – present	Americas Media Initiative
2019 – present	Center for Research on Vermont
2005 – 2015	Vermont International Film Festival