



MCS NEWSLETTER

Our Biannual Newsletter of Goings-on in Media & Communication Studies



MCS 395 students in the production studio.

DR. PATTON'S NEW BOOK *EASY LIVING: THE RISE OF THE HOME OFFICE*

By Sebastian Evans-Cuervo

Dr. Patton is an Assistant Professor in the MCS department at UMBC and will be coming up on her sixth year of teaching here on campus. She has published multiple journal articles and is the author of *Easy Living: The Rise of the Home Office*, which was published in July 2020 by Rutgers University Press.

When asked about what she enjoys about UMBC and its student body, Dr. Patton emphasized that she gets to teach and interact with "students that are in different stages in life and have different experiences. I didn't realize how important that was until I started teaching at UMBC." She also said that "when you see more of yourself in students you just connect easier. It's just shared experience and I think it's just why I gravitate towards the students."

Dr. Patton says she wanted to tackle the topic of the home office and the history of labor at home and its intersection with technology and social identity. "Finding clear arguments and clear themes that I could latch on to but also that I could follow without going off on tangents" was part of the challenge.

With her book, Dr. Patton wants readers to realize and understand the long history of jobs that make working and learning from home possible. "I want people to consider that working from home is a privilege that involves 'invisible' people in terms of people who we don't even think about. The current landscape is only really possible because of the jobs that act as foundations for our society. People who make our machines and technology but it also involves people that can only work in the workplace and that's often the working class and service industry."

Dr. Patton argues that "boundaries [between home and work] are a myth because capitalism has incorporated the home as a space for work. Nothing is off-limits in terms of exploitation of labor for profit. I want professional workers to realize that they're workers too."

She further elaborates by stating that "I think that's something that people need to be aware of. We have to realize that there's structural issues around work and labor and they're evident when you're working in the home. And that you can see that there are problems of inequality, equity issues that are evident along the lines of gender and class and also along the lines of race because these things are highly correlated in terms of work and home."

Who gets to work from home? And how is this question influenced by the histories of race, class and gender? "I want people to see the often invisible influences of the market that are happening in the home and make those visible."



MCS Assistant Professor Dr. Elizabeth Patton

Newsletter Production Coordinator ... Sebastian Evans-Cervo (MCS, 2020)

DR. ADELMAN ON BEING MCS CHAIR

By Sebastian Evans-Cuervo

Dr. Adelman has been teaching here at UMBC since August 2009. For Dr. Adelman, what creates the greatest impression and what she appreciates most “about the students I’ve met at UMBC is their curiosity and their willingness to ask questions. To ask hard questions. Their willingness to say when they don’t understand something.” It’s “The curiosity and intellectual humility that she finds are her favorite things about UMBC students...”

As she is taking on the role of chair, Dr. Adelman is looking forward to the opportunity to interact with students in new ways. Early in the semester she accepted an invitation to meet with the MCS Council of Majors and says, “I think the Council of Majors is keenly aware that sustaining community through remote learning is both essential and challenging. Their level of commitment and ingenuity to find ways to keep community going was really heartening.”

Dr. Adelman says she’s also very excited to work more closely with MCS faculty. She says, “I happen to think all the MCS faculty are pretty great and so being chair enables me to work with everyone in a way that I might not normally do just as a professor. So being able to see their enthusiasm and realize how committed they the MCS faculty are to the students. It may not be rare at UMBC but it’s rare in general.”

She continues, “Being chair allows me to see people at their best and to see the best in what people are doing. Before, I would have gotten that at the one-on-one or individual level, being in this position gives me a little bit more of a macro view or a holistic view of what’s happening.”

ALUMNI DEETS

Here’s what a few of our alumni/ae are up to. Please let us know your updates too! We’d love to hear from you!

Julie Ouedraogo, '10 aka “Julie Outrage” was featured in *Gritty Vibes* “40 Black Musicians to Listen to Today” this Fall.

Eddie Chen, '10 worked as the Eastern Shore Organizer for the Maryland League of Conservation Voters since 2010 and in 2017 became a Math teacher.

Tom Cush, '10 previously worked with Fox TV and WRNR and is now working as a Learning Specialist at Grovo located in New York, New York.

Joey McElroy, '14 is a Communications Specialist for Walt Disney World Public Affairs.

Mercedes Morina, '15 works as a Public Relations Representative at the Optical Society.

Randi Lindsay, '16 is a Marketing Coordinator at RMF Engineering.

Amber Taylor, '16 produced the short documentary “Free the Vote” with Maryland ACLU this year.

Richard Cunningham, '19 is enrolled at American University School of Communication’s Journalism and Public Affairs Graduate program.

Johanna Alonso, '20 is a business reporter at *The Daily Record* in Baltimore.



MCS 395 students at Ravens Stadium

MCS FACULTY UPDATES

Dr. Yang published a co-authored article, “Eco-Media Events in China: From Yellow Eco-Peril to Media Materialism” in the Duke University Press *Journal of Environmental Humanities*. **Dr. Tinga** published a co-authored book chapter called “ICTs, Environmental Activism and Community Mobilization in Senegal, Kenya and South Africa” in *The Local and the Digital in Environmental Communication*. **Dr. Snyder** earned a Hrabowski Innovation Fund Grant to develop new learning modules in MCS 101 and was appointed as a member of UMBC’s Center for the Advancement of Learning and Teaching (CALT) Task Force. **Dr. Shewbridge** participated on a panel at the Oral History Association’s annual meeting entitled “Fighting for Democracy: The Voices of Steelworkers at Sparrows Point” that highlighted the Mill Stories Project (millstories.org) and featured in a new outdoor exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Industry titled, “Women of Steel.” **Dr. Razzano** is co-editor of the *Gender and Activism* Books Series published by Roman & Littlefield, Lexington Books and was recently appointed to Visiting Lecturer. **Dr. Patton** recently published her book *Easy Living: The Rise of the Home Office* (July 2020) and her article, “In the Work-From-Home Battle for Space, Women are the Reluctant Nomads”, for *The Conversation* was republished on *CNN*, *Fast Company*, and *GovExec.com*. **Dr. Loviglio** is enjoying his return to the regular faculty after 13 years as MCS chair. He serves on the University’s Academic Planning Committee in response to the COVID19 campus closure. In 2020, *Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast and Audio Media*, which Loviglio co-edits, was ranked in the top quartile for Cultural Studies by an international academic ranking agency. Loviglio’s essay on WYPR’s *Daily Dose* COVID19 podcast will appear this year in *The Oxford Handbook of Radio Studies*. **Prof. Anchor** presented two lectures about the history of video art to Baltimore’s Art Seminar Group entitled “History of Video Art: Mass Medium to Artist’s Tool” and “History of Video Art: Beyond the Box.” **Dr. Adelman** started as Chair of the MCS department. In April 2020, she launched Coronavirus Lost and Found (pandemicarchive.com), an online public archive.

