

# Ehsan Akbari

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## Education

- 2014–2021      Doctorate in Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.  
  
Dissertation Title: “Spatial and Collective Learning through Mobile  
Sensory Photography and Creative Cartography.”
- 2011–2014      Masters of Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.  
  
Thesis Title: “Soundscape Compositions for Art Classrooms.”
- 2000–2005      Bachelor in Fine Arts (Honours). York University. Toronto, Ontario.

## Recent Position

- 2021-2023      Lecturer and Coordinator in Digital Pedagogies and Literacies. Faculty of  
Education, University of Regina, Saskatchewan.  
  
Provide expertise and leadership in development of the Faculty with  
online learning, digital pedagogies and literacies.  
Supported the successful implementation of online and hybrid courses  
during university lock-downs due to COVID-19 pandemic. Teach courses  
related to Educational Technology.

## Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships

- 2022-2023      Faculty of Education, Centre for Educational Research, Collaboration, and  
Development (CERCD) 2022 Research Grant. University of Regina.  
\$10,000.
- 2016–2019      Social Science and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC)  
Joseph-Armand Bombardier Doctoral Scholarship. \$105,000.
- 2014–2017      Graduate Fellowship, Concordia University. Montreal, QC. \$32,000.

## University Teaching Experience

2021-2023

Lecturer in Digital Pedagogies and Literacies.  
University of Regina, Saskatchewan.

Research, develop, plan, teach and assess graduate and undergraduate courses in the Faculty of Education on media and digital literacies and educational technology. I taught the following courses:

Fall, 2022 — Digital Citizenship and Media Literacies

In this graduate course, learners gained an understanding of key issues and concepts related to digital citizenship and media literacies, and developed critical skills by engaging in the creation and analysis of media and citizenship artefacts.

Winter, 2022 & 2023 — Advanced Studies in Educational Technology and Media

Learners developed an in-depth understanding of integrating technology in K-12 classrooms, and related frameworks such as participatory culture, maker pedagogies, collective learning, gamification, and critical cartography.

Spring, 2023, Winter, 2022 & 2023, Fall, 2021 — Introduction to Educational Technology and Media

Learners developed skills in media production, and an understanding of frameworks such as new media literacies, multimodality, sensory digital education and place-based learning.

Fall, 2017

Instructor – Art + Technology + Education.  
Department of Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

Researched, planned, presented, taught and assessed all class projects on mobile learning, social media, makers spaces, 3D printing and creative coding. Aided students with creative, conceptual and technical issues to produce artwork and develop lesson plans.

Fall, Winter 2016  
Fall, Winter 2015  
Winter 2013

Instructor - Time Based Media.  
Department of Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, QC.

Researched, planned, presented, taught and assessed all class projects on kinetic sculpture, sound art, video mash-ups, stop-motion animation and video art. Aided students with creative,

conceptual and technical issues to produce artwork and develop lesson plans.

2012–2013  
2013–2014

Teaching Assistantship. Visual and Performing Arts in Canada.  
Department of Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, QC.

Developed students' writing, reading, and critical thinking skills through ongoing demonstrations and discussions of art and theory, and assessment of writing assignments and essays.

Winter 2012

Teaching Assistantship - Time Based Media.  
Department of Art Education, Concordia University. Montreal, QC.

Researched, planned, presented, taught and assessed one major class project on sound art. Aided students with creative, conceptual and technical issues for all projects.

## Research Experience

July 2021-

Research Collaborator - A Critical Cartography of Intersectionality on University Campuses.  
Faculty of Education – University of Manitoba

Collaborating with Dr. Robert Mizzi on this SSHRC Insight Development Grant, which examines how multiply-marginalized students navigate the spaces of university campuses with the current policy context of equity, diversity, and inclusion.

July 2022-  
May 2023

Lead Researcher - Robots for Inclusivity: Engaging underrepresented groups in STEM education.  
Faculty of Education, University of Regina, Saskatchewan.

Collaborated with Dr. Cristyne Hébert to investigate the effectiveness of a robotics program offered by SaskCode, a community organization, for engaging girls and Indigenous youth in Science and Math.

June 2021-  
December 2022

Research Collaborator - Digital Sensory Education.  
Centre of Sensory Studies – Concordia University

Worked with a group of international experts, including Dr. David Howes and Dr. Anna Harris, to develop resources and networks for scholars interested in integrating Sensory Studies in their teaching practices.

- Winter, 2021                      Research Assistant – Explorations in Sensory Design. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Developed a literature review and methodologies for using ‘Sense Walks’ and ‘Sense maps’ as research and design tools.
- Fall, 2019                         Research Assistant – Remixing the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts’ (MMFA) Collection through Sense Walks, Sense Maps, and Mobile Photography. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Designed educational workshop for Concordia students to explore and interpret the MMFA’s collection.
- September 2015–  
March 2019                      Research Assistant — MonCoin Mobile Media Curriculum. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Contributed to designing the curriculum, conducting field work, analyzing data, and writing manuscripts for the MonCoin research project, which is a visual arts curriculum using mobile media to foster the engagement of youth in education.
- January 2013–  
April 2016                      Research Assistant — Project SOMEONE — Visualizing Empathy. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Collaborated with a team of educators to develop a curriculum called Visualizing Empathy, which uses photo sharing on Instagram and Flickr as a tool to create empathy. Social Media Online Everyday is a collaborative multi-disciplinary project aiming to develop curricula to combat hate speech on social media.
- Fall 2014–  
Winter 2015                      Research Assistant — Pre-service Art Educator Online Video Network. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Managed the technical aspects of the project and to provide student-teachers with feedback on their teaching based on the videos. Mobile video was incorporated into the university's art education pre-service training program to encourage self-reflection and peer learning.
- Fall 2013                         Research Assistant — Creative Visual Practices of Teens on Mobile Phones. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Compiled a Literature Review on the topic of how youth use mobile devices for digital photography.

## Publications

- 2022 Akbari, E. (2022). *Sensory Design Methods: Mobile Sensory Photography & Collective Online Sensory Mapping*. Explorations in Sensory Design. <https://www.sensorydesign.ca/mobile-sensory-photography>
- Akbari, E. (2022). *Sense Walks and Sense Maps at Parc Angrignon*. Explorations in Sensory Design. <https://www.sensorydesign.ca/sense-walks-and-map-parc-angrignon>
- 2021 Akbari, E. (2021). *Spatial and Collective Learning through Mobile Sensory Photography and Creative Cartography* (Doctoral dissertation, Concordia University). <https://spectrum.library.concordia.ca/id/eprint/987826/>
- 2020 Akbari, E. (2020). Soundwalks for youth in arts education settings. *Canadian Journal of Art Education*. 17(1), 4–13.
- 2019 Akbari, E. (2019). Spatiality of engagement. In J. C. Castro (Ed.), *Mobile media in and outside of the art classroom* (pp. 103–126). Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Akbari, E. (2019). Spatial missions: My surroundings, my neighbourhood, my school. In J. C. Castro (Ed.), *Mobile media in and outside of the art classroom* (pp. 127–150). Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Akbari, E. (2019). Smartphones connect art students to sights and sounds of Montreal. *The Conversation*. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/smartphones-connect-art-students-to-sights-and-sounds-of-montreal-108819>
- 2017 Castro, J.C., Akbari, E., Moreno, L., Pariser, D., Forget, B., Lalonde, M., & Ledo M.A. (2017). The mission of MonCoin: A curriculum for mobile media and civic engagement in the visual art classroom. *IMAG InSEA Magazine*, 5, 84–98.
- 2016 Akbari, E., Castro J. C., Lalonde, M., Moreno, L., Pariser, D. (2016). This allowed us to see what others were thinking: Curriculum for collective learning in art. *Journal of Art Education*, 69(5), 20–22.
- 2016 Akbari, E. (2016). Rumi: A cosmopolitan counter-narrative to Islamophobia. *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education*, 33, 48–67.
- 2016 Akbari, E. (2016). Soundscape compositions for art classrooms. *Journal of Art Education*. 69(4), 17–22.

- 2015 Akbari, E., & Pilon, A. (2015). Creating a bridge between art and technology in art classrooms. *L'Association des Éducatrices et Éducateurs Spécialisés en Arts Plastiques: Vision Magazine*, 80, 10–15.
- 2014 Akbari, E. (2014). *Soundscape compositions for art classrooms* (Master's thesis, Concordia University).

## University Service

- March 2023 Planning Committee Member for “Teach and Learn in the Digital World” Conference.  
University of Regina, Saskatchewan.
- Provided my expertise on digital literacies and educational technology and helped to plan and execute the conference, which provided exchanges among Education students, faculty, and K-12 educators in the community on innovative approaches to the integration of technology in education.
- July 2021-  
June 2023 Co-ordinator in Digital Pedagogies and Literacies  
University of Regina, Saskatchewan.
- Provided technical and pedagogical support for various faculty members for hybrid and online teaching. Trained graduate assistants to use and operate technologies that support the faculty to deliver hybrid classes. Attended all faculty council and governance meetings. Provided technical support for various hybrid events including the “Whispering Lands Indigenous Speakers Series” and “kiskêyimisowin: Self Knowledge in Indigenous Research.” Served as a member the following committees addressing pressing issues in our faculty:
- 2022-2023 — Gender and Sexual Diversity and Inclusion Working Group  
Participating in conversations on ways to address gender and sexual diversity and inclusion in the faculty.
- 2022-2023 — Ad Hoc Committee on Educational Technology  
Co-leading conversations on how to support faculty with teaching different modalities including face-to-face, online, blended and hybrid.
- 2021-2022 — Ad Hoc Committee on Web-based Learning  
Contributed to developing definitions for course modalities and providing recommendations to the Dean about funding.

- March 2020—  
June 2021      Review Committee Member – Journal of Art Education – National Associate of Art Education.
- Review manuscripts submitted to the journal that relate to topics such as technology in education, digital literacies, multimodality, and place-based learning. Support authors to develop high quality academic articles.
- May 2020.      Conference Assistant – Uncommon Senses III.  
Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Helped with the planning and execution of a fully online conference. Performed the roles of technical assistant and moderator for numerous presentations and panels.
- June 2017      Exhibition Organizer – International Visual Sociology Annual Conference.  
Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Communicated with artists, booked and helped setup required equipment for photography and multimedia exhibitions.
- October 2016      Conference Co-ordinator - Visual Literacy Annual Conference.  
Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Managed a group of fifteen volunteers to help with conference activities including registration, guiding attendees to lectures and museum tours, and troubleshooting problems.
- October 2015-  
March 2016      Graduate Advisor for Departmental Appraisal of the Department of Art Education. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- Represented the feedback of graduate students in the department by conducting focus groups and synthesizing students' views in a report for the department.

## Invited Presentations

- 2021      Akbari, E. (2021, July). *The Soundscape of My Bubble*. Invited artist for online soundscape workshops as part of Hillside Music Festival's online program. Guelph, ON.
- Akbari, E. (2021, February). *Sensory Methods for Place-Based Learning*. Invited lecture in SOAN 800 General Seminar taught by Dr. David Howes. Department of Anthropology at Concordia University. Montreal, QC.

- 2020 Akbari, E. (2020, October). *Mobile Sensory Photography and Creative Cartography in Art Classrooms*. Invited lecture in ARCH 672 Experiential Learning in Architecture [Architecture of and for the Senses] taught by Dr. David Howes. School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape at the University of Calgary, AB.
- 2019 Akbari, E. (2019, March). *Sound and Space*. Invited lecture in ARTE 606 – Art and the Anthropocene taught by Dr. MJ Thompson, Department of Art Education at Concordia University. Montreal, QC.
- 2016 Akbari, E. (2016, November). *Soundwalks and Soundscape Compositions*. Invited Lecture and workshop at the Barbara Ingram School for the Arts. Hagerstown, Maryland.
- 2015 Akbari, E. (2015, January). *Soundscape Compositions in Educational Contexts*. Invited Lecture in COMS 410 – Acoustic Communication and Design taught by Andra McCartney, Department of Communication at Concordia University. Montreal, QC.

## Conference Presentations

- 2023 Akbari, E., Mizzi, R., Yendt, C. (2023, May). *Counter-Mapping University Campuses: Using Intersectionality and Spatiality to inform EDI Policy in Higher Education*. Presented at the Canadian Society for the Study of Education Conference. Toronto, ON.
- R. Mizzi, Akbari, E., Yendt, C. (2023, May). *Mapping Intersectionality on University Campuses in Manitoba*. Presented at the Canadian Society of the Study of Higher Education conference. Toronto, ON.
- Akbari, E. (2023, May). *Sensory Pedagogies for Online Learning*. Presented at Uncommon Senses III conference. Montreal, QC.
- 2020 Akbari, E. (2020, May). *Sensory Methods of Place-Based Learning*. Presented at Uncommon Senses V online conference. Montreal, QC.
- 2019 Akbari, E. (2019, June). *Exploring Place with Sense Walks, Sense Maps and Mobile Photography*. Presented at the International Society of Education through Arts World Congress. Vancouver, BC.
- Akbari, E. (2019, June). *Critical and Creative Cartography as an Educational Tool to Connect Youth to Place*. Presented at the International Society of Education through Arts World Congress. Vancouver, BC.



2018

Akbari, E. (2019, April). *Creative and Critical Cartography: Teaching Digital Citizenship in the Age of Post-Truth*. Presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting. Toronto, ON.

Akbari, E. (2018, November). *Sensory Walks and Creative Cartography to Connect Youth to Place*. Presented at the Arts for Education Conference at the Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). Toronto, ON.

Akbari, E. Castro, J.C. & Pariser, D. (2018, May). *Using social and mobile media to design visual peer learning networks*. Presented at the Canadian Society for Study of Education Conference. Regina, SK.

Akbari, E. (2018, May). *Creative cartography and locative art with mobile devices in art education*. Presented at the Canadian Society for Study of Education Conference. Regina, SK.

Akbari, E. (2018, May). *Exploring everyday spaces through creative and mobile cartography*. Presented at the Graduate Symposium of the Canadian Society of Education through Art. Winnipeg, MB.

Castro, J.C., Pariser, D., Akbari, E., & Lalonde, M. (2018, May). *Engaging in civic space together: Peer-networked teaching and learning with mobile media*. Presented at the Canadian Society of Education through Art Conference. Winnipeg, MB.

Akbari, E. (2018, April). *Using art and technology to encourage spatial awareness*. Presented at Transformative Leadership, Arts and Community Engagement Symposium.

Akbari, E. (2018, March). *Spatial and Collective Learning through Creative and Mobile Cartography*. Presented at the National Art Education Conference, Seattle, OR.

Akbari, E. (2018, March). *Rumi: A Cosmopolitan Counter-Narrative to Islamophobia*. Presented at the National Art Education Conference, Seattle, OR.

Castro, J.C., Pariser, D., Lalonde, M., Akbari, E., Moreno, L., & Greer, G. (2018, March). *Investigating the impact of peer-networked curriculum on teaching and learning in art education*. Presented at the National Art Education Conference, Seattle, OR.

Hart, L., Akbari, E, Jenkins, K. Manifold, M., Jesup, C. (March, 2018). *AET Special Topics: Social media and art education Panel*. Presented at the National Art Education Conference, Seattle, OR.

- 2017
- Lalonde, M., Akbari, E., Castro, J. C., & Pariser, D. (2017, June). Making, consuming, and disseminating the images that (per)form the social lives of teens in and outside of school. Presented at the International Visual Society Conference, Montreal, QC.
- Lalonde, M., Akbari, E., & Castro, J.C. (2017, March). *Challenging visions: games as visual prompts to provoke critical reflection on social and mobile media*. Presented at NAEA Super Session with AET & CSTA, New York, NY.
- Moreno, L., & Akbari, E. (2017, March). Spatiality of Engagement. Presented at the Art ED Technology Pre-conference event, New York, NY.
- Pariser, D., & Akbari, E. (2017, March). Identity, Mobilities and Social Media in Art Class. Presented at the National Art Education Conference, New York, NY.
- 2016
- Castro, J.C., Akbari, E., Lalonde, M., Pasiser, D., & Moreno, L. (2016, October). *We learned from each other's photos: Images as teachers in mobile media networks*. Presented at the International Visual Literacy Association Conference. Montreal, Quebec.
- Akbari, E. *Creative cartography and locative art*. (2016, February). Presented at the Graduate Art Education Symposium, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- 2015
- Akbari, E. (2015, March). *Let's play it by ears: Sound and Listening as Art*. Presented at the National Art Education Association Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Akbari, E. (2015, February). *Deep Listening: Learning about your surroundings with your ears*. Presented at the Art Education Symposium, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.
- 2014
- Akbari, E. (2014, October). *Sound and Deep Listening: Making Art with our Ears*. Presented at the Canadian Society for Education through Arts Conference. Halifax, Nova Scotia.
- Akbari, E. (2014, March). *Sound as art – Raising media literacy and creating works of sound art*. Presented at the National Art Education Association Conference. San Diego, California.
- Akbari, E. (2014, March). *Video blogs – Video and Internet to enhance learning in art classrooms*. Presented at the National Art Education Association Conference. San Diego, California.

Akbari, E. (2014, February). *Art education video blog (VLOG): Using video and Internet to build an online community for art educators*. Presented at the Graduate Art Education Symposium, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

2013

Akbari, E. (2013, March). *Rumi: The profound insights of a mystical poet into teaching and art-making*. Presented at the National Art Education Association Conference. Fort Worth, Texas.

Akbari, E. (2013, March). *Art class 3.0: An interactive and empowering art classroom*. Presented at the National Art Education Association Conference. Fort Worth, Texas.

Akbari, E., Milliken, C., & Siow, M. (2013, February). *Art Education Video Blog (VLOG)*. Presented at the Graduate Art Education Symposium, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

Akbari, E. (2013, February). *Rumi: A poetic inquiry into teaching, thinking and making*. Presented at the Graduate Art Education Symposium, Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

## Other Teaching Experiences

June 2015–  
2019

Instructor for TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Certification Course. Oxford Seminars. Montreal, Quebec.

Instruct aspiring English teachers on teaching theory, methodology and practice. Course topics include effective teaching, classroom management, generative grammar theory, communicative teaching methods, travel and culture shock.

April 2009–  
August 2014

English as a Second Language Teacher. EC Language Centre. Montreal, Quebec and Toronto, Ontario.

Taught general ESL (English as Second Language) and IELTS (International English Language Test System) courses to adults using the communicative method. Facilitated discussions, debates, role-plays and assessed students' learning needs on an ongoing basis. Helped improve students' English reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

September 2005–  
January 2008

English Instructor. GEOS Corporation. Tokyo, Japan.

Taught English to a wide range of Japanese clients including company executives, working professionals, homemakers, college and high school students, senior citizens, and children.

Summer 2003 &  
Summer 2004      Summer Camp Art Academic Coordinator.  
Station Gallery, Whitby Ontario.

Designed the curriculum and taught the gallery's summer art camp classes to groups of up to 15 children from the ages of 6-12.

## Additional Education and Training

May 2019      Certificate of completion of 3-day module on Introduction to Geographic Information Systems: Fundamentals of QGIS and ArcGIS Online. Department of Geography, Planning and Environment. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

Fall 2011      Graduate Seminar in University Teaching (32 hours).  
Centre for Teaching and Learning. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec.

March 2009      University of Cambridge CELTA Grade A Certificate in English Teaching Methodology. LSC Canada. Toronto, Ontario.

2005-2008      Communicative language education workshops and training sessions.  
GEOS Corporation. Tokyo, Japan.

## Others Awards

March 2018      Conference and Exposition Award. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. \$1000.

March 2015      Conference and Exposition Award. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. \$1000.

October 2014      Conference and Exposition Award. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. \$1000.

March 2014      Faculty of Fine Arts Travel Funding. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. \$500.

April 2013      Conference and Exposition Award. Concordia University. Montreal, Quebec. \$750.

- May 2004 York Mural Award. "Global Village". Permanently installed at Mclaughlin Collage. York University, Toronto, Ontario. \$1000.
- April 2002 Best Video Award. "Rites of Passage". Trinity Square, Toronto, Ontario. \$500.
- September 2000 Entrance Scholarship. York University, Toronto, Ontario. \$500.