

# GINO CANELLA

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Educator | Researcher | Filmmaker

[www.GinoCanella.com](http://www.GinoCanella.com)

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## EDUCATION

**University of Colorado Boulder**    Ph.D.    College of Media, Communication and Information  
**Temple University**                    M.A.    Media Studies and Production  
**Duquesne University**                B.A.    Communication

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Emerson College, Assistant Professor, Journalism and Media Studies                    2018–  
Engagement Lab at Emerson College, Affiliated Faculty                                    2019–

## RESEARCH AREAS

Social Movements; Media Activism; Documentary; Critical Theory; Community Media;  
Journalism; Qualitative Research Methods

## RESEARCH & CREATIVE WORK

### **Book**

Canella, G. (2022). *Activist Media: Documenting Movements and Networked Solidarity*. New Brunswick, NJ: [Rutgers University Press](http://RutgersUniversityPress.com).

### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

Canella, G. (2024). Cinematic Journalism: The Political Economy and ‘Emotional Truth’ of Documentary. *Studies in Documentary Film*, 18(1): 69–83. [10.1080/17503280.2023.2270988](https://doi.org/10.1080/17503280.2023.2270988).

Canella, G. & Pramas, J. (2023). Creating a News Garden: Maintaining Place and the Role of Local Journalism. *Journal of Alternative and Community Media*, 8(1): 7–26.  
[https://doi.org/10.1386/jacm\\_00114\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/jacm_00114_1).

Canella, G. (2023). Journalistic Power: Constructing the ‘Truth’ and the Economics of Objectivity. *Journalism Practice*, 17(2): 209–225. DOI: [10.1080/17512786.2021.1914708](https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2021.1914708).

Canella, G. (2023). Networked Unionism: Reframing the Labour Movement and Starbucks Workers’ Hybrid Organising Practices. *triple: Communication, Capitalism and Critique*, 21(1): 1–17. DOI: [10.31269/triplec.v21i1.1358](https://doi.org/10.31269/triplec.v21i1.1358).

Ferrucci, P. & Canella, G. (2023). Resisting the Resistance (Journalism): Ben Smith, Ronan Farrow, and Delineating Boundaries of Practice. *Journalism*, 24 (3): 513–530. DOI: [10.1177/146488492111064379](https://doi.org/10.1177/146488492111064379).

Canella, G. (2020). #BlackIsBeautiful: The Radical Politics of Black Hair. *Visual Studies*, 35 (2-3): 273–284. DOI: [10.1080/1472586X.2020.1789501](https://doi.org/10.1080/1472586X.2020.1789501).

Canella, G. & Ferrucci, P. (2020). Framing Standing Rock: Market Orientation and TV News. *Journal of Applied Journalism and Media Studies*, 9 (3): 233–251. DOI: [10.1386/ajms\\_00014\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1386/ajms_00014_1).

Canella, G. (2019). Youth Documentary Academy: The Social Practices of Filmmaking and Media Advocacy. *Journal of Alternative and Community Media*, 4 (2): 31–43.

Canella, G. (2018). Racialized Surveillance: Activist Media and the Policing of Black Bodies. *Communication, Culture, & Critique*, 11 (3): 378–398. DOI: [10.1093/ccc/tcy013](https://doi.org/10.1093/ccc/tcy013).

Canella, G. (2018). Video Goes Vertical: Local News Videographers Discuss the Problems and Potential of Vertical Video. *Electronic News*, 12 (2): 75–93. DOI: [10.1177/1931243117705417](https://doi.org/10.1177/1931243117705417).

Canella, G. (2017). Social Movement Documentary Practices: Digital Storytelling, Social Media and Organizing. *Digital Creativity*, 28 (1): 24–37. DOI: [10.1080/14626268.2017.1289227](https://doi.org/10.1080/14626268.2017.1289227).

Canella, G. (2016). CAP! Comcast: The Framing and Distribution Strategies of Policy Advocates Within Networked Communications. *International Journal of Communication*, 10: 5889–5907.

Canella, G. (2016). ‘Occupy Raw’: Pro Wrestling, Carnavalesque and the Commercialization of Social Movements. *Journal of Popular Culture*, 49 (6): 1374–1392. DOI: [10.1111/jpcu.12492](https://doi.org/10.1111/jpcu.12492).

### **Chapters, Essays & Multimedia**

Canella, G. (2022). Grassroots Pedagogy: Practicing Justice in Collaborative Classrooms. *Protest*, 2 (2): 279–285. DOI: [10.1163/2667372X-02020007](https://doi.org/10.1163/2667372X-02020007).

Canella, G. (2022). Democratizing Documentary and Interactive Social Media Practices. In K.M. Ryan and D. Staton (eds.), *Interactive Documentary: Decolonizing Practice-Based Research*, pp. 65–77. New York: Routledge. DOI: [10.4324/9781003174509-7](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003174509-7).

Canella, G. (2022). An Oral History of the 10-month St. Vincent Hospital Strike. *The Real News Network*. [Video/Podcast/Transcript].

Canella, G. (2020). #BlackLivesMatter Boston Marches to #SayHerName. [Video]. *Dig Boston*.

Canella, G. (2019). Filmmaking as Militant Co-Research. *Synoptique: An Online Journal of Film and Moving Images Studies*, 8 (2): 48–51.

Canella, G. (2019). Dispatch from the March Against Cages. [Video]. *Dig Boston*.

## **Manuscripts in Progress**

Canella, G. (Ed.). *Despotism of the Machines: Techno Fetishism and Communicative Power in the Information Age*. Edited volume, under review with publisher.

Canella, G. & Figueroa, E. Expanding the Arena: Cinematic Matches and The New Spaces of Cultural Production. (Book chapter in review, edited volume)

## **Documentary Films**

### *Front Line*

Worcester, MA

Director of Photography / Writer / Editor (August 2021)

Documentary film about the historic St. Vincent nursing strike. Published online with [The Real News Network](#). Selected for [Screening Scholarship Media Festival 2022](#), hosted by CAMRA at the University of Pennsylvania. Selected for screening in the Digital Artifacts section of the International Communication Association annual conference 2022, Paris, France. Selected for screening in [Spotlight on Academics Film Festival 2023](#), Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. Published on [ResearchTV.ca](#).

### *Bamba, The Taste of Knowledge*

Dakar, Senegal

Director of Photography / Producer / Editor (May 2018)

Documentary film that explores the religious and political implications of Senegalese performance culture. Co-directed with Professor Brian Valente-Quinn and community theater troupe, Sant Yalla, in Dakar. Selected for screening in [Africa World Film Festival 2020](#). Selected for screening in [Ethnografilm Festival 2019](#) in Paris, France. Selected for screening in the International Visual Sociology Association annual conference, June 2019 in Saratoga Springs.

### *Radical Labor: Aligning Unions with the Streets*

Denver, CO

Director of Photography / Producer / Editor (April 2018)

Documentary film that highlights how labor organizers in Colorado are networking with community activists. Published on [Roar Magazine](#) (2018). Selected for screening in [Small Cinemas Conference](#), November 2018 at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla. Selected for screening in Labour of Media (Studies) Conference, November 2018 at [Concordia University](#) in Montreal, Canada. Selected for screening in [Screening Scholarship Media Festival 2019](#) hosted by CAMRA at University of Pennsylvania.

### *Taking the Lede*

Boulder, CO

Camera / Sound / Assistant Editor (January to August 2015)

Feature documentary produced by CU NewsCorps exploring student press freedom.

### *The British Pub, Inc.*

London, UK

Director of Photography / Producer / Editor (July 2012)

Documentary focusing on the business structure of pubs in England. Aired on public access television in the U.K.

### *Making the Slam*

Philadelphia, PA

Director of Photography / Producer / Editor (July 2013)

Documentary featuring the Philadelphia Youth Poetry Movement; produced for M.A. thesis.

## **Reviews**

Canella, G. (2019). Book Review: *Rebel Video: The Video Movement of the 1970s and 1980s*. (H. Nigg, Ed.). *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 777–779.

Canella, G. (2016). Book Review: *Crisis and Control: The Militarization of Protest Policing*. (L. J. Wood). *Social Movement Studies*. doi:[10.1080/14742837.2016.1150164](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2016.1150164).

Canella, G. (2015). Book Review: *Digital Rebellion: The Birth of the Cyber Left* (T. Wolfson). *Interface: A Journal for and About Social Movements*, 7(2), 259–262.

## **Select Conference Presentations**

**Canella, G.** (2023, October). Striking for Community: The Labor of Local Journalism. Paper presented at the Union for Democratic Communications conference, Philadelphia, Pa.

**Canella, G.** (2023, April). Networked Unionism: Reframing the Labor Movement and Hybrid Organizing Practices. Paper presented at the Boston Labor Conference, UMass Boston.

**Canella, G.** (2022, May). Distributing Movements: Mapping Impact and Engagement. Poster presented at annual conference of International Communication Association, Paris, France.

**Canella, G.** (2022, March). Front Line. Documentary screened at annual CAMRA Screening Scholarship Media Festival, hosted by University of Pennsylvania.

**Canella, G.** (2021, April). Black Lives Matter Boston Marches to #SayHerName. Documentary presented at annual Screening Scholarship Media Festival, hosted by University of Pennsylvania.

**Canella, G.** (2020, August). Journalistic Power: Constructing the ‘truth’ and the economics of objectivity. Paper presented at annual conference of the Association for Educators in Journalism and Mass Communication. Virtual.

**Canella, G.** & Valente-Quinn, B. (2019, June). Visualizing Sufi Stories and Collaborative Filmmaking. Paper presented at annual conference of International Visual Sociology Association, Saratoga Springs, NY.

**Canella, G.** (2019, May). Profession or Activist Practice: Journalists Define a Contested Field. Panel presentation at annual conference of International Communication Association, Washington, D.C. [Organized panel]

**Canella, G.** (2019, May). Collaborative Democracy as Media Advocacy. Paper presentation at Media-in-Transition conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.

**Canella, G.** & Ferrucci, P. (2017, August). Framing Violence and Protest at Standing Rock. Paper presented at annual conference of Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Chicago, IL.

**Canella, G.** (2017, May). Fight for 15: Networked Activism and Participatory Democracy. Paper presented at annual conference of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

**Canella, G.** (2017, May). #Fightfor15: Activist Media as Collaborative Citizenship. Documentary films screened in “Making and Doing” exhibition at annual conference of the International Communication Association, San Diego, CA.

Quinn, B. D. & **Canella, G.** (2017, April). The Politics of Cultural Performance and Documentary Film as Collaborative Citizenship. Paper/film presented at Society for the Academic Study of Social Imagery (SASSI), University of Northern Colorado, Greeley, CO.

**Canella, G.** (2016, October). Racialized Surveillance: Black Lives Matter and Activist Media. **Brian Murphy Top Graduate Student Paper Award** presented at annual conference of the Union for Democratic Communications, Detroit, MI.

**Canella, G.** (2016, August). Black Lives Matter 5280: Bridging Love and Disruptions with Meetings and Social Media. Paper presented at annual conference of Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Minneapolis, MN.

**Canella, G.** (2016, August). Video Goes Vertical: Local News Videographers Discuss the Problems and Potential. Paper presented at annual conference of Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Minneapolis, MN.

**Canella, G.** (2016, June). Superman’s Racial Politics: Black Lives Matter, Protest Policing and the Ethnic Other. Panel presentation at Page 23 Conference at Denver Comic Con, Denver, CO.

**Canella, G.** (2016, April). Social Movement Documentary Practices: Storytelling and Organizing. Panel presentation at Broadcast Education Association conference, Las Vegas, NV.

**Canella, G.** (2015, November). Webisodes ‘Sell Out’: YouTube’s Commercial Programming Problem. Paper presented at Salford International Media Festival, Manchester, UK.

Moritz, M., Browne, J., & **Canella, G.** (2015, August). Panel discussion/film screening of documentary *Taking the Lede*. Scholastic Journalism Division Teach-In at annual conference of Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, CA.

**Canella, G.** (2015, May). The Transformative World of Fan Fiction: When an Author’s Ownership Collides with Fair Use. **Top Student Paper**, Law and Policy Division, presented at annual conference of International Communication Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

**Canella, G.** (2015, March). 'Occupy Raw': Pro Wrestling Fans and the Commercialization of Social Movements. Paper presented at Society for the Interdisciplinary Study of Social Imagery (SISSI) conference, Colorado Springs, CO.

**Canella, G.** (2013, October). Media arts presentation. Documentary film screening, *Making the Slam* at Global Fusion Conference, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL.

**Canella, G.** (2012, November). Media arts presentation. Documentary film screening, *The British Pub, Inc.* at Global Temple Conference, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.

## GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Faculty Advancement Fund Grant, <i>Emerson College</i> : \$2,000	2021
Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant, <i>CU Boulder</i> : \$1,000	2017
ICA Graduate Student Travel Grant, \$200	2017
Bill McReynolds Memorial Scholarship, <i>CU Boulder</i> : \$1,800	2017
Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities, <i>CU Boulder</i> : \$3,000	2016
Grant awarded with Brian Quinn for documentary film in Senegal	
United Government of Graduate Students Travel Grant, <i>CU Boulder</i> : \$300	2015
Summer Research Fellowship, <i>CU Boulder</i> : \$1,800/year	2015-17
Alexander M. Tanger Scholarship, <i>Broadcast Education Association</i> : \$5,000	2012

## TEACHING & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Emerson College** (2018– )

JR637 Editing & Web Producing  
JR495 Multimedia Journalism Capstone  
JR472 Documentary Video Journalism  
JR300 History of the Alternative Press  
JR330 Grassroots Journalism and Community Media  
JR370 Interactive News  
CM630 Civic Media: Storytelling and Culture

### **University of Colorado Boulder** (2014–2018)

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching: CU Boulder 2018  
MDST 2010 Media Activism and Social Movements (Graduate Instructor/Developed Course)  
JOUR 5624 NewsTeam Boulder (Graduate Instructor)  
CMCI 1010/1020 Concepts and Creativity (Lead Teaching Assistant)  
Pathways to Excellence in Media and Communication, Instructor (July 2015-16)

### **Independent Filmmaker**

*Field Producer, Cinematographer, Audio, Editor* (April 2013 to Present)  
Clients: Boston Institute for Nonprofit Journalism, The Weather Channel, ABC News, CBS News, CNN, SEIU, Temple University, Center for Public Interest Journalism, Media Mobilizing

### **Youth Documentary Academy**

*Instructor / Editor* (July 2015-18): Colorado Springs, CO

## WPVI-TV

*Special Projects Photojournalist* (2007 to 2011): Philadelphia, PA

## INVITED TALKS

- Campus on the Common Podcast** Boston, MA  
[Activist Media](#) | May 2023
- Civic Media Literacy: Fake News & Misinformation** Online via Zoom  
[Neighborhood Media School](#) | June 10, 2020
- Philosophy Coffee, Engagement Lab** Boston, MA  
Bullshit, Lies, and Fake News | November 4, 2019
- Campus on the Common Podcast** Boston, MA  
[Fake News and the Post-Truth Era](#) (with Prof. Paul Niwa) | May 2019
- Communication Days at Emerson College** Boston, MA  
Panelist, “Reporting on Communities Under Siege” | April 21, 2019
- Service Employees International Union, Local 105** Denver, CO  
Workshop, Communicating Your Story in the Fight for \$15 | April 2017
- Conference on World Affairs** Boulder, CO  
[Moderate Discussion](#) on journalism and politics with Lee Fang | February 2, 2017
- Media Research and Practice Colloquium** Boulder, CO  
Fight for 15: Networked Activism and Participatory Democracy | September 14, 2016
- Youth Documentary Academy** Colorado Springs, CO  
Filmmaking, Social Media, and Activism, Fine Arts Center | July 6, 2016

## SERVICE

- Faculty Search Committee, Journalism Department Boston, MA  
Chair (September 2022 to February 2023)
- LEAP Fellow Boston, MA  
Journalism Department Representative (2022-23)
- Faculty Union, ECCAAUP Boston, MA  
Governing Council, Journalism Department (Spring 2019 to Summer 2020)
- Student Advising Boston, MA  
Journalism Department (March 2020 to present)
- Faculty Search Committee, Journalism Department Boston, MA  
Member (November 2019 to March 2021)
- WEBN-TV, Student Media Miami, FL  
Supervised student reporting at Super Bowl LIV (February 2020)
- Media Research and Practice Committee Boulder, CO  
Graduate Student Representative (March 2017 to August 2017)

CMCI Graduate Student Association	Boulder, CO
Academic and Professional Development Co-Chair (January 2017 to May 2018)	
Media Mobilizing Project	Philadelphia, PA
Media Fellow (January 2014 to May 2014)	
Presence Live Conference, Temple University	Philadelphia, PA
Organizing Committee (October 2012)	

Reviewer

Interface: A Journal for and About Social Movements  
 Social Media + Society  
 Social Movement Studies  
 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication  
 - Annual Conference 2020, Community Journalism Interest Group  
 International Communication Association: ACSJ, Best Dissertation Committee; Visual Communication Division, 2022 annual conference  
 National Communication Association  
 - Annual Conference 2023, Book award reviewer

**AWARDS**

Outstanding Dissertation	International Communication Association, ACSJ	2019
Best of Competition	Broadcast Education Association, <i>Taking the Lede</i>	2016
Top Student Paper	ICA, Law and Policy Division	2015
Smoke Free Philly	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – PSA Video Contest, Director: \$1000	2011
Mid-Atlantic Emmy	Nominated – Outstanding News Photography	2010
Associated Press, PA	1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place – News Photography	2009
Associated Press, PA	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – News Photography: “Father’s Day Mural”	2008
Nat’l Press Photographers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, 1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. General: “Polar Bear Plunge”	2007
Nat’l Press Photographers	1 <sup>st</sup> Place, 4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. Feature: “Old School Wrestling”	2006
Associated Press, SC	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place – Photography: Compilation	2006
Associated Press, SC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Sports Feature: “Old School Wrestling”	2006
Associated Press, SC	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – General News: “Marine Pool Changes”	2006
D. Tennant Bryan	1 <sup>st</sup> Place – Photojournalism: “Old School Wrestling”	2006

**AFFILIATIONS**

International Association for Media and Communication Research  
 International Communication Association  
 Union for Democratic Communications  
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

**References Available Upon Request**