

# LAURA CECHANOWICZ

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA</b> iMAP PhD Student	<i>Projected May 2018</i> Cumulative GPA 3.82
<b>University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA</b> MFA Animation and Digital Arts	<i>May 2013</i> Cumulative GPA 3.83
<b>Communications University of China, Beijing, China</b> Global Exchange Workshop Documentary Film Course	<i>May-July 2012</i>
<b>University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA</b> MA in Film Studies	<i>May 2010</i> Cumulative GPA 3.94
<b>University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI</b> BA in Film, Psychology and German with Honors in Film	<i>May 2006</i> Cumulative GPA 3.86
<b>University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany</b> Study abroad courses in Film, German, and Psychology	<i>January-June 2005</i>

## HONORS, EXHIBITIONS, AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

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USC Annenberg Fellow	<i>2011-Present</i>
Laura Cechanowicz, Brian Cantrell, and Alex McDowell, "World Building and the Future of Media: A Case Study – Makoko 2036," IEEE Technology and Society.	<i>Dec 2016</i>
Laura Cechanowicz, Brian Cantrell, Geoffrey Long, Alex McDowell, Jeff Watson, and Ann Pendleton-Jullian, "A Thousand Stories In A Day: Building and Reimagining Lagos" <i>Revisiting Imaginary Worlds</i> , edited by Mark Wolf, Routledge, 201-217.	<i>2016</i>
Teaching Assistant for Venice Biennale Exhibit featuring "World Building as Design Practice," Berlinale Production Design Talent	<i>Venice Biennale 2016</i> <i>Feb 2015</i>
"iMAPPENING" Group Exhibitor and Spatial Designer	<i>May 2015</i>
Curatorial Exhibition: Los Angeles Institute of Experimentation Screening SFAC Open Studios	<i>May 2015</i>
"iMAPPENING" Group Exhibit	<i>May 2014</i>
Curatorial Exhibition: Los Angeles Institute of Experimentation Screening SFAC Open Studios	<i>May 2014</i>
"Sight-Sound-Space" Group Exhibit First Year iMAP work	<i>Nov 2013</i>
Launch of Interactingwithautism.com	<i>Sept 2013</i>
Society for Animation Studies Talk, "Projection Mapping as Defining a New Location for Animation"	<i>June 2013</i>
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program "Creating the Future" Video Competition Winner	<i>Nov 2012</i>
Newtown "Hugely Tiny" Exhibit	<i>Nov 2012</i>
PasserbyLA Exhibit "Silent Secrets: The Body Language of the Confessor"	<i>Sept-Oct 2012</i>
Guest Speaker and Curator, Beijing Film Academy Modern Creative Media College	<i>May 2012</i>
Experimental Film Festival Portland, <i>A Letter to You</i>	<i>May 2012</i>
Iowa City Documentary Film Festival, <i>A Letter to You</i>	<i>April 2012</i>
USC Annenberg Fellows Forum Presenter, topics: "The Look and Sound of Music" and "Silent Secrets: The Body Language of the Confessor"	<i>Jan, April 2012</i>
Participant, Michael Arbib Annenberg Seminar on Language and the Brain	<i>Aug-May 2011-2012</i>
CineToro Film Festival Participant and Program Curator	<i>2011</i>
USC Frank Volpe Endowed Scholarship	<i>2010-2011</i>
University of Iowa Rhetoric Teaching Assistantship	<i>2008-2010</i>
Iowa WIP Film Festival Participant	<i>2009</i>
University of Michigan University Honors	<i>2003-2006</i>
Garnet R. Garrison; Alice Webber Glover Award (Awarded \$2000 in Grants to make Honors Film)	<i>2005-2006</i>
James B. Angell Scholar	<i>2007, 2006, 2004</i>
University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Opportunites Program fMRI Researcher	<i>2002-2003</i>

## WORLDBUILDING WORKSHOPS AND TALKS

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“World In a Cell” co-Leader of WbML and Bridge@USC Worldbuilding Project including Workshops envisioning “The World in a Single Cell.” Organized worldbuilding workshops with up to 40 artists and scientists, helped solidify funding partnership, and am co-Leading project design. Funded year-long worldbuilding project.	2016-Present
“Spaceship Earth” USC WbML Worldbuilding Initiative with Youth, Participant & Organizer	Oct 2016-present
“Inventing the Future All Over Again – <i>Minority Report 2066</i> ” ASU Conference, Participant & LA Organizer	Nov 2016
“Architecting Experiences for VR + AR” VRLA Panelist, Speaker	Sept 2016
“Worldbuilding” UCLA Art Sci LASER Talk	April 2016
“Playing With Identities,” Dissertation Pilot Workshop at CounterPlay ’16, Denmark	April 2016
“Lagos 2036: High School Edition” Led IML 575 Worldbuilding Workshop with High School Students	March 2016
“Worldbuilding and Autobiographical Identity,” Lecture, IML 499	March 2016
Participant, Berlinale Worldbuilding “Rilao” Workshop	Feb 2015
“Worldbuilding,” Lecture, USC Graduate Seminar CTPR 510	Sept 2015

## SELECT CREATIVE WORK

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**Anthropologist, 5D Global Studios, (2015-2016)**, Hired to use anthropology techniques to research, observe, and also contribute to Alex McDowell’s 5D Studio to document world building practice in the company.

**Production Designer, Perfect World, Yusuke Fukada Director (03/15-present)** Short USC Thesis Film

**Production Designer, Caibong City, Florina Titz Director (06/13-14)** Feature Film, (in post production)

**Co-Interaction Designer, Bernie + Bernice, (2015)**, Interactive Installation utilizing Kinect.

**Game Designer, Domestic Hell, (2015)**, Documentary board game about domestic life.

**Co-Editor, In The Shell of the Old, Emily Forman Director (8/14-12/14)** Short USC 547 Documentary

**Lead Sound Designer, Leviathan Virtual Reality, (2014-2014)**, Alex McDowell’s Virtual Reality Project

**Lead Sound Designer, Miralab, (2013-2014)**, Amanda Tasse’s USC Advanced Game Project

**Director, Sound Designer Rollover, (2014)** Live Action Short with stunts.

**Sound Designer, Co-Producer The Infinite, (ongoing)** Animated Sloan Thesis film, Dir. Joseph Yeh

**Director, The Body Remembers, (2013)** Documentary animation MFA thesis exploring the embodied mind, personal identity and grieving through mixed media and participatory documentary.

**Co-Founder, LiE (The Los Angeles Institute of Experimentation), (2010-present)** Co-founder of a group of experimental mixed media artists; I curate and co-curate screenings and events internationally and in LA.

**Producer and Editor, The Secrets of Nitrogenase, (2012)** award-winning science short about NSF research.

**Director, Glass Heart, (2012)** A documentary telling the stories of Chinese parents who lost their only child.

**Co-Director, Paint Punches, (2012)** an interactive installation using the Kinect, featuring stop motion paint.

**Director, There are many ways of falling, (in progress)** short: the process of grieving through metaphor of falling.

**Sound Design, Stochastically Self-Similar Non-Euclidian Replication (2012)** science film about fractals.

**Director, Silent Secrets: The Body Language of the Confessor, (2009-ongoing)** Last shown as an 11-projector installation in the USC Gallery. This collaborative documentary database involves recording body language and nonverbal communication as a historic artifact on video. The process involves setting up a camera in participants’ homes and instructing them on how to record HD video **without sound and in slow motion**. After setup, I typically leave, and the participant confesses a secret; the database currently includes 24 participants age range 17 – 80. The USC exhibition included an interdisciplinary panel, and the Iowa exhibition was a 12-monitor installation.

**Co-Director, In Process, (2011)** A performance of 27 musicians, visual artists, theatrical performers and dancers based on a live visual score. The performance represented the revitalization of Sitka Fine Arts Camp by volunteers.

**Director, Sound Designer, Animator, Cinematographer, A letter to you, “Production 1” (2011)** Projection mapping mixed media installation exploring my memory of my grandmother and the process of healing.

**Animator, Chatter, multi-screen installation USC Gallery, (2010)** A cacophony of words.

**Co-Director Specter, Visual score based Animation (2010)** Mixed media animation exploring perception.

**Director, Writer, Cinematographer, Animator, Production and Sound Design, Daidaiiro** episode, HD Video, 2 min. (2012) Episode 5 of a serial short featuring a character engulfed in the objects around him.

**Director, Screenwriter, Production Designer, Animator, St. Ulmo’s Fire, 16 mm film, 4 min. (08 – 09)**

**Filmmaker, 0557, video, 1 min. (2009)** A reflection on personal trauma.

**Animator, They Had Horses, 4 min. (2009)** Documentary animation reflecting the Iowa flood of 2008.

**Animator, Wings, HD video, 10 sec. (2009)** A documentary artifact of a moment between father and daughter.

**Animator/Filmmaker, Eclipse, video, 5 min. (2008)** Documentary animation.

**Animator, Dance, 16 mm film Optically Printed, 1 min. (2011)** Poetic exploration of body language.

**Director, Cinematographer, Editor, University of Michigan Honors Thesis Do You See What I’m Saying?** film and video, 18 min. 15 sec. (2006) Documentary on the significance of body language in film.

**Co-Director & Editor, *Present Future Passed***, 16mm film and video, 6 min. 30 sec. (2004) Documentary  
**Filmmaker, *Dividing Planes***, video, 2 min. (2004), Best Video Lightworks Film Festival  
**Filmmaker, *Dear Bud***, video, 8 min. (2003) Experimental documentary examining life, marriage and death.  
**Filmmaker, *Beyond Focus***, video, 1 min. 30 sec. (2003) Experimental short.

## PROFESSIONAL PRODUCTION & PRODUCTION DESIGN EXPERIENCE

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**Augmented Reality Anthropologist/Researcher, 5D Global Studios, (2015-2016)**, Contributed to concept development for an augmented reality platform.

**Co-Producer, *Interacting with Autism***, University of Southern California Principle Investigators Mark Harris and Marsha Kinder (08/11-2013) A three-year multi-media web project funded by the AHRQ.

**Animation Camera and Lighting Intern, *Hell and Back***, Shadow Machine (01/12-10/12)

**Production Designer, *I Will Know You***, Iowa MFA Thesis Film, HD Video (2011)

**Production Designer, *Heart of Darkness*** Dir. Craig Webster (01-03/09)

**Production Designer, *The White Shoe Dinner*** Dir. Greg Tonner (06/08)

**Assistant Set Decorator, *Nevermore*** Dir. Thomas Zambeck, Feature Film (5/06 – 6/06)

## PROFESSIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**IML Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California (09/16 – Present)** Film Production TA for Michael Bodie. Teaching undergrads film production techniques, as well as documentary film concepts.

**IML Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California (01/15 – 06/16)** World building TA for Alex McDowell. Assisted with syllabi prep, course planning, grading, and teaching, course is primarily graduate students. Taught all classes when Alex McDowell was unavailable to attend class.

**IML Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California (08/14 – 12/14)** Reality Starts Here TA.

**Animation Teaching Assistantship, University of Southern California (08/11 – 05/13)** Assisted in teaching animation courses for graduate students and undergraduate students, worked with students to develop their projects.

**Animation Instructor, imMEDIATE Justice (07/11-present)** Taught sex education through animation.

**Video Art Instructor, Sitka Fine Arts Camp (06-07/11)** Taught middle school and high school students.

**Rhetoric Teaching Assistantship, University of Iowa (08/08 – 05/10)**

Taught 3 courses per year with minimal supervision; responsible for syllabi, structure and grading. Courses focused on race, gender, sexuality and ethnicity, as well as media analysis and core skills of rhetoric: reading, speaking and writing.

**Film Lab Monitor, University of Iowa** assisted Film/Video Undergrads (09/09 – 02/10)

**Behavioral Therapist for Children with Autism, Pacific Child (10/07 – 07/08)** Worked with children with autism implementing and designing behavioral plans for treatment of learning challenges.

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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**Research:** Video editing in USC Brain and Creativity Institute, Motor sensor research with EEGs & EMGs at University of Tübingen in Germany, 2 Semesters UROP fMRI Psycholinguistic research and data analysis, SPSS, Undergrad Psych research: designed tests, wrote Scientific Research Papers, and used basic programming skills

**Computer:** IBM/MAC proficient: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Unix + Linux systems & some C, some Processing, some Derivative Touch Designer, Adobe Suite, Avid, ProTools

**Animation & Optical Printing:** Dragonframe, Maya, After Effects, Premiere, Photoshop, Final Cut Pro, Z-Brush, 2-D animation, 3-D stop motion animation, Film Mattes (on a JK), 16mm editing on a flatbed

**Videography/Cinematography:** ARRI BL, Bolex, Canon EX1, Canon t2i-5D, consumer video equipment

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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**Languages:** Fluent German, Functional Italian, Basic Japanese

**Travel:** Lived in Germany for 1 year, including study abroad at the University of Tuebingen and the Goethe Institute, lived and worked with an Italian family in Italy for 3 months, study abroad in China for 2 months

**Community Outreach:** Michigan Community Scholars (MCSP) – community outreach and community based college courses (2002-2003); Mentor to child in low income family through ReachOut Program (2005-2006)

**Other:** First Robotics – on a team that created a robot for national competition; helped design and create robot, learned minimal aluminum welding. Also served as tech scout, profiling other robotics teams. (1999 – 2002)