

# Aaron A. Reed

Email: [aaron@aaronareed.net](mailto:aaron@aaronareed.net)  
Homepage: [aaronareed.net](http://aaronareed.net)  
Cell: (801) 403-9513

Twitter: @aaronareed  
LinkedIn: aaronareed

## Education

**Ph.D. Computer Science**, University of California Santa Cruz (expected June 2016).

Dissertation: “New Frontiers for Interactive Story: A Practice-Based Survey of Emerging Narrative Mechanics.” Committee: Dr. Michael Mateas, Dr. Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Dr. Emily Short, Dr. Michael Chemers

**M.F.A. Digital Arts & New Media**, University of California Santa Cruz, 2011.

Thesis: “A Sequence of Possibilities: sculptable fictions, quantum authoring, and the search for an ideal story system.” Advisors: Dr. Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Dr. Michael Mateas, Dr. D. Fox Harrell

member of the Expressive Intelligence Studio research group

member of Noah Wardrip-Fruin’s Participatory Fictions project group

**B.A. Film Studies**, University of Utah, 2005.

Honors Society member.

## Major Awards and Commendations

“Best Story/World Design” Award, *The Ice-Bound Concordance*, IndieCade 2014.

Selection, Best Book Apps of 2013, *18 Cadence*, Kirkus Reviews.

Shortlisted, New Media Writing Prize 2011, Best Student Work, *maybe make some change*.

Selection, “The Electronic Literature Collection Volume One”, *Whom the Telling Changed*, 2006.

## Classes Taught

### *As Instructor or Co-Instructor*

“Advanced Electronic Literature.” Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHHSI) 2015, University of Victoria (with Dene Grigar and Sandy Baldwin).

DANM 132, “Literary Games: The Intersection of Writing and Play.” UC Santa Cruz, Summer 2012 and Summer 2011.

### *As Section-Leading Teaching Assistant*

CMPS 80K, “Foundations of Digital Games,” UCSC Spring 2012 and Spring 2015 (Professor Noah Wardrip-Fruin) and Winter 2016 (Professor Talan Memmot)

FDM 20P, “Introduction to Production Technique,” UCSC Fall 2010 (Professor Jesse Fankushen)

TA 20, “Intro to Acting,” UCSC Winter 2010 (Professor Greg Fritsch)

FDM 20C, “Introduction to Digital Media,” UCSC Fall 2009 (Professor Lindsay Kelley)

### *Other Teaching Assistantships*

CMPS 170, “Game Design Studio I,” UCSC Fall 2012 (Professor Heather Logas)

MUSC 80M, “Film Music,” UCSC Spring 2010 (Professor David Cope)

## **Publications**

### *Academic, Lead Author*

“The Eureka: A Design Pattern in Expressive Storygames.” Aaron Reed, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Michael Mateas. Seventh Intelligent Narrative Technologies Workshop, Milwaukee, 2014.

“Ice-Bound: Combining Richly-Realized Story with Expressive Gameplay.” Aaron Reed, Jacob Garbe, Noah Wardrip-Fruin and Michael Mateas. Foundations of Digital Games, 2014.

“Sharing Authorship With Algorithms: Procedural Generation of Satellite Sentences in Text-based Interactive Stories.” Workshop on Procedural Content Generation, Foundations of Digital Games. Raleigh, 2012.

“Creating ‘maybe make some change.’ ” ACM Conference on Creativity and Cognition. Atlanta, 2011.

“Knock’s Memories: Creating an Emotional Story Space with Inform 7.” Critical Code Studies. USC, 2010.

“Spyfeet: An Exercise RPG.” Aaron A Reed, Ben Samuel, Anne Sullivan, Ricky Grant et al. Foundations of Digital Games, 2011.

“Blue Lacuna: Lessons Learned Writing the World’s Longest Interactive Fiction.” Electronic Literature Organization Archive & Innovate. Brown University, 2010.

### *Academic, Co-author*

“The Ensemble Engine: Next-Generation Social Physics.” Benjamin Samuel, Aaron Reed, Paul Maddaloni, Michael Mateas and Noah Wardrip-Fruin. Foundations of Digital Games, 2015.

“Author Assistance Visualizations for Ice-Bound: A Combinatorial Narrative.” Jacob Garbe, Aaron Reed, Melanie Dickinson, Noah Wardrip-Fruin and Michael Mateas. Foundations of Digital Games, 2014. *Selected as Exemplary Paper*

“Prom Week: Designing past the game/story dilemma.” Joshua McCoy, Mike Treanor, Ben Samuel, Aaron A Reed, Michael Mateas, Noah Wardrip-Fruin. In Foundations of Digital Games 2013.

“Prom Week.” Joshua McCoy, Mike Treanor, Ben Samuel, Aaron A. Reed, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Michael Mateas. Foundations of Digital Games. Raleigh, 2012.

“Playing with Words: From intuition to evaluation of game dialogue interfaces.” Serdar Sali, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Steven Dow, Michael Mateas, Sri Kurniawan, Aaron A. Reed, Ronald Liu. Foundations of Digital Games. Monterey, 2010.

*Journal Articles*

“Social Story Worlds with *Comme il Faut*.” Joshua McCoy, Mike Treanor, Ben Samuel, Aaron A. Reed, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Michael Mateas. Transactions on Computational Intelligence and AI in Games Special Issue on Computational Narrative and Games, 2014.

“Re-Visualizing Afghanistan in ‘what if im the bad guy’: Using Palimpsest to Create an AR Documentary.” Aaron A. Reed and Phoenix Toews. *not here not there*, Leonardo Electronic Almanac Vol 19 Issue 1 (special issue on Augmented Reality), 2013.

*Books*

Creating Interactive Fiction With Inform 7. Foreword by Don Woods. Course Technology PTR, 2010.

*Book Chapters*

“Telling Stories with Maps and Rules: Using the Interactive Fiction Language ‘Inform 7’ in a Creative Writing Workshop.” In Creative Writing in the Digital Age, ed. Mike Clark, Trent Hergenrader, and Joe Rein. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2015.

“Playing the Worlds of Prom Week.” Ben Samuel, Dylan Lederle-Ensign, Mike Treanor, Noah Wardrip-Fruin, Josh McCoy, Aaron Reed and Michael Mateas. In Narrative Theory, Literature, and New Media: Narrative Minds and Virtual Worlds, edited by Mari Hatavara et al. New York: Routledge. 2016.

*Posters and Work In Progress Papers*

“Story Sampling: A New Approach to Evaluating and Authoring Interactive Narrative.” Ben Samuel, Joshua Mccoy, Mike Treanor, Aaron Reed, Noah Wardrip-Fruin and Michael Mateas. Foundations of Digital Games, 2014.

“A Step Towards the Future of Role-Playing Games: The SpyFeet Mobile RPG Project.” With Ben Samuel, Anne Sullivan, Ricky Grant, April Grow, Justin Lazaro, Jennifer Mahal, Sri Kurniawan, Marilyn Walker, Noah Wardrip-Fruin. Artificial Intelligence and Interactive Digital Entertainment Conference. Stanford, 2011.

“SpyFeet: An Exercise RPG.” With Ben Samuel, Anne Sullivan, Ricky Grant, April Grow, Justin Lazaro, Jennifer Mahal, Sri Kurniawan, Marilyn Walker, Noah Wardrip-Fruin. Foundations of Digital Games. Bordeaux, 2011.

*Published Short Fiction*

“Shutdown/Retrovival.” Fantasy & Science Fiction Magazine, March 2003.

**Talks**

“Narrative Innovation Showcase.” Panel Speaker. Game Developer Conference 2016, San Francisco (upcoming).

“Sculptural Narrative: Ice-Bound and the Future of Interactive Stories.” Talk. Indie Game Con, Eugene OR, 2015.

“Towards an Aesthetic of Sculptural Fiction.” Talk. Electronic Literature Organization 2014: Hold The Light, Milwaukee.

“Gender and Sexuality in Interactive Fiction.” Panelist. GaymerX, San Francisco, Summer 2013 and 2014.

“Where is the MS Word of Interactive Narrative?” Electronic Literature Organization 2012: Electrifying Literature, Morgantown WV.

“Quantum Authoring for Prom Week.” Electronic Literature Organization 2012: Electrifying Literature, Morgantown WV.

“Changeful Tales: Authoring for Interactive Narrative.” Invited talk, “Intro to Digital Media” course, UC Santa Cruz, Spring 2012.

“Interactive Fiction: A History.” Invited talk, Cal Poly, Spring 2012.

“Creativity and Technology: Fiction.” Panelist. Creativity & Cognition, Georgia Tech, Fall 2011.

“Perceiving Violence.” Panelist. Between the Disciplines conference, UC Santa Cruz, Spring 2011.

Invited Talk, “Writing for Interactive Media” course, Emerson College, Boston, Spring 2011.

“Interactive Drama: Dialogue as Gameplay.” Panelist. PAX East Boston, 2011.

“What is Interactive Fiction?” COSMOS, UC Santa Cruz, 2010.

“Blue Lacuna: A Reading in Prose and Code.” Electronic Literature Organization Archive and Innovate, Brown University, 2010.

“blueful: a journey.” Talk. (dis)junctions Media Festival, UC Riverside, 2010.

“Storytelling in the world of interactive fiction.” Panelist. PAX East Boston, 2010.

Guest Artist Talk. Prospectives.09, Present/Symposium, Reno, 2009.

Alumni Panel. “Gaming and Digital Distribution.” Slamdance Festival, Park City, 2008.

Artist Talk, AUTOSTART: A festival of digital literature. University of Pennsylvania, 2006.

Artist Talk, Slamdance Guerrilla Gamemakers Festival: Gamemakers Presentations, Park City, 2006.

## Major Game Projects

The Ice-bound Concordance (with Jacob Garbe). An iPad app and printed book work together to tell a multilayered interactive story using generative methods and augmented reality. <http://www.ice-bound.com/>

Winner, “Best Story/World Design,” IndieCade 2014.

Finalist, “Excellence in Narrative” and Honorable Mention, “Nuovo Award,” IGF 2015.

Finalist, “Gamer’s Voice Award,” South by Southwest Gaming Expo, 2015.

Exhibited, The Book Lab, swissnex, San Francisco, October 2013.

Exhibited, 6th International Conference for Interactive Digital Storytelling (ICIDS) 2013. Istanbul.

18 Cadence. Reconfigurable fragments of narrative exploring the hundred-year story of a fictional house. <http://18cadence.textories.com/>

Selection, Best Book Apps of 2013, Kirkus Reviews.

Honorable Mention, Independent Games Festival (IGF) Nuovo Award, 2013.

Honorable Mention, Robert Coover Award for a Work of Electronic Literature, Electronic Literature Organization, 2014

Exhibited, "Language and the Interface," International Conference on Digital Literary Studies, University of Coimbra, Portugal, 2015.

Exhibited, "The Future of Reading? An Exhibition of Digital Literature", Sheffield, England, 2014.

Exhibited, Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History, February 2013.

Published, Rio Grande Review (Online supplement of the Double Fall 2012 - Spring 2013 Issue)

Exhibited, chercher le texte festival, Paris, France, 2013.

Exhibiting Finalist, Screengrab New Media Arts Award 2013.

Prom Week (lead writer and co-designer). AI-driven social physics game with emergent narratives. <http://promweek.soe.ucsc.edu/>

Finalist, IndieCade 2012.

Nominee, Technical Excellence, IGF (Independent Games Festival) 2012.

Exhibited, AI and Interactive Digital Entertainment (AIIDE), Boston, 2013.

Exhibited, "Inventing the Future of Games" (IFoG), San Jose, California, 2011.

Exhibited, Foundations of Digital Games (FDG), Monterey, California, 2010.

Panel Selection, "Beyond Eliza: Construction Socially Engaging AI panel," AI Summit of the Game Developer's Conference, 2012.

what if im the bad guy? and other stories (2011). Collection of four short interactive stories exploring an aesthetic of sculptural fiction, including an augmented reality documentary about soldiers accused of war crimes. <http://aaronreed.net/what-if-im-the-bad-guy/>

Jury Award, *permutations*, 2011 UCSC Digital Arts & New Media MFA Show.

maybe make some change (2011; part of *bad guy*). The player explores a frozen battlefield moment from conflicting perspectives. <http://change.textories.com/>

Exhibited, Prospectives '12 International Festival of Digital Art.

Shortlisted, New Media Writing Prize 2011, Best Student Work.

Exhibited, Creativity & Cognition Art Exhibition, High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 2011.

Exhibited, 2012 UCLA Game Art Festival.

Blue Lacuna (2009). Novel-length interactive fiction. <http://blue-lacuna.textories.com/>

Finalist, IndieCade 2010; Honorable Mention in World/Story category.

Ranked #6, Interactive Fiction Top 50 of all time, Interactive Fiction Database.

Winner, Best Story, Best Setting, Best Use of Medium, and Best Game of the Year, 2009 XYZZY Awards

Selection, Prospectives.09 Digital Art Conference, Reno, Nevada

blueful (2009). Short story in fragments across social networking sites. <http://blueful.textories.com/>

Winner, 2010 (dis)junctions Media Festival, UC Riverside.

Whom the Telling Changed (2005). Experimental short IF. <http://aaronareed.net/wttc.html>

Nominee, “Best Script Award”, GameShadow Innovation in Games Festival and Awards, 2006  
Selection, “The Electronic Literature Collection Volume One”, 2006

Finalist, Slamdance Guerrilla Gamemaker Competition, 2006

Winner, “Best Individual NPC” and “Best Use of Medium,” XZZZY Awards, 2006

Winner, Spring Thing Competition for Interactive Fiction, 2005

## Other Projects

Hollywood Visionary. Successful choice-based interactive narrative with 150,000 words of content, released by Choice of Games on Steam, iOS, and other major platforms. ChoiceScript. 2015. <https://www.choiceofgames.com/hollywood-visionary/>

Almost Goodbye. Procedural generation of sentences in a short interactive story. Multiple choice fiction/UnDum. April 2012. Selection, 2013 MLA “Avenues of Access.” <http://almostgoodbye.textories.com/>

Informant. A story sequencing engine for the *Spyfeet* mobile exergame project. Inform 7. 2010-11.

Sand-dancer. With Alexei Othenin-Girard. <http://sand-dancer.textories.com/>. Interactive fiction coming-of-age story exploring how memories are transmuted into life skills. August 2010.

Minimalist Story Generator 1 and 2. <http://aaronareed.net/2010/three.html> and <http://aaronareed.net/2010/ca/>. Experiments in interactive web-based storylets. Javascript/jQuery. Exhibited at “Lunatic Binary,” UC Santa Cruz, Spring 2010.

IF Experiments 1 and 2. <http://aaronareed.net/if/ex1/> and <http://aaronareed.net/if/ex2/>. Exploring unique narrative possibilities in natural language Inform 7 code. Spring 2010 - present.

Gourmet. Slapstick interactive fiction, 2003. Winner, “Best Puzzles,” XZZZY Awards, 2003.

## Organizing/Conference Committees

Organizer, Spring Thing Festival of Interactive Fiction, 2013 to present. <http://www.springthing.net/>

Program Committee, Intelligent Narrative Technologies 7 at the Electronic Literature Organization 2014 Conference, Milwaukee.

Program Committee, Foundations of Digital Games 2014.

Juror, IndieCade, 2012-2014.

Program Committee, Electronic Literature Organization Archive and Innovate, 2012.