

Adam Pugen
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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Communication, University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX, 2022-present
Faculty Fellow, The Lyceum Institute, 2025-present
Postdoctoral Fellow, University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, 2021-2022
Lecturer, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology, University of Toronto, 2021
Teaching Assistant, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information, and Technology, University of Toronto, 2015-2020

Education

Ph.D., University of Toronto, Faculty of Information, 2020
Dissertation: *The Intellectual Touch: A Phenomenology of Digital Modernism*
Committee: Patrick Keilty, Brian Cantwell Smith, Dominique Scheffel-Dunand, and Costis Dallas
Diploma of Advanced Information Studies, University of Toronto, Faculty of Information, 2012
Archives and Records Management
M.I., University of Toronto, Faculty of Information, 2011, Critical Information Studies
B.A., English, University of Toronto, 2008

Publications in Progress

Pugen, A. (in preparation). Coming to our Inner Senses: John Henry Newman as a Guide to Marshall McLuhan's Media Phenomenology

Peer-reviewed Articles

Pugen, A., and Leahy, S. (2025). The Design of Life: Christopher Alexander and the Architecture of Meaning. *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*, 28(4), 11-45.
Pugen, A. (2022). Hylomorphic McLuhan: One Figure, Two Grounds. *Explorations in Media Ecology*, 21(4), 391-415.
Pugen, A. (2020). Extending the Inner Touch: Intimations of Digital Secondary Literacy in McLuhan and Ong. *New Explorations: Studies in Culture and Communication*, 1(2), 134-153.
Pugen, A. (2015). Experimental Poiesis as Systems Thinking: McLuhan's Tetrad and the Comprehension of Complexity. *Systema*, 3(1), 119-130.

Edited Special Issues

Stahlman, M., Berkman, P., and Pugen, A, eds. (2026). Special Issue on "Romano Guardini's The Machine and Humanity." *Dianoetikon* 2.
Stahlman, M., Berkman, P., and Pugen, A, eds. (2020). Special Issue on "The Ecology of the Inner

Senses.” *Dianoetikon* 1.

Editorial Peer-reviewed Articles

- Pugen, A. (2026). The Art of Digital Memory: Media Environments and the Mind. *Lyceum Institute*.
<https://lyceum.institute/humanitas-technica/theoretical-paper-the-art-of-digital-memory/>
- Pugen, A. (2026). Reclaiming Communication from Information: Knowing in the Digital Age. *Lyceum Institute*.
<https://lyceum.institute/humanitas-technica/humanitas-technica-theoretical-paper-reclaiming-communication/>
- Stahlman, M., Berkman, P., and Pugen, A. (2026). Guardini’s The Machine and Humanity: An Introduction. *Dianoetikon* 2, i-vii.
- Pugen, A. (2022). Life in the Anti-Environment: Learning How to Play. *Reality: A Journal for Philosophical Discourse*. <https://realityjournal.org/2022/05/03/article-life-in-the-anti-environment/>
- Stahlman, M., Berkman, P., and Pugen, A. (2020). Ecology of the Inner Senses: An Introduction. *Dianoetikon* 1, i-xii.
- Pugen, A. (2020). Psychology Beyond Technocracy: Marshall McLuhan, Magda Arnold, and the “Meaning Crisis.” *Dianoetikon* 1, 27-48.
- Pugen, A. (2020). How To Be a Contemporary Thomist: The Case of Marshall McLuhan. *Reality: A Journal for Philosophical Discourse*. <https://realityjournal.org/2020/12/11/how-to-be-a-contemporary-thomist-the-case-of-marshall-mcluhan/>

Additional Articles

- Pugen, A. (2025). The Future is Technoclassical: Signs of the McLuhan Century (Parts 1-3). *Peripatetic Periodical*. <https://lyceum.institute/peripatetic-periodical/2025/03/22/the-future-is-technoclassical-signs-of-the-mcluhan-century/>
- Stahlman, M., Robinson, B., Berkman, P., and Pugen, A. (2021, January 11). Making Sense of a World in Transition. *Church Life Journal*.
<https://churchlifejournal.nd.edu/articles/making-sense-of-a-world-in-transition/>

Refereed Abstract Presentations

- Pugen, A. (2024). “Digital Menippus: The Satirical Form of our Technological Culture.” Paper presented at 2024 Ciceronian Society Conference, Plano, TX.
- Pugen, A. (2023). “Retrieving Soul-ology with McLuhan and Newman: Faculty Psychology as the Basis for a Contemporary Communication Ethics.” Paper presented at the 17th Biennial Communication Ethics Conference, Duquesne University, Virtual Conference.
- Pugen, A. (2019). “From the Electric Tribe to the Digital Polis: Exploding the Doctrine of Logos Online.” Paper presented at Media & Space: The Regulation of Digital Platforms, New Media & Technologies Symposium, University of Windsor, ON.
- Pugen, A. (2019). “An Inconvenient Retrieval: Digital Secondary Literacy and The Ethics of Virtue.” Paper

presented at the Twentieth Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association, University of Toronto, ON.

Pugen, A. (2018). "Stockhausen and Digitality: Subjective Positioning Amid Worlds of Automated Design." Paper presented at the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Hilton Hotel, Toronto, ON.

Pugen, A. (2018). "The Phenomenology of Digital Modernism: Schoenberg's Twelve Tone System as Ideational World Design." Paper presented at SCMS 2018 Conference, Sheraton Centre, Toronto, ON.

Pugen, A. (2017). "The Ideational Interface: A Digital Orientation to Existential Phenomenology." Paper presented at The 58th Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Fairmont Chicago, Illinois.

Pugen, A. (2016). "Concept over Percept: The Digital-Tactile Interface as Ground for Unearthing Marshall McLuhan's Disembodied Idea." Paper presented at The Toronto School Then/Now/Next, University of Toronto, ON.

Pugen, A. (2016). "Playground of Irreverent Mathematics: Marcel Duchamp's Interface between Electric 'Sound' and Digital 'Touch.'" Paper presented at The Seventeenth Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association, University of Bologna, Italy.

Pugen, A. (2015). "Ezra Pound and the Repetition of Remix: Projecting Possibilities between the Two Fascisms." Paper presented at The Sixteenth Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Colorado.

Pugen, A. (2014). "Hyper-Reel Cinema or the Electric Book: Film as Philosophy of the Digital Image." Paper presented at Interface2014: Transmediating Culture, Carleton University, Ottawa.

Panel Presentations

Kemple, B., Russi, L., Boyer, J., Pugen, A. (2025). "Reintegration of the Soul in the Digital Age." Panel presented at the 2025 American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, Notre Dame University, Indiana.

Kemple, B., Boyer, J., Wachs, A., Sharpe, R., Pugen, A. (2024). "Digital Identity and the Disintegration of the Soul." Panel presented at the 2024 American Catholic Philosophical Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Invited Lectures

Pugen, A. (2024). Liberal Learning: Challenges and Transformation After the Invention of the Printing Press. Doherty Library. University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX.

Pugen, A. (2023). Exploring Creativity and Humanity in an AI-Dominated World. [Panel Presentation]. History Society: First General Meeting. University of St. Thomas, Houston TX.

Pugen, A. (2023). Social Media are not Digital. [Lecture and Q&A Session]. Doherty Library Faculty Presentation Series. University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX.

Pugen, A. (2022). Life in the Anti-Environment: Learning How to Play. [Panel Presentation]. Houston Tech Rodeo. University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX.

Pugen, A. (2021). Solving the Meaning Crisis: Psychology Beyond Technocracy. [Recorded Lecture and Q&A Session]. 52 Living Ideas. <https://52livingideas.com>.

Pugen, A. (2020). How To Be a Contemporary Thomist: The Case of Marshall McLuhan [Recorded Lecture and Q&A Session]. The Lyceum Institute. <https://lyceum.institute>.

Pugen, A. (2019). Glendon Ideathon for the Globally Networked Learning Project. York University, Glendon Campus, Toronto, ON.

Events Organized

The Church and Technology: A Dialogue, Toronto Oratory, Holy Family Parish, April 2022. Public presentation with the Center for the Study of Digital Life, April 2022.

Digital Eucharistic Symposium, Center for the Study of Digital Life and the McGrath Institute for Church Life, November 2021. Public workshop in the Diocese of Bridgeport co-organized with Mark Stahlman, Peter Berkman, Brett Robinson, Tim O'Malley, and Bishop Frank Caggiano.

New Explorations Group, McLuhan Centre for Culture and Technology, September 2014 - April 2015. Public workshop series co-organized with Steven Hicks.

Teaching

The Lyceum Institute

Marshall McLuhan *The Gutenberg Galaxy* Reading Circle: 2026

The Opportunities of Technology Seminar: 2025

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

COMM3310: Media, Society, and Technology: 2024-2025

COMM2310 Communication and the Liberal Arts: 2024

COMM4393 Eye of the Beholder: Art, Society, and Communication: 2023

LS1301 Foundations of Liberal Learning: 2023-2025

COMM4393 Digital Countercultures: 2023

COMM4383 Communication Theory: 2023

COMM1331 Public Speaking: 2022-2024

COMM2350 Interpersonal Communication: 2022-2024

COMM4375 Media Ethics: 2022-2023

University of Toronto, Book and Media Studies

BMS311 Media Aesthetics: 2022

University of Toronto, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology

CCT109 Contemporary Communication Technologies: 2021

CCT316 Communication and Advertising: 2021

Teaching Assistantships

University of Toronto, Book and Media Studies

SMC155 The McLuhan Seminar in Creativity and Technology: 2022

BMS100 Introduction to Book and Media Studies: 2021-2022

SMC219 Media in Culture and Society: 2020

University of Toronto, Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology
CCT109 Contemporary Communications Technologies: 2015-2020
CCT110 The Rhetoric of Digital and Interactive Media Environments: 2016-2020
CCT210 Signs, Referents and Meaning: 2020
CCT304 Visual Rhetoric and Digital Environments: 2016-2020
CCT310 Mass Communication and Popular Culture: 2017-2020
CCT222 Political Economy of Communication, Culture, and Technology: 2015

Editorial Service

Associate Editor
New Explorations: Studies in Culture and Communication, 2019-2022

Editorial Board
New Explorations: Studies in Culture and Communication, 2019-2022

Co-Editor
New Explorations Weblog, 2020-2024

Referee for Submissions
Explorations in Media Ecology, 2021

Work in Journalism

Reporter, *The International*, 2012-2013

Web Design

Center for the Study of Digital Life, <http://digitallife.center>
Trivium University, <http://trivium.university>
Exogenous, Inc., <http://exogenousinc.com>

Fellowships

Faculty Fellow, The Lyceum Institute, 2025-Present

Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Digital Life, 2016-Present

St. Michael's College McLuhan Seminar Postdoctoral Fellow, University of St. Michael's College, August
2021-June 2022