

Wesley Shumar



The founding of the Philosophy and Theory of Higher Education Society (PaTHES) is a dream come true for me. Those of us who have thought about the university philosophically and/or using a social theoretical perspective are a smaller group of scholars. It is now wonderful that we have a space where we can define ourselves as a community of scholars. I think it is critical that we continue to encourage participation in this new society and work to help it grow into a thriving scholarly society. Further, the university desperately needs thinkers who will help chart a course in the 21st century. The emphasis on just survival has narrowed the vision of what the university is and can be. We now need, as a community, to think again about a university for the well-being of the world. I have greatly appreciated helping, in a small way, to found this society. I drafted our original bylaws and worked with the other board members to refine the bylaws and get them established. As secretary, I have kept the minutes of our board meetings and helped to move us toward our first full set of elections. The secretary is the official holder of the memory of the society, and as such plays an important role in helping to maintain the societies purpose and culture. I think we have begun a thoughtful and collaborative culture in this society. As secretary, I would seek to maintain and enhance our interdisciplinary and collaborative tradition.

(Ph.D., Temple University, 1991)

Positions Held: 2018-Present, Professor of Communication, Drexel University, Phila., PA; 2009-Present, Professor, PhD Program in Communication, Culture & Media, Drexel Univ., 2014-2018 Department Head, Department of Anthropology, Drexel University, 2009-2014 Dept. Head, Department of Culture & Communication, Drexel University, 2009-2018 Professor of Anthropology, Drexel Univ. **Interests and/or Activities:** higher education, commodification, neoliberalism, entrepreneurship, craft economies, mathematics education, digital media & learning theory. **Significant Publications:** Shumar, W. (2017). *Inside Mathforum.org: Analysis of an Online Mathematics Education Community*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press. Canaan, J. & Shumar, W. (Eds.) (2008). *Structure and Agency in the Neoliberal University*. New York: Routledge. Renninger, K. A. & Shumar, W. (Eds.) (2002). *Building Virtual Communities: Learning and Change in Cyberspace*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Shumar, W. (1997). *College for Sale: A Critique of the Commodification of Higher Education*. London: Falmer Press.