

Social Media Narrative:

Issues in Contemporary Practice

hosted by The Rutgers Camden Digital Studies Center and Judy Malloy

and the Rutgers Camden DSC Class in Social Media Narrative:

Lineage and Contemporary Practice

Facebook, November 16 - 21, 2016

## Transcript: Antoinette LaFarge

**Antoinette LaFarge**

• November 16

Hi everyone, I'm happy to be aboard this panel. Going to start with a reply to an earlier post by Mark Marino on trolling.



**Judy Malloy** Welcome to Antoinette LaFarge, professor of digital media in the Art Department, Claire Trevor School of the Arts, UC Irvine. Her work in computer-mediated performance has spanned both preweb and contemporary infosphere environments.

Visit

<http://www.narrabase.net/socmedianarrative.html#antoinette>

to find out more about her work.



November 16 at 3:43pm



**Judy Malloy** Hi Antoinette! It's a pleasure to see you here.

November 16 at 3:48pm

**Antoinette LaFarge**

November 18, 2016

I decided not to introduce myself formally because Judy already did that over on narrabase, and it was more fun just to jump into the conversation. So what I want to do is ask a question instead. It seems to me that the internet has inaugurated the era of mass civil crimes. Even as we're being told to upscale our own security (2-factor authentication anyone?), and even as the corporate world works futilely towards better lockdowns, the fact remains that many 'breaches' on the [internet now](#) affect the lives of millions of people at a time, in both predictable and unpredictable ways. Because they happen so often, they are now our way of life. I strongly suspect that this massive leak cannot be stopped, only intermittently slowed. So how long will it take before everyone's so-called private data is spread around the net and all our identities corrupted beyond repair? What happens when there is no one left who is not spending half their week fighting to clean up some aspect of their identity documentation? What happens when for everyone—not just the few—there is no longer a stable way of affirming ourselves as intelligible citizens to the state and its agents like landlords, banks, employers? What happens to the narrative of who we are that is endlessly refracted back to us through the agency of identity documents?

#### Comments



Jim Brown These are really great questions, and if anyone here hasn't yet read this digital comic, *The Private Eye*, I highly recommend it. The story is set in a world "after the cloud burst." This is exactly the world described by Antoinette LaFarge. In this world, there is no Internet anymore, people's library records are guarded carefully, and journalists take on the role of police. It's a "pay what you want" comic - everyone should read it: <http://panelsyndicate.com/comics/tpeye>



#### [The Private Eye - Download Comic](#)

The Private Eye, by Brian K. Vaughan, Marcos Martin and Muntsa Vicente  
[panelsyndicate.com](http://panelsyndicate.com)

November 18, 2016 at 3:06pm



Antoinette LaFarge Thanks for this recommendation!

November 21, 2016 at 2:59pm



Robert A. Emmons Jr. [Jim Brown](#) i can't believe it! As I'm reading this I'm thinking I need to recommend *The Private Eye*. I just reread the hardback collection the last two nights. It addresses this exact issue. It's a future world wherein the the Cloud (from roughly our present time) has exploded and exposed everyone's private information and one's "true" identity is the most important

commodity. As such everyone has multiple public identities in an effort to preserve their "true" one.

November 18, 2016 at 5:09pm



**Victoria Pagan-Perez** Wow this is a fantastic question, personally, I can only hope that we can find a way around that. It is a scary thought to think about how much we put out there and the question of how much is too much? When this happens I believe that people will go into a mass panic as people are very attached to social media now. That is the outcome that I can see

November 19, 2016 at 2:32am



**Deena Larsen** I keep coming back to the adage--there are only two types of people--those who know their identities have been hacked to pieces, and those who have yet to find out that their identities have been hacked. Yet we are forced to do almost everything online and to have our lives "out there."

November 19, 2016 at 8:28pm



**Antoinette LaFarge** And meanwhile we're also hacking away at them by grandstanding and self-mythologizing, which at the moment is a bit of a dull knife compared to what you refer to here as 'hacked to pieces'...

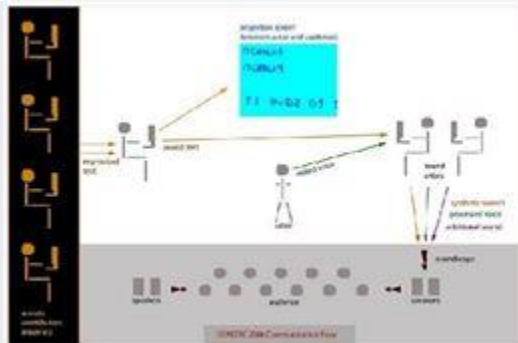
November 21, 2016 at 3:02pm



**Judy Malloy** Thanks for jumping into the conversation **Antoinette LaFarge!** And for visitors here who haven't seen it, here is a link to

Antoinette's statement about her mixed-reality performance work, Demotic --

<http://www.narrabase.net/lafarge.html>



November 21 at 4:42pm ·



Judy Malloy It seems appropriate in a closing acknowledgement of [Antoinette LaFarge's](#) distinguished presence on this panel to point the audience to her 2000 performance The Roman Forum

-- <http://www.antoinettelafarge.com/forum00.html> --  
which took place during the 2000 Democratic convention.

In her words

"Each morning during the Convention, 'The Roman Forum' began with a live online improvisation in which five ancient Romans responded to unfolding events of the week. The text generated during this improvisation was instantly adapted into a script and given to a group of five stage actors to rehearse. That night, the new script (together with a large amount of other material) was presented as a unique stage event at Side Street Live in downtown Los Angeles. Material from each night's performance was videotaped and uploaded to the web during the week of the Convention for viewing worldwide."

Of particular note here is the potential for artist-designed, large scale social media-initiated performative action. Whether or not it fits into established conventions for social media narrative (if those conventions even exist, which I'm not sure they do), we don't always have to think of social media narrative as taking place entirely within the confines of commercial platforms -- although it is also of interest that The Roman Forum concluded on eBay!

Cheers, Antoinette!



[Antoinette LaFarge:](#)  
Antoinette LaFarge.  
[antoinettelafarge.com](http://antoinettelafarge.com)

November 27 at 5:55pm