

## Show Notes for BC Studies Episode Two: “Why Should We Make Scholarly Podcasts?”

**\*Full transcript coming soon!\***

### Episode Outline

#### **1. Introduction**

- a. Introductory music: *Mist*, composed, performed and recorded by Devon Throness, Copyright 2021 ThronessMusic.
- b. Land Acknowledgement: This podcast series is recorded and produced on the traditional, ancestral and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh First Nations.
- c. This episode answers the question: “Why Should We Make Scholarly Podcasts?” The answers given here are based on my own research, and the expert opinion of six scholar-podcasters.
- d. We will look at three main arguments in favour of scholarly podcasts:
  - i. Their wider audience
  - ii. Their increased accessibility
  - iii. The different forms of engagement they elicit.

#### **2. Wider Audience**

- a. Podcasts are a form of scholarship that’s accessible and appealing to the general public (Brenna Clarke Gray).
- b. Podcasts help translate academic research into public knowledge (Charles Woods).

#### **3. Increased Accessibility**

- a. Podcasts are more accessible in terms of discoverability, cost, time, and language.
- b. **Discoverability:** How easy is it to actually find this work? Many scholarly works like journal articles or academic monographs, are not only expensive, but they are also very difficult to find if you do not have access to a university library search engine or journal database. On the other hand, podcasts are easy to find using regular internet search engines, or databases like Apple Podcasts where you can search for podcasts by theme, by category, by maker, and you can see what other people have said about them.
- c. **Cost:** Traditional scholarly works like journal articles and scholarly monographs are very expensive, and people without institutional affiliation often cannot afford them. Financial accessibility is one of the key benefits of podcasts (Michael Faris).
- d. **Time:** Many people do not have time to sit down and read a whole book or article, but you can listen to podcasts while doing household chores, so information can be consumed in a timely manner. This is beneficial for people in non-academic careers, and for busy scholars (David Gaertner).
- e. **Language:** Many forms of traditional forms of scholarship use complicated language and jargon and assume a level of background knowledge. This is both difficult and discouraging. But podcasts like [Future Ecologies](#) explain scholarly concepts in accessible language.
- f. But there are still barriers to accessibility with podcasts, including barriers to technological access (Charles Woods).

#### 4. Different Forms of Listener Engagement

- a. Oral forms of scholarship can speak to Indigenous traditions and avoid extractive technologies like academic writing (David Gaertner).
- b. Podcasts can transmit and convey emotion and affect much more than the written word (David Gaertner).
- c. Podcasts are intimate because you have a voice in your head (David Gaertner).
- d. Emotions are important in transmitting scholarship (Kyle Stedman).
- e. Embodied experiences affect how we absorb scholarly work (Jentery Sayers).
- f. Podcasts are intimate because you listen to them while doing your everyday domestic routines (Brenna Clarke Gray).
- g. Podcast listeners expect some venue to connect with podcasters and will feel some sense of ownership over the content (Brenna Clarke Gray).

#### 5. Podcasting Communities

- a. Podcast listeners form communities (Brenna Clarke Gray)
- b. Podcasters also form communities, and scholar-podcasters need to work as a community. (Charles Woods & Kyle Stedman)

#### 6. Conclusion

- a. Many academic institutions are wary of accepting scholarly podcasts as a form of scholarship.<sup>1</sup> But things are changing:
  - i. Some journals like *Kairos* and *BC Studies* have started accepting scholarly podcasts for publication
  - ii. Dr. Hannah McGregor and Siobhan McMenemy created the first large-scale peer-review system for Dr. McGregor's scholarly podcast [Secret Feminist Agenda](https://secretfeministagenda.com/).<sup>2</sup>
- b. One last benefit: podcasts are relatively easy to make! So next episode will answer: "How do you make a scholarly podcast?"

#### Podcasts Mentioned

-*Future Ecologies*: <https://www.futureecologies.net/>

-*Big Rhetorical Podcast Carnival*: <https://thebigrhetoricalpodcast.weebly.com/tbr-podcast-carnival.html>

-*Secret Feminist Agenda*: <https://secretfeministagenda.com/>

#### Further Reading

Alperin, J.P., Muñoz Nieves, C., Schimanski, L., Fischman, G.E., Niles, M.T. & McKiernan, E.C. "How Significant Are the Public Dimensions of Faculty Work in Review, Promotion, and Tenure Documents?" *eLife* 8 (Feb. 2019).

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<sup>1</sup> J.P., Alperin, C. Muñoz Nieves, L. Schimanski, G.E. Fischman, M. T. Niles and E.C. McKiernan, "How Significant Are the Public Dimensions of Faculty Work in Review, Promotion, and Tenure Documents?" *eLife* 8 (Feb. 2019).

<sup>2</sup> "Secret Feminist Agenda" Wilfrid Laurier Press. <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Scholarly-Podcasting-Open-Peer-Review/Secret-Feminist-Agenda>

Leggo, Carl, Anthony Paré and Ted Riecken. "Peer-Review Round Table Response to Ted Riecken's Scholarly Podcast, 'Mapping the Fit Between Research and Multimedia: A Podcast Exploration of the Place of Multimedia Within/As Scholarship.'" *McGill Journal of Education* 49, no. 3 (Fall 2014): 717-730.

McMenemy, Siobhan. "Scholarly Podcasting Open Peer Review." Wilfrid Laurier University Press. <https://www.wlupress.wlu.ca/Scholarly-Podcasting-Open-Peer-Review>

Rancic, Michael. "A Canadian academic podcast network is reimagining the sound of scholarship." Feb. 4, 2021. *University Affairs*.  
<https://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/a-canadian-academic-podcast-network-is-reimagining-the-sound-of-scholarship/>

Samson, Natalie. "An academic's podcast gets the peer-review treatment." Dec. 5, 2018. *University Affairs*. <https://www.universityaffairs.ca/news/news-article/an-academics-podcast-gets-the-peer-review-treatment/>

Williams, Anna. "My Gothic Dissertation." <https://www.mygothicdissertation.com/> [This is the first-ever PhD dissertation in podcast form, defended in 2019]