

Ulysses Pascal, Ph.D. — Curriculum Vitae

Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher in Finance and Big Tech
Dept. of Geography
Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Brussels, Belgium

Education

- 2016–2024** Ph.D. in Information Studies, UCLA
Dissertation: *Linked Capital: Infrastructural Mobilities in Financial Markets, from NASDAQ to SESDAQ (1967-1990)*
Advisor: Dr. Sarah T. Roberts, UCLA
Defense Date: July 3, 2024
- 2023** Certificate in Digital Humanities, UCLA
- 2012** B.A. Anthropology, Reed College

Grants and Fellowships

- 2025** Claims Conference Research Grant [Contributing author] (\$300,000)
- 2023** Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship, National Library of Singapore (\$25,000)
- 2022** Hagley Archives Exploratory Grant (\$400)
- 2021** Charles Babbage Institute Norberg Travel Grant (\$1000)
- 2021** David Vickter Foundation Grant (\$6000)
- 2019** ICCA Interdisciplinary Symposia/Workshop Award (\$4,700)
- 2017** Digital Cultures Lab Travel Grant (\$400)
- 2016–2022** University Fellowship, UCLA

Awards & Honors

- 2021** Andrew Horn Memorial Scholarship
- 2012** Phi Beta Kappa
- 2011** Commendation for Excellence Award in Academic Performance, Reed College
- 2007–2011** William R. Hearst Scholarship for Excellence in Academic Achievement

Scholarly Publications

Forthcoming (2026): Pardo-Guerra, Juan Pablo, and Ulysses Pascal. “Historicizing Market Infrastructure.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Historical Sociology*, edited by Richard Lachmann, Rebecca Jean Emigh, and David McCourt. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

- 2026** Presner, T., Bonazzi, A., Pascal, U., Tang, A., Toubian, S., & Wasdahl, A. (2026). Response III: Uncritical Fabulation and Holocaust Vibe: How AI Constructs the Past. *Digital Memory Dialogues*, 2(4). <https://doi.org/10.20919/SAIM6630>
- 2026** Pascal, U., Fang, C., & Bassens, D. (2026). Decentering tech oligarchy. *Science as Culture*, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2026.2624830>
- 2025** Bassens D, Fang C, Pascal U. Striving for sovereignty across the cloud finance stack: A relational comparison of the United States, the European Union, and China. *Finance and Society*. Published online 2025:1-21. doi:10.1017/fas.2025.10019
- 2023** Pascal, Ulysses. “Amazon 1-Click and the Value of Broken Infrastructure.” In *Amazon Anthology: At the Intersection of Culture and Capital*, edited by Paul Smith, Alex Monea, and Maillim Santiago. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Press, 2023. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/amazon-9781538165232/>
- 2020** Pascal, Ulysses. “La Ludicizzazione Dei Videogiochi.” In *Game Over: Critica della Ragione Videoludica*, edited by Matteo Bittanti. Milan: Mimesis Edizioni, 2020. (Translation of “The Gamification of Games” for *Game Over: A Critique of Video Game Rationality*). <https://www.mimesisedizioni.it/libro/9788857563848>

Conference Presentations

- 2025** “Hyperscalar Geographies.” Co-organized panel for the Digital Geographies Conference. University of Lisbon, Lisbon. November 3–5, 2025.
- 2025** “Financial Cloud Sovereignty.” Co-organized panel for the FinGeo Global Conference. National University of Singapore, Singapore. February 26–28, 2025.
- 2025** “On Development Software, Sovereignty, and the Financial Modernization of Singapore (1980-1990).” FinGeo Global Conference. National University of Singapore, Singapore. February 26–28, 2025.
- 2024** “Reading the Language of Large Language Models.” Co-presented at The AI Paradigm: Between Personhood and Power. UC Irvine. Irvine, CA. May 23-24, 2024.
- 2023** “Colonial Circuits.” Co-organized panel on Digital Capitalism and Imperialism for 4S, Honolulu. November 8-9, 2023.
- 2023** “Market Technology Policy: The role of SESDAQ in Singapore's Plans for Development,” SHOT, Long Beach, CA.
- 2023** “The Stock Market of Tomorrow: NASDAQ and the Colonial Circuits of Finance,” Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference, London, August 29, 2023
- 2021** “ANNA: Market Metadata and the Uneven Infrastructures of Financial Assetization.” 4S Conference, Panel on Markets as Data, Toronto, October 6, 2021.
- 2021** “From Hammer to Infrastructure: Tracing ‘Breakdown’ in Amazon's Vectors of Power.” 4S Conference, Toronto, October 9, 2022.
- 2021** “Spatial Semiotics: Toward an Economic Geography of Information.” The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 7, 2021.
- 2018** “Personalizing Persuasion Architecture: Privacy Harms and Algorithmic News Media.” International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Stanford, CA, June 25, 2018.

Invited Talks & Workshop Leadership

- 2026** “Digital Memory Dialogues II live online discussion: finding a 'North Star' for using AI in Holocaust memory.” University of Sussex, UK. February 12, 2026.
- 2025** “Seeing Like a Cloud.” Department of Geography’s Data Center Workshop. Beijing Normal University, China. November 19, 2025.
- 2025** “Platform Finance.” Cosmopolis Lunch Seminar. Brussels, Belgium. March 3, 2025.
- 2023** “From NASDAQ to SESDAQ: Development and the Creation of the Second Board Stock Exchange in Singapore (1981–1989).” *Lee Kong Chian Research Fellows Public Presentation*, National Library of Singapore, June 17, 2023.
- 2022** “Advanced Googling It: Digital Methods for Online Research,” *Department of Information Studies*, November 4, 2022.
- 2022** “Grad STRIVE Fellowship Panel,” *Grad STRIVE 2.0 program*, November 2, 2022.
- 2022** “BYO Text: Introduction to Text Generation with Large Language Models,” Department of Information Studies, February 6, 2022.
- 2021** “Data Activism Workshop,” *California Rare Books School*, UCLA, Los Angeles, August 16, 2021.
- 2020** “Feature Extraction: The Aesthetics and Politics of Algorithms,” NAVEL assemblies, Los Angeles, March–May, 2020.
- 2019** “Feature Extraction,” Experimental Digital Arts, UCLA, Los Angeles, November 16–17, 2019.

Research Experience

- Oct. 2024–Present:** Postdoctoral Researcher in *Finance and Big Tech*, Vrije University Brussels.
- Oct. 2024–Present:** Data Scientist for *AI and Cultural Heritage Lab*, Supervisor: Todd Presner.
- May 2024–Oct 2024:** Graduate Student Researcher for *History and Philosophy of Large Language Models (LLMs)*, Supervisor: Todd Presner.

Academic Service

- 2021** Reviewed for *Internet Policy Review*

Teaching Experience

- Spring 2024** Teaching Fellow for *Markets as Media: Introduction to Digital Economy and Society*, Lead Instructor
- Winter 2024** Teaching Associate for *Cluster 1B: Data, Justice and Society*, Supervisors: Todd Presner, Juliet Williams, Davide Panagia, Munia Bhaumik, and Ramesh Srinivasan
- Fall 2023** Teaching Assistant for *Cluster 1A: Data, Justice and Society*, Supervisors: Todd Presner, Juliet Williams, Davide Panagia, Munia Bhaumik, and Ramesh Srinivasan
- Fall 2022** Special Reader for *INFSTD 211: Artifacts and Cultures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Jonathan Furner

Winter 2022 Special Reader for *INFSTD 270: Systems and Infrastructures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant for *INFSTD 20: Introduction to Information Studies*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Safiya Noble

Spring 2021 Teaching Assistant for *INFSTD 10: Information & Power*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Ramesh Srinivasan

Fall 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 289: Museums in the Digital Age*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Spring 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 410: Management Theory and Practice for Information Professionals*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Sarah Roberts

Winter 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 270: Systems and Infrastructures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Additional Training

2025 FinGeo School, NUS, Singapore. February 23–25, 2025.

2021 Financial Geography Summer School, MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP).

2020 Anti-Monopoly and Regulated Industries Summer Academy, Law and Political Economy Project, Yale University.

2018 History of Capitalism Summer Initiative, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

2015 The Neural Aesthetic: Machine Learning for Artists, School of Machines, Making and Make-Believe, Berlin, Germany

Public Engagement Writing

Invited for publication: "From NASDAQ to SESDAQ: National Development and the Creation of the Second Board Market." Chapters on Asia. (Forthcoming)

Invited for publication: "Man, Machine, and System: Technology Policy and the Making of SESDAQ." *Biblioasia* (Forthcoming)

2020 "The Gamification of Games: When Play Becomes Chiefly About Data Collection." *Real Life Mag*, August 27, 2020

2015 "Automated Futures." *Skogen Yearbook 2014*, November 5, 2015

2014 "Free Money, Free Money: Bitcoin and Ethereum." *Hypocrite Reader*, Issue 44, September 2014

Media Coverage

2021 "This Map Shows Where Unhoused People Aren't Allowed to Exist in Los Angeles." Motherboard, August 23, 2021

Professional Affiliations

AOIR, 4S, FinGeo, AAG, SIGCIS, SHOT

Technical Skills

Python, Natural Language Processing, ArcGIS, QGIS