

BOOKS!!

ECL 596: Professor Jessica Pressman
Fall 2025

Day 14: Electronic Literature.... Borsuk's
Between Page and Screen (2012)



October 29

Arts & Letters

Department of English and Comparative Literature

Q&A + OPEN HOUSE

Join ECL faculty & learn strategies for grad student success. Get your questions answered! Room AL-266.

12:00-1:00 PM

Meet + mix with ECL faculty, students, and organizations. Learn about 2026 courses. Get free candy! A&L Floor 2.

1:00-2:00 PM

Interested in tabling? Contact rporath@sdsu.edu.

ADMIN

- Bio of Books are great!!
- Nearly done grading— grades/feedback, by email, by end of week
 - Revisions due 11/9 by email...

ADMIN

- Wednesday: ECL open house— extra credit- 1-2; Q&A 12-1
- Thursday: Halloween extra credit!

Electronic Literature

Love Letters (1953)
based on a work by [Christopher Strachey](#)
code by [Nick Montfort](#), also in [Python 2/3](#)
from [Memory Slam 2.0](#) Batch-Era Text Generators

Dear love

My sympathy breathlessly hopes for your little fondness. You are my curious appetite. My precious tenderness wishes your sweet love. My heart wistfully woos your keen rapture. You are my passionate adoration: My affectionate fancy. You are my affectionate yearning: My keen heart. My sweet heart eagerly loves your passionate wish. You are my devoted fervour.

Yours curiously

M.U.C.

Darling sweetheart

You are my amorous desire. My devoted lust lusts after your ardour. My fondness lusts after your dear fervour. You are my affectionate ardour. My rapture pines for your ardour. You are my lovesick longing. My unsatisfied passion tenderly is wedded to your eager thirst. My rapture curiously attracts your tenderness. You are my fervent adoration. My hunger devotedly clings to your lust.

Yours passionately

M.U.C.

Jewel sweetheart

My heart wants your ambition. My rapture impatiently lusts after your affection. My hunger beautifully treasures your sweet longing. You are my covetous heart. My burning lust anxiously lusts after your hunger. You are my loveable eagerness: My adorable wish. You are my devoted liking: My craving adoration. My little ardour clings to your erotic enthusiasm.

Yours fondly

M.U.C.

Honey duck

You are my darling affection. My precious love impatiently treasures your tenderness. My amorous desire devotedly attracts your fancy. You are my keen adoration. My keen ardour woos your infatuation. You are my burning fancy. My keen ambition longs for your amorous ardour. My passion keenly desires your infatuation. My anxious fondness covetously holds dear your adoration. My fellow feeling treasures your rapture.

Yours fondly

M.U.C.



BETWEEN PAGE AND SCREEN

AMARANTH BORSUK AND BRAD BOUSE

Between Page And Screen is an augmented-reality book of poems.

Want a copy?
[BUY THE BOOK](#)

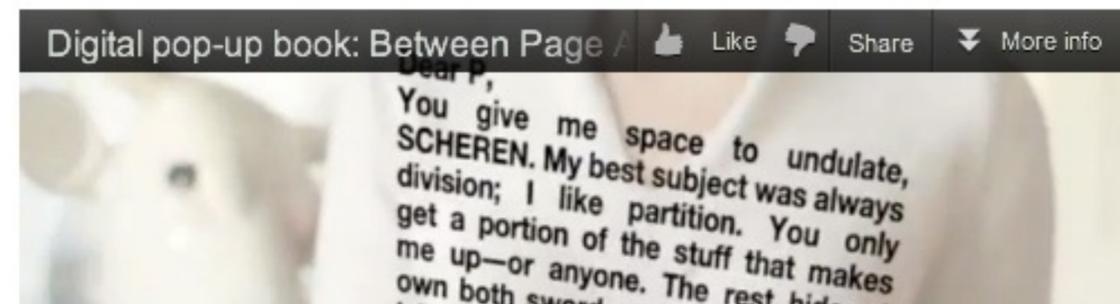
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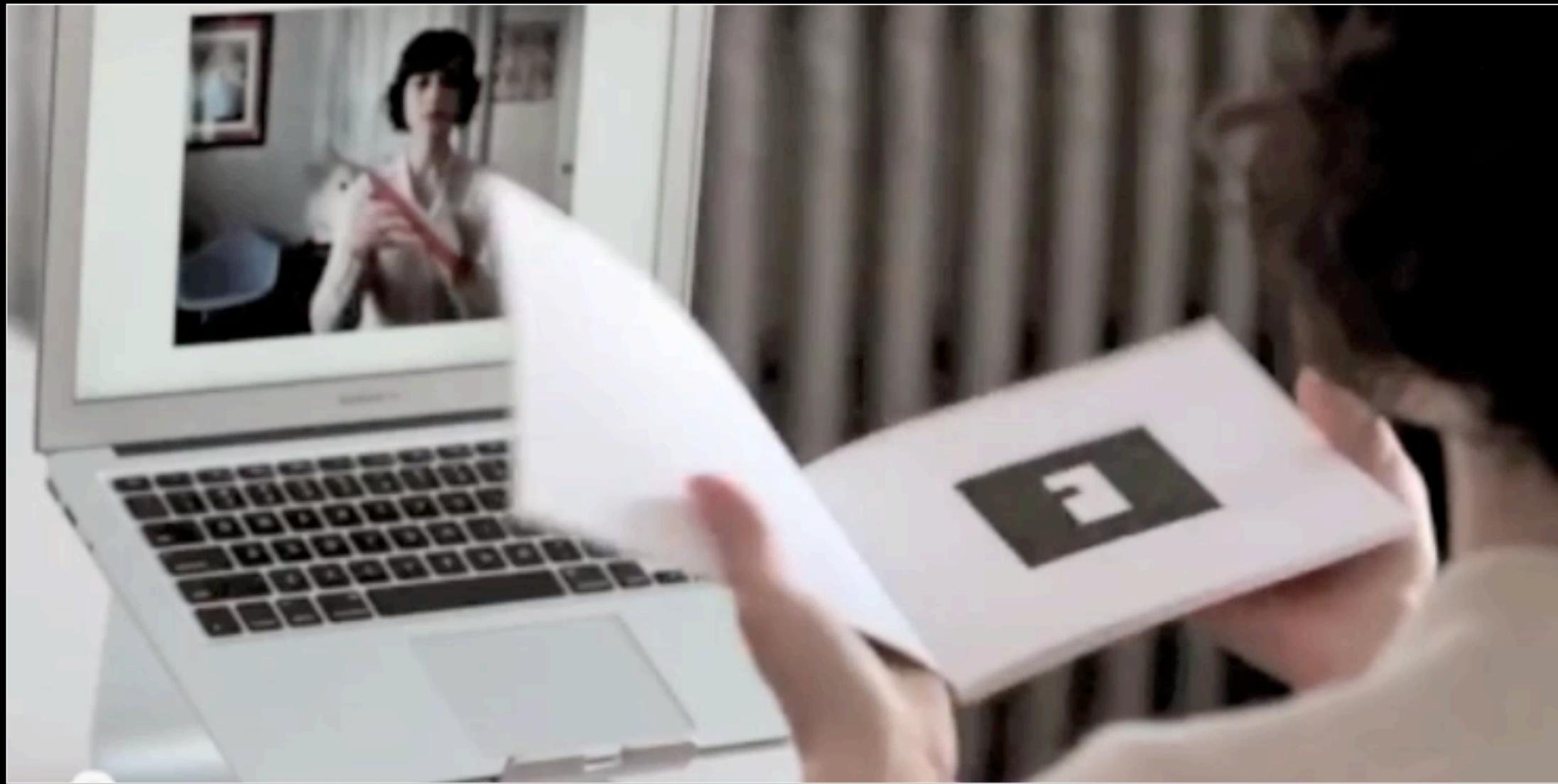
👍 Like  Daniele Giampà, Jim Andrews and 1,029 others like this.



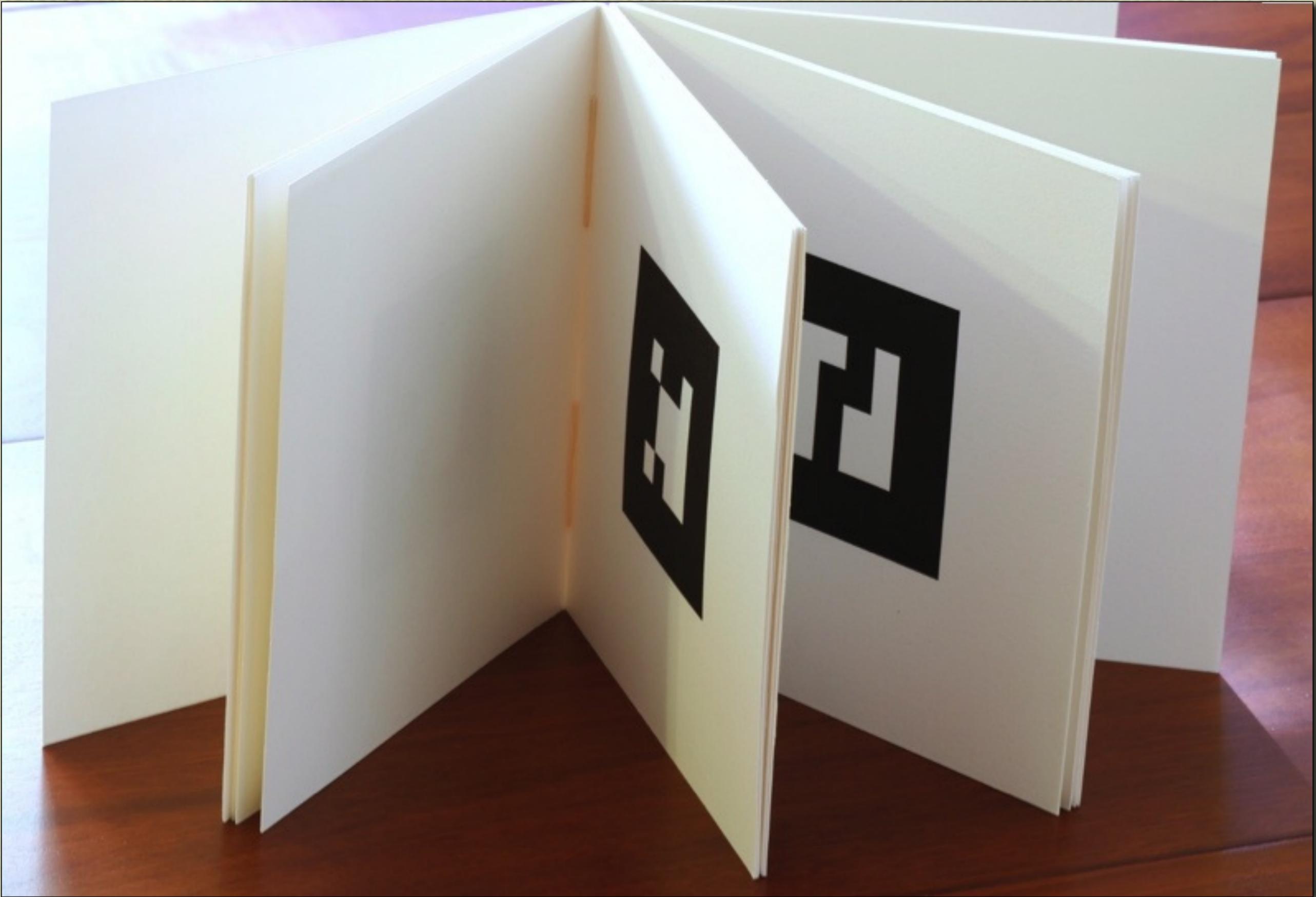

HOLD THE WORDS IN YOUR HANDS

Between Page and Screen has reinvented visual poetry, doing so by displaying hieroglyphs that humans can read only through the eyes of robots. Each coded sigil resembles one of the cellular automata that a mathematician might find in the name of life—except that each glyph has become a cipher for

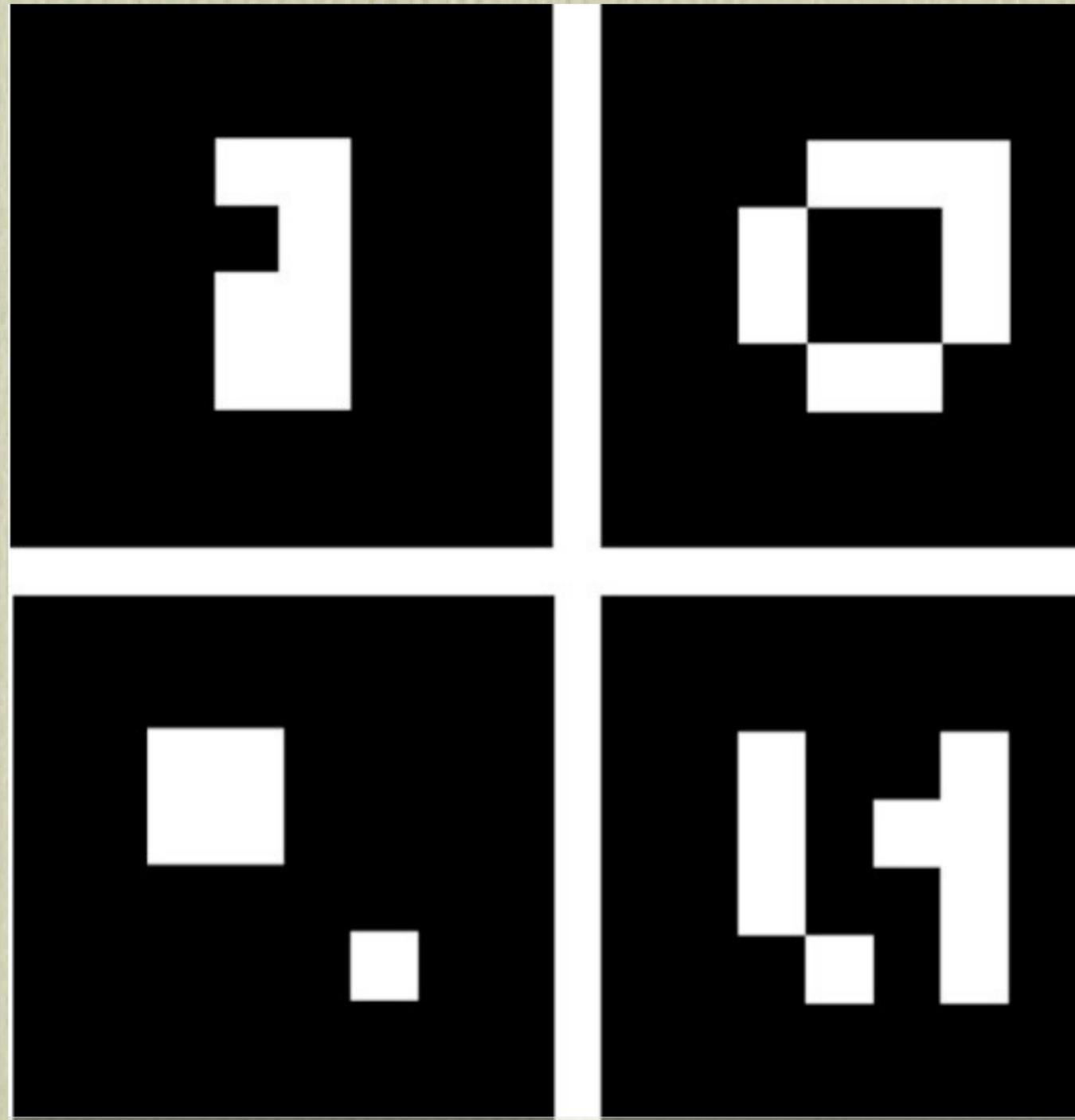




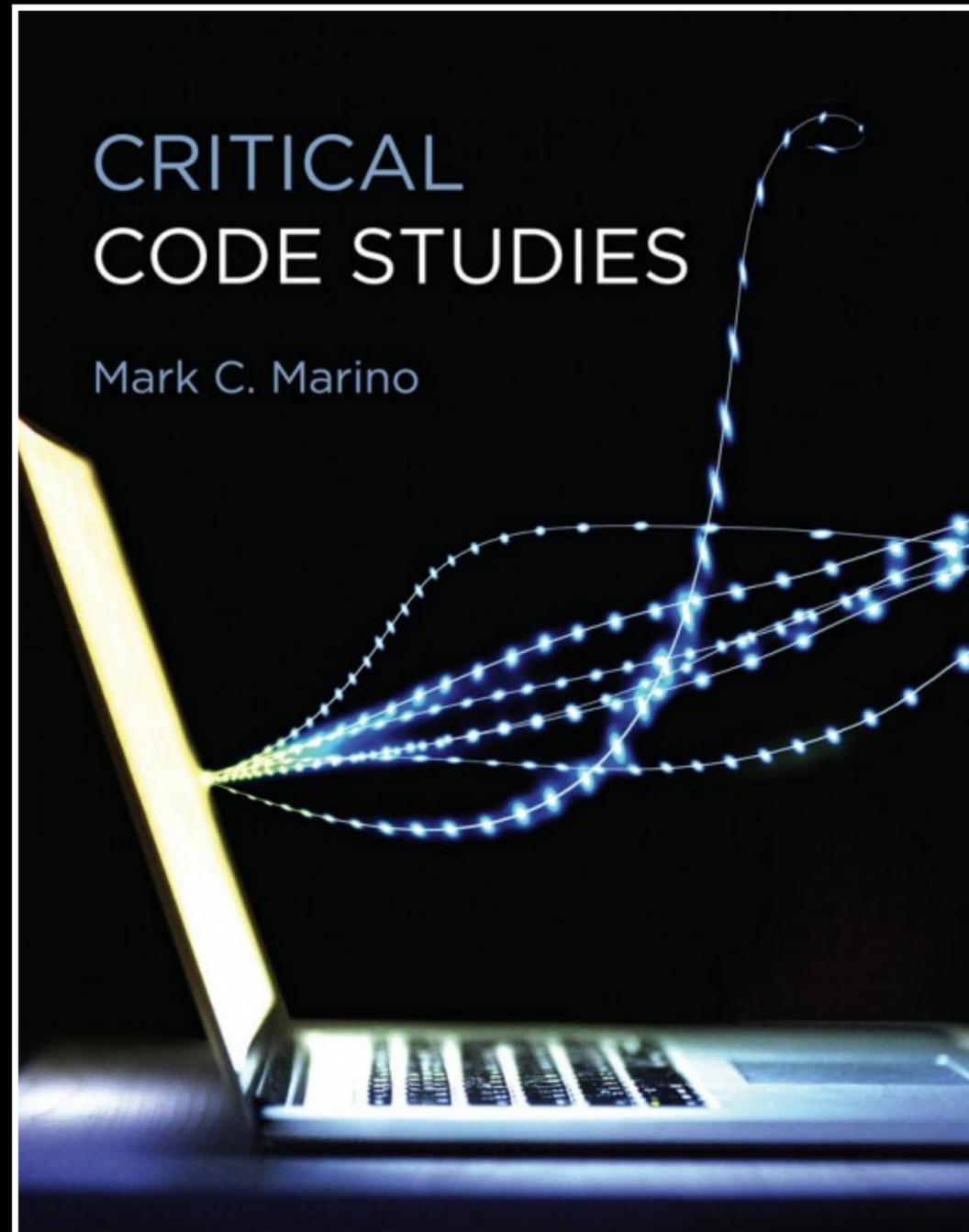
Amaranth Borsuk and Brad Bouse,
Between Page and Screen (2012)







Code as writing



MIT Press, 2020

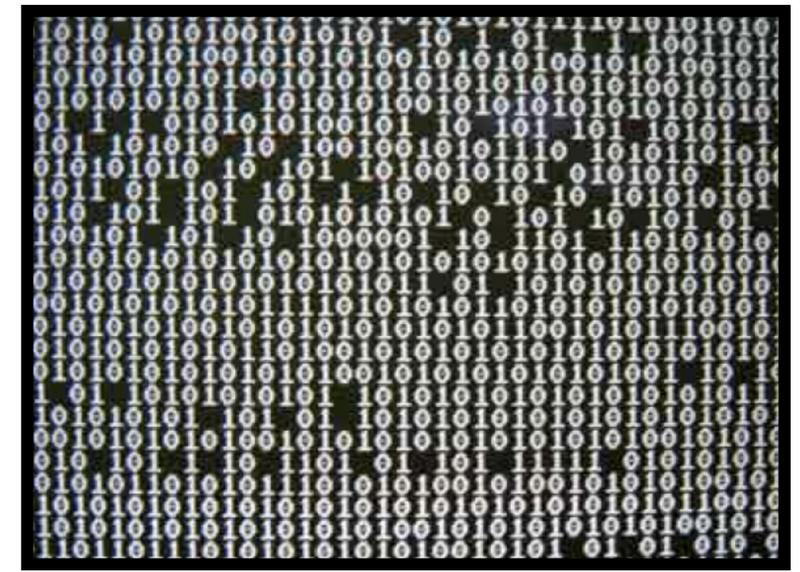
	Alfa Diver Down Keep Clear		November No
	Bravo Dangerous Cargo		Oscar Man Overboard
	Charlie Yes		Papa About to Sail
	Delta Keep Clear		Quebec Request Pratique
	Echo Altering Course to Starboard		Romeo
	Foxtrot Disabled		Sierra Engines Going Astern
	Golf Want a Pilot		Tango Keep Clear
	Hotel Pilot on Board		Uniform Standing into Danger
	India Altering Course to Port		Victor Require Assistance
	Juliett On Fire Keep Clear		Whiskey Require Medic Assistance
	Kilo Desire to Communicate		Xray Stop Your Intention
	Lima Stop Instantly		Yankee Am Dragging Anchor
	Mike I am Stopped		Zulu Require a Tug

International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

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<!DOCTYPE html>
<html id="home-layout">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="content-type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8">
    <title>Source Code Pro</title>
    <!-- made with <3 and AFDKO -->
    <meta name="keywords" content="sans, monospace, open source, coding, for">
    <link rel="stylesheet" type="text/css" href="https://code.ionicframework.com/ionic.css">
  </head>
  <body>
    <div id="main">

```

HTML

```
<nav style="background-color: #dcdcdc;">
  <span class="container">
    <span class="navbar-group">
      <ul class="navbar-list">
        <li class="nav-item"><a href="/Home">Home</a></li>
        <li class="nav-item"><a href="/Products">Products</a></li>
        <li class="nav-item"><a href="/Services">Services</a></li>
      </ul>
    </span>
    <span class="navbar-group">
      <ul class="navbar-list">
        <li class="nav-item"><a href="/About">About Us</a></li>
        <li class="nav-item"><a href="/Privacy">Privacy</a></li>
      </ul>
    </span>
  </span>
</nav>
```

```
bool is_server = FALSE;
char *logfile = NULL;
char *scriptfile = NULL;
static char tileset_name[512] = "\0";
char sound_plugin_name[512] = "\0";
char sound_set_name[512] = "\0";
char server_host[512] = "\0";
char user_name[512] = "\0";
char password[MAX_LEN_PASSWORD] = "\0";
char metaserver[512] = "\0";
int server_port = -1;
bool auto_connect = FALSE; /* TRUE = skip "C
bool in_ggz = FALSE;
```

Critical Code Studies

electronic
book
review

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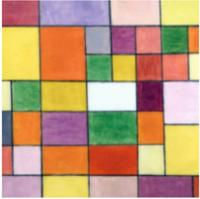
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electropoetics

Critical Code Studies

by [Mark C. Marino](#)
12-04-2006

PDF



Entering the 'cyberdebates' initiated by Nick Montfort, John Cayley, and Rita Raley, new media scholar Mark Marino proposes that we should analyze and explicate code as a text like any other, 'a sign system with its own rhetoric' and cultural embeddedness.

other essays by
[mark c. marino](#)

Critical Code Studies and the
electronic book review: An Introduction

Critical Code Studies Conference –
Week One Discussion

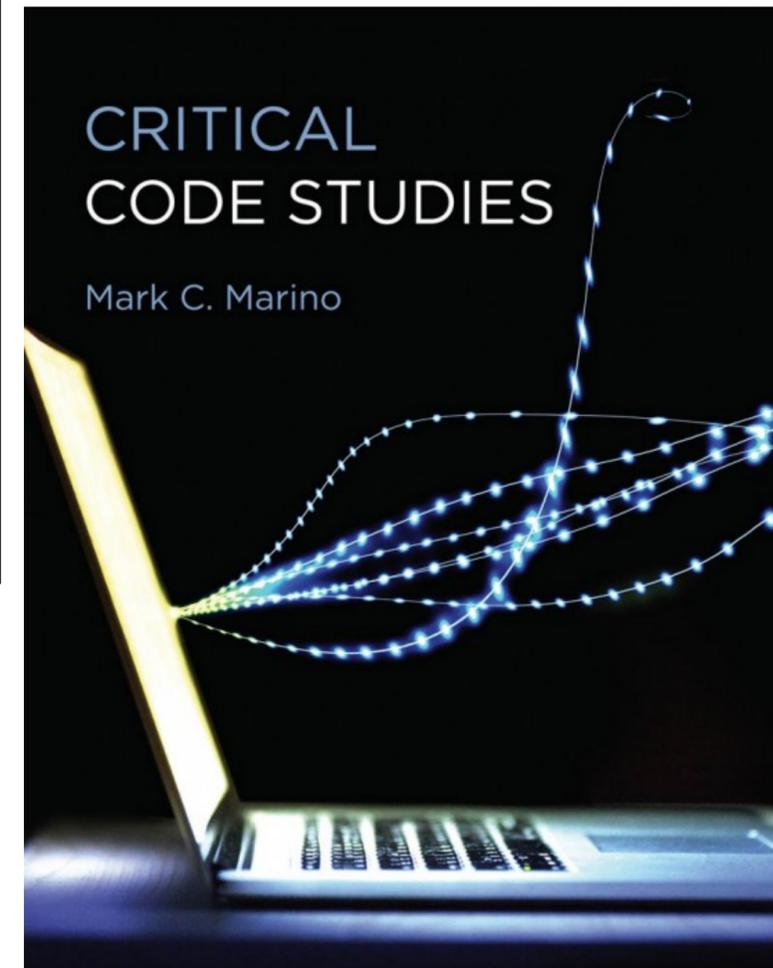
On *Twelve Easy Lessons to Better Time
Travel*

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Reading the Wind

- 2006 and 2020



Critical Code Studies

- “I would like to propose that we no longer speak of the code as a text in metaphorical terms, but that **we begin to analyze and explicate code as a text**, as a sign system with its own rhetoric, as verbal communication that possesses significance in excess of its functional utility.”
- “In effect, **I am proposing that we can read and explicate code the way we might explicate a work of literature** in a new field of inquiry that I call Critical Code Studies (CCS).”
- —Mark C. Marino, *electronic book review* (2006)
- <http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/electropoetics/codology>

Critical Code Studies

- “Critical Code Studies (CCS) is an approach that applies critical hermeneutics to the interpretation of computer code, program architecture, and documentation within a socio-historical context.”
- “Like literary analysis, **CCS is an interpretive process** rather than an instrumentally proscriptive or solely descriptive process”
- —Mark C. Marino, *electronic book review* (2006)

Discussion

- Read as a separate groups and come back to share experiences and surprises:
 - What did you notice while holding the book and reading?
 - What did you notice while watching someone else hold the book and read?

Take aways/questions?