Course number and section:  ENGL 493M.101
Course Topic: Topics in Popular Culture: The Flash-Based Archive of Interactive Documentary in Canada
Credits: 3
Term: 2019, Winter, T2 (Jan-Apr, 2020); Schedule: Tues/Thurs, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM in ART-210
Course Instructor: Daniel Keyes

Course Description
This course focuses on a few of the 41 interactive documentary [idocs] produced by the National Film Board of Canada [NFB] on the Adobe Flash platform between 2008 and 2014 during Stephen Harper prime ministerial era in federal politics (2006-2015). These Adobe Flash-based idocs like Gods’ Lake Narrows (2011), Welcome to Pine Point (2011), Soldier Brother (2011), Bear 71 (2012), Similkameen Crossroads (2013), Fort McMoney (2013-14), and Bubble Dancers (2014) offer glimpses into how this institution shaped representations of Canada for Canadians to access on their computers and smart phones. Sometime in 2020, Adobe promises it will remove all support for its hacker vulnerable Flash player, meaning these idocs will be inaccessible. This course explores issues relating to this disappearing archive of “new” old media.

Tentative Reading List: Over the term, we will spend time with each of these NFB idocs:

- Waterlife (2009)  
- Out My Window [Highrise] (2009)  
- Gods’ Lake Narrows (2011)  
- Welcome to Pine Point (2011)  
- Soldier Brother (2011)

- Bear 71 (2012)  
- Similkameen Crossroads (2013)  
- Fort McMoney (2013-14)  
- Bubble Dancers (2014)

A Few of the Readings:

Other Information
Assignments: Seminar Presentation, two short essays, research project.
Cross-listing: This course is cross listed with a graduate level course and CULT. Should ENGL 493 become full, contact daniel.keyes@ubc.ca so he can squeeze you into the class.