

# Such Things Were To Be Seen



## Accident Forensics and Audio-Visual Media

A public talk by **Greg Siegel**  
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Modern life is recurrently troubled by all manner of accidents and failures, its daily rhythms subject to violent interruption from myriad technological mishaps and malfunctions. This talk examines how high-speed cinematography, voice and data recorders, and other “forensic media” (as I call them) have been adapted and employed to anatomize, rationalize, narrativize, and mythologize technological accidents. On the one hand, simulated accidents are today meticulously orchestrated in order to technically register and measure them as they happen; on the other hand, real accidents are methodically investigated in order to logically reconstruct them after the fact. In both cases, accidents become objects of scientific and governmental inquiry—and of popular imagination—through devices and practices of forensic mediation. In this talk, I emphasize the strategic role played by forensic media in the shaping of modern perceptions of accidents and failures, and in the fabulation of a future-oriented ethos of safety and protection.

Thursday, October 8, 4 - 6 pm, Innis College, Room 222



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