

CURRICULUM VITAE

Brecken Hunter Wellborn, PhD Candidate
brecken.wellborn@utdallas.edu | breckenhunterwellborn.com

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Visual and Performing Arts

Expected May 2026

University of Texas at Dallas, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology

Dissertation: "Millennial Pop Camp: Gay Politics & Hollywood Genre Films of the 1990s and 2000s"

Committee: Shilyh Warren, Chair, Ashley Barnes, Anne Gray Fischer, Sean Griffin, Adrienne L. McLean

Master of Arts, Media Industry & Critical Studies

December 2018

University of North Texas, Department of Media Arts

Thesis: "Musicals and the Margins: African-Americans, Women, and Queerness in the Twenty-First Century American Musical"

Committee: Harry M. Benshoff, Chair, Jennifer Porst, Jacqueline Ryan Vickery

Bachelor of Arts, Integrative Studies, Summa Cum Laude

May 2016

University of North Texas, College of Arts & Sciences

Associate of Arts

May 2014

Collin County Community College District

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

"I Like to Watch: Camp Spectatorship & Queer Communion in Meta-Camp." In *The Oxford Handbook of Camp and Screen Cultures*, edited by Barbara Jane Brickman and Katrin Horn. Oxford University Press, Expected 2027.

"Claws & Queer Fantasy: The Queer Power of Contemporary Television Narrative." In *New Queer Television: from Marginalization to Mainstreamification*, edited by Thomas Brassington, Debra Ferreday, and Dany Girard. Intellect Books, 2025.

"Fans, Gender, and the Sequel: Analyzing Audience Reactions to *The Legend of Korra*." In *The Avatar Television Franchise: Storytelling, Identity, Trauma, and Fandom*, edited by Francis M. Agnoli. Bloomsbury, 2023.

CITED IN

Loring, Nicole. “‘Then Everything Changed when the Fire Nation Attacked’: Depictions of Imperialism and Domestic Terrorism in *Avatar: The Last Airbender* and *The Legend of Korra*.” In *Terrorism in Youth Popular Culture: Teaching the Next Generation from the Cold War to the Present*, edited by Martin Claar and Clint W. Jones. Bloomsbury, 2024.

Zaglewski, Tomasz. *Neon Knight Forever: The Legacy of Joel Schumacher’s Batman Duology*. Bloomsbury, 2023.

ACADEMIC MEDIA REVIEWS

“*Black Is King*: Beyoncé’s Authorial Morals.” *The Quint* 13, no. 2 (2021).

“*That’s So Raven* (2003-2007).” *The Popular Culture Studies Journal* 8, no. 2 (2020).

“*Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* (2018-Present).” *The Popular Culture Studies Journal* 7, no. 2 (2019).

SELECTED POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

“Oscar-Nominated *Close* Powerfully Depicts the Pressures Queer Kids Face.” *Collider*. Valnet Publishing Group, 2023.

“How *Bros* Unpacks the Everyday Effects of Internalized Homophobia.” *Collider*. Valnet Publishing Group, 2022.

“*High School Musical 2* Remains the Best of the Trilogy by Fully Embracing Camp.” *Collider*. Valnet Publishing Group, 2022.

“Why *Batman and Robin*’s Poison Ivy Is the Definitive Camp Supervillain.” *Collider*. Valnet Publishing Group, 2022.

AWARDS & HONORS

Harry W. Bass Jr. Graduate Travel Award, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2025.

Membership Fee Waiver, The Precarious Labor Organization, Society for Cinema & Media Studies (SCMS), 2025.

Harry W. Bass Jr. Graduate Research Award, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2024.

Betty & Gifford Johnson Travel Award, Office of Graduate Education, University of Texas at Dallas, 2024.

Outstanding Graduate Student Award (PhD Level), Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2023.

First Place, Poetry, Robert Bone Memorial Creative Writing Contest, *Reunion: The Dallas Review*, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2022.

Graduate Student Assembly Travel Award, Graduate Student Assembly, University of Texas at Dallas, 2022.

Victor Worsfold Teaching Assistant of the Year, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2022.

Mabel H. Bremer Travel Award, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas, 2022.

Supervisor of the Year, Career Center, University of North Texas, 2020.

INVITED APPEARANCES

“Queer Theory: Butler & *Bent*.” Invited Guest Lecture for Visual and Performing Arts Proseminar, University of Texas at Dallas, October 21, 2025.

Lavender Graduation Keynote Address. Invited Keynote for Student Government’s Lavender Graduation, University of Texas at Dallas, December 6, 2024.

“Camping Pastiche: Postmodernity, Camp, and *Scream*.” Invited Guest Lecture for Introduction to Film, Media, and Performing Arts, Fashion Institute of Technology, November 15, 2024.

“‘I Marketed Subversive Drag to One Hundred Million Mother—’: Mainstream Televisual Drag.” Invited Guest Lecture for the FIT LGBTQ+ Alliance, Fashion Institute of Technology, November 15, 2024.

“Trans, Trans*, and Transnational TV.” Invited Guest Lecture for Transnational Film and Video, University of Texas at Dallas, April 11, 2024.

“Queer Theory: Butler, Sedgwick, and de Lauretis.” Invited Guest Lecture for Visual and Performing Arts Proseminar, University of Texas at Dallas, March 6, 2024.

“Queering Film: An Introduction to LGBTQ+ Film Analysis.” Invited Workshop Leader, Meteor Theater, University of Texas at Dallas, March 24, 2023.

Meteor Theater Presents *The Whale*. Invited Discussion Leader, Meteor Theater, University of Texas at Dallas, March 22, 2023.

Book Talk: *All for Beauty: Makeup and Hairdressing in Hollywood's Studio Era* by Adrienne L. McLean. Invited Panelist, University of Texas at Dallas, October 12, 2022.

Teach-In: *Equity in the Classroom*. Invited Respondent, University of Texas at Dallas, September 23, 2022.

"Black Panther: Afro-Futurism & Super-Narratives." Invited Guest Lecture for Introduction to Literature, University of Texas at Dallas, November 10, 2021.

"Collaborative Vision-Making: Developing & Writing as a Team." Invited Guest Speaker, Women in Cinema Club, University of North Texas, April 28, 2021.

"Sonic Black Formation: Beyoncé." Invited Guest Lecture for Women in Film, University of North Texas, October 24, 2019.

"Fabricating Media, Mediating Fabric." Invited Moderator, Mediating Change Conference, University of North Texas, November 2, 2018.

"Trans Micro-Celebrity on YouTube: Identity in the Videos of Gigi Gorgeous." Invited Guest Lecture for Gender & Digital Cultures, University of North Texas, October 26, 2017.

Invited Guest Speaker, Media Arts Living Learning Community Movie Nights, University of North Texas, 2017-2021. Selected talks:

- "Slashers & Sequels: *H20 & Halloween*," October 15, 2021.
- "Post-Feminism, Camp, and Queer Fantasy in *Burlesque*," April 10, 2020.
- "Blockbuster Superhero Foundations in *X-Men*," April 26, 2019.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

AS ORGANIZER/COORDINATOR

RAW: Research, Art, and Writing Conference, University of Texas at Dallas, February 12, 2022.

AS ORGANIZING ASSISTANT

Global Cinema Symposium. University of Texas at Dallas, November 1-2, 2024.

AS PANEL CHAIR

Horror's Queers/Queers' Horror. Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Boston, Massachusetts, March 13-17, 2024.

AS PRESENTER

“Camp Super-Divas: Gays Spectators & The Superhero Blockbuster.” The Hollywood Conference (HWC), Los Angeles, California, July 17-20, 2025.

“The Slasher Gaze: Queering the Slasher.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, March 13-17, 2024.

“*Paris Is Burning*: Exceeding Ethnography.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Denver, Colorado, April 12-15, 2023.

“*Hustlers* & Postfeminism: Confrontation & Continuation.” Literature Film Association (LFA), New Orleans, Louisiana, October 20-22, 2022.

“Aspirational Wokeness & Aspirational Labor in HBO Max’s *And Just Like That...*” University of Central Oklahoma International Gender & Sexuality Studies Conference, Oklahoma City, September 29-October 1, 2022.

“*Portrait of a Lady on Fire*: Haunted by Marriage.” Console-ing Passions Feminist Media Studies Conference, Virtual, June 23-25, 2022.

“*Van Helsing*’s Eugenic Legacy.” Popular/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), Virtual, April 13-16, 2022.

“Fans, Gender, and the Sequel: Audience Reactions to *The Legend of Korra*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Virtual, March 31-April 3, 2022.

“*Claws* & Queer Fantasy: The Queer Power of Contemporary Television Narrative.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Virtual, March 17-21, 2021.

“The Queerstige Picture: Visibility, Intimacy, and Sexuality in *Call Me by Your Name* (2017).” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association (SWPACA), Virtual, February 22-26, 2021.

“‘You Do Realize That’s Your Brother?’: Sex & Social Siblings on *Friends* (1994-2004).” Siblings on Stage, Page, and Screen, Virtual, January 16, 2021.

“Cheetah Sisters: Post-Feminist Diversity & Girlhood in the ‘Tween-TV Musical’ Subgenre.” Literature Film Association (LFA); Portland, Oregon, September 12-14, 2019.

“Irrepressible: The Multiple Returns of *Halloween* in Horror Cinema.” Popular/American Culture Association (PCA/ACA), Washington, D.C., April 17-20, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

AS TEACHING ASSOCIATE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, 2022-PRESENT

INTRODUCTORY COURSES

Transnational Film & Video

Semesters as Instructor of Record: Fall 2025 (In-Person), Summer 2025 (Online)

Course Description: This course serves as an introduction to films and videos as forms of modern human cultural expression and understanding. A wide range of films and videos about humans and their diverse experiences around the globe will be explored. Themes may include love, loss, memory, migration, history, nation, and globalization.

Understanding Film

Semesters as Instructor of Record: Spring 2026 (In-Person), Spring 2025 (In-Person), Summer 2024 (In-Person), Spring 2024 (In-Person), Fall 2023 (In-Person), Spring 2023 (In-Person), Fall 2022 (In-Person), Spring 2022 (In-Person)

Course Description: This course introduces students to the various formal elements of cinematic language, including narrative, editing, cinematography, and more. This course also introduces students to the practice of film analysis, allowing students to critically think about film in terms of ideology, culture, and politics.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES

Film Authorship – Queer(ed) US Cinema

Semesters as Instructor of Record: Fall 2024 (In-Person)

Course Description: “What makes a film *queer* and how can cinema be *queered*?” are the guiding questions that shape this course. The goal is for students to reframe their understanding of queer US cinema by exploring the ways in which queerness functions as a form of authorship and reframe their understanding of authorship by exploring how queer spectators, stars, and representations author cinematic meaning.

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, 2021

U.S. Women from Settlement to Present

Semesters as TA: Fall 2021 (Hybrid)

Course Description: This course critically analyzes gender history through women’s lived experiences, from colonial North America to the contemporary United States. This course examines how women’s history provides a crucial perspective on a broader American history and demonstrates how diverse groups of women have worked to influence ideologies, culture, and policies throughout U.S. history.

AS ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS, 2019-2021

Introduction to Media Arts Writing

Semesters as Instructor of Record: Spring 2021 (Online), Summer 2020 (Online), Spring 2020 (Online), Fall 2019 (Online)

Course Description: This course provides students with an introduction to methodologies, techniques, and formats applicable to writing for visual media. This course will utilize visual writing (the primary mode of artistic writing emphasized in the course) to guide students through

producing original scripts while providing constructive critiques and feedback on both professional materials and the work of classmates online. Media formats explored include news packages, commercials, narrative and non-narrative film, digital media, and more.

HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

Student Success Coordinator

The Learning Center, University of North Texas, 2017-2021

- Supervised student staff and coordinated academic support services
- Designed and presented research-based and development-focused training curriculum
- Collaborated with other departments and programs on campus
- Presented outreach presentations across campus for both faculty members and organizations

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Cosmic Film Festival. Invited Judge, Meteor Theater, University of Texas at Dallas, April 10, 2025.

Cosmic Film Festival. Invited Judge, Meteor Theater, University of Texas at Dallas, April 30, 2024.

Screening the Art of Drag. Event Coordinator, Shot/Reverse Shot Film Screening Series, University of Texas at Dallas, October 25, 2023, November 1, 2023.

Equity & Diversity Conference. Invited Proposal Reviewer, University of North Texas, November 2019.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & ASSOCIATIONS

Society for Cinema & Media Studies (SCMS)

Popular Culture Association (PCA)