

CURRICULUM VITAE

Brecken Hunter Wellborn, PhD

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Visual and Performing Arts

May 2026, Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology, University of Texas at Dallas
Dissertation: “Millennial Pop Camp: Gay Politics & Hollywood Genre Films of the 1990s and 2000s”

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

Master of Arts, Media Industry & Critical Studies

December 2018, Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas

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, College of Arts & Sciences University of North Texas

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 (forthcoming 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, 192-196. 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, 225-239. 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.

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.

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

“Mother Nature’s Monstrous Mothers: The Intrusion of Gaia and Revenge of Nature Films in the 1990s.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 26-29, 2026.

“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 LECTURER, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, 2026-PRESENT

Understanding Film, Introductory Course

Semesters as Instructor of Record: Fall 2026 (In-Person; Online)

AS TEACHING ASSOCIATE, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, 2022-2026

Film Authorship – Queer(ed) US Cinema, Upper-Division Course

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

Transnational Film & Video, Introductory Course

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

Understanding Film, Introductory Course

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)

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS, 2021

U.S. Women from Settlement to Present, Introductory Course

Semesters as TA: Fall 2021 (Hybrid)

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

Introduction to Media Arts Writing, Introductory Course

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

HIGHER EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

Student Success Coordinator

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

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)