

Desirae Embree

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EDUCATION

- In Progress **PhD, Texas A&M University, English**
Graduate Certificate in Film Studies, Spring 2018
Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, Fall 2017
- Committee: Anne Morey (chair), Daniel Humphrey, Mary Ann O'Farrell, Vanita Reddy
- 2012-15 **BA, Texas A&M University, Philosophy and French**
Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa

AREAS OF FOCUS

Film history and theory
Queer cinema
Gender and sexuality studies
Pornography studies
Videographic criticism

PUBLICATIONS

“*Carol* (Todd Haynes, 2015).” *Screening American Cinema*, ed. Gary Needham, Routledge, 2019. (Forthcoming.)

Book Reviews:

Review of *Disposable Passions: Vintage Pornography and the Material Legacies of Adult Cinema*, David Church. *Screening Sex* blog, screeningsex.com. (Forthcoming.)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

LGBT Studies Research Fellowship. Yale University. Spring 2018.

Phil Zwickler Memorial Research Grant. Cornell University. Spring 2018.

Glasscock Graduate Research Fellowship. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University. Spring 2018.

Dissertation Research Enhancement Award. Department of English, Texas A&M University. Spring 2018.

Professional Development Award, Department of English, Texas A&M University. Spring 2018.

Graduate Student Research and Presentation Grant. Office of Graduate and Professional Studies and the Association of Former Students, Texas A&M University. Spring 2018.

Aggies Commit Mini-Grant for Innovative Programming. Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, Texas A&M University. Fall 2017.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Feature Essays

“Pre-College Philosophy Summer Camp at Texas A&M.” Co-authored with Dr. Claire Katz. *PLATO: Philosophy Learning and Teaching Organization*. 14 August 2016.

“A Different (and Better) Shade of Grey: Reconsidering 9 ½ Weeks,” *PopMatters*, 25 August 2015. Feature article. 2000 words.

“Gone but Not Forgotten: Remembering Valentino 89 Years after His Death,” *Vague Visages*, 23 August 2015. Feature article. 1600 words.

“Choosing the Dollhouse,” with Jade Degrio. Joss Whedon Roundtable, *The Hooded Utilitarian*, 19 June 2015. 2000 words.

Interviews

“Feral Creator Morgan Jon Fox on Telling One’s Own Story,” *PopMatters*, 16 October 2016. Interview with indie filmmaker and showrunner of the queer coming-of-age series *Feral*. 1700 words.

“It Sort of Evolved”: An Interview with *Unplanned America*’s Pawel ‘Parv’ Jarecki,” *PopMatters*, 26 October 2015. Interview with reality road show host and creator. 3200 words.

Reviews

Weekly reviews of Lee Daniels’ *Empire*, Season 2, September-May 2016.

“Feral: Season 1,” *PopMatters*, 11 October 2016. Television series review. 1326 words.

“If You’re Suspicious of the Pitch, Read Elisabeth Bronfen’s *Mad Men, Death, and the American Dream*.” *PopMatters*. 31 August 2016. Book review. 1030 words.

“*Fantastic Planets, Forbidden Zones, and Lost Continents* Ranks 100 Greatest Sci-Fi Films,” *PopMatters*, 25 January 2016. Book review. 746 words.

“Silent Film Speaks Up: Newly Restored Chaplin Comedies Elicit New Laughs.” *PopMatters*. 12 January 2016. DVD review. 1333 words.

“*Cruising the Movies* Is as Entertaining as the Movies It Looks At.” *PopMatters*. 11 January 2016. Book review. 1500 words.

“Library of America Rethinks Women’s Crime Fiction with New Box Set.” *PopMatters*. 3 December 2015. Book review. 1281 words.

“Don’t Believe the Hype: *Magic Mike XXL* Is No Big Deal,” *PopMatters*, 06 October 2015. DVD review. 895 words.

“A Practically Impossible Friendship: The 25th Anniversary Collector’s Edition of *The Bear*,” *PopMatters*, 5 October 2015. DVD review. 1000 words.

“*Growing Up Trans* Offers a Nuanced and Often Positive Look at Transgender Youths,” *PopMatters*, 10 September 2015. DVD review. 1307 words.

EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

Associate Film Editor, *PopMatters*. Jan 2016-Jan 2017.

Copyeditor. *The Trial That Never Ends: Hannah Arendt’s Eichmann in Jerusalem in Retrospect*. Eds. Richard J. Golsan and Sarah M. Misemer, University of Toronto Press, 2017.

Copyeditor and Indexer. *Kierkegaard’s Fear and Trembling: A Critical Guide*. Ed. Daniel Conway, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND COURSES

Advanced Graduate Seminar in Oral History Methods
Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, May 13-16 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

“Preserving Pornographic Media.” Roundtable convener and participant. Flow Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX, September 27-29, 2018.

“Lacanian/Slash Lesbian-Bar,” Videographic Criticism Seminar, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 14-18, 2018.

“Scissoring and Cinema’s Lesbian Imaginary,” Roundtable, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 14-18, 2018.

“Investigating *Carol*: Lesbian Representability and the Status of Intradiegetic Sound,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL, March 22-26, 2016.

“Why Host a Philosophy Camp for Teens? A Dispatch from the Aggie School of Athens.” American Philosophical Association Eastern Division, Baltimore, MD, January 5, 2017. Co-presented with Dr. Claire Katz, Texas A&M University.

“Rethinking the Politics of Representation.” Roundtable participant. Flow Conference, University of Texas at Austin, September 15-17, 2016.

“Strange Bedfellows: Pornography, The Woman’s Film, and *50 Shades of Grey*.” *Film & History* Conference, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, November 4-8, 2015.

“A Theory of One’s Own: Simone de Beauvoir and a Certain Kind of Writing,” People in Support of Women in Philosophy’s 9th Annual Symposium, The New School, May 8-10, 2014.

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

History of film
Theories of media
History of pornography
Women’s and gender studies
Queer theory
Adaptation

TEACHING POSITIONS

Department of English, Texas A&M University, Graduate Assistant Teacher, 2015-present.

ENGL/FILM 356 Film and Literature (2 Sections): Designed and taught an upper-level course on theories of adaptation using the Bluebeard tradition as a case study. Students considered a variety of adaptations beyond novel-to-film, including a tabletop roleplaying game that adapts the Bluebeard literary tradition in an immersive roleplay experience. Students participated in their own games and learned to translate their own experience as consumers of media into rigorous scholarly observations about the adaptational process.

ENGL 203 Writing About Literature – And Film! (4 Sections): Designed and taught an introductory course that emphasized analysis and composition, giving equal weight to both literature and film. We focused on the medium-specific differences between literature and film, as well as the different conceptual and rhetorical tools needed to argue about them.

ENGL 203 Writing About Literature – The Utopian Mode as Social Critique (1 section): Designed and taught an introductory course that emphasized analysis of literature, film, and television, as well as the composition of arguments about them. We focused on the textual mediation of social life.

ENGL 104 Composition and Rhetoric (3 sections): Designed and taught a course that covered critical thinking, principles of good reasoning, argumentation, scholarly research, and written communication.

ENGL 210 Technical Writing (3 sections): Taught an online course that covered professional and technical writing including resumes and cover letters, memos and emails, proposals, reports, and recommendations.

Instructor, Aggie School of Athens, Philosophy for Children Summer Camp, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, 2015-present.

2018 Summer Camp, “Democracy, Literacy, and Education”: Assisted in designing the curriculum for both middle and high school sections of the week-long camp, including partnering with the campus archival library for an immersive day of book-making.

2017 Summer Camp, “Philosophical Worlds”: Assisted in designing the curriculum for both middle and high school sections of the week-long camp. Taught one section on Simone de Beauvoir and gender with a section of high school girls.

2016 Summer Camp, “Aggie School of Athens”: Assisted in designing the curriculum for both middle and high school sections of the week-long camp. Taught sections on aesthetics, epistemology, and social and political philosophy in the high school section.

Guest Lectures

ENGL 203 Writing About Literature: “Adaptation and *The Tempest* (Julie Taymor 2010).” 2018

ENGL 356 Arthurian Lit: “*Arthur* (Guy Ritchie 2017) and Writing About Film.” 2018.

FILM 351 Advanced Film: “*The Third Man* and Film as Heterotopia.” 2016.

FILM 299 History of Film: “*Double Indemnity* and the Femme Fatale.” 2016.

FILM 299 History of Film: “Conventions of Film Noir.” 2016.

SERVICE

Committees and Department Service

Chair, Fasken Graduate Student Teaching Award, Spring 2018. Chaired a committee tasked with awarding outstanding graduate student teaching within the College of Liberal Arts.

Co-President, English Graduate Student Association, 2017-18. Organized monthly meetings and helped to develop programming relevant to graduate student needs and interests, including colloquia on writing seminar papers, professionalizing as a scholarly-activist, and more.

Convener, Film Studies Working Group, 2017-present. Organized monthly meetings, including scheduling and publicity, as well as brought an invited speaker to discuss innovative research methods with the group.

Organizer, Texas A&M First Generation Academics, 2017-present. Founded a support group for first-generation college students seeking advanced degrees. Helped to organize meetings, provide resources, and put first-generation graduate students in contact with first-generation faculty mentors.

First-Year Graduate Student Mentor, 2016-2018.

Symposiums, Colloquiums, and Panels

“Media Studies in Transition: Two Conversations with Dr. Drew Morton,” colloquium and invited talk. Invited and organized Dr. Morton’s visit, including funding, logistics, and publicity. Texas A&M University, 4-5 April 2018.

“Graduate Workshop on Professionalizing as a Scholarly Activist,” graduate workshop with invited speaker. Invited and organized event, including funding, logistics, and publicity. Texas A&M University, 20 March 2018.

“Academic Freedom and Scholarly Activism,” symposium. Invited speakers and organized event, including funding, logistics, and publicity. Texas A&M University, 20 March 2018.

Panelist following *To Sir, With Love* (James Clavell 1967) film screening, Texas A&M University, 15 November 2017.

Panelist following *The Graduate* (Mike Nichols 1967) film screening, Texas A&M University, 1 November 2017.

Panelist following *Carol* (Todd Haynes 2016) film screening, sponsored by the Film Studies Program, Texas A&M University, 27 April 2016.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant Researcher, Department of English, Texas A&M University, Supervisor: Dr. Vanita Reddy. Assisted in the evaluation and organization of archival documents related to a book project.

Graduate Assistant Researcher, Department of English, Texas A&M University, Supervisor: Dr. Shona Jackson. Assisted in the research and development of a graduate course in contemporary theoretical methodologies. Summer 2017.

Graduate Assistant Researcher, P4C Texas Philosophy for Children Program, Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M University, Supervisor: Dr. Claire Katz. Played an instrumental role in the development and expansion of the Philosophy for Children program, including administrative tasks, social media management and publicity, and the facilitation of pedagogy workshops for faculty, graduate students, and area educators. 2016-present.

REFERENCES

Anne Morey
Associate Professor of English
Texas A&M University
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Daniel Humphrey
Associate Professor of Film
and Women’s and Gender Studies
Texas A&M University
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Vanita Reddy

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Peter Alilunas

Assistant Professor of Media Studies
University of Oregon
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