

STEPHANIE BROWN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS: critical and cultural studies of television and new media, comedy studies, gender and women's studies, industry studies, media production, fan and audience studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Media and Communications *May 2017*

Minor Concentration: Gender and Women's Studies

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Dissertation title: "Open Mic? Gender, Authenticity and Gatekeeping in Stand-Up Comedy Aesthetics and Culture"

Committee: CL Cole, Cameron McCarthy, Julie Turnock, Angharad Valdivia (Chair)

M.A. Television, Radio, and Film *May 2008*

S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

B.A. English *May 2007*

Minor: Telecommunications

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

TEACHING

Popular Culture *Fall 2017*

Instructor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Instructor of record for upper-level media studies course of 40 students
- Redesigned website and syllabus from previous iteration of course to center student input, draw on current events, and give students more space in which to revise writing and master material in low stakes settings before being put into high stakes grading and testing situations

Sex and Gender in Popular Media *Fall 2016 - Spring 2017*

Instructor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Co-instructor of record for upper-level media studies class of 80 students cross listed in Gender and Women's Studies taken by a variety of majors from across the university
- Design innovative syllabus that stressed media practice in addition to gender, feminist and queer theory including several blog assignments and final podcast group project
- Utilize classroom technology and instructional web tools to meet student learning goals including iClicker, Blackboard, and Google Slides

Sex and Gender in Popular Media (Online Course)*Summer 2016/Winter 2016***Teaching Assistant**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Graded online message board discussions, quizzes, and weekly writing assignments for an online summer course.
- Maintained course web portal and fixed technical issues
- Wrote several lectures, assisted writing reading quizzes, communicated with students

Introduction to Popular Film and Television*Spring 2016***Head Teaching Assistant**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Led 3 discussion sections of introductory media studies course of 30 students each
- Facilitated and helped guide fellow teaching assistants with little previous teaching experience with planning their sections
- Clarified group projects, writing assignments, and class material with students through use of technology, additional media examples, and group discussion
- Drew on media production background to assist students with final video projects

Popular Culture*Fall 2015***Instructor**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Instructor of record for upper-level media studies course of 50 students
- Designed syllabus and created innovative web writing assignments to supplement tests and final research paper
- Created website which contained all course information and a blog to which students contributed to throughout the semester

Media Literacy*Fall 2013 – Spring 2015***Instructor**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Instructor of record for intro level media studies course of 15-25 students
- Designed syllabus and revised each semester to strengthen pedagogical aims taking into consideration student feedback and effectiveness of teaching strategies

Introduction to Popular Film and Television*Summer 2014***Instructor**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Instructor of record for intensive four -week summer course of 30 students
- Redesigned semester syllabus and video production project to adhere to time constraints of summer course

Introduction to Popular Film and Television*Fall 2012- Spring 2013***Teaching Assistant**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Responsible for grading 100 students weekly writing assignments and final projects in an entry level course of 300 students
- Met once a week with professor and teaching assistants to plan assignments, class projects, and tests

The Wire: A Case Study*Spring 2008***Teaching Assistant**, Syracuse University

- Graded assignments, took attendance, helped lead discussion in an upper-level television studies course that examined social, cultural, and political issues through the lens of HBO's *The Wire*.

Advanced Filmmaking*Spring 2008***Teaching Assistant**, Syracuse University

- Graded assignments, took attendance, assisted in producing student projects in senior capstone class in which students wrote, shot, and edited a short film
- Planned and facilitated film festival showcasing students' final projects

MENTORSHIP and TRAINING**Graduate Mentor,****Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program***Fall 2016 – present*

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Guide an undergraduate student apprentice through their own research project related to my dissertation work
- Oversee apprentice's final research presentation at the University's Undergraduate Research Symposium at the close of the semester
- Completed university mentorship certificate program

Graduate Teacher Certificate*Fall 2017***Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning**

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Earned certificate through the CITL designed to develop graduate student teaching skills and reflective practice
- Attended over 6 hours of teaching workshops, participated in a teaching assistant pedagogy reading group, collected and used informal early feedback and end-of-year feedback, was observed teaching twice by CITL consultants, and participated in graduate assistant teacher orientation

Participant, Writing Across the Curriculum Seminar*Spring 2017*

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Attended 2-day workshop aimed at strengthening writing instruction in undergraduate courses throughout the university
- Workshopped assignments, read and discussed scholarship on rubric and assignment design, and learned best practices in commenting on and evaluating writing
- Nominated by head of my department to participate

Writing Partner, Education Justice Project*Fall 2013 – Spring 2015*

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Provided writing assistance and instructional support 8-10 evenings per semester to students taking University of Illinois courses at Danville Correctional Center, a medium-security prison 40 minutes from campus
- Trained in best practices in teaching and evaluating writing through the Writing Center
- Worked with diverse, non-traditional students with wide ranging educational backgrounds, ages, and skill levels

PUBLICATIONS

"#BaysDecision: Millennial Fandom and the Failures of *Switched at Birth's* Sexual Assault Education Campaign" *Transformative Works and Cultures*, Special Issue on Social TV Fandom and the Media Industries. Forthcoming March 2018.

"TV Critics and Taste Culture, Or Why Everyone Ignored Oxygen's *Funny Girls*," *Flow Journal* 23.05. 27 March 2017.

<http://www.flowjournal.org/2017/03/why-everyone-ignored-funny-girls/>

"Post-Truth, Satire, and Postmodern Critique," *In Media Res*. 31. Jan 2017. <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2017/01/28/post-truth-satire-and-postmodern-critique>

"That's Not Funny! Cultural Capital and Comedic Critique," *In Media Res*. 6 June 2016. <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2016/06/06/s-not-funny-cultural-capital-and-comedic-critique>

Book Review, *Women and Comedy: History, Theory, Practice*, edited by Peter Dickinson, Anne Higgins, Paul Matthew St. Pierre, Diana Solomon, and Sean Zwagerman. *Studies in American Humor*. Fall 2016.

Book Review, *Digital Labor: The Internet as Factory and Playground*, edited by Trebor Scholz. *Transformative Works and Cultures*. Vol 15 (2014).

Research in Progress

"Overexposed": The Intersection of Fame and Feminism in Amy Schumer's Sketch Comedy, Sending out for review

CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

"Performing Vulnerability in 'Dark Basements Full of Angry Men': Female Stand-Up Comics, Objectification and Bodily Autonomy," The Aesthetics and Ethics of Stand-up Comedy Conference, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, April 2017.

"Screening Sexual Assault on *Switched At Birth*: Network Branding and the Cultural Work of Teen Dramas," Console-ing Passions Feminist Media Studies Conference, Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, June 2016.

"The Pleasures and Perils of Humor Scholarship," Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Workshop Participant. Atlanta GA, March 2016.

“Gendered Taste Cultures and Comedic Distinction: Or Why Nobody watched Oxygen’s *Funny Girls*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Atlanta, GA, March 2016.

“Critical Film Studies: *Community as Pop Culture Pedagogy*,” on the panel
“#SixSeasonsAndAMovie: *Community* and/as Television’s Past, Present and Future,”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Panel Organizer and Panelist.
Montreal, Canada, March 2015.

“Graduate Student Teaching: Politics and Practical Advice,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Workshop Participant. Montreal, Canada, March 2015

“Constructing, Deconstructing, Reconstructing: Mental Disorders, the Self, and Identity,” National Communication Association Conference, Roundtable Participant. Chicago, IL, November 2014

“Points!: How Comedy Central’s *@Midnight* Is Winning Television Late-Night Through Social Media Fan Engagement,” Film and History Conference. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, October 2014

“Reconsidering Formal Analysis,” Roundtable Participant and Convener, FLOW Television Conference. University of Texas, Austin, TX, September 2014.

“It’s OK, Some of my Best Friends are Comedians: The Rape Joke Debate, Authority, and Feminist Comedic Credibility.” Console-ing Passions Feminist Media Studies Conference, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO, April 2014.

“ ‘A Waiting Room that Doesn’t Suck: Negotiations of Agency, Authenticity, and Community in *The Mental Illness Happy Hour* Podcast,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Seattle, WA, March 2014

“Mockupy Wallstreet: *The Daily Show*, Social Activism, and The Limits of Mainstream Political Satire,” The Union for Democratic Communications Conference. University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA, October 2013.

“ ‘It’s My Way ‘Til Payday,’ Audience and Excess and on *30 Rock*’s ‘Queen of Jordan,’” Reality GenderVision: A Conference on Sexuality and Gender on Reality. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, April 2013.

“Mockupy Wallstreet: Protest, Dissent, and The Limits of Mainstream Satire,” Neoliberalism 2.0: Technologies, Power, and Resistance Across Border. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL, April 2013.

SERVICE AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Scholarly Interest Group Graduate Representative

Summer 2017-present

Humor and Comedy Studies SIG, Society for Cinema and Media Studies

- Nominated and elected by the members of the group to serve for a two-year term representing and advocating for the interests of graduate student
- Created and run SIG website (<https://scmscomedysig.wixsite.com/main>), and run social media accounts including Facebook and Twitter
- Assist in planning for yearly SIG meeting and SIG outing during the SCMS conference and judging annual graduate student essay prize

Doctoral Cohort Representative

Fall 2015-Spring 2016

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Represented my doctoral cohort at department meetings and served as a liaison between department heads and my classmates.
- Helped plan annual mini-workshop for department and graduate students

Research Coordinator, Education Justice Project

Spring 2015

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Served as a coordinator for group of conducting and sharing research in conjunction with EJP, an organization working to build a model college-in-prison program that demonstrates the positive impacts of higher education upon incarcerated people, their families, the communities
- Coordinated meetings of the EJP Research Group, updated EJP research policy, assembled and led committee to disperse travel grants.

Guest Speaker, "What's Up DOCC? Feminism and Technology"

October 9, 2013

Teaching with Technology Brown Bag

The Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

AWARDS

Haas Dissertation Fellowship

Spring 2016

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent

Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Summer Research Fellowship

2014, 2016

Institute of Communications Research

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Conference Travel Award

2013-2016

Institute of Communications Research

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Co-Founder, Girls Amplified

Fall 2014-Present

- Collaborated with a partner to design and pilot an after-school program for high school girls focused on theater, storytelling, performance, and media literacy.
- Conduct local outreach to partner with teachers and schools to run pilot programs

Producer, Broad Comedy

Fall 2016-Present

- Co-Produce and perform in a bi-weekly stand-up comedy and spoken word open mic whose mission is to increase the diversity of comics in the Champaign-Urbana area.

Associate Producer, Aca-Media Podcast

Spring 2016 – Present

- Assist with the production of monthly podcast produced by the Society for Cinema and Media Studies covering current research in the field and issues in university teaching.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Instructor, Web Design and YouTube Producers

Summer 2017

Camp Galileo, Winnetka, IL

Agents' and President's Assistant

Fall 2009 - Spring 2011

Vox Inc, Los Angeles, CA

Producers' Assistant

Spring - Summer 2009

Sam Hurwitz Productions, Los Angeles, CA

Artist Liaison

Summer - Fall 2008

The New York Television Festival, New York, NY

Production Assistant

Summer 2008

Cupid Pilot-ABC Studios, Long Island, NY

Television Columnist, "Home Viewer."

Fall 2007 - Spring 2008

Table Hopping, Syracuse, NY

REFERENCES

Angharad N. Valdivia, Professor of Media and Cinema Studies

valdivia@illinois.edu | 217-333-1549

Amanda Ciafone, Assistant Professor of Media and Cinema Studies

aciafone@illinois.edu | 217-300-0367

CL Cole, Department Head of Media and Cinema Studies

Professor of Media & Cinema Studies and Gender & Women's Studies

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