

STEPHANIE BROWN

Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication and Media

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Media and Communications

December 2018

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL

Minor Concentration: Gender and Women's Studies

Dissertation title: "Open Mic? Gender and the Meritocratic Myth of Authenticity in the Cultural Production of Stand-Up Comedy."

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

M.A. Television, Radio, and Film

May 2008

S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

B.A. English

May 2007

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

Minor: Telecommunications

TEACHING

West Chester University of Pennsylvania – Visiting Assistant Professor

Media Literacy

Fall 2019

- Integrate innovative grading model into existing class paradigm that emphasizes evidence-based instruction and growth, student self-advocacy, and metacognition.
- Design syllabus that allows students to take control over their learning and to integrate their unique content and production interests into the course.

Media Technology

Fall 2019- Spring 2020

- Teach three sections of 20 students per semester.
- Focus on making students comfortable with audio, video, and photographic production and data visualization technologies in addition to theory and criticism.
- Adapt a flipped classroom model, emphasizing collaboration, feedback, problem-solving, and flexibility.

Comedy and Mass Media

Spring 2020

- Will design a new senior-level seminar based on my comedy research that merges critical media theory, humor theory, and transmedia studies.

Saint Louis University – Visiting Assistant Professor

Film Criticism

Spring 2019

- Chose new textbook and redesigned syllabus to diversify film screenings, to build revision and editing into writing assignments, and to include a focus on film theory and history in addition to contemporary criticism in a 20-student intro level course.

Digital Storytelling

Spring 2019

- Taught rigorous senior seminar that merged ethnographic and visual theory, journalistic storytelling, and digital media production including an audio documentary, a photographic essay, and a video documentary.

Media and Society

Fall 2018- Spring 2019

- Taught three sections of an intermediate discussion-lecture course over two semesters.
- Adapted existing course syllabus to include a final podcast group project focusing on student use of media on campus and to incorporate contemporary screenings, pop culture criticism, and relevant podcasts to supplement textbook readings.
- Planned and executed a campus film screening in conjunction with unit on censorship and filmmaking.

Public Speaking

Fall 2018

- Taught two sections of a 20-student introductory course that focused on confidence in preparation, writing, and delivery of speeches, self and peer assessment, critical analysis of speech rhetoric, and the fundamentals of oral communication theory.
- Worked with and supported the needs of a diverse student population, including international students, first-generation college students, and students from a wide variety of majors and skill levels.

Analysis of Popular Culture

Fall 2018

- Adapted and updated syllabus and course website for 14-student, upper-level seminar for communication majors to focus on research practices and methodologies, collaboration, and project based learning.

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Popular Culture, Instructor

Fall 2017-Spring 2018

- 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, merge research with creative production, 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, Instructor

Fall 2016 - Spring 2017

- 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.
- Chose textbook and designed innovative syllabus that stressed media practice in addition to gender, feminist and queer theory including several blog assignments and a final podcast group project.
- Utilized classroom technology and instructional web tools to meet student learning goals including iClicker, Blackboard, and Google Slides.

Sex and Gender in Popular Media, Teaching Assistant (Online)

Summer/Winter 2016

- 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,
Head Teaching Assistant**

Spring 2016

- 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 and executing weekly lesson plans.
- 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, Instructor

Fall 2015

- Instructor of record for upper-level media studies course of 50 students.
- Chose textbook, designed syllabus and created 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, Instructor

Fall 2013 – Spring 2015

- Instructor of record for intro level media studies course of 15-25 students.
- Invigorated syllabus with new readings and assignments, and subsequently revised course each semester to strengthen pedagogical aims taking into consideration student feedback and effectiveness of teaching strategies.

Introduction to Popular Film and Television, Instructor

Summer 2014

- 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, Teaching Assistant *Fall 2012- Spring 2013*

- Graded 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.

Syracuse University

The Wire: A Case Study, Teaching Assistant

Spring 2008

- 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, Teaching Assistant

Spring 2008

- 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 – Spring 2018

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Guided undergraduate student apprentices through their own research project related to my dissertation work.
- Prepared and oversaw apprentices' final research presentations at the University's Undergraduate Research Symposium at the close of the semester.
- Completed university mentorship certificate program, including over six hours of student-centered mentoring workshops and bi-weekly progress check-ins.

Graduate Teacher Certificate Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning

Spring 2018

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Earned certificate through the CITL designed to develop graduate student teaching skills and reflective practice.
- Attended over 10 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 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

“Millennial fandom and the failures of ‘Switched at Birth’s sexual assault education campaign,” *Transformative Works and Cultures*, 26. March 2018.

<http://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/article/view/1138>

“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).

Forthcoming Publications

Book Review, *Transgressive Humor of American Women Writers*, edited by Sabrina Fuchs Abrams. *Studies in American Humor.* Forthcoming Winter 2019.

“Podcast,” *Encyclopaedia of Gender, Media and Communication.* Edited by Karen Ross. Wiley-Blackwell. Forthcoming Winter 2019.

“Authenticity and Gatekeeping: How Television Critics Delegitimize Women in Comedy,” *Feminist Media Studies* (Revision Process)

CONFERENCE and WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

“Surviving as Non-Tenured Faculty.” National Communication Association. Baltimore, MD, November 2019.

“Getting on Stage: From Comedy Fan to Stand-Up Comic.” Fan Studies Network North America. Chicago, IL, October 2019.

“Open Mic? Gender, Gatekeeping and Labor in Local Stand-Up Comedy Production.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Seattle, WA, March 2019.

“Stand-Up Comedy Open Mics and Sexual Harassment in Local Production Cultures.” Rethinking Labor Histories and Production Cultures in #MeToo and #TimesUp HollywoodRoundtable. FLOW Television Conference. University of Texas, Austin, TX, September 2018.

Comedians, Transmedia Performance, and the Evolution of American Mass Media, Panel Chair, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 2018.

“#HashtagWars: The Humor of Social TV on Comedy Central’s @Midnight” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 2018.

“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,” *Workshop Participant*, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, 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.

#SixSeasonsAndAMovie: *Community* and/as Television’s Past, Present and Future, Panel Chair, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada, March 2015.

“Critical Film Studies: *Community* as Pop Culture Pedagogy,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada, March 2015.

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

Constructing, Deconstructing, Reconstructing: Mental Disorders, the Self, and Identity, *Roundtable Participant*, National Communication Association Conference, 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

LGBTQA Advocacy Committee Member

West Chester University

Fall 2019 – present

Committee Member, Steering Committee Representative

Humor and Comedy Studies Scholarly Interest Group

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Summer 2017-present

- Nominated and elected by the members of the group to serve for a two-year term representing and advocating for the interests of graduate students.
- 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 in judging annual graduate student essay prize.

Doctoral Cohort Representative

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Fall 2015-Spring 2016

- 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

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Spring 2015

- Coordinated research group 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.
- Planned and ran meetings of the EJP Research Group, updated EJP research policy, assembled and led committee to disperse travel grants.

INVITED TALKS

Moderator, Global Hispanic Film Festival

West Chester University

October 14, 2019

Public Lecture, “Open Mic? Gender, Labor, and Gatekeeping in Stand-up Comedy.”

Communication and Media Studies Speaker Series

Washington College

March 25, 2019

Student Seminar Lecture, “Dissecting the Frog: Identity and Comedic Taste.”

Communication and Media Studies Speaker Series

Washington College

March 25, 2019

Guest Lecture, “Authenticity, Gender, and Stand-Up Comedy”

Department of Gender and Women’s Studies Brown-Bag Lunch Series

Saint Louis University

Oct 10, 2018

Panelist, “Moving Past Scandal: What’s Next in Combating Sexual Harassment In The Film and Media Industries?” *April 28, 2018*
Illinifest Film Festival
College of Media
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

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

Graduate Student Leadership Award *Spring 2018*
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

College of Media Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching *Spring 2018*
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Haas Dissertation Fellowship *Spring 2016*
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent *Fall 2014, Spring 2015*
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign *Spring 2016, Fall 2017*
Spring 2018

Summer Research Fellowship *2014- 2017*
Institute of Communications Research
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Conference Travel Award *2013-2018*
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.
- Conducted local outreach to partner with teachers and schools to run pilot programs.

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.
- Conduct research and interviews, record, write, and edit segments including interviews with scholars, a segment on media production pedagogy, a two-part episode on the academic job market, and a series on the American Archive of Public Broadcasting.

Founder, Broad Comedy *Fall 2016-Spring 2018*

- Founded, co-produced and performed 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.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Lead Instructor, Web Design and YouTube Producers

Camp Galileo, Winnetka, IL

Summer 2017

Agents' and President's Assistant

Vox Inc, Los Angeles, CA

Fall 2009 - Spring 2011

Producers' Assistant

Sam Hurwitz Productions, Los Angeles, CA

Spring - Summer 2009

Artist Liaison

The New York Television Festival, New York, NY

Summer - Fall 2008

Television Columnist, "Home Viewer."

Table Hopping, Syracuse, NY

Fall 2007 - Spring 2008