

Briand “Brinni” Gentry

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. candidate in Film, Television, and Media,

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Dissertation Title: “Enchanting Otherworld at Empire’s Edge: Hawai‘i in Early 20th Century U.S. Popular Culture”

Dissertation Committee: Giorgio Bertellini (chair), Shelley Stamp, Melissa Phruksachart, Bethany Hughes, Richard Abel, Matthew Solomon

Defense Date May 7, 2027

M.A. in Film Studies,

Columbia University, New York, NY

2017

Thesis Title: “Neverland Nui Loa: Inauguration of the Image Regime of Hawai‘i as America’s Pacific Playground”

Thesis Committee: Jane Gaines (chair) and Nico Baumbach

B.A. in English and Asian Studies, cum laude,

Rice University, Houston, TX

2014

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘More Hawaiian Than Hawaii Itself’: The Hula Craze and US Empire in the Progressive Era,” *Feminist Media Histories*, Vol. 9, No. 4 (Fall 2023): 82-103.

<https://doi.org/10.1525/fmh.2023.9.4.81>

“TikTok’s ‘Republicans on a’ Trend as Cross-Party Cross-Dressing,” *Convergence* 29.6, Special Issue on “Digital Expressions of Self.” (December 2023): 1465-1485.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/13548565221113469>

“Gumshoes of the Gone Missing: Engaging Students with Lost Silents and Archival Gaps Through Digitized Paratextual Sleuthing,” *Teaching Silent Cinema Today*, special issue of *Early Popular Visual Culture*. [Extended proposal accepted; article manuscript under editorial review]

Chapters in Edited Collections

“‘So Bright That It Hurts’: The Liminal Communications of Akerman’s Interstitial Interfaces,” in *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Chantal Akerman*, ed. Catherine Fowler, London: Bloomsbury Press. [Extended proposal accepted by Bloomsbury; chapter manuscript under editorial review]

Book Reviews

“*The Hard Sell of Paradise* (2022) by Jason Sperb, *Archiving Medical Violence* (2023) by Christopher Perreira, and *Cooling the Tropics* (2022) by Hi‘ilei Julia Kawehipuaakahaopulani Hobart,” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 64.1 (Fall 2024): 210-220.

<https://doi.org/10.1353/cj.2024.a944436>

“Transnational Trailblazers of Early Cinema: Sarah Bernhardt, Gabrielle Réjane, Mistinguett by Victoria Duckett,” *Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film* (August 2024): 211-215.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17483727241263573>

“The Serial Will Be Televised: Serial Television’s Revolutionary Potential for Multidisciplinary Analysis of Social Identity,” *Global Storytelling: Journal of Digital and Moving Images* 2.1 (Summer 2022): 8. <https://doi.org/10.3998/gj.2664> [Review of Dennis Broe, *Birth of the Binge: Serial TV and the End of Leisure* (Wayne State University Press, 2019) and Maria Sulimma, *Gender and Seriality: Practices and Politics of Contemporary US Television* (Edinburgh University Press, 2021)]

[Forthcoming] “Unhomed: Cycles of Mobility and Placelessness in American Cinema (2024) by Pamela Robertson Wojcik,” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 66.3 (Winter 2027).

Multimedia

Contributor: “Lost/Non-Extant Film”

in *The Audiovisual Lexicon*, eds. Vincent Longo and Matthew Solomon (Ann Arbor, University of Michigan Press). [Accepted, **Forthcoming**]

Other Publications

“Greetings From Far Away: Canny Conceits and Colonial Souvenirs in Curt Teich Picture Postcards,” *Mapline*, No. 135 (Fall 2021).

(With C. L. Huffard) “Description of the paralarvae of *Wunderpus photogenicus*” Hochberg, Norman, & Finn, 2006 (Cephalopoda: Octopodidae). *Raffles Bulletin of Zoology*.

PEDAGOGICAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Department of Film, Television, and Media,	Ann Arbor, MI
Instructor of Record, Designed and Taught a 300-level Elective in Film and Media Studies	
“Seeing Through Illusion: From Early Cinema to Deepfake AI”	Spring 2026

University of Michigan, Department of English Language and Literature,	Ann Arbor, MI
Instructor of Record, Designed and Taught a First Year Writing Class	
“Writing Through a Cinematic Lens: Power, Identity, & Resistance”	Fall 2025

University of Michigan, Department of Film, Television, and Media,	Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Student Instructor, “Film History: 1960 to Present”	Winter 2024
Grader, “Contemporary Film Theory”	Fall 2023
Graduate Student Instructor, “Intro to Film, Television, and Media”	Winter 2023
Grader, “Contemporary Film Theory”	Fall 2022
Graduate Student Instructor, “Intro to Film, Television, and Media”	Winter 2022
Graduate Student Instructor “Film History: Origins to the French New Wave”	Fall 2021

Columbia University, Department of Film and Media Studies,	New York, NY
Teaching Assistant, “Film and Media Theory”	Fall 2016
Teaching Assistant, “Documentary Tradition”	Spring 2016

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION, GUEST LECTURES, & PUBLIC TALKS

Conference Presentations

- Society for Cinema and Media Studies**, Chicago, IL, March 26-29, 2026
Panel Chair of: Fringe Benefits, Centered Margins: Hollywood's Seediness, Seaminess, and Underbelly in Social and Economic Crisis
Paper: "Grass Skirt as Paper Moon: Tropics Gone to Seed with Depression-Era Hollywood's Make-Believe 'Hawaiian' Girlchild"
- Charles F. Fraker Graduate Conference**, Ann Arbor, MI, October 17-18, 2025
Panel: Libidinal Geographies
Paper: "'Going Native': Frugality and Aspiration in Hula Glamour"
- American Comparative Literature Association**, Virtual, May 28-June 1, 2025
Seminar: Impossible Islands: Thinking the Fictional, the Real and the Virtual in Times of Ecocide
Paper: "South Sea-Sickness: Virality and Virtuality in U.S. 'Hawaiian Fevers'"
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies**, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2025
Panel Chair of: Envisioning Elsewheres and Elsewhens: Media for Enduring the Uncomfortable and Unbearable
Paper: "Orientated Onwards, Beautiful Strangers, and Surveillant Interfaces: The Settler-Colonial Contours of Post-Pandemic Travel"
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies**, Denver, CO, April 12-15, 2023
Panel: Dislocate, Decenter, Imagine: Modes of Transit and Performance in Women's Silent Film Work
Paper: "Girl from Frisco or Wild Woman?: Simulated Authenticity, Adjusted Sensitivity, and the Contours of Industrial Imperialism in Doraldina's Hula"
- Women and the Silent Screen**, New York, NY, June 1-6, 2022
Panel Chair of: "Cross-Racial Performances and Racial Masquerade"
Paper: "Wild Woman: Doubled Mimesis and Imperial Fantasy in Doraldina's Hula"

Guest Lectures

- University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI, February 20, 2026
Sweetland Writing Center,
Class: Simone Sessolo's *Sweetland Fellows Seminar*
Presentation: "Designing a First-Year Writing Requirement Course"
- University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI, March 6, 2023
Department of Film, Television, and Media
Class: Professor Matthew Solomon's *Film History: Origins to the French New Wave*
Presentation: "No Such Thing as a 'Lost' Film"
- University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI, December 6, 2021
Rackham Graduate School
Class: Rackham Graduate Humanities Proseminar
Presentation: "Mastering Zotero and Managing References"
- Columbia University**, New York, NY, June 14, 2021
Department of Film and Media Studies
Class: Professor Jane Gaines' *Cinema/Media Historiography*
Presentation: "(Im)Possible Problems and Sources for Discovery"

Public Talks

The Harry Ransom Center, Austin, TX January 29, 2026
 Program: *Familiar Terms—The Polyphonic Finale*
 Talk: “Researching in the Archive: ‘Enchanting Otherworld at Empire’s Edge’”

Columbia University, [Virtual](#) April 23, 2021
 School of the Arts, Film Division
 Program: 125th Anniversary – Edison’s Vitascope
 Talk: “*Annie Oakley* (Edison Co. 1895)”

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

University of Michigan	
Rackham Predoctoral Fellow	2026-2027
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	2026
Library of Congress, National Stereoscopic Association Research Fellow	2025-2026
Harry Ransom Center, Distinguished Endowment Dissertation Fellow	2025-2026
Rackham Conference Travel Grant	2025
FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant	2025
Rackham Doctoral Intern/Clements Archival Engagement Intern Fellow	2025
Sweetland Writing Center Graduate Fellow	2025
Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship	2024
FTVM Graduate Student DEI Research Award	2024
Rackham Conference Travel Grant	2023
FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant	2023
Richard Abel Travel Grant	2022
Rackham Conference Travel Grant	2022

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, William H. Clements Library	Ann Arbor, MI
Archival Engagement Intern	Winter 2025
University of Michigan, Department of Film, Television, and Media	Ann Arbor, MI
Research Assistant, Matthew Solomon (archival digitization)	2023-2026
Course Coordinator, “Intro to Film, Television, and Media”	Fall 2024
Grading Assistant, “Television Theory and Criticism”	Spring 2023
Grading Assistant, “Classical Film Theory”	Winter 2023
Grading Assistant, “Television Theory and Criticism”	Spring 2022
Race & Ethnicity Requirement Consultant, “Authorship & the Archive”	Winter 2022
Research Assistant, Daniel Herbert’s <i>Maverick Movies</i> (UC Press 2023)	Summer 2021
Race & Ethnicity Requirement Consultant, “Media Activism”	Summer 2021
Instructional Aide, “Stereotypes in American Culture”	Fall 2020
University of Michigan, Screen Arts Mavericks & Makers Archive	Ann Arbor, MI
Joshua Bilmes Screen Arts Mavericks & Makers Intern	2022-2023

B. Gentry

Wayne State University, Library Systems & <i>Kairos</i>, Script Annotation Intern	Detroit, MI Summer 2021
Women and the Silent Screen Conference XI Curatorial Assistant/Bibliographer	New York, NY Winter 2020
Sites of Cinema Seminar, Columbia University Rapporteur	New York, NY 2016-2017
Women Film Pioneer's Project, Columbia University Research Assistant	New York, NY 2015-2020
Chao Center for Asian Studies Student Coordinator, "My Voice Would Reach You" Asian Art Festival	Houston, TX Spring 2014
Sid Richardson College, Rice University Sid Richardson Academic Fellow in English and Asian Studies	Houston, TX 2012-2014

PROFESSIONAL ROLES & CERTIFICATIONS

Peer Reviewer

Convergence. The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies 2022-present

U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate

University of Michigan, Center for Research on Learning & Teaching May 2026

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Certificate

University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School December 2025

Graduate Student Representative

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, SIG Urbanism/Geography/Architecture 2022-2024

Volunteer Panel Chair

SCMS Conference (Boston), Panel: "Rethinking Film Exhibition," March 17, 2024

Assistant Screener, Screening Committee

Peabody Awards 2023- 2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University of Michigan - Department of Film, Television, and Media

Judge, *Lightworks* Undergraduate Film Festival 2023-present

President, Graduate Student Association 2023-2024

Honors Committee Panelist, undergraduate Jonah Sobczak's *I Miss and Love You* 2023

Secretary, Graduate Student Association 2022-2023

ORGANIZATIONS & SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

American Comparative Literature Association

Domitor: The International Society for the Study of Early Cinema

Modern Language Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Women and Film History International

LANGUAGES

English	Fluent Spoken/Written – native speaker
Mandarin Chinese	Advanced Spoken/Written – 7 years of University-level training
French	Intermediate Spoken/Written – 7 years of Secondary School-level training
Japanese	Beginner Spoken/Written – 1 year University-level training