

SEAN DONOVAN

Doctoral Candidate, Film, Television, & Media, University of Michigan

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Ann Arbor, MI

RESEARCH

LGBTQ Media Studies

Queer Theory and
Historiography

Horror

Sex in Media

Film Festivals

Affect, Embodiment,
and Sensation

Social Media and
Identity Online

Time and Media
Temporality

LGBTQ History

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ph.D. Film, Television, and Media, expected 2022

Passed exams with honors

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Washington, D.C.

M.A. Literature, 2016

Thesis: "This is My Design: *Hannibal* and Queer Epistemology"

This study analyzes the television show *Hannibal* (NBC, 2013 - 2015) in its use of queer horror iconography to create structures of queer knowledge, thereby re-contextualizing horror for 2010s LGBTQ media consumers.

B.A. Literature (concentration in Cinema Studies), 2014

Minor in History

Thesis: "Queer Embodiment in Post-War American Avant-Garde Cinema"

This study discusses queer masculine embodiment as constructed in American cinematic texts of the late 1940s, comparing male model aesthetics of the burgeoning physique and bodybuilder cultures to the work of Kenneth Anger in the 1947 experimental short film *Fireworks*, which applies a queer lens to similar icons.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

"Animalistic Laughter: Camping Anthropomorphism in *Roar*." **The Cine-Files**. 14 (Spring 2019). <http://www.thecine-files.com/donovan/>.

Review of *Feeling Normal: Sexuality and Media Criticism in the Digital Age* by F. Hollis Griffin (Indiana, 2016). ***The New Review of Film and Television Studies***. 16.4 (2018). 496 - 499.

"*Raw's* Anxious Embodiments." Review. ***Somatechnics***. 8.1 (2018). 113 - 124.

"Becoming Unknown: *Hannibal* and Queer Epistemology." ***Gender Forum***. 59 (2016). <http://genderforum.org/queer-film-and-television-issue-59-2016/>

AWARDS AND HONORS

Recipient, Richard Abel Graduate Travel Grant, Department of Film Television & Media, University of Michigan, April 2018

Kessler-Roberts Prize for Best Graduate Literature Paper, "Jonathan Glazer and the Corporeal Self," Literature Department, American University, Annual Award, 2016

Best Undergraduate Literature Paper, "Unlocking the Kipnis Porn Closet, or, the Promise of a Valuable Pornography," Literature Department, American University, Annual Award, 2014

Honorable Mention, Best American Studies Paper, "Vampires on the Frontier: White Fear in *Curse of the Undead*," American Studies Program, American University, Annual Award, 2014

Participant, Telluride Film Festival Student Symposium, 2012

PRESENTATIONS

Respondent, Superfest International Disability Film Festival Showcase, University of Michigan Museum of Art, Helmut Stern Auditorium, October 29 2019

Participant, Cultural Formations of the 'Alt-Right' Workshop,
University of Michigan, September 13 2019

"Making Gay 'Great Again': Gay Right Wing Nostalgia and Online
Ephemera," International Communication Association (ICA)
Conference, Washington D.C., May 24 - 28 2019.

"Watching *Game of Thrones* on Pornhub: Cyber Masculinities and
Convergence," Graduate Student and Faculty Lunch Series, Film
Television & Media, University of Michigan, September 20 2018

"Kenneth Anger's *Fireworks* and the Disruptive Work of the Queer
Haptic," Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS) Conference,
Toronto, March 14 - 18 2018

"Obsolescent Identity: Analog Cruising and Queer Male Sexuality,"
Queer Screens Conference, Northumbria University, Newcastle-Upon-
Tyne, September 2 - 3 2017

"This is My Design: *Hannibal* and Queer Epistemology," Robyn
Rafferty Matthias Conference, American University, April 2 2016

"Queer Embodiment in Post-War American Avant-Garde Cinema," DC
Queer Studies Symposium, University of Maryland - College Park,
April 25 2014

"Vampires on the Frontier: White Fear in *Curse of the Undead*,"
American Studies Day, American University, April 9 2014

"Gender Horror: Assaulting the Playboy Bunnies in *Apocalypse Now*,"
Literature Department Colloquium: *Apocalypse Now*, American
University, October 23 2013

GUEST LECTURES

"Cannibalism, Embodiment, and Politics," Dark Fantasies, Professor
Petra Kupperts, English, University of Michigan, December 3 2018

“*Cruising* and Queer Viewing Positions,” Contemporary Film Theory, Instructor Mark Kligerman, Film Television and Media, University of Michigan, November 7 2018

“*Invasion of the Body Snatchers*,” Cinema and the 20th Century, Associate Professor Despina Kakoudaki, American University, March 24 2015

“Alfred Hitchcock, Queer Theory, and *Rope*,” Alfred Hitchcock in Context, Associate Professor Despina Kakoudaki, American University, February 27 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Department of Film, Television, & Media
GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR

Contemporary Film Theory Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Film History: Post New Wave Winter 2019

The Art of Film Winter 2018

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Department of Literature
TEACHING ASSISTANT

Literature, Film, and Globalization Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Alfred Hitchcock in Context Winter 2015

Cinema and the 20th Century Winter 2014

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Graduate Student Association, Film, Television, & Media Department

President Fall 2019 - current

Vice President Fall 2018 - Winter 2019

Coordinator, Doing Queer Studies Now Graduate Workshop (DQSN),
June 2018 - present

Steward, Graduate Employee Organization (GEO), Fall 2017 - Winter
2018

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Representative, Literature Department Council,
August 2014 - May 2016

Co-Manager, Cinema Studies at AU Facebook Page, Spring 2013 -
May 2016

MA Student Participant, External Review, Literature Department, Fall
2015

Undergraduate Representative, Grievance Committee, Literature
Department, Spring 2014

Member, 2013 Literature Department Colloquium Planning Committee

POPULAR PRESS PUBLICATIONS

18 pieces in ***The Film Experience***, 2016 - 2019, [http://
thefilmexperience.net/blog/author/seandonovan](http://thefilmexperience.net/blog/author/seandonovan)

"The Rumpus Review of *10 Cloverfield Lane*," ***The Rumpus***, April 7
2016, [http://therumpus.net/
2016/04/the-rumpus-review-of-10-
cloverfield-lane/](http://therumpus.net/2016/04/the-rumpus-review-of-10-cloverfield-lane/)

"The Saturday Rumpus Review: *Carol*," ***The Rumpus***, December 26
2015, [http://therumpus.net/
2015/12/the-saturday-rumpus-review-
carol/](http://therumpus.net/2015/12/the-saturday-rumpus-review-carol/)

“The Saturday Rumpus Review of *It Follows*,” ***The Rumpus***, April 25 2015, <http://therumpus.net/2015/04/the-saturday-rumpus-review-of-it-follows/>

FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

ANN ARBOR FILM FESTIVAL

Curator, OutNight, 2018 - 2020

- Programmed LGBTQ content for a night of specialized programming at prestigious experimental film festival for the 2019 and 2020 editions. Screened many submissions across various media genres.

REEL AFFIRMATIONS FILM FESTIVAL

Programming Team Member, 2016

- Screened and archived hundreds of film submissions across of variety of media categories for Washington D.C. LGBTQ film festival. Facilitated contact with filmmakers and helped build festival schedule

Film Traffic Team Member, 2015

- Managed festival screening collections, acted as intermediary between filmmakers and the festival’s executive staff, served as an usher during the festival
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