

Jason Middleton
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Professional Employment

- Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Rochester.
 - Director, Program in Film and Media Studies.
 - Steering Committee, Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies.
 - Affiliated Faculty, L. Jeffrey Selznick School of Film Preservation.
- Visiting Associate Professor, Cinema Studies Program, Bowdoin College (2017-2018)
- Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Rochester.
- Visiting Lecturer, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Communication Studies.

Education

- Ph.D., The Literature Program, Duke University.
- B.A., Hampshire College, Amherst, MA.

Publications

Books

- *The Intimate Work of Horror* (in progress).
- *The Labors of Fear*, ed. Aviva Briefel and Jason Middleton, under review with University of Texas Press.
- *Documentary's Awkward Turn: Cringe Comedy and Media Spectatorship* (New York and London: Routledge, 2014).
- *Medium Cool: Music Videos from Soundies to Cellphones*, ed. Roger Beebe and Jason Middleton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).

Essays in Journals

- "Recovering 'The Body': Generic Convergence and Parental Reassurance in *Stranger Things*." *Post45* dossier: "Stranger Things and Nostalgia Now," ed. Joel Burges and Jason Middleton (7-04-2019). <https://post45.org/2019/07/boys-fractured-stranger-things-and-nostalgia-now/>
- "Boys, Fractured: Stranger Things and Nostalgia Now" (with Joel Burges). *Post45* dossier: "Stranger Things and Nostalgia Now," ed. Joel Burges and Jason Middleton (7-04-2019). <https://post45.org/2019/07/boys-fractured-stranger-things-and-nostalgia-now/>
- "Struggling for Recognition: Intensive Mothering's 'Practical Effects' in *The Babadook* (with Meredith Bak), *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 37:3 (2020).
- "A Rather Crude Feminism: Amy Schumer, Post-Feminism, and Abjection," *Feminist Media Histories* 3:2 (Spring 2017), issue on Gender and Comedy, ed. Kristen Anderson Wagner and Maggie Hennefeld.
- "Indexical Violence, Transmodal Horror," *InVisible Culture: An Electronic Journal for Visual Culture* 25/26 (May 6, 2017).
- "Documentary Horror: The Transmodal Power of Indexical Violence," *Journal of Visual Culture* 14.3 (December 2015), special issue, "The Design and Componentry of Horror," ed. Eugenie Brinkema and Caetlin Benson-Allott.

Essays in Journals, cont.

- "Spectacles of Atrocity: Mondo Video in the 'War on Terror,'" *Afterimage* 39.1&2 (August 2011).
- "The Subject of Torture: Regarding the Pain of Americans in *Hostel*," *Cinema Journal* 49.4 (Summer 2010).
- "Documentary Comedy," *Media International Australia incorporating Culture and Policy* 104 (August 2002), special issue: *Visible Evidence: New Documentary Forms*, Jane Roscoe and Derek Paget, issue editors.
- "The Racial Politics of Hybridity and Neo-Eclecticism in Contemporary Popular Music" (with Roger Beebe), *Popular Music* 21:2 (May 2002).
- "Youth, Leisure and Voyeurism in MTV's *Undressed*," *The Velvet Light Trap* 48 (Fall 2001).
- "Preface: Film Studies and Postmodern Theory" (with Alex Galloway), *Polygraph* 13 (Spring 2001).
- "Preface: Margins of Global Culture," *Polygraph* 11 (Spring 1999).
- "Heroin Use, Gender and Affect," *Echo* 1:1 (Fall 1999).

Essays in Edited Volumes

- "Is That All There Is? Time and Pathos in Longitudinal Documentary," forthcoming in *The Documentary Moment*, ed. Joshua Malitsky and Patrik Sjöberg (Indiana University Press, 2021).
- "Something to Hide: The Ethics of Spectatorship in *Saw*," in *Cine-Ethics: Ethical Dimensions of Film Theory, Practice, and Spectatorship*, ed. Mattias Frey and Jinhee Choi (Routledge, 2013).
- "The Audio-Vision of Found Footage Film and Video," in *Medium Cool: Music Videos from Soundies to Cellphones*, ed. Roger Beebe and Jason Middleton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).
- "Introduction," (with Roger Beebe), in *Medium Cool: Music Videos from Soundies to Cellphones*, ed. Roger Beebe and Jason Middleton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).
- "Buffy as *Femme Fatale*: The Cult Heroine and the Male Spectator," in *Undead TV: Essays on Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, ed. Lisa Parks and Elana Levine (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).
- "DC Punk and the Production of Authenticity," in Roger Beebe, Denise Fulbrook, and Ben Saunders, eds., *Rock Over the Edge: Transformations in Popular Music Culture* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2002).

Book Reviews and Web Publications

- "Free-Range Horror," *Los Angeles Review of Books*.
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/free-range-horror/#!>
- "Comic Book Melancholia," *Los Angeles Review of Books*.
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/comic-book-melancholia/#!>
- Hilary Neroni, *The Subject of Torture*. *Cinema Journal* (Fall 2016).
- "Birthing from Within: On Teaching Monstrous Birth in Cronenberg's *The Brood*." *Films for the Feminist Classroom* 6.1, special issue, *Film and Violence*, ed. Shilyn Warren and Merry Jett. http://ffc.twu.edu/issue_6-1.html.
- "Is That All There Is?" *Avidly* (Los Angeles Review of Books).
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2015/02/13/is-that-all-there-is/>

Book Reviews and Web Publications, cont.

- Ivone Margulies, ed., *Rites of Realism: Essays on Corporeal Cinema*. *Quarterly Review of Film and Video* 21.4 (2004).

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Fellowships, Awards and Honors

- G. Graydon Curtis and Jane W. Curtis Teaching Award for Nontenured Faculty Teaching, University of Rochester, 2009.
- James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University, 1995-1999.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

- Panel Chair, “Collective Horror/Horrific Collectivities,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Virtual Conference, March 17-21, 2021.
- “‘No Drama’: Fear of Feeling in *Midsommar*,” SCMS 2021.
- Panel Chair, “Horror Grows Up,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Seattle, WA, March 13-17, 2019.
- “In Your Eyes: Intimacy and Precarity in *Arkangel*,” SCMS 2019.
- “Is That All There Is? Time and Pathos in Longitudinal Documentary,” Visible Evidence. Bloomington, IN, August 11-14, 2018.
- Panel Chair, “The Historicity of *Stranger Things*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Toronto, ON, March 14-18, 2018.
- “The 1950s of *Stranger Things*,” SCMS 2018.
- Workshop Chair and Organizer, “Screening the End of Life,” Visible Evidence XXIII. Bozemen, MT, August 11-August 14, 2016.
- Keynote Lecture, Crossing the Boundaries XXIII: Sensation/Perception/Experience, March 18-19th, 2016. Graduate Conference, Art History Department, Binghamton University.
- Panel Chair and Organizer, “The Babadook, Motherhood, and Feminism,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Atlanta, GA, March 30-April 3, 2016.
- “Haunting the Mommy Wars: Taking Care of Monsters in ‘The Babadook,’” SCMS 2016.
- “Documentary Horror: The Transmodal Power of Indexical Violence,” Visible Evidence XXII. Toronto, ON, August 19-August 22, 2015.
- “Digital Violence: Theorizing Screen Violence in a Post-Cinematic World” workshop, Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Montreal, QC, March 25-29, 2015.
- “Multimedia Realisms” workshop, Modern Language Association. Vancouver, BC. January 8-11, 2015.
- “Protraction, Disruption, Flux: Forms of Horror in *The Texas Chainsaw Massacre*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Seattle, WA. March 19-23, 2014.
- “Awkward Moments: Documentary and Shame,” Visible Evidence XX. Stockholm, Sweden, August 13-18, 2013.
- Invited Workshop Participant, “Documentary Para-texts,” Visible Evidence XX. Stockholm, Sweden, August 13-18, 2013.
- “Reaction Videos and the ‘Reactive Gaze,’” *Mimesis Now*. University of Rochester, April 5-7, 2012.
- “Documentary Time in *The Office*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Boston, MA. March 21-25, 2012.

Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures, cont.

- Panel Chair and Organizer, “Theorizing Mock-Documentary Television,” SCMS. Boston, MA. March 21-25, 2012.
- “Affect and Ethics in the ‘Reaction Video,’” Visible Evidence. Istanbul, Turkey. August 9-12, 2010.
- “Reaction Videos and the Reactive Gaze as Mediated Comedy,” SCMS. Los Angeles, CA. March 17-21, 2010.
- “American Horror Cinema in the ‘Age of Terror’: Reading the Politics of Eli Roth’s *Hostel*,” Bates College Lecture Series. March 8, 2010.
- “The Subject of Torture: Regarding the Pain of Americans in *Hostel*,” Cultural Studies Association Conference. Kansas City, MO. April 16-18, 2009.
- Panel Chair and organizer, “The Politics of Contemporary American Horror,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Philadelphia, PA. March 6-9, 2008.
- “The Subject of Torture: Regarding the Pain of Americans in *Hostel*,” SCMS, Philadelphia, PA. March 6-9, 2008.

Editorship

- “Stranger Things and Nostalgia Now,” ed. Joel Burges and Jason Middleton *Post45* (7-04-2019). <https://post45.org/2019/07/boys-fractured-stranger-things-and-nostalgia-now/>
- *Medium Cool: Music Videos from Soundies to Cellphones*, ed. Roger Beebe and Jason Middleton (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).
- Issue editor, *Polygraph* 11: Margins of Global Culture (1999).
- Member, *Polygraph* editorial collective, 1997-2001.

Teaching and Advising

University of Rochester: Courses

- Theorizing Horror (Graduate Seminar)
- Documentary and Cinematic Realism (Graduate Seminar)
- Cinematic Affect and Emotion (Graduate Seminar)
- Modern Film Theory (Graduate Seminar)
- Gender and Sexuality in American Cinema
- The Horror Film
- What is Genre? (Graduate Seminar)
- Introduction to the Art of Film (Lecture)
- Film Genres: Comedy and Horror
- Introductory Video and Sound (Production)
- Documentary Film and Media: Theory and Practice

Dissertation and Master’s Thesis Committees

- Dissertation Adviser, English Department: Alison Grenert, Daniel Singleton, Zachary Powell.
- Dissertation Adviser, Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies: Taryn Ely, Yasin Nasirov, Hend Alawadhi, Joel Neville Anderson.

- Dissertation Reader, Graduate Program in VCS: Rebecca Burditt, Ruben Yepes Munoz, Ryan Conrath, Cesare Wright, Kyoung-Lae Kang, Margot Bouman, Victoria Gao, Almudena Escobar Lopez, Byron Fong.

Selected Courses and Advising, cont.

- Dissertation Reader, English Dept.: Hardeep Sidhu, Joe Vogel, Samantha Newmark, Tanja Beljanski.
- Master's Thesis Adviser, English Department/Selznick School: Debarati Roy, Almudena Escobar Lopez, Amber Bertin, Jeremy Johnson, Brady Fletcher, Luke Oleksa, Kate Fitzpatrick, Lyndsey Godwin, Emily Wall, Kinga Winnicka, Spencer Churchill.
- Master's Thesis Reader, English Department: Alison Grenert, Samantha Le, Sara Hutt.

Bowdoin College (2017-2018):

- Film Narrative
- Introduction to Documentary Film Studies
- Film Genres in American Cinema
- Documentary and Experimental Documentary: Theory and Practice

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Department of Communication Studies

- Narrative Film and Video Production
- Audio/Video/Film Production and Writing
- Media Criticism
- Experimental Media Production
- Independent Study: Autobiographical Experimental Film

University Service

University of Rochester

- Faculty adviser, Selznick School of Film Preservation M.A. Program.
- University Committee on Tenure and Privileges, Faculty Grievance Committee, 2020-2021.
- Search Committee, Tenure-track position in Early Film History, English Department (2018-2019).
- Founder and Co-Director, Central New York Experimental Film Series (CNYX), 2012-2017.
- Outstanding Dissertation Award Committee, 2013; 2019.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Graduate Program in Visual and Cultural Studies, 2013-2014, 2016-2017.
- Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English, 2007-2008, 2013-2014, 2015-2016, 2018-2019.
- Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of English, 2013-2014.
- Executive Committee, Film and Media Studies Program, 2007-2012.
- Media Studies Search Committee, Department of English, 2010-2011.
- George Eastman House/University of Rochester Advisory Committee, 2011-present.
- Spurrier Group Digital Humanities Initiative, 2010-2011.

- Organizing Committee and Faculty Juror, Gollin Student Film Festival, 2007-present.
- Graduate Studies Committee, Department of English, 2009-2013, 2016-2017.

University Service, cont.

- Graduate Student Placement Committee, Department of English, 2009-2010.
- Outside Speakers/Conferences Committee, Department of English, 2007-2009.
- Invited Speaker, “Voices of Distinction: Best Practices from University of Rochester Award-Winning Faculty,” January 2010.
- Guest Lecture for prospective University of Rochester students for Admissions (November 2009).
- Founder and director, University of Rochester/George Eastman House Dryden Theatre Experimental Film Series, 2007-2010.
- Faculty adviser for George Eastman House student internship, 2007-2008.

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

- Curator and organizer, UNC Department of Communication Studies year-end student film and media showcase, 2003-2005.
- Faculty Adviser, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival Student Fellows Program, 2004-2005.
- Co-director, UNC Dept. of Communication Studies ScreenArts series, 2003-2004.

Professional Organizations, Service, and Community Events

- Editorial Board, *InVisible Culture: An Electronic Journal for Visual Culture*
- External reviewer for tenure and promotion cases: Occidental College; University of Dallas; Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Pace University.
- Nominating Committee, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2014-2017.
- Member, Society for Cinema and Media Studies (1999-present)
- Dissertation Award Committee, Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2008-2009)
- Screening Committee, Society for Cinema and Media Studies (2007-2008)
- Manuscript reviewer: Columbia University Press, Wayne State University Press, Rowman and Littlefield, Rutgers University Press.
- Curator and Organizer, “9/11 Through Documentary Shorts,” a public screening co-sponsored by Maine Humanities Council, SPACE Gallery, Portland, ME, 9/11/16.
- Member, University Film and Video Association (2003-2005)
- Technical staff, Full Frame Documentary Film Festival, Durham, NC, 2001-2006.

Selected Film Screenings and Awards

Sound Between Lines: Triangle Soundpainting Orchestra (2010)
(16mm and DV, b&w and color, 17m)

Official Selection, Juried Festivals:

- Antimatter Film Festival, Victoria, BC, October 14-21, 2011
- Finger Lakes Film Festival, Geneva, NY, November 1-3, 2011.
- Landlocked Film Festival, Iowa City, IA, August 25-28, 2011.
- Artsfest Film Festival/Moviate, Harrisburg, PA, May 27-30, 2011.
- Lewiston-Auburn Film Festival, Lewiston and Auburn, ME, April 13-15, 2011.
- Strange Beauty Film Festival, Durham, NC, February 17-19, 2011.

Film Screenings and Awards, cont.

***In the Nick (Everything is Timing)* (2006)**

(Super 8mm, b&w, 3 min., Music Video commissioned for Cantwell, Gomez, and Jordan)

Official Selection, Juried Festivals:

- Hear NC Music Video Festival, Chapel Hill, NC, December 2, 2010.
- Jacksonville Film Festival, Jacksonville, FL, May 17-20, 2007.
- Microcinefest, Baltimore, MD, November 9-12, 2006. (Nominee, Small Gauge Film Award)
- Antimatter Underground Film Festival, Victoria, BC, September 22-30, 2006.
- Bearded Child Film Festival, Grand Rapids, MN, August 18-19, 2006.

Other Screenings:

- Spark Con, Raleigh, NC, September 15-17, 2006
- Flicker: Bars and Tone screening, Carrboro, NC, May 2006

***Postindustrial Symphony* (2004) (16mm, b&w and color, 16 min.)**

Official Selection, Juried Festivals:

- Chicago Underground Film Festival, Chicago, IL, August 18-25, 2005.
- Artsfest Film Festival, Harrisburg, PA, May 28-30, 2005.
- Jacksonville Film Festival, Jacksonville, FL, May 19-22, 2005.
- Humboldt International Short Film Festival, Arcata, CA, April 2-9, 2005.
 - Jury Award, The Alice Guy Blache Award for Celebration of Film.
- The Sarah Lawrence College Experimental Film and Video Festival (X-Fest), Bronxville, NY, April 16-18, 2005.
 - Honorable Mention, Medium Category.
- Cucalorus Film Festival, Wilmington, NC, March 30-April 3, 2005.
- FLEXfest (Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival), Gainesville, FL, October 28-30, 2004.
 - Jury Award, Second Prize in Film Over Ten Minutes Category.
- Red Bank International Film Festival, Red Bank, NJ, October 8-10, 2004.
 - Nominee, Best Experimental Film.
- Bearded Child Film Festival, Grand Rapids, MN, August 6-7, 2004.
- High Point Independent Film Fair, High Point, NC, June 11-13, 2004.
- W.A.R.P. Film Festival, Durham, NC, June 3-6, 2004.
 - Jury Award, best film in "Art" Category.
- Hi Mom! Film Festival, Chapel Hill, NC, April 22-4, 2004.

Television Broadcast:

- North Carolina Visions, an Independent Film Series on UNC-TV Public Television, Fall 2005 Season.

- MOOV hd, a non-narrative motion video and conceptual arts channel, Bala Cynwyd, PA, 2004-2005 Season.

Film Screenings and Awards, cont.

Other Screenings:

- Lookalikeness Conference, Duke University, January 13-14, 2006.
- Bearded Child Film Festival tour, Durham, NC, November 21, 2005.
- Best of FLEX Film Festival, Echo Park Film Center, Los Angeles, CA, 8/21, 2005.
- University Film and Video Association Formal Screening, UFVA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, August 2-6, 2005.
- Senses of Escape: Collaborations between Musicians and Visual Artists, Durham, NC, September 18, 2004.
- Flicker, Winston-Salem, NC, April 30, 2004.

References

- Sharon Willis, Professor of Art and Art History and Visual and Cultural Studies, University of Rochester.
Phone: (585)-273-5621
Email: swillis@UR.rochester.edu
- Aviva Briefel, Professor of English and Cinema Studies, Bowdoin College.
Phone: (207)-725-3014
Email: abriefel@bowdoin.edu
- Maria Pramaggiore, Professor and Head, Department of Media Studies, Maynooth University, Kildare, Ireland.
Phone: +353 0 1 474 7257
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- Alexandra Juhasz, Professor and Department Chair, Film.
Brooklyn College, CUNY
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- A. Joan Saab, Associate Professor and Chair, Art and Art History and Visual and Cultural Studies, University of Rochester.
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