

Brandon Blackburn

Curriculum Vitae

Institution: Department of Film and Media Studies, 2000 Humanities Gateway, Irvine, CA 92697
Home: 227 Verano Pl, Irving, CA 92617
Contact: Email: bblackb@uci.edu | Phone: +1 347-564-2821

EDUCATION

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Ph. D Candidate, Film and Media Studies, University of California, Irvine | 2023-Present |
| Dissertation: "Exotic Dissonance: Disengagement, Refusal, and Fracture in Inter-ethnic Spectacularly-Mediated Play Objects," (Supervision: June 2026) | |
| Chair: Dr. Aaron Trammell | |
| Committee: Dr. Bo Ruberg, Dr. Brannon Soderman | |
| M. A. Visual Studies University of California, Irvine | 2023 |
| Thesis: "Black Asachionism: Narrative Potential in <i>Halo's</i> Universe" | |
| Advisor: Dr. Aaron Trammell | |
| B. A. English, Colby College | 2017 |
| B. A. Germanic Studies, Colby College | 2017 |

PUBLICATIONS**Peer-Reviewed Publications****Journal Articles**

Blackburn, Brandon (2025). "Violent Spectacle of the Wrong Body: Transphobia in *The Last of Us Part II*." *Studies in the Fantastic* (Special Issue: Gendered Violence in/and Second Fantasy and Horror Video Games).

Blackburn, Brandon (2024). "Fluid Dynamics: Performativity and Possessiveness in Ecological Solo-Journaling Games." *Analog Game Studies* (Special Issue: Queer Analog Game Studies).

Zagura, Cao and Brandon Blackburn. (2024). "I Can Feel You Here": Queering Intimacy and Haptics in First-Person Shooters and Beyond." *Playtime Journal: TOPIA Canadian Journal of Cultural Studies* Issue 48.

Book Chapters

Maria Albero, PH Bangs, **Brandon Blackburn**, Adrianna Bumus, & Hilary Thach [in press]. "You String and Violent Quiver": A Collaborative Disaster-Queer Autoethnography of Playing *Thief* *Sacred* *Lithium*. [Forthcoming 2025]. In S. Hedge (Ed.) *Essays on Indie Tabletop Roleplaying Games*. McFarland Publishing.

Blackburn, Brandon and Trammell, Aaron (2024). "Pressure, Pain, Playthrough." *Playthrough Poetry: Gameplay as Research Method*. Edited by Milena Droumeva. Ashgate College Press.

Book Reviews

Blackburn, Brandon (2024). "Book Review of *The Privilege of Play*." University of Washington.

Other Publications

Blackburn, Brandon (2022). "Banishing Review" Games with Glass.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Internal

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Michael and Stacey Kocher Graduate Student Summer Fellowship in Critical Theory | 2025 |
| Gerard Graduate Award Endowment for Visual Studies | 2024 |
| Grant Writing and Research Development Institute for Humanities PhD Students | 2023 |
| Humanities Center Graduate Student Research Grant | 2023 |
| Gerard Fellowship | 2021, 2022, 2023 |
| Grant Writing and Research Development Institute for Humanities PhD Students | 2023 |
| VGSSIG Graduate Student Registration Award | 2023 |
| Humanities Center Graduate Student Research Grant | 2023 |
| School of Humanities (SOH) Fellowship | 2021 |

External

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Society of Cinema and Media Studies Video Games Scholarly Interest Group Graduate Student Registration Award | 2023 |
| English Teaching Assistant Fulbright to Germany | 2017–2018 (Accepted) |
| English Teaching Assistant Fulbright Scholarship to Austria | 2017–2018 (Declined) |
| Culby Gamma Kappa Chapter of the National German Honorary Society | 2017 |

CONFERENCES AND TALKS

Invited Talks — External

Blackburn, Brandon (2024). "Discussion of 'Erotic Dissonance: Disengagement, Refusal, and Fracture in Inter-sociational Systemically-Mediated Play Objects.'" *Piggy Horner Speaker Series*. University of Alberta.

Conference Presentations

- Blackburn, Brandon** (September 2025). "I Can't Lie to You About Your Choices, But... You Have My Sympathies": Racial Movement Rhythms in the Designed Interface of Horror in *Alice: Indigo*. Conference on BIPOC Game Studies. September 12–14, 2025.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (June 2025). "Split! Bulistic Fluidity in *Cancer*." Console-ing Passions Annual Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (June 2025). "Disobedience Will Not be Toleration": Sequence-Breaking in *Mortal Dmud*. Canadian Game Studies Association (CGSA) Annual Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (June 2024). "No Will to Break": Monstrous Normality in *Hellraiser*. Console-ing Passions Annual Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (April 2024). "Violent Spectacle of the Wrong Body: A Transphobic Reading of *The Last of Us Part II*." Gendered Violence In/At/Around Video Games Symposium.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (March 2024). "Intimate Rejection: The Erotics of Hardlock in *Unyield*." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (July 2023). Housing, Dwelling" Generation Analog Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (April 2023). "Black Anachronism": Narrative Potential in the Work of Chon Sperry." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference.
- Blackburn, Brandon** (July 2022)."Sister Destruction" 2022 Generation Analog Conference.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of California, Irvine, Irvine USA (2022–Present)

Instructor of Record

Introduction to Film Analysis

Summer 2023 and 2024

Designed and taught introductory course for the Film and Media Department. Students were able to identify basic film analysis techniques and write coherently about historical and social aspects of film.

Teaching Assistant

Gender & Feminism in Everyday Life

Fall 2023

New Media & Digital Technologies

Summer 2023

History of Digital Media

Spring 2023

Social Analysis of Computing

Winter 2023

Gaming and Emotion

Fall 2024

The Studio Era

Spring 2023

The Silent Era

Winter 2024

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Contemporary Cinema | Fall 2023 |
| Introduction to Digital Culture | Spring 2023 |
| US Broadcasting Media & Analysis | Winter 2023 |
| Intro to Film Analysis | Fall 2022 |

SERVICE

Profession

- (2025) Co-chair for "👉 Critical Methodologies For Post-Gaming [or, why games never worked in the first place and that's the whole damn point]" panel for CGSA.
- (2024) Chair for "Digital Self and Subjectivities," panel for SCMS.
- (2023) Analog Games Correspondent for IndieCade.
- (2023) Correspondent for Diana Jones Award, GenCon.
- (2023) Chair for "Places of Play: New Approaches to Gaming," panel for SCMS.
- (2022) Founding member of Tabletop Research in Practice (TRIP).
- (2022) Playtester for *Lay Low: The Safety Game* at GenCon.
- (2022) Judge for IndieCade.

University

- (2023–Present) Founding member and co-chair of Queer Approaches to Media Research Cluster
- (2023–2025) Mentor for The Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience (DECADe)
-

LANGUAGES

English, native
German, fluent
Spanish, conversational

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
Tabletop Research in Practice (TRIP)
Queer Approaches to Media
Critical Approaches to Technology and the Social (CATS Lab)

REFERENCES

Annie Trunsel (Academic Co-advisor)

Email: mannell@uci.edu

Bo Ruberg (Academic Co-advisor)

Email: bohdang@uci.edu

Braxton Sodeman (Dissertation Committee Member)

Email: sodema@uci.edu