

Robert Alford

EDUCATION

Ph.D **University of California, Berkeley**
Film and Media, May 2016

Dissertation: *“To Know the Words to the Music”: Queer Mobility and the Musical*
Kristen Whissel (chair), Mark Sandberg, Mary Ann Doane, Abigail De Kosnik

Fields

Technological Transition, Theories of Sound and the Voice, New Media and Performance, Queer Theory, Material Culture, American Cinema

MA **University of California, Berkeley**
Rhetoric, December 2010

BA **Swarthmore College**
Art History, Minor in Film and Media, 2006

ACADEMIC WORK

Peer Reviewed Publications

“I Don’t Wanna Talk Anymore’: On the Queer Non-Utility of ‘Telephone Remake,’” in *Cultural Critique*, Volume 93 (Spring 2016).

“Paint Your *Band Wagon*: Style, Space and Sexuality,” in *Screen*, Issue 55/1 (Spring 2014).

Invited Publications

“Supernatural Speech: Silent Cinema’s Stake in Visualizing the Impossible,” in *Cinematic Ghosts: Haunting and Spectrality From Silent Cinema to the Digital Era*, Bloomsbury Academic, July 2015.

“Fighting the ‘Culture of Certainty’: A review of *Zero Patience*,” in *Qui Parle*, Vol. 21.1 (Fall/Winter 2012).

In Process

“A Brief History of Gay Musicality,” to be submitted to *American Quarterly*.

Presentations

“Sounds Like Home: Vitaphone Shorts, Domestic Space and Queer Circulation” Delivered at SCMS, Atlanta, Spring 2016.

“Queering Community: Divergent Strategies in *The Band Wagon* and *Glee*”
Delivered at SCMS, Boston, Spring 2012.

“Affective Effects: Ghosts, Musicals, and the Conversion to Sound” Delivered at SCMS, Los Angeles, Spring 2010.

Moderator: “Sounds on the Ground” Panel at the Second International Berkeley Conference on Silent Cinema, Spring 2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley, Department of Film and Media, 2009–2015

Instructor—Classes for the Major

Film 25A: The History of Silent Film (Summer 2014)

Required class for the film and media major

Film 108: The Musical Revisited (Fall 2013)

Upper division undergraduate genre course taught as an individual instructor

Instructor—Reading and Composition Classes

Film R1B: Film and Style (Spring 2016)

Film R1A: Cinema and Ideology (Fall 2015)

Film R1B: Genre and Technology (Spring 2015)

Film R1B: Beyond the Frame (Spring 2013)

Film R1A: Stardom, Spectatorship, Difference (Fall 2012)

Film R1B: Genre, Repetition, Seriality, Excess (Spring 2011)

Film R1A: The Hollywood Musical (Fall 2009)

Teaching Assistant

Film 50: Introduction to Film for Non-Majors (Spring 2010)

Film 100: Film Theory (Fall 2014)

Reader

Film 128: Documentary Film (Spring 2014)

Media Studies N10: Intro to Media Studies (Summer 2011, Summer 2012)

Film 108: Neo-Noir (Summer 2010)

ACADEMIC HONORS

Philip Brett LGBT Studies Fellowship

2014-2015

Fellowship awarded to one UC Berkeley graduate student per year in support of research related to LGBT Studies.

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Award

2013-2014

University-wide distinction awarded to GSIs with consistently high teaching evaluations and a demonstrated commitment to teaching.

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship

2011-2012

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Pedagogy Instructor

Trained first-time graduate student instructors on the basics of teaching undergraduate students in preparation for the first day of classes at UC Berkeley. Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2015.

Graduate Student Representative

Elected as proxy for the graduate student body in Film and Media to represent student interests at faculty meetings and organize events for the admitted students weekend in the spring. Fall 2011 – Spring 2012.

Berkeley Film Seminar Assistant

Promoted guest lectures and organized receptions/meals for guests and members of the department. Fall 2011 - Spring 2012

Research Assistant to Kristen Whissel

Fall 2011 and Spring to Summer 2015: Conducted research for Whissel's project on 3D

Research Assistant to Mary Ann Doane

Spring 2014-Fall 2014

Editor to Linda Williams

Fall 2012: Edited introduction for *Serial Television Melodrama: "World Enough and Time"*

Queer Bonds Conference Catering Committee, 2009

Berkeley Conference on Film and Media Support, 2011, 2013 and 2015

REFERENCES

Kristen Whissel

Dissertation Chair

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Mary Ann Doane

Dissertation Committee Member

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Mark Sandberg

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Abigail De Kosnik

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