

BIOGRAPHY

I am a writer and early-career researcher in media and cinema studies, with a particular interest in comedy, persona, performance, genre, and Australian cinema. I am currently a PhD candidate in the Screen & Sound Cultures research group at RMIT University, Melbourne, researching parafictional persona in the comedian comedy. In my professional career I have worked as a journal editor, film programmer, media producer and arts administrator.

QUALIFICATIONS

PhD (Media and Communication)

[RMIT University](#)

Commenced in 2020, supervised by Dr Alexia Kannas and Dr Stayci Taylor
Research Topic / Thesis: "Uses of parafictional persona in comedy"

Bachelor of Media and Communication (Honours)

2019

[RMIT University](#)

Graduated with 1st Class Honours (H1)

Thesis: "The suburban grotesque: Australian cinema's second wave"

Bachelor of Communication (Media)

2018

[RMIT University](#)

Graduated with High Distinction

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

Refereed journal articles

Dixon, B.J. (accepted/forthcoming), "Meta humour in the 1950s sitcom: Parafiction and self-reflexivity in *The George Burns & Gracie Allen Show*", *New Review of Film & Television Studies*.

Dixon, B.J. (2019), "'Give Me the Seth Rogen Laugh': *This Is the End* and Parafictional Persona", *Popular Culture Studies Journal*, 7(2), pp. 25-38.

Conference papers

Dixon, B.J. (2021), "Parafiction in the 1950s sitcom: meta humour and self-referentiality in *The George Burns and Gracie Allen Show*", *Television Histories in Development*, Netherlands Institute for Sound and Vision, 30 September-1 October.

Dixon, B.J. (2019), "Friends with benefits: Neoliberalism and heteronormativity in the bromance film", *Pop Culture Association of Australia & New Zealand (PopCAANZ) conference*, RMIT University, 3-5 July.

Non-academic reviews and essays

Dixon, B. J. (2018), "Stanley Kubrick: Order vs Chaos", video essay, YouTube
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crQJ45NzIYs>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2017), "Jackie Chan: Master of Silent Comedy", video essay, YouTube,
<<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFI6pvOI3YY>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2017), "Everyone Has to Cooperate: Nationalism and Victimhood in *Grave of the Fireflies*", *Bright Wall/Dark Room* [online], 45, <<https://www.brightwalldarkroom.com/2017/03/13/everyone-has-to-cooperate-nationalism-and-victimhood-in-grave-of-the-fireflies>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2016), "David Brent shoots for stardom in *Life on the Road*", *The Essential* [online], <<http://theessential.com.au/reviews/film/2016/david-brent-life-on-the-road>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2015), "The banality of brilliance: what *Love & Mercy* gets right about the depiction of genius", *The Essential* [online], <<http://theessential.com.au/reviews/film/2015/the-banality-of-brilliance-what-love-and-mercy-gets-right-about-the-depiction-of-genius>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2015), "*Unfriended*: horror for the generation that lives (and dies) online", *The Essential* [online], <<http://theessential.com.au/reviews/film/2015/unfriended>>.

Dixon, B. J. (2013), "Seige mentality: *Alan Partridge: Alpha Papa*", *The Essential* [online], <<http://theessential.com.au/reviews/film/2013/alan-partridge-alpha-papa>>.

TEACHING & CURRICULUM

RMIT University, School of Media & Communication

Film Criticism: From Early Cinema to the Digital Age (Semester 2, 2023; Semester 2, 2022)

Uses of Film Theory (Semester 1, 2023)

Beyond the Frame: Technologies, Industries and Audiences (Semester 1, 2022)

Introduction to Cinema Studies (Semester 1, 2021)

Popular Cinema (Semester 2, 2021; Semester 2, 2020)

Teaching innovation

In 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Alexia Kannas, Georgia Imfeld and I co-produced, hosted, and edited **Podclass**, a bespoke podcast series commissioned by RMIT University to deliver course content in lieu of in-person lectures for the Uses of Film Theory course. The series comprised 12 episodes of roughly 40 minutes each, which featured extended conversations linking the week's subject matter with assigned reading and screening material, with the goal of modelling discussion behaviour for students to use in the virtual classroom environment. Podclass assisted tutors and students navigating the difficulties of remote learning, and has proved so popular and enduring that the series has remained a part of the assigned course content through 2023.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONOURS & AWARDS

Studies in American Humor Judith Yaross Lee Publication Grant **2020**

Competitive award supporting graduate students in humour studies • Award: US\$100 stipend and one year of professional mentorship

RMIT Research Stipend Scholarship (RRSS) **2019**

Competitive scholarship to study a PhD at RMIT University • Award: AU\$31,260pa

Vice Chancellor's List for Academic Excellence, RMIT University **2018**

Awarded to those with results in the top 2% of all RMIT students

2019

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Australian Film Critics Association (AFCA) Member, 2014–Present; Board Member, 2015

Pop Culture Association of Australia and New Zealand (PopCAANZ) 2019–Present

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) 2020–Present

Melbourne Emerging Screen Scholars / Melbourne Screen Studies Group 2020–Present

International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) 2021–Present

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

***Senses of Cinema* film journal**

Editor (2020-2021)

Administrator & Webmaster (2018-2020)

Melbourne Cinémathèque

Board Member (2018-2020)

Human Rights Arts & Film Festival (HRAFF)

Programming Coordinator (2019)

Feature Film Programmer (2016-19)

The Essential

Publisher & Editor (2013-2017)

Australian Film Institute | Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts

Communications & Marketing Coordinator (2012-2016)