

BIOGRAPHY

I am an 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) — Expected completion 2024

[RMIT University](#)

Supervised by Dr Alexia Kannas and Dr Stayci Taylor

Research Topic / Thesis: "Parafictional persona in the comedian 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. (forthcoming), "Meta humour in the 1950s sitcom: Parafiction and self-reflexivity in *The George Burns & Gracie Allen Show*", *New Review of Film & Television Studies*, accepted.

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. (2024), "Cringe comedy and the suspension of empathy," *Australasian Humour Studies Network Conference*, University of Queensland, 7-9 February.

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>>.

SCHOLARSHIPS, HONOURS & AWARDS

RMIT-ACMI X Graduate Residency Program	2024
Part-time residency at ACMI X researching community media as an incubator for comedy in Australia • Award: Valued at AU\$1,920	
Australasian Humour Studies Network Student Scholarship	2023
Conference bursary for the 2024 AHSN Conference • Award: Valued at AU\$300	
<i>Studies in American Humor</i> Judith Yaross Lee Publication Grant	2020
Competitive award supporting graduate students in humo(u)r 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 2019
Awarded to those with results in the top 2% of all RMIT students	

TEACHING & CURRICULUM

Beyond a Joke, Beyond a Genre: Investigating and Creating Comedy Media

Studio Leader • Semester 1, 2024

Prompt: How can we creatively think of comedy as a mode within (and beyond) genre, form, and media?

Previous Courses (as Tutor)

Uses of Film Theory (2023, 2024)

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

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

Introduction to Cinema Studies (2021)

Popular Cinema (2020, 2021)

Teaching Innovation

Podclass • 2020

A bespoke podcast series commissioned by RMIT University in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, co-produced, hosted, and edited with Dr Alexia Kannas and Georgia Imfeld for the Uses of Film Theory course. The series comprised 12 episodes of course content delivered in lieu of in-person lectures, with extended conversations linking weekly subject matter with assigned readings and screening material, modelling discussion behaviour for students to use in the virtual classroom.

PROFESSIONAL & OTHER EXPERIENCE

Screen Inquisition

Director (2022–Present)

A regular series of curated screenings and discussions that spotlight and intersect with research being undertaken by HDR students and staff in RMIT's School of Media and Communication.

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)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) 2020–Present

Australasian Humour Studies Network (AHSN) 2020–Present

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

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

International Society for Humor Studies (ISHS) 2021–Present

Melbourne Emerging Screen Scholars (MESS) 2020–Present

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

Society for Cinema & Media Studies (SCMS) 2020–Present