

Cameron Lee Irby, Ph.D.

cirby.neocities.org
cameron.l.irby@gmail.com

Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology
The University of Texas at Dallas
800 West Campbell Road, Richardson, Texas 75080-3021

Education

The University of Texas at Dallas

Ph.D., Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication 2024
Dissertation: *Pandemic Fantasies: Discourses of Escapism During COVID-19*
Advisors: Dr. Josef Nguyen (chair), Dr. Hong-An Wu, Dr. Erin Greer,
Dr. Juan Llamas-Rodriguez, & Dr. Kim Knight

University of Louisiana—Monroe

Masters in English 2018
Thesis: *Teaching Electronic Literature: Methods and Integration*
Advisor: Dr. Will Rogers
Bachelors in English 2016
Major: English Literature

Research Interests

- Storytelling through media
- Digital media
- Fandoms & fan cultures
- Queer affect theory
- Media & identity
- Game studies

Teaching Experience

- **Adjunct Faculty** for “Digital Media and Society,” Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Fall 2024-Spring 2025
 - Overview of development, organization and operation of different digital media technologies and platforms and analyzes concepts of identity, community, and privacy.
- **Adjunct Faculty** for “Game Studies I,” Bass School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology, UT Dallas, Fall 2024-Spring 2025
 - Introduction to critical game studies, including analysis of digital and analog games as cultural artifacts, material technologies, and social practices.
- **Teaching Associate** for “Game Studies I,” Bass School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology, UT Dallas, Fall 2022 - Spring 2024.
 - Introduction to critical game studies, including analysis of digital and analog games as cultural artifacts, material technologies, and social practices.
- **Teaching Assistant** for “Writing for ATEC,” School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, UT Dallas, Spring 2021.
 - Overview on the genres of writing associated with arts, technology, and emerging communication, preparing students for media and cultural industries.

- **Teaching Assistant** for “Attitudes and Behaviors,” School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, UT Dallas, Fall 2020.
 - Discussion of the relationship among beliefs, attitudes, and behavior. Topics include attitude formation and general theories of behavioral prediction.
- **Teaching Assistant** for “Introduction to Technoculture,” Bass School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology, UT Dallas, Fall 2019, Spring 2020.
 - Introduction to the complex relationship between technology and culture. Studies evocative objects to raise questions about the co-evolution of technology and society.
- **Instructor of Record** for “Composition I” and “Composition II”, School of Humanities, University of Louisiana—Monroe, Fall 2017, Spring 2018.
 - Introductory writing course for freshman students. Explores the practice of analytical, expository, and argumentative writing, emphasizing writing as a process.
- **Teaching Assistant** for “Honors Seminar – Electronic Literature Studies,” School of Humanities, University of Louisiana—Monroe, Spring 2017.
 - Discussion of the rise of Internet culture and how it has affected traditional literature by reading works of literature, hypertext, video games, and interactive fiction.

Research Experience

The University of Texas at Dallas

- Collaborator, Studio for Mediating Play, 2019-2024
 - Assisted in maintaining and cataloging archive of game studies and play studies texts.
 - Presented original research and provided commentary on others’ projects.
 - Aided in the planning of bi-yearly research projects and themes.
- Research and Creative team, Fashioning Circuits, 2018-2023
 - “General of Support”—assisted all collaborators in their projects and studies.
 - Co-developed “mahram” art installation for display at HASTAC 2023.
 - Assisted in and led community workshops based on fashion, technology, and art.
- Collaborator, Narrative Systems Lab, 2018-2020
 - Participated in discussions on the narrative design of analog and digital games.
 - Helped lead research sessions on under-researched games and play styles.

Conference Presentations and Panels

1. “Roll\$20: Economies of Labor in Online Role-Playing Games.” Panelist on Embodiment, Authorship, and Labor in Games with Jasmine Liang and Cynthia Ching. *Computers and Writing 2024*. Texas Christian University. Fort Worth, Texas. June 2024.
2. “Role-Playing World-Making: Tabletop Role Playing Games as Utopian Practice.” Panelist on Designing Counter-Narratives in Games and Gaming Culture with Cody Mejeur, Michael DeAnda, and Wendi Serra. *2023 International Conference on Narrative*. International Society for the Study of Narrative. Dallas, Texas. March 2023.
3. “We’re All Animals: *Tiger King*, *Animal Crossing*, and Finding Escape in Lockdown.” Panelist on Fandom on Lockdown with Emily Coccia, Pilar Lacasa & Rut Martine, Martin Lukanov, and Melody McMullan. *Fan Studies Network-North America 2022 – Inside Voices*. October 2022.

4. “Disenchanted the Magic Circle.” Panelist on Not Just a Game: Disenchanted, Blurring, and Breaking the Magic Circle with Jack Murray and Atanur Andic. *Console-ing Passions 2022 – Reinvention*, University of Central Florida. June 2022.

Publications

1. “Roll\$20: Economies of Labor in Online Role-Playing Games,” *Proceedings of the Annual Computers & Writing Conference 2024*, January 2025.
2. “‘If you’re going to kill people, do it indiscriminately’: Negotiating Monstrosity in *Dead by Daylight*.” Chapter for a currently unpublished edited collection on video game monsters. Submitted for editor review February 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

1. “A Different Kind of Power Fantasy: Tabletop Role-Playing Games and Empowering Media,” *Analog Game Studies*. Submitted for peer review February 2025.
2. “We’re All Animals: *Tiger King*, *Animal Crossing*, and Animal Media in Lockdown,” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*. Preparing for submission April 2025.

Honors and Awards

- HASTAC Scholar, School of Arts, Technology, and Emerging Communication, UT Dallas: 2021-2023.
- PhD Research Small Grant, Office of Graduate Education, UT Dallas: Spring 2022.

References

- Dr. Josef Nguyen
 - Associate Professor of Film, Television, and Media @ University of Michigan
 - josefn@umich.edu
- Dr. Hong-An Wu
 - Assistant Professor @ University of Texas at Dallas
 - hongan.wu@utdallas.edu | +1 (972) 883-7536
- Dr. Kim Brillante Knight
 - Associate Professor of Digital Humanities @ San José State University
 - kim.knight@sjsu.edu | +1 (408) 924-5162