

# Cameron Lee Irby, Ph.D.

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Harry W. Bass Jr. School of Arts, Humanities, & Technology  
The University of Texas at Dallas  
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## 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

- Game Studies
- Digital Media Studies
- Fandoms & fan cultures
- Queer affect theory
- Media & identity
- Storytelling Across Media

## Publications

1. “Roll\$20: Economies of Labor in Online Role-Playing Games,” *Proceedings of the Annual Computers & Writing Conference 2024*, January 2025.

## Submitted

1. “‘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 Chapter for a currently unpublished edited collection on video game monsters.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.
2. “A Different Kind of Power Fantasy: Tabletop Role-Playing Games and Empowering Media,” *Analog Game Studies*. Accepted for peer review April 2025.

## In Preparation

1. “We’re All Animals: *Tiger King*, *Animal Crossing*, and Animal Media in Lockdown,” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*. Preparing for submission June 2025.

## 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.

## Teaching Experience

- **Adjunct Faculty** for “Digital Media and Society,” Department of Media Arts, University of North Texas, Fall 2024-Present
  - 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-Present
  - 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.

## Service

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.

## 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](mailto:josefn@umich.edu)
- Dr. Hong-An Wu
  - Assistant Professor @ University of Texas at Dallas
  - [hongan.wu@utdallas.edu](mailto: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](mailto:kim.knight@sjsu.edu) | +1 (408) 924-5162