

Thomas Johnson

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EDUCATION

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL: August 2016-December 2024

Ph.D. in English, concentration in Film and Television Studies

The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC: August 2012-May 2014

Master of Arts in English Literature

Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD: August 2008-May 2012

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, *summa cum laude*

Minors: Film Studies and Writing

Member of the university's honors program

DISSERTATION

2024 "Quality, Prestige, and Batshit TV: The Fantastic and the Marvelous in American Television, 1990-2019"
Committee: Phillip E. Wegner (chair), Susan Hegeman, Terry Harpold, Yu-Hao Lee, Elizabeth Alsop
(CUNY School of Professional Studies)

MONOGRAPH

TV Milestones: The Leftovers. Co-authored with Kyle Meikle. Wayne State UP, 2027 (under contract and forthcoming).

TELEVISION REVIEW

Review of *Watchmen* (HBO, 2019). *Adaptation*, Volume 13, Issue 3, December 2020, pages 397-402.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"'Live in the Lie for a While': Closure in *Angel: After the Fall*." *The Comics of Joss Whedon: Selected Essays*. Edited by Valerie Estelle Frankel. McFarland and Co., 2015, pages 51-59.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Georgia Institute of Technology, July 2025– (Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow)

Writing and Communication Program

Composition II, "21st-Century Time-Travel Television" (Fall 2025), "1980s Dark Fantasy Cinema and Cultural Criticism" (Spring 2026)

Georgia Institute of Technology, January 2025-July 2025 (Visiting Instructor)

Writing and Communication Program

Composition II “The Disney Renaissance” (Spring 2025)

University of Florida, Fall 2016-December 2024 (Graduate Instructor)

English Department

Writing through Media “Cinematic and Literary Adaptations on Contemporary U.S. Television” (Fall 2018), “21st-Century Film Adaptations of 20th-Century Literature” (Spring 2020) [online, synchronous], “American Fantasy TV and Cultural Prestige” (Fall 2020) [online, synchronous]

Writing about Media “Literary Genre Fiction” (Spring 2019)

American Literature Survey: “The American Fantastic” (Spring 2018), “Visions of America” (Fall 2021)

Film Analysis (Fall 2017, Fall 2019)

University Writing Program

Rhetoric and Academic Research (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

Professional Writing in the Disciplines (Spring 2021) [online, synchronous]

Expository and Argumentative Writing (Spring 2022, Fall 2022) [online, asynchronous]

Warrington College of Business

Professional Business Writing (workshop instructor) [Fall 2023, Spring 2024]

African-American Studies

For the Culture (Teaching Assistant) [Fall 2024]

Catholic University of America, August 2012-May 2014 (Writing Center Instructor and Teaching Assistant)

English Department

Instructor in University Writing Center (August 2012-May 2014)

20th-Century American Poetry (January 2013-May 2013) [teaching assistant]

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Founder, Television Studies Reading Group. University of Florida. September 2016-December 2024.

Research Assistant, The Working Group for the Study of Critical Theory, University of Florida. September 2022–May 2023.

Vice President, English Graduate Organization. University of Florida. February 2017-February 2018.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND HONORS

Grinter Fellowship. University of Florida. 2016-2019.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026 “I don’t understand what’s happening’: *The Leftovers* as Magical Realism.” International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. Forthcoming.

2025 “‘Let the Mystery Be’: *The Leftovers* and the Batshit Fantastic.” 97th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. Nov. 8.

2024 “‘Who was that?’ ‘That was Jacob’: Retroactive Continuity and Adapting Omnipotence on *Lost*.” 96th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Jacksonville, FL. Nov. 15.
“Bad Writing’ or Strategic Opacity?: Daenerys’s Descent into Cruelty Reconsidered.” 45th International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. March 16.

2023 “*Game of Thrones* as the Bridge to Today’s Fantasy-Rich ‘Quality’ Television.” 95th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. Nov. 11.

2022 “‘Bad Writing’ vs. Strategic Opacity: How Could Daenerys Be So Cruel?” 94th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Online. Nov. 11.

2021 “HBO’s *Watchmen* and Appropriation Anxiety.” 2021 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Online. Mar. 19.

2020 “HBO’s *Watchmen* and Appropriation Anxiety.” 92nd Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Online. Nov. 15.
“Seriality and The Fantastic.” 2020 International Conference on Narrative. New Orleans, LA. Mar 5-7.

2019 “Seriality and Adaptation.” 91st Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. Nov. 15-17.

2018 “Double-Natured Women in Double-Natured Fiction: *The Women in White*, *Lady Audley’s Secret*, and *Gone Girl* as Defenses of Sensation Fiction.” 90th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Birmingham, AL. Nov. 2-4.

2017 “The Limits of Subversion: Adaptation Anxiety and Disney’s *Into the Woods*.” 89th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Atlanta, GA. Nov. 3-5.
“Subversive Streaming: Adapting American Fascism in *The Man in the High Castle*.” 38th Annual International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. Mar. 22-26.

2016 “Subversive Streaming: Adapting American Fascism in *The Man in the High Castle*.” 88th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Jacksonville, FL. Nov. 4-6.
“A Spirit of the Air’: Adapting Damnation and Salvation in Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*.” 37th Annual Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. Orlando, FL. Mar. 16-20.

2015 “‘Trying to [make] a talky’: James Franco’s Cinematic Adaptation of *As I Lay Dying*.” 87th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Raleigh-Durham, NC. Nov. 13-15.
“Live in the Lie for a While’: Closure in *Angel: After the Fall*.” Joss in June. Middle Tennessee State University. Murfreesboro, TN. June 26-27.

2014 “One Gollum to Rule the Box Office: Multiple Personalities and the Fantasy Franchise.” Annual Conference of the Association of Adaptation Studies. Flagler College. St. Augustine, FL. Sept. 26-28.

2013 “Poor Unfortunate Souls’: The Corporate Transformation of *The Little Mermaid*.” 43rd Annual Conference of the Popular Culture Association. Washington, DC. Mar. 27-30.

WORKSHOPS AND ROUNDTABLES.

2022 Participant, “How will the age of austerity affect ‘world-building’ TV adaptations?” Books and TV Roundtable. 94th Annual Conference of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association. Online. Nov. 11.

2019 Participant, “20th and 21st-Century Seriality,” Project Narrative Summer Institute. The Ohio State

University. Columbus, OH. July 7-19.

Auditor, "The Content Era" Seminar. 60th Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Seattle, WA. Mar. 13-17.

2018 Participant, "Instability/Stability: Catalogue Titles, Streaming Services, and Physical Media." Flow TV Conference 2018. UT-Austin. Sept. 27-29.

Participant, "Unbound: New Possibilities for the American TV Series" Seminar. 59th Annual Conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Toronto, Canada. Mar. 14-18.

2017 Roundtable Moderator, "20 Years after *Philosopher's Stone*: How *Fantastic Beasts* Reimagines Allegory." English Graduate Organization Annual Conference. University of Florida. Gainesville, FL. October 20-21.

2016 Participant, "TV Genre, Political Allegory, and New Distribution Platforms" Roundtable. Flow TV Conference 2016. UT-Austin. Sep. 15-17.

REFERENCES

Dr. Phillip E. Wegner, Ph.D., Professor of English and Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar. University of Florida.

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Phone: (352) 294-2813

Dr. Thomas Leitch, Ph.D., Professor of English and Director of Film Studies. University of Delaware.

Email: tleitch@udel.edu

Phone: (302) 831-2298

Dr. Susan Hegeman, Ph.D., Professor of English, University of Florida

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