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NATHAN D. ROBERTS

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He/Him/His

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

PhD, Film and Visual Studies, May 2023

Dissertation: *Reforming the Common Boundary: An Ethic of Technical Media*

Committee: Profs. Giuliana Bruno, Eugenie Brinkema (MIT), Eric Rentschler, Laura Frahm

New York University, New York, New York

BA, *summa cum laude*, Gallatin School of Individualized Study, May 2015

Concentration: Cinematic Philosophy; Advisor: Professor Rahul Hamid

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Film

Film theory (classical, 1970s, contemporary)

American cinema, history

International cinema (contemporary & historical)

Media

Media philosophy

Media aesthetics & environments

Media and/in intellectual history

Theory and Philosophy

Ethics & politics of aesthetic experience

Philosophy of technology

Audiovisual form & collective formation

History of philosophy + critical theory

Affect

Creative Writing

Film and media criticism

Screenwriting

Creative nonfiction

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2022-2023.

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning in cooperation with the Office of Undergraduate Education at Harvard University, Fall 2018, 2019, and 2021.

Merit/Graduate Society Term-time Research Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2019-2020.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“A Cloud of Unknowing on the Horizon: Navigating the Geopsychic Moods of Anxiety and Paranoia in *Inherent Vice* (2014),” under review.

“Playing with Lord Business: Structure, Bricolage, and *The Lego Movie* (Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, 2014),” under review.

NONFICTION BOOK

Surface Tensions: Searching for Sacred Connection in a Media-Saturated World (Peabody, Massachusetts: Hendrickson Publishers, 2016).

“*Surface Tensions* works equally well as a small primer on media and a memoir of growing up in a thoroughly mediated age.”
—from the Foreword by [Alissa Wilkinson](#), *New York Times Film Critic*

FILM CURATION

[“Caught in the Net: The Early Internet In The Paranoid Imagination.”](#) The Harvard Film Archive in partnership with the Institute of Contemporary Arts Boston, March 9-19, 2018. ([WBUR Review](#), [Local TV Interview](#))

SELECTED CRITICAL ESSAYS

[“The Sorcerer’s Tears: On *Pig*, *The Green Knight*, and the Climate Change Imagination,”](#) *Between Lands* Magazine, Spring 2022.

[“Launched into Space: Non-Representation in ‘Everything and More,’ by Rachel Rose,”](#) *Los Angeles Review of Books*, January 2016, edited by Merve Emre.

SCREENWRITING + DIRECTING

Writer + Director of [Wag](#) (short film, in pre-production, co-produced by [Mustafa Zeno](#))

Writer + Director of [Feel The Power](#) and [The Young Santa](#) (short films, written and in development)

Story Co-writer + Creative Producer of [Chambers Bay](#), forthcoming feature fiction films directed by [E.C. Timmer](#).

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“The Doll Made Flesh: Greta Gerwig’s *Barbie* (2023) as the Setting and Realization of Desire,” *Society of Cinema and Media Studies* (Conference), Boston, MA, March 2024

“Reorchestrating Aristotle, Reforming Technics: On The Ethical Sublimation of the Media Concept,” *Film-Philosophy* Conference, Chapman University, Orange, CA, June 2023.

“Isaac Julien’s Ethical Environment: Attention and Prophetic Picture-Making in *Lessons of the Hour* (2019),” *Society of Cinema and Media Studies* (Conference), Denver, CO, March 2023

“Let Me Sail: Browsing between Joy and Anxiety in *Eighth Grade* (2018),” *The Technologization of Cultural Techniques: What Happens When Practices Become Algorithmic Technologies?*, Princeton-Weimar Summer School for Media Studies, Internationales Kolleg für Kulturtechnikforschung und Medienphilosophie, Weimar, DE, July 2019.

“I-[interface]-Thou: Affective Transduction as Interpersonal Possibility in *Paris, Texas*,” *Affective Realisms*, University of California Berkeley German Department (Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference), Berkeley, CA, February 2019.

“The World, Everything, Gone Someplace Else: Anxiety, Paranoia, and the Too Many Horizons Of *Inherent Vice* (2014),” *Society of Cinema and Media Studies* (Conference), Seattle, WA, March 2019
Film-Philosophy (Conference), Gothenburg University, Gothenberg, Sweden, July 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Head Instructor, [University of California Santa Barbara](#)

“Theories of Filmgoing and Mass Culture,” Lecture Course, Summer 2025 .

“The Selfie, from Caravaggio to the Present,” Seminar, Spring 2025.

“Advanced Film Analysis,” Lecture Course, Fall 2024.

“Theories of Filmgoing and Mass Culture,” Lecture Course, Fall 2024.

Head Instructor, Harvard Extension School

“The Selfie, from Caravaggio to the Present,” Spring 2026.

“Why Do Movies Move Us? The Psychology and Philosophy of Filmgoing,” Spring 2025.

“American Dreams Made in Hollywood And Beyond,” Spring 2024.

Head Instructor, Harvard Pre-College Program

“Why Do Movies Move Us? The Psychology and Philosophy of Filmgoing,” Summer 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

“Crisis Journalism: Writing Articles and Essays in a State of Emergency,” Summer 2021, 2022, 2023.

“Media Journalism,” Summer 2020, (Co-Taught with Hannah Rosefield).

“Media Journalism: Aesthetics and Ethics, Race and Politics,” July 2019 and 2018.

Head Teaching Fellow, Department of Art, Film, and Visual Studies, Harvard University

“The Art of Film” (Professor Kate Rennebohm), Spring 2019.

“Nazi Cinema: The Art of Propaganda” (Professor Eric Rentschler), Program for General Education, Fall 2018.

Teaching Assistant, Harvard Extension School + Harvard Summer School

“American Nightmares: Horror Cinema and Television (Professor Charlotte Szilagyi), Spring 2025.

“Breaking The Spell: American Fantasy Film and Television” (Professor Charlotte Szilagyi), Spring 2024

“The Art and Politics of Propaganda: Lessons from the Nazis” (Professor Eric Rentschler), Fall 2023.

“Nazi Cinema: The Art of Propaganda” (Professor Eric Rentschler), Spring and Fall 2020

“American Dreams Made in Hollywood” (Professor Eric Rentschler), Spring, Summer, Fall 2019; Summer 2020.

Teaching Fellow, Harvard University

“The Art of Film: Currents in Contemporary World Cinema” (Professor Haden Guest), Spring 2021.

“The Behavior of Images,” (Professor David Joselit), Fall 2020.

“The Art of Film,” (Professor Laura Frahm), Spring 2018

“American Dreams: From *Scarface* to *Easy Rider*,” (Professor Eric Rentschler), Program for General Education, Fall 2017

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Film Festival Juror

Lake Stevens Film Festival, Lake Stevens, WA, August 4-5 2023.

Peer Review

Canadian Journal Of Film Studies, 2023, 1 Article.

Selected Guest + Public Lectures

“[Try Local: The Secret Power of Community Filmmaking](#),” Masterclass Delivered with E.C. Timmer and Bao Tran, Lake Stevens Film Festival, Lake Stevens WA, August 5, 2023.

“[Play It \[Again\] Sam: Casablanca in Context and As Time Goes By](#),” Coolidge Education Seminar, Coolidge Corner Theatre, Brookline, MA, July 2019.

“[Film Genre and Its Discontents](#),” Guest Lecture for *The Art of Film*, Harvard University (Professor Kate Rennebohm), Spring 2019.

Giuliana Bruno

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Professor of Visual and
Environmental Studies

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REFERENCES:

Eugenie Brinkema

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Laura Frahm

John L. Loeb Associate
Professor of the Humanities

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and Visual Studies,
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Jennifer Holt

Professor and Chair of Film
and Media Studies

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