

# ELI BOONIN-VAIL

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## EDUCATION

- University of Pittsburgh** 2024  
PhD in Film and Media Studies  
Dissertation: “Cinema’s Prison Industrial Complex: Film Between Carceral Collusion and Independent Resistance.”  
Chair: Mark Lynn Anderson.
- University of Iowa** 2019  
MA in Film Studies
- Brandeis University** 2016  
BA in History, Film Television & Interactive Media, Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

- Susan Hayward Prize**, French Screen Studies Editorial Board, 2023.  
**Visualizing Abolition Mellon Workshop Fellow**, UC Santa Cruz, April 2023.  
**Richard C. and Barbara N. Tobias Dissertation Fellowship**, University of Pittsburgh Department of English, Academic year 2022-2023.  
**Claudia Gorbman Graduate Student Writing Award**, Society of Cinema and Media Studies, Runner Up, October 2021.  
**Graduate Writing Award**. University of Pittsburgh Film and Media Studies, April 2020.  
**Emru Townsend Award**. Society for Animation Studies, June 2018.

## PUBLICATIONS

- “Cruel Portability: Discourses and Techniques of 16mm in the *American Journal of Correction*,” Century of 16mm edited collection through Indiana University Press. Forthcoming.
- “The Battle of the Big House Bowls: Toilets, Prisons, and the Production Code’s Carceral Coprophobia.” *The Quarterly Review of Film and Video*. Forthcoming.
- “In the Slammer: Acoustemologies of the Carceral in the Prisons of Classical Hollywood.” *Music, Sound, and the Moving Image* 17, no. 1 (2023): 43-63.
- “Hello Public! Jackie Ormes in the Print Culture of the *Pittsburgh Courier*.” in *Desegregating Comics*. Edited by Qiana Whitted. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. 2023.
- “The System of the Genius: French New Wave and the *Politique des producteurs*.” *French Screen Studies* 23, no. 4 (2023): 305-322.
- “Visible Stripes: Reenacting Trauma in Hollywood’s Carceral Aesthetics.” *Film Criticism* 45, no. 1 (2021). <https://doi.org/10.3998/fc.1032>
- “‘The Body of the Nation’: Ta-Nehisi Coates’ Black Panther and the Black Literary Tradition.” *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society* 4, no. 2 (2020): 135–55.  
<https://doi.org/10.1353/ink.2020.0011>.
- “Queer Proteus: Towards a Theory of the Animated Child.” *Animation Studies* 14, Spring 2019.  
<https://journal.animationstudies.org/eli-boonin-vail-queer-proteus-towards-a-theory-of-the-animated-child/>

## INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCES

- “Incarcerated Amateurs: Media Labors of the San Quentin Inmate Film Workshop (1965-1970),” Amateur Cinema: A Global History Conference, Barcelona, November 2024.
- “Carceral Geographies and Rebellious Filmmaking: Utilizing ArcGIS to map the L.A. Rebellion,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Boston, March 2024.
- “A Guided Tour of a Prison Without Walls: *Grey Area* (1982), Sue Booker, and Black counter carceral mediascapes,” Critical Approaches to Black Media Culture, Tulane University, February 2024.
- “Prison and The Documentary,” Invited Talk for Film 384U History of Documentary, Instructor Benjamin Mendelsohn. Course offered through Portland State University’s Higher Education in Prison Program. Half of attendees incarcerated at Coffee Creek Correctional Facility. Virtual, November 2023.
- “The Prison World of Film: Discourses and Techniques of 16mm in The American Journal of Correction,” A Century of 16mm Conference, University of Indiana, September 2023.
- “That’s what America Means: Prison’ – *Teach our Children* (1972) as Proto-Abolitionist Geography,” Visible Evidence XXIX, University of Udine, September 2023.
- “Prison/Rebellion: the Los Angeles Black Independent Film Movement in the shadow of the carceral state,” Screen Studies Conference, Glasgow, June 2023.
- “Human Accumulation and Carceral Excess: Walter Wanger at the dawn of California’s Neocarceral Regime,” University of Southern California Graduate Conference, Los Angeles, CA, October 2022.
- “The System of the Genius: Pierre Braunberger and the French New Wave’s *politique des producteurs*,” Pitt-Lyon 2 International Colloquium, Pittsburgh, April 2022.
- “No Prisoner Ever Had So Many Curious Onlookers: *Canon City* (1948) and Hollywood’s Carceral Exploitation. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Virtual, April 2022.
- “Eye-Arresting: Transcarnality and Prison False Fronts of the Classical Hollywood Era.” San Francisco State University Graduate Conference, San Francisco, CA, February 2022.
- “The Naked Fury of Fact!: *Canon City* (1948) and Carceral Semi-Documentary Exploitation,” Visible Evidence XXVII, Frankfurt am Main, December 2021.
- “In The Slammer: Countercarceral Acoustemologies in Walter Wanger’s *Riot in Cell Block 11* (1954),” Screen Studies Conference, Virtual, June 2021.
- “The System of the Genius: French New Wave and the *Politique des producteurs*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Virtual, March 2021.
- “A Matter of Light and Death: Convulsions of Modernity in *Execution of Czolgosz With Panorama of Auburn Prison*,” Yale Film & Media Graduate Studies Conference, New Haven, CT, March 2020.
- “A High-Grade Machine and Skilled Operator’: Exposition Image/Sound Aesthetics of Chautauqua in Circuit and Assembly Contexts,” University of Pittsburgh Film and Media Graduate Student Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, September 2019.
- “Legacies of Renoir’s *La Grande Illusion* for the Mid-Century Carceral Imaginary in Bresson, Melville, and Genet,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, March 2019.
- “The Revolting Image: Eisenstein’s Queer Desiring Forms,” Cinema Studies Institute 2019 Graduate Conference, University of Toronto, January 2019.

“Queer Proteus: Towards a Theory of the Animated Child,” Society for Animation Studies Annual Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, June 2018. Craft Critique Culture Conference, University of Iowa, April 2018.

## FILM AND VIDEO PROJECTS

“Choosing the Toilet View: Censorship and Collaboration within Hollywood’s Prison Industrial Complex,” *In Media Res*, January 23, 2024.

<https://mediacommons.org/imr/content/choosing-toilet-view-censorship-and-collaboration-within-hollywood%E2%80%99s-prison-industrial>

“Painting With Light,” Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference Artifice Creative Showcase, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, February 2019.  
Finalist, First in the Nation Film Festival, Iowa City, Iowa, January 2020.

“Letter to Frank: A Video Essay,” Cinematic Arts Colloquium, University of Iowa, March 2018.

## TEACHING

### Lecturer

2024 - Present

*Department of Art and Art History, University at Albany*

- AARH 260 – Introduction to Film Studies, Fall 2024
  - Lectured and graded survey level course of 60 students.
- AARH 369 – Experimental Film and Video, Fall 2024
  - Production course emphasizing experimental making in camera operation, concept design, and nonlinear editing software.

### Teaching Assistant and Course Instructor

2019 – 2024

*Program in Film and Media Studies, University of Pittsburgh*

- ENGFLM 1390 – Contemporary Film, Summer 2024 (Course Instructor)
  - Taught remote summer course focused on global and queer contemporary cinemas.
- ENGFLM 0400 – Introduction to Film, Spring 2024 (Course Instructor)
  - Course assignments incorporated digital mapping tools and open access digital archives for visual, cultural, and historical analysis.
- ENGFLM 530 – Film Analysis, Summer 2022 (Course Instructor)
  - Devised syllabus and taught required introductory course for the Major in Film & Media Studies focused on formal analysis of film, narrative structure, authorship, and genre.
- ENCOMP 205 – Seminar in Composition: Film, Spring 2022 (Course Instructor)
  - Course assignments incorporated digital mapping tools, video editing software, and open access digital archives for visual, cultural, and historical analysis.
- ENGFLM 530 – Film Analysis, Fall 2021, Fall 2023 (Teaching Assistant)
  - Led recitation sections for required introductory course for the Major in Film & Media Studies focused on formal analysis of film, narrative structure, authorship, and genre. Performed Grading.
- ENCOMP 0200 – Seminar in Composition, Fall 2020, Spring 2021 (Course Instructor)
  - Devised syllabus and taught introductory general education writing intensive seminar with special emphasis on decolonial literature, Black American literature, and race and American comics.

## Teaching Assistant and Course Instructor

2017 – 2019

*Department of Cinematic Arts, University of Iowa*

- CINE2615: Introduction to Film Theory, Spring 2019 (Course Instructor)
  - Devised syllabus and taught a seminar survey of classical film theory, semiotics, feminism, psychoanalysis, ideological criticism, queer theory, with emphasis on Latin American and African theoretical scholarship. Course requirement for Major in Cinema Studies.
- CINE1601: Introduction to Film Analysis, Spring 2018 (Teaching Assistant)
  - Led recitation sections for required introductory course for the Major in Cinema Studies focused on formal analysis of film, narrative structure, authorship, and genre. Performed Grading.
- CINE1602: Introduction to Film Studies, Fall 2017, Fall 2018 (Teaching Assistant)
  - Led recitation sections on film history, criticism, technologies, and cultural functions of cinema in a general education lecture course. Performed grading.

## SERVICE

### Director

2024 – Present

*University at Albany minor in Film Studies*

### Peer-Reviewer

2024

*Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*

### Head Organizer

Fall 2021 – Fall 2022

*University of Pittsburgh Film and Media Studies Graduate Student Conference 2022*

### Organizer

Spring 2022

*New East Cinema Symposium*

### Screener/Organizer

Fall 2021

*Screenshot Asia*

### Co-President

*English Department Graduate Student Organization*

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

*Film and Media Studies Graduate Student Organization*

Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Society for Animation Studies

The Comics Studies Society

## LANGUAGES

English (Fluent)

Spanish (Proficient)

French (Reading)

## REFERENCES

Mark Lynn Anderson – University of Pittsburgh  
Associate Professor, Department of English and Program of Film and Media Studies  
Dissertation Committee Chair  
[andersml@pitt.edu](mailto:andersml@pitt.edu)  
412-383-6999

Neepa Majumdar – University of Pittsburgh  
Associate Professor, Department of English and Program of Film and Media Studies  
Dissertation Committee Member  
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412-624-5578

Allyson Nadia Field – University of Chicago  
Associate Professor, Department of Cinema and Media Studies  
Dissertation Committee Member  
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