

**SARAH NILSEN**  
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## **EDUCATION**

### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Ph.D., December 2000. School of Cinema-Television, Critical Studies.  
M.A., 1995. School of Cinema-Television, Critical Studies.

### **AMERICAN FILM INSTITUTE**

M.F.A., 1992. Screenwriting.

### **DARTMOUTH COLLEGE**

B.A., 1989. English Literature and Creative Writing.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books**

*Projecting America: Film and Cultural Diplomacy at the Brussels World's Fair of 1958* (McFarland & Company, 2011).

*The Colorblind Screen: Television in Post-Racial America.* eds. Sarah Nilsen and Sarah Turner (New York University Press, 2014).

*The Myth of Colorblindness: Race and Ethnicity in American Cinema.* eds. Sarah Nilsen and Sarah Turner (Palgrave, 2019).

*Where Dreams Begin: A Cultural History of the Disney Princesses* (book manuscript, in progress).

### **Articles/Chapters**

"Some People Just Hide in Plain Sight": Historicizing Racism in *Mad Men*," *The Colorblind Screen: Television in Post-Racial America.* eds. Sarah Nilsen and Sarah Turner (New York University Press, 2014).

"All-American Girl?: Annette Funicello and Suburban Ethnicity in the Mickey Mouse Club," *Mediated Girlhoods: New Explorations of Girls' Media Culture* ed. Mary Celeste Kearney (Peter Lang, 2011).

"America's Salesman: Walt Disney's USA in Circarama" *Beyond the Mouse: Disney's Documentaries and Docudramas*, ed. A. Bowdoin Van Riper (McFarland, 2011). Recipient of the PCA/ACA Ray and Pat Browne Award for "Best Edited Collection in Popular and American Culture" for 2011.

“Be Sure You’re Right, Then Go Ahead”: The Davy Crockett Gun Craze” *Red Feather: An International Journal of Children’s Visual Culture* 1:1 (Spring 2010). (Reprint in *A Walt Disney Reader*, University Press of Mississippi)

“White Soul: The ‘Magical Negro’ in the Films of Stephen King,” *The Films of Stephen King: From Carrie to Secret Window*, ed. Tony Magistrale (New York: Palgrave, 2008): 129-140.

### **Creative Work**

*Monkey Love*. Screenplay for a biographical feature length film about Dr. Harry Harlow, the father of attachment parenting.

*Shelter*. Screenplay for a television pilot about an animal shelter in Vermont.

### **Book Reviews**

Jonathan Auerbach, *Dark Borders: Film Noir and American Citizenship*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001. *Journal of Cold War Studies*.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Media Appearances:**

*Cartooning America: The Fleischer Brothers Story*, NEH funded documentary in production, scholar consultant.

ABC *Behind the Magic: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, national premiere, December 13, 2015, scholar interview.

PBS *American Experience: Walt Disney*, national premiere September 14-15, 2015, scholar interview.

Pacifica Radio *Against the Grain* radio show, San Francisco, July 2014, hour long radio interview, “The Colorblind Screen,” chosen as one of the “most interesting interviews aired in 2014.”

### **Conferences:**

Popular Culture Association, Washington, D.C., Spring 2019, paper presentation, “Living in *Zootopia*: Tracking the Neoliberal Subject in a Colorblind World.”

Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Seattle, Spring 2019, paper presentation, “Virtual Voyages: Memories of Expo 70.”

University Film and Video Association, Los Angeles, Summer 2017, scriptwriting presentation, “Shelter.”

Vermont Humanities Council, Ideas on Tap Lecture Series, Winter 2016, "Growing Up Disney: A History of Childhood in the Twentieth Century."

Popular Culture/American Culture Association, Seattle, Spring 2016, paper presentation, "Animating *Snow White*."

The World's Fair Since '64, Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., Fall 2014, invited workshop and paper presentation, "Put You in the Picture: A History of Films at World's Fairs."

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference, Seattle, Spring 2014, paper presentation, "The House of Science: A Kuhnian Revolution at the Century 21 Exposition."

Illustration, Comics, and Animation Conference, Dartmouth College, Spring 2013, paper presentation, "Animating the Disney Princess."

American Historical Society Conference, New Orleans, Fall 2012, paper presentation, "*USA in Circarama*: Walt Disney at the Brussels World's Fair of 1958."

Popular Culture/American Culture Conference, Boston, Spring 2012, paper presentation, "I Don't See Any Difference: Historicizing Racism in *Mad Men*."

Console-ing Passions Conference: Feminism, Television and Video, Suffolk University, Boston, Spring 2012, paper presentation, "I Don't See Any Difference: Historicizing Racism in *Mad Men*."

TV in the Academy Conference, University of Vermont, Fall 2011, paper presentation, "The History of Television Studies in the Academy"

Reimagining Girlhood: Communities, Identities, Self-Portrayals conference, SUNY-Cortland, Fall 2010, paper presentation, "All-American Girl?: Annette Funicello and Suburban Ethnicity."

Popular Culture/American Cultural Studies Conference, St. Louis, Spring 2010, paper presentation, "Selling Good Design: IBM and the Films of Charles and Ray Eames."

African Literature Association Conference, UVM, Spring 2009, paper presentation, "Don't Stop 'til We Get Enough: Michael Jackson and the Enjoyment of the Other."

APCS Conference for Psychoanalysis and Social Change, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Fall 2008, paper presentation, "Don't Stop 'til We Get Enough: Michael Jackson and the Enjoyment of the Other."

Popular Culture/American Cultural Studies Conference, San Francisco, Spring 2008, paper presentation, "All American Girl: Annette Funicello and the Question of Ethnicity" and roundtable member on Race and the Films of Stephen King.

Console-ing Passions: Feminism, Television and Video, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Spring 2006, paper on Annette Funicello.

Visible Evidence Conference, Concordia University, Montreal, Summer 2005, paper presentation, "Anything Can Happen Day: *The Mickey Mouse Club* Newsreels."

MIT4: Media in Transition Conference, MIT, Cambridge, Spring 2005, paper presentation, "Everyone Neat and Pretty: Mickey Mouse Mediocrity."

Console-ing Passions: Feminism, Television and Video, Tulane University, New Orleans, Spring 2004, paper presentation, "Six Gun Galahads: Masculinity and the Television Western."

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, Spring 2003, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Spring 2003, paper presentation, "Be Sure You're Right": The Davy Crockett Gun Craze."

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Spring 2003, workshop on the films of Claire Denis.

Film and History Conference, Kansas City, Fall 2002, paper presentation, "'Be sure you're right, then go ahead': Race and the Davy Crockett Television Craze."

Wisconsin Political Science Association Conference, Oshkosh, Fall 2002, The Media and the Bush Presidency panel.

APCS Conference for Psychoanalysis and Social Change, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, Fall 2001, "*Do the Right Thing?*: Transference in the Classroom."

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Dean's Symposium, Oshkosh, Spring 2001, "Popular Culture and the Cold War."

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, Washington, DC, Spring 2001, "Violence is Desire: Claire Denis' *Beau Travail*."

Console-ing Passions Conference: Feminism, Television and Video, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Spring 2000, "Shirley Clarke's Visual Jazz."

Film and Literature Conference, University of Florida, Fall 1999, "Bug-Eye in *South Pacific*: The Atomic Sublime at the Brussels World's Fair."

Cold War Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, 1999, "America's Salesman: Disney at the Brussels World's Fair."

Western Association of Women Historians Conference, Huntington Gardens, Pasadena, 1998, "Gendered Spheres: The World's Fairs of the 1930s."

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, San Diego, 1998, Media Literacy workshop.

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, Ottawa, 1997, "It Happened at the Fair: Film and the Paris Expositions," French Cinema in the 1930s and Its Intertexts panel.

UCLA Southland Conference, Westwood, 1997, "Disneyland Goes to the World's Fair," Imagined Communities panel.

Society for Cinema Studies Conference, 1996, "The Total Art of Stalin," Avant Garde panel.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT, English Department, Associate Professor, Fall 2003 to present. Courses Taught:

- History of Motion Pictures
- History of Television
- Race and Television
- Critical Race Issues in Television
- Hip-Hop Culture in Film and Television
- Exploitation and Blaxploitation Cinema
- Walt Disney and American Culture
- Screenwriting

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN OSHKOSH, School of Communication, Radio-Television-Film, Assistant Professor, Fall 1999 to Spring 2003.

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

University of Vermont, Humanities Center and OVPR Summer Research Award, Summer 2019, for research at the University of Washington and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks.

University of Vermont, Small Grant Research Award, Summer 2017, for research at the Walt Disney Archive, Burbank, CA.

University of Vermont, Small Grant Research Award, Spring 2015, for research at The Strong National Museum of Play, Rochester, NY.

University of Vermont, Lattie Coors Research Assistantship Award, Spring 2013, for research on the Disney Princess franchise.

University of Vermont, Faculty Research Support Award, Fall and Spring 2011/12.

University of Vermont, Faculty Development Grant, Fall 2005, research on the plans by the U.S. State Department for the American Pavilion at the Brussels World's Fair of 1958.

Fulbright Scholarship, 1998/9, The Canada-U.S. Fulbright Program, research on American pavilions at Canadian international expositions.

Vander Putten International Fund, Fall 2002, funding to meet with British media organizations and institutions in order to develop a summer media studies program.

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Faculty Development Grant, Summer 2001, research on the introduction of film technologies at the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition of 1893.

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh Faculty/Student Collaborative Grant, 2000 and 2001, research on Pare Lorentz's Nuremberg Trial film and Vera Caspary's filmic adaptation of *Laura*.

Bernard Kantor Scholarship, 1998/9, University of Southern California.

Cinema Circulus Scholarship, 1997/8, University of Southern California.

#### **Professional Activities**

External reviewer for the journals: *American Studies*; *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*; *Societies*

External reviewer for the following presses: Rowman & Littlefield

Guest lecturer at Burlington High School

Special evaluator for Community College of Vermont