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Eric A. Pitz

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UCLA

Department of Film, Television and Digital Media

School of Theater, Film and Television

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA) Los Angeles, CA
UCLA SCHOOL OF THEATER, FILM & TELEVISION

PhD in Cinema and Media Studies, expected June 12, 2027.

- Dissertation: "From Manhattan to Miami: Race, Ethnicity, and Technology in the Animated Films of Fleischer Studios"
- Committee: Denise Mann (chair), Ellen Scott, Jasmine Trice, Rob King (Columbia University)
- Comprehensive Exams: American Film History (emphasis: censorship, repression, and representation); Film Genres (emphasis: film comedy)
- Graduate Certificate in English Writing Pedagogy
- Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Associate MA in Cinema & Media Studies, June 2022

NORTHERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Marquette, MI

BA in English and Spanish, December 2019 (*summa cum laude*)

Minor: Film Studies

Universidad de Salamanca, Salamanca, Spain (study abroad)

- Certificate in Spanish Language

Graduated with Full Honors with World Language Studies

PUBLISHED WORK

(Under review with *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*) Pitz, Eric A. "Queer Coding and Cross-Dressing: The Censorship of the Kiss in Hollywood Gender Impersonation Cinema, 1925-1959."

Pitz, Eric A. (2018) "In Another Person's Skin: Adaptations of *To Kill a Mockingbird* and the Characterization of Scout Finch," *Conspectus Borealis*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 5.

Pitz, Eric A. (2017) "Homosexuality in Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice*," *Conspectus Borealis*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 3.

BOOK REVIEWS

(Forthcoming) *The First Movie Studio in Texas: Gaston Méliès's Star Film Ranch* by Kathryn Fuller-Seeley and Frank Thompson. *Early Popular Visual Culture*. [Date and issue TBD]

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

(Forthcoming) Pitz, Eric A. "Limited Boundlessness: Cab Calloway's Performance in *Betty Boop* Shorts." American Studies Association Annual Conference (Chicago, IL: October 2026).

(Forthcoming) Pitz, Eric A. "Giant Ads for a Giant Lad: The Failure of Marketing Fleischer's *Gulliver's Travels* (1939)." *Gulliver's Travels* at 300 - The Global Afterlives of a Bestseller in Print, Transmedial Adaptations, and Material Culture: ILLUSTRATIO Annual Conference (London, England: September 2026).

(Forthcoming) Pitz, Eric A. "There's a Trace of Him Here: Considering Cab Calloway in Fleischer's *Minnie the Moocher*." Animate Experience: Society for Animation Studies Annual Conference (Pittsburgh, PA: June 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. "Beavers and Rabbits and Wolves, Oh My! Playing with Process in *Hundreds of Beavers* (2022)." University of California, Santa Barbara Graduate Center for Literary Research Conference: Humor, Comedy, and Play in Times of Crisis (Santa Barbara, CA: May 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. "Betty Who? The Production of Betty Boop's Racial and Ethnic Ambiguity." Stars and Screen Virtual Symposium (Online: May 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. "Considering Cab Calloway: The Fleischer Studios' *Minnie the Moocher* and Rotoscoping Black Performance." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference (Chicago, IL: March 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. "Reelin' In the Years: The Talkie Compilation Short and the Turn from Silent Cinema." The Hollywood Conference at USC (Los Angeles, CA: July 2025).

Pitz, Eric A. "'The Colossus of Clout (The Colossus of Clout):' *The Sandlot*, Babe Ruth, and the (Hi)story of Baseball." Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Summer Salon Conference (Albuquerque, NM: June 2025).

Pitz, Eric A. "Ho-di-ho-di-Ro-to-scope: Black Performance in the Fleischer Studios' *Minnie the Moocher*." Popular Culture Association Conference (New Orleans, LA: April 2025).

Pitz, Eric A. "Queer Coding and Cross-Dressing: The Censorship of the Kiss in Hollywood Gender Impersonation Cinema, 1925-1959 – Case Study: *Some Like it Hot*." Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference (Chicago, IL: April 2025).

Pitz, Eric A. "Chaplin as an Auteur: The Case of *The Great Dictator*." Northern Michigan University Celebration of Student Scholarship (Marquette, MI: April 2017).

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

American Studies Association Annette Baxter Travel Grant – 2026

Society for Animation Studies Emru Townsend Award – 2026

UCLA Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Merit Award – 2026

Society for Cinema and Media Studies Animated Media Scholarly Interest Group Travel Grant – 2026

The Kemp R. Niver Scholarship in Film History at UCLA – 2024

John H. Mitchell Fellowship Award – 2022

Outstanding Graduating Student in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and International Studies Award (Language Major) – 2019-2020 academic year

Anna & Rich Lundin Summer Research Fellowship – 2019

James Cloyd Bowman Scholarship – Outstanding English Department Student – 2019

Sigma Tau Delta – International English Student Honor Society – Admitted 2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles, CA

June 2021 – Present

Teaching Fellow as Instructor of Record

- FTV 495A: Teaching Practicum for Cinema and Media Studies (TA Training)
 - Fall 2025, Fall 2026

Teaching Assistant/Associate/Fellow

- FTV 4: Introduction to Art & Technique of Filmmaking
 - Summer 2021, Summer 2022
- FTV 6A: History of the American Motion Picture
 - Winter 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Winter 2025
- FTV 10A: American Television History
 - Spring 2026
- FTV 51: Digital Media Studies
 - Winter 2023, Winter 2024
- FTV 84A: Overview of the Contemporary Film Industry
 - Summer 2022
- FTV 106C: Third Cinema and Its Legacies/History of African, Asian, and Latin American Film
 - Winter 2026
- FTV 112: Film and Social Change
 - Spring 2025
- FTV 113: Film Authors
 - Winter 2023
- FTV 114: Film Genres
 - Spring 2024, Summer 2025, Summer 2026

GUEST LECTURES

Pitz, Eric A. “Say Kids, What Time is it? Time for a Brief History of Children’s Television” – FTV 10A: American Television History, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (Los Angeles, CA: May 2026)

Pitz, Eric A. “‘And You Gotta Be Girls’: Cross-Dressing, Censorship, and *Some Like it Hot*” – FTV 6A: History of the American Motion Picture, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (Los Angeles, CA: February 2025, February 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. “Archival Research and Practices, Media Archaeology, and Preserving Film History” – University of California, Irvine School of Humanities (Irvine, CA: January 2026).

Pitz, Eric A. “‘We’re Going to Die Out Here:’ The History, Marketing, and Culture of the Found Footage Film” – FTV 114: Film Genres, UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television (Los Angeles, CA: May 2024).

ACADEMIC SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles, CA
Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Representative Sept. 2022-2023; 2025 – Present

Aberrations Graduate Conference at UCLA May 2025
Volunteer

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Los Angeles, CA
The Hollywood Conference at USC July 2025
Volunteer

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

HIGHLAND PARK INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL, Los Angeles, CA Sept. 2024 – Oct. 2024
Judge

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES, Los Angeles, CA June 2022 – Dec. 2023
Graduate Student Research Assistant

- Copyeditor for forthcoming book *Tech Magic Portals* (ed. Denise Mann) (Summer 2022)
- Assisted with course website maintenance and arranging class materials for multiple courses under supervision of Denise Mann (Summer 2022 – December 2023)
- Rewrote quiz questions, creative exercises, and discussion forum prompts for “FTV 4: Introduction to Art and Technique of Filmmaking” under supervision of Jasmine Trice (Summer 2023)

SHERMAN GRINBERG FILM LIBRARY, Chatsworth, CA May 2021 – Dec. 2021
Media Archive Intern

- Assisted Allyson Field (University of Chicago) and Mark Williams (Dartmouth College) in compiling information pertaining to *Paramount Screen Souvenirs* series (1931-1935) as part of the Media Ecology Project (MEP).

SCHOOL DISTRICT 112 COMMUNITY EDUCATION, Chaska, MN June 2014 – Aug. 2020
Program Assistant/Paraprofessional – Club Care Childcare

FRESH COAST FILM FESTIVAL, Marquette, MI May 2019 – Sept. 2019
Programming Intern

LANGUAGE SKILLS

SPANISH – Intermediate fluency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION (ASA)	2026 – Present
SOCIETY FOR ANIMATION STUDIES (SAS)	2025 – Present
CRITICAL HUMOR STUDIES ASSOCIATION (CHSA)	2025 – Present
POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION (PCA)	2024 – Present
SOCIETY FOR CINEMA AND MEDIA STUDIES (SCMS)	2020 – Present
SIGMA TAU DELTA, INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY	2017 – Present

REFERENCES

Denise Mann
Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, UCLA
Email: dmann@tft.ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-9218

Ellen C. Scott
Associate Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, UCLA
Email: ecscott@tft.ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-5761

Jasmine N. Trice
Associate Professor of Cinema and Media Studies, UCLA
Email: jnt@ucla.edu
Phone: (310) 825-5761

Rob King
Professor of Film and Media Studies, Columbia University
Email: rk2704@columbia.edu
Phone: (212) 854-2815