

Oral Histories Bios

ANTHONY ADAH is a Professor of Film Studies at Minnesota State University Moorhead. His teaching and research areas are African cinemas and Indigenous filmmaking in Australia, Canada, and Aotearoa/New Zealand. He has published in *PostScript*, *Film Criticism*, Intellectbook's *Journal of Media and Cultural Politics* and he is currently editing a volume on the Family in African Film and Media.

BOB BATCHELOR is a cultural historian and biographer. He has written 15 books, including *Stan Lee: A Life* and *Roadhouse Blues: Morrison, the Doors, and the Death Days of the Sixties*. He received his doctorate in Literature from the University of South Florida and taught at colleges in Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Vienna. He is currently Director, Public Relations and Publications at The Diversity Movement.

CORTNEY BARKO is an Associate Professor of English at West Virginia University Institute of Technology. Cortney is currently the Immediate Past President of the MPCA and was President of the association from 2017-2019 and the Interim President from 2021-2022. She served as Vice President/President Elect of the MPCA from 2014-2016. Cortney received her PhD in English from Northern Illinois University in 2011, along with graduate certificates in Women's Studies and Museum Studies. Her monograph, *Writers and Artists in Dialogue: Historical Fiction About Women Painters*, was published in 2016 by Peter Lang Publishing.

NICK BESTOR is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of English at the University of Nevada – Reno. He received his doctorate in 2019 from the Department of Radio-Television-Film at the University of Texas – Austin. His research exists at the intersection of media studies, game studies, fan studies, and popular culture studies.

PAUL BOOTH is a Professor at DePaul University. He first attended MPCA in 2003 and has been back every year since. He served as MPCA/ACA President from 2013-2016.

GARY BURNS is a professor emeritus in the Communication Department at Northern Illinois University. He edits the journals *Popular Music and Society* and

Rock Music Studies (both with Thomas Kitts). He is the Historian of the Popular Culture Association, a former President of the American Culture Association, a former President of the Popular Culture Association, and a former Executive Secretary of the Midwest Popular Culture Association. He edited *A Companion to Popular Culture* (Wiley Blackwell, 2016). He has published articles in the *Journal of Popular Film and Television*, the *Journal of American Culture*, and the *Journal of Popular Culture*.

DARRYL KENT CLARK brings a total of over forty years' experience as a dancer, actor, choreographer, director and teacher to his position as Assistant Professor of Musical Theater Dance at Southern Illinois University – Carbondale. His performance credits include stints with Princess Cruises, Sesame Street Live!, Zyngara Performance Troupe and Concert Dance, Inc. He has taught many forms of theatrical dance at Missouri State University, Western Carolina University, SUNY College at Brockport and the University of Amsterdam as well as at studios in the USA and the Netherlands.

JENNIFER C. DUNN is a professor of rhetoric and public culture at Dominican University. She served as the Reviews Editor of *The Popular Culture Studies Journal* from 2014-2016. Her research focuses on the intersections of gender, rhetoric, popular culture, and media. One of her co-authored articles, "Becoming "Boss" in *La reina del sur*: negotiating gender in a narcotelenovela," appears in the third volume of the journal (2015). This piece demonstrates her focus on intersecting identities, media representation, and the roles of the medium, form, and text in constructing meaning as does her most recent co-authored article, "Why are you just watching?: polyvalent Korean spectatorship and critical western spectatorship in *Squid Game*" (*Communication, Culture, & Critique*, October 2022).

ANDREW F. HERRMANN is Associate Professor of Communication Studies at East Tennessee State University. He studies identity, narrative, and power at the intersections of organizational, occupational, and popular culture contexts. He is a founding co-editor of the *Journal of Autoethnography*, edited the award-winning *Routledge International Handbook of Organizational Autoethnography*, and authored *Organizational Communication Approaches to the Works of Joss*

Whedon. He is also the co-editor of the *Communication Perspectives on Popular Culture* book series.

MALYNNDA JOHNSON is an associate professor in the department of communication teaching mostly in the areas of health communication and media studies. She completed her PhD in 2012 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. For 15 years most of Dr. Johnson's research centered on how media shapes our perceptions and understanding of health topics such as HIV and STIs. She has written two books on media representations of health topics including one on HIV and the other on neurodiversity and mental health.

NORMA JONES is an accomplished author, editor, and educator with a diverse background spanning across areas including academia, energy, legal, law enforcement, international business, and multimedia entertainment/advertising environments. She is unique because Norma combines her academic experience with her executive-level corporate expertise.

JESSE KAVADLO is a Professor of English and the Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Maryville University of St. Louis, where he teaches classes on 20th and 21st century literature, monsters, superheroes, and rock & roll, among other things. He is the author of *Don DeLillo: Balance at the Edge of Belief* and *American Popular Culture in the Era of Terror: Falling Skies, Dark Knights Rising, and Collapsing Cultures*, as well as the co-editor (with Bob Batchelor) of *Michael Chabon's America: Magical Words, Secret Worlds, and Sacred Spaces*, the editor of *Don DeLillo in Context*, and President of the Don DeLillo Society.

JULIA E. LARGENT KUTTLER is an Assistant Professor of Communication at McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas. She graduated with her Ph.D. in Media and Communication from Bowling Green State University in August 2017. In 2019, she was elected as the Vice President/President-Elect, and transitioned into the role of President in 2022. She also served as the Managing Editor of PCSJ from January 2017 through October 2022.

KATHLEEN TURNER LEDGERWOOD is Assistant Professor of English and Writing Area Coordinator at Lincoln University in Missouri. She was Executive Secretary for MPCA from 2013-2018. She researches popular media relationships

between literature, film, and television. Kathleen has loved getting lost in narratives for as long as she can remember, and now she just feels privileged to indulge in the worlds she loves and call it work.

ANGELA SPENCE NELSON is an Associate Professor in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University. Her teaching and research focuses on Black cultural production and popular culture, including the intersections of aesthetics, gender, race, performance, and religion within and surrounding African-American music, stage plays, comic art and television.

BRENDAN RILEY is an Associate Professor in the Department of English and Creative Writing at Columbia College Chicago, where he teaches about Rhetoric/Composition, Literature, and Media Studies, including courses on Zombies and Board Games. He's written articles about comic books, detective fiction, zombies, and more, and he published a monograph, *The Digital Age Detective* (2017, McFarland). Brendan is also the MPCA Tabletop and Role-Playing Games area chair. Last, he co-designed the board games *Titania Ascending* and *Bigfoot: Roll & Smash*, and he records *Pick Up & Deliver*, a board game podcast currently in its fifth season.

LORI ABELS SCHARENBRÖICH is owner and founder of West Shore Marketing, which specializes in brand strategy, digital marketing, content creation, and event planning for small businesses and non-profit organizations. After receiving an M.A. in Communication Studies from Northern Illinois University, she has worked for various marketing and content strategy firms before founding her own. She was the MPCA/ACA Conference Coordinator from 2001 to 2022.

TIMOTHY SCHEURER received his Ph.D. from Bowling Green State University. He has taught literature and popular culture courses and is the author of *Music and Mythmaking in Film Genre and the Role of the Composer* and *Born in the U.S.A.: The Myth of America in Popular Music from Colonial Times to the Present*. He's published articles on a popular music, film, TV, and literature. He serves on the editorial boards of *Popular Music and Society* and *The Journal of Popular Film and Television* and is a past president of the American Culture Association and the Midwest Popular Culture Association.