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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. (2022) American Culture Studies, Bowling Green State University
- Ethnic Studies Graduate Certificate (2022) BGSU
- M.A. (2014) English, British and American Literature, Hunter College
- B.A. (2012) English Literature, Language & Criticism; Minor in Philosophy, Hunter College

RESEARCH

Ph.D. Dissertation:

Debate Watch Parties in Bars and Online Platforms: Audiences, Political Culture, and Setting During the 2020 United States Presidential Election

Keywords:

Political Culture; Political Communication; Political Consumerism; Audience Performance

Abstract:

The purpose of this dissertation is threefold. First, to investigate settings where audiences participated in the 2020 U.S. presidential election debates by organizing or attending debate watch parties. Second, to explore why these parties became meaningful for audiences. Third, to explore how the setting of these parties organized the sense-making for audiences of the debates. While no prior research on debate watch parties currently exists, they have become popular over the last five U.S. presidential elections and are significant in that they involve facets of political communication and political engagement not typically paired in American political culture: political consumerism, activism, sports spectatorship, and political cynicism. An ethnographic narrative excavation of debate watch parties—compiled from participant observations collected from my own field notes, open-ended surveys, and postmodern interviews—reveals six roles that audiences performed as they participated in these events: Marketeers, Public Seekers, Activists, Hosts, Antagonists, and Reluctant Partiers. I investigate how the setting organized these roles, comparing parties held in physically built bars and in online, virtual platforms, finding that both settings allowed for the construction of participatory civic identities amongst audiences. I evaluate how public interactions at debate watch parties in virtual environments mimicked the public interactions at parties hosted in bars, and particularly how political brand cultures crept into online environments. This leads to a discussion of how these audiences demonstrated the concept of creative narrative appropriation, particularly in the blending of electoral spectatorship with sports spectatorship. This underscores the stress and unease amongst audiences towards electoral politics, and how debate watch parties provided attendees and organizers with a safe social setting in which to publicly cope with these concerns.

PUBLICATIONS

Cohen, Adam. (2025). Book Review. *Capitalism Hates You: Marxism and the New Horror Film* by Joshua Gooch, *Supernatural Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Art, Media, and Culture*

Cohen, Adam. (2024). “Audience Performance and Sports Fandom Rhetorics During 2020 Presidential Election Debate Watch Parties.” *Transformative Works and Cultures*, no. 43.

Cohen, Adam. (2020). “WWE and Saudi Vision 2030: Professional Wrestling as Cultural Diplomacy.” *Professional Wrestling Studies Journal*, vol. 1, no. 1.

(Co-authored) Book Review with Radhika Gajjala and ACS 7700 Teams 1 and 2. (2019). *New Digital Worlds: Postcolonial Digital Humanities in Theory, Praxis, and Pedagogy* by Roopika Risam, *South Asian Review*.

Cohen, Adam. (2016). “From Brecht to Glenn Beck: Performances of Xenophobia in Professional Wrestling.” *Popular Culture Review*, vol. 27, no. 2, pp. 182-205.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS, AND TALKS

“WWE and Saudi Vision 2030: Professional Wrestling as Cultural Diplomacy,” *Ray Browne Conference for Popular Culture Studies*, Bowling Green, OH, March 5-7, 2021

“‘Washington is a Contact Sport’: Political Debate as Sports Spectacle,” *Tenth International Conference on Sport & Society*, Toronto, Canada, June 20-21, 2019

“‘It’s Gonna Be a Brawl!’: American Political Debate as Sports Spectacle,” *16th Annual Conference on Citizenship Studies*, Detroit, MI, March 21 - 23, 2019

“Electionmania!: The Logic of Consumer Sovereignty in the 2016 Presidential Campaign,” *Popular Culture Association/American Studies Association National Conference*, Indianapolis, IN, March 28-31, 2018

Introduction to *Pulse* (2001) Japan, 119 minutes, Director: Kiyoski Kurosawa, *Tuesdays at the Gish*, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, Oct 23, 2018

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND ACADEMIC INTERVIEWS

Interviewed by Atiawin Mbilah-Lawson. *Race to the White House*. “Deconstructing American Politics.” *GhOne TV*. Jul 10, 2020.

Interviewed by Taylor Dawn Stagner. “The Enlightenminute: Just Keep Swimming? Researching and Writing During a Global Pandemic.” *BiG Ideas Podcast*. Available on Spotify. May 19, 2020.

Interviewer. “*American Poets in the 21st Century: Poetics of Social Engagement* with Michael Dowdy.” *Books Aren’t Dead Podcast*. Available on Apple Music and Spotify. June 10, 2019.

SERVICE, TEACHING, AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

Adjunct Lecturer

English Literature

New Jersey City University, Fall 2023-Present

Adjunct Lecturer

General Education

Russell Sage College, Fall 2021-Present

Adjunct Lecturer

School of Cultural & Critical Studies; Ethnic Studies; American Culture Studies

Bowling Green State University, Fall 2022-Present

Graduate Teaching Assistant (Instructor of Record)

American Culture Studies

Bowling Green State University, Fall 2017-Fall 2020

Editorial Review Board

Professional Wrestling Studies Journal. Vol 1. No. 2. 2021-2022

Manuscript Reviewer

New Media and Society. March 2020.

Discussion Leader

American Culture Journal Club, Bowling Green State University, April 3, Spring 2019

Adjunct Lecturer

Department of English

Hunter College, Spring 2012 - Summer 2017

Adjunct Lecturer

Department of Humanities

Marymount Manhattan College, Spring 2014 - Fall 2017

Research Assistant

To Eric Lott, The CUNY Graduate Center, Fall 2016

Adjunct Lecturer

Department of English

York College, Fall 2014

Tutor and College Assistant

Reading/Writing Center

Hunter College, 2008-2009, 2013-2014

COURSES TAUGHT

Creative Writing in the Digital Age (1 section, enrollment 25)

Composition I (4 sections, enrollment 25)

Composition II (4 sections, enrollment 25)

Introduction to Ethnic Studies (6 sections, enrollment 20)

Consumerism & Identity (1 section, enrollment 24)

Survey of the ways in which social identities (nationality, race, ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, religion, etc) shape, and are shaped by, consumer culture in the United States; how citizenship has been shaped by consumerism, and thus the role(s) that consumer

culture plays in politics; and, finally, how consumerism and identity are expressed artistically in American culture.

Cultural Pluralism in the United States (13 sections, enrollment 35)

Survey of American history and culture emphasizing social identity, diversity, social inequalities, and artistic expressions within the Arts and Humanities.

Comics and Graphic Novels (3 sections, enrollment 22)

Survey of American comics and graphic novel genres, themes, and devices from 1940 to the present.

Introduction to Writing about Literature (8 sections, enrollment 25)

Required English composition course for all first-year students, surveying literary genres, themes, devices, and research methods within the discipline of English Literature.

Writing in the Liberal Arts - Seminar I (8 sections, enrollment 17)

Required English composition course for all first-year students, surveying themed fiction and nonfiction readings such as multicultural American literature, social justice and comics books, and society identity in consumer culture.

Writing in the Liberal Arts - Seminar II (8 sections, enrollment 17)

Required English composition course for all second-semester, first-year students, scaffolding an MLA research project from themes such as multicultural American literature, social justice and comics books, and society identity in consumer culture.

Expository Writing (10 sections, enrollment 20)

Required English composition course for all first-year students, surveying themed nonfiction readings and scaffolding an MLA research project.

Intermediate Expository Writing (3 sections, enrollment 12)

Small group English composition course reinforcing academic reading and writing skills.

Research and Writing for Professional Programs (1 section, enrollment 35)

Required undergraduate core composition course covering themed readings and an MLA research project.

Writing in Community (10 sections, enrollment 19)

Researching in Community (10 sections, enrollment 19)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Honorable Mention recipient, 2011

Catalina Páez & Seumas MacManus Award sponsored by *The Academy of American Poets*