Education

Our department offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in Cinema & Media Studies (CMS) and is the home to the Comparative Literature major for undergraduates. Our students actively engage with contemporary media as critical observers, analysts, researchers, and industry experts. They communicate their findings clearly and persuasively. They interpret and utilize the tools of visual communication to affect and influence the world.

Through courses on media criticism, film history and culture, and contemporary cinema and technology, students who major in CMS investigate how visual media shape our experiences in and perceptions of the world. They apply their analytical skills to hands-on practice including internships and courses in screenwriting. Because visual media literacy is an increasingly critical skill in diverse fields, many students pair this major with a degree in STEM, the social sciences, or a pre-professional field. Graduates bring a valued perspective and insights to organizations in a wide range of fields spanning media, technology, arts and culture, education, entertainment, and more.

The undergraduate major in Comparative Literature trains students in the critical analysis of texts. It explores how the rhetorical and aesthetic features of those texts respond to and shape social values, attitudes and beliefs. The major explores the relationships among different cultures and between literature and other fields of knowledge, such as art history, philosophy, religion and political thought. This broad latitude maximizes students' opportunities to design their own courses of study. Graduates pursue careers in a variety of fields such as marketing, publishing, law, technology, public relations and the arts.

STUDENTS (Spring 2020)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>144</td>
<td>Cinema and Media Studies majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Comparative Literature majors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Graduate students</td>
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DEGREES AWARDED (Spring 2020)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>Bachelor of Arts degrees</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>PhD degree</td>
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FACULTY (Autumn 2020)

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Professors</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Associate Professors</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Adjunct/Affiliate Faculty</td>
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From our smartphones to the movie theater, human experiences across the globe today are shaped by the media we view and create. Visual media are entwined with culture, art, politics, and entertainment. Understanding these relationships is at the core of Cinema & Media Studies.
Scholarship

Research in our department reflects the diversity of our faculty's and students' areas of expertise and interest. Recent faculty projects and publications have covered such topics as global art cinema, feminist approaches to silent film history, and history of production design in Hollywood. Recent dissertations have included studies of the history of animation in Eastern Europe, queer perspectives in contemporary East Asian cinemas, and transnational heritage films. Our faculty include the editors-in-chief of two international journals: Feminist Media Histories and Journal of Chinese Cinemas.


Outreach

Our faculty and graduate students have worked with the Simpson Center for the Humanities on public scholarship initiatives by teaching publicly engaged graduate seminars and by connecting with teachers in high schools and community colleges across Seattle. We have co-sponsored local festivals of Asian American, Jewish, Latin American, South Asian, and Queer cinemas. We have also collaborated in various ways with the UW Film Club, First Year Programs, the LUX Film Production Club, the Northwest Film Forum, the Red Badge Project, and the Seattle International Film Festival. Expanding our outreach efforts to include more diverse communities is a top priority.

AREAS OF SCHOLARSHIP

Cinema and Media Studies
Feminist Film History and Theory
History of Technology
Television Studies
Visual Culture
World Literature

Faculty

Awards received by Department of Cinema & Media Studies faculty include:

1. Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Film Scholar
2. Guggenheim Fellowship
3. Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship
4. National Jewish Book Award
5. Annette Kuhn Essay Prize in Cinema & Media Studies
6. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Book Awards
7. National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
8. UW Royalty Research Fund Awards
9. Simpson Center Grants and Fellowships
10. Lockwood Professorship in the Humanities
11. Osborne Professorship in Cinema & Media Studies

MAJOR UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS (Since 2015)

1. Fulbright U.S. Student Scholar
2. College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Medalist in the Humanities

MAJOR GRADUATE AWARDS (Since 2015)

1. Soden-Trueblood Endowed Graduate Publishing Fellowship
2. Mellon Fellowship for Reaching New Publics
3. Mellon Fellowships for Public Projects in the Humanities
4. Mellon Fellowship for Dissertation Research in Original Sources
5. Fulbright Fellowships
6. Foreign Language & Area Studies Fellowships
7. Graduate School Presidential Dissertation Awards
8. College of Arts & Sciences Graduate Medal in the Humanities
9. Elizabeth Macfarlane Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities
10. Antoinette Wills Endowed Scholarship in the Humanities
11. Chester Fritz Awards for International Studies
12. Joff Hanauer Graduate Fellowships
13. Simpson Center Society of Scholars Research Fellowships
14. Digital Humanities Summer Fellowships, Simpson Center for the Humanities
15. Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation China Research Grant
17. Society for Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Essay Award

last update: September 2020