

ROSE STEPTOE

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

rsteptoe@email.unc.edu

Primary Areas of Expertise and Interest

Horror and genre studies; feminist approaches to film; film aesthetics; women filmmakers; film theory; videographic criticism and the video essay; old age and ageism in film; film sound.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
(2026-Present)

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in English and Comparative Literature

Graduate Certificate in Film Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC (2020-2026)

- Dissertation: “The Aesthetics of Feminist Body Horror in Contemporary Cinema”
 - William Dougald McMillan Award for Best Dissertation in English
- Committee: Rick Warner (Director), Martin Johnson, Inga Pollmann, Daelena Tinnin-Gadson, Michelle Robinson, H.M. Cushman

Bachelor of Arts in English and History

University of South Carolina Honors College, Columbia, SC (May 2019)

- Summa Cum Laude, *Phi Beta Kappa*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Essays

“Croned” (2024). Video essay. *[in]Transition: Journal of Videographic Film & Moving Studies*, vol. 11, issue 3, Special Issue: Women and Aging, <https://intransition.openlibhums.org/article/id/16441/>.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“The Southern Slasher Comes of Age: Old Age, Race, and Disability in Ti West’s *X*” (2025). Chapter in *Fear of Aging: Old Age in Horror Fiction and Film*, ed. João Paulo Guimarães, transcript Publishing.

“Reborn as a Witch: Gender and Exploited Labor in Contemporary Witchcraft Films” (2025). Chapter in *Satanism and Feminism in Popular Culture: Not Today Satan*, ed. Miranda Corcoran, Amsterdam University Press/Routledge.

Book Reviews

“New blood in contemporary cinema: women directors and the poetics of horror,” (2021). *New Review of Film and Television Studies*, 19:3, 383-386, DOI: 10.1080/17400309.2021.1949202.

Forthcoming Publications

“Beauty Knows No Bounds: Feminist Film Style and Embracing Abject Femininity in Contemporary Body Horror.” Chapter in *The Handbook of Body Horror*. eds. Subashish Bhattacharjee and Anik Sarkar (Manuscript submitted and accepted, expected 2027).

Publications in Preparation

“Refusing to Tone It Down: The Tonal Strategies of Feminist Body Horror in *Titane* (2021)” (Currently under peer review).

“Echoes of the Afternoon: Influences of Maya Deren’s Surrealism in Contemporary Feminine Horror,” Video Essay (in preparation).

“Listening for Oneself: A Feminist Intervention into Point-of-Audition in Rungano Nyoni’s *I am Not a Witch*” (in preparation).

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Papers Presented as Panelist

“Noise is the New Flesh: Exaggerated Media Textures as Transfeminist Body Horror in *I Saw the TV Glow*.” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, Illinois, March 2026.

“Refusing to Tone it Down: *Titane*, Body Horror, and a Punk Feminist Sensibility,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Boston, Massachusetts, March 2024.

“*Titane*’s Punk Approach to Body Horror” Triangle Film Salon Student Symposium at UNC-Chapel Hill, March 2024.

“Listening for Oneself: A Feminist Intervention into Point-of-Audition in *I am Not a Witch*,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Denver, Colorado, April 2023.

“Digital Landscapes, Virtual Flesh: Feminist Body Horror Beyond the Physical,” University Film and Video Association, SUNY Fredonia (Fredonia, NY). Paper accepted, paper presented via virtual format due to COVID-19, July 2022.

“The Medicalization of Pregnancy as Body Horror,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2022. Paper accepted, paper presented via virtual conference, March 2022.

“Rethinking Pregnancy Horror: Expository Aesthetics and Offscreen Body Horror in John Lee’s *False Positive* (2021),” Triangle Film Salon Student Symposium at UNC-Chapel Hill, March 2022.

“A New Monstrous Mother(hood): Reclaiming Maternal Identity in Women-Directed Horror,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2021. Paper accepted, paper presented via virtual conference, March 2021.

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST LECTURES

Talks and Lectures at UNC

“*Scream* and Postmodern Horror,” Guest Lecture in ENGL 143: *Film and Culture* (Nicole Berland) at UNC-Chapel Hill, November 2025.

“1990s Horror,” Guest Lecture in CMPL 144: *Films of the 1990s* (Rick Warner) at UNC-Chapel Hill, October 2025.

“*The Matrix* and Film Sound,” Guest Lecture in ENGL 143: *Film and Culture* (Nicole Berland) at UNC-Chapel Hill, September 2025.

“Film Sound,” Guest Lecture in ENGL 142: *Film Analysis* (Nicole Berland) at UNC-Chapel Hill, June 2024.

“1990s Horror,” Guest Lecture in CMPL 144: *Films of the 1990s* (Rick Warner) at UNC-Chapel Hill, October 2023.

“Sound and Image: Fundamentals of Film Sound,” Guest Lecture in ENGL 142: *Introduction to Film Analysis* (Gregory Flaxman) at UNC-Chapel Hill, November 2022.

“Cinematic Color and Excess,” Guest Lecture in CMPL 143: *History of Global Cinema* (Inga Pollmann) at UNC-Chapel Hill, February 2022.

“Body Horror in Women-authored Horror Films,” Guest Lecture in CMPL 280: *Film Genres* (Rick Warner) at UNC-Chapel Hill, October 2021.

“Feminist Film Theory: Gaze Theory,” Guest Lecture in ENGL 680: *Film Theory* (Rick Warner) at UNC-Chapel Hill, October 2021.

“Anna Biller and Feminist Surrealism,” Guest Lecture in CMPL 463: *Surrealism* (Rick Warner) at UNC-Chapel Hill (virtual), April 2021.

External Talk and Lectures

Introduction for *Taxi Driver* (Scorsese, 1976) screening, Hillsborough Film Classics, Jerry M. Passmore Senior Center, Hillsborough, NC, April 2026.

Introduction for *Thelma and Louise* (Scott, 1991) screening, Ackland Film Forum: Films of the '90s, Ackland Art Museum and UNC Film Studies, Varsity Theater, Chapel Hill, NC, September 2023.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships

Partners in Progress Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School at UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2025), \$8,000.

Eliason Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2024), \$5,000.

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) Graduate Fellow for ENGL 494: *Research Methods in Movie-going* (Fall 2023, Martin Johnson), \$1,500.

Grants

Transportation Grant, The Graduate School at UNC, (Spring 2026), \$400.

Graduate Travel Grant, Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, (Spring 2026), \$500.

Graduate Travel Grant, Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, (Spring 2024), \$500.

Graduate Travel Grant, Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill, (Spring 2023) \$500.

Latina/o Studies Teaching Grant for ENGL 105: Critical Game Studies, Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2023), \$400.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record at UNC-Chapel Hill

Fall 2026. *Writing at the Research University* (ENGL 105)(3 sections; 19 students).

Spring 2026. *Arguing on the Internet: Rhetoric in the Age of Social Media* (ENGL 117) (20 students).

Spring 2025. *Arguing on the Internet: Rhetoric in the Age of Social Media* (ENGL 117) (20 students).

Fall 2024. *Film and Culture: Gender in Film* (ENGL 143) (35 students).

Spring 2024. *Writing at the Research University* (ENGL 105) (19 students).

Summer 2023. *Writing at the Research University, Online, Synchronous* (ENGL 105) (10 students).

Spring 2023. *Gaming Across the Disciplines: University Writing Through Critical Game Studies* (ENGL 105) (19 students).

Summer 2022. *Writing at the Research University, Online, Synchronous* (ENGL 105) (4 students).

Fall 2021. *Writing at the Research University* (ENGL 105) (19 students).

Teaching Assistant at UNC-Chapel Hill

Fall 2025. *Films of the 1990s* (CMPL 144), Rick Warner. (80-student lecture, led two weekly 20-student recitation sections)

- Guest Lecture: “1990s Horror”

Fall 2023. *Films of the 1990s* (CMPL 144), Rick Warner. (120-student lecture, led two weekly 20-student recitation sections)

- Guest Lecture: “1990s Horror”

Spring 2023. *Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies* (WGST 101), Nicole Else-Quest. (160-student lecture, led two weekly 40-student recitation sections)

Fall 2022. *Film Analysis* (ENGL 142), Gregory Flaxman, Fall 2022. (120-student lecture, led two 20-student weekly recitation sections)

- Guest Lecture: “Film Sound”

Spring 2022. *History of Global Cinema* (CMPL 143), Inga Pollmann. (160-student lecture, led two 20-student weekly recitation sections)

- Guest Lecture: “Cinematic Color and Excess”

Other Teaching Roles at UNC-Chapel Hill

- Graduate Research Consultant (Research Resource for Undergraduates)
 - *Film & Culture* (ENGL 143), Nicole Berland, Fall 2025.
 - *Film Analysis* (ENGL 142), Nicole Berland, Summer 2024
 - *Research Methods in Film Studies: Histories of Movie-going* (ENGL 494), Martin Johnson, Spring 2022, Fall 2023.
 - *Film and Culture: Race and Culture in Cinema* (ENGL 143), Jennifer Larson, Fall 2021.
- Grader
 - *Film and Culture: Archetypes* (ENGL 143), Bradley Hammer, Fall 2021.

SERVICE

Interdepartmental and University Service at UNC

Judge for Carolina Film Association Festival, Undergraduate Student Organization, UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2026)

Co-Coordinator of Film and Media Studies Writing Group, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2025-Spring 2026)

Judge for Carolina Film Association Festival, Undergraduate Student Organization, UNC-Chapel Hill (Spring 2025)

Co-Coordinator of Kino Corner Film Series, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2022-Fall 2024)

- Collaborations with the Ackland Art Museum, the Latina/o Studies Program at UNC-Chapel Hill, Film Studies Program at UNC-Chapel Hill, and The Chelsea Theater.

Dramaturgy Consultant, Lobby activation writer and post-show panelist for *Misery* performed by Playmakers Repertory Company, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2023)

Departmental Service for English and Comparative Literature at UNC

Co-Coordinator of Triangle Film Salon Graduate Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, and Duke University (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

First-year graduate student mentor (Fall 2021-Spring 2023)

Graduate Communications Editor (Departmental Website News; Newsletter), Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2020-Spring 2023)

Faculty Handbook Copy Editor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC-Chapel Hill (Summer 2022)

Service to Profession

Manuscript Reviewer, *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)

- Scholarly Interest Groups: Horror Studies, Sound Studies, Digital Humanities and Videographic Criticism; Caucuses: Gender and Feminisms, Queer and Trans Caucus