

Adrien Sebro, Ph.D.

Department of Radio-TV-Film | Moody College of Communication
The University of Texas at Austin | CMA 6.134
asebro@utexas.edu

Academic Appointments:

- 2020- Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Austin
Department of Radio-Television-Film
- 2023- Faculty Affiliate, University of Texas at Austin
Department of African and African Diaspora Studies
- 2019-2020 Lecturer, University of Texas at Austin
Department of Radio-Television-Film

Education:

- 2019 University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D., Film and Television (Cinema and Media Studies)
- 2019 University of Pennsylvania
Pre-Doctoral Fellow for Excellence through Diversity, Annenberg School
of Communications
- 2014 Columbia University in the City of New York
Master of Arts in African American Studies
- 2012 University of California, Los Angeles
Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies, Minor in Film, Television, and
Digital Media

Monographs:

- Sebro, Adrien. *Scratchin' and Survivin': Hustle Economics and the Black Sitcoms of Tandem Productions*. Rutgers University Press, 2023.

Publications:

- Sebro, Adrien. "On Air Black: *The Breakfast Club*, Visual Radio, and Spreadable Media," in *Watching While Black Rebooted: The Television and Digitality of Black Audiences*. Ed. Beretta E. Smith-Shomade, Rutgers University Press, 2023.
- Sebro, Adrien. "Streaming for Black Lives," in *Black Cinema & Visual Culture: Art and Politics in the 21st Century*. Eds. Ed Guerrero and Artel Great. Routledge, 2023.

- Sebro, Adrien. “Once Lost, Painfully Present: Maya Angelou’s *Blacks, Blues, Black!* (1968),” *International Journal of Communications*, USC Annenberg Press, 2022.
- Sebro, Adrien. “1970s,” “Sanford and Son,” and “Situation Comedies” chapter sections in *Race and Ethnicity in American Television: The Complete Resource* ed. David Leonard. ABC-Clio, 2021.
- Sebro, Adrien. Data collection for the Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA, *Make ‘Em All Mexican*, Dr. Chon Noriega, 2016.
- Sebro, Adrien. Data collection for the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA, *Hollywood Diversity Report: Flipping the Script*, Dr. Darnell Hunt, 2015.
- Sebro, Adrien. “Sanford and Son” in *TV Memories: Love Letters to our Televisual Past*. Ed. Bambi Haggins. Rutgers University Press (forthcoming).

Book Reviews

- Lanita Jacobs. 2022. *To Be Real: Truth and Racial Authenticity in African American Standup Comedy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. xv + 224 pp. ISBN: 9780190870096. *HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research* (HUMOR).
- *The Generic Closet: Black Gayness and the Black-cast Sitcom* by Alfred J. Martin, *The Communication Review*, 2022, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 143-146
DOI: 10.1080/10714421.2022.2085488.

Media Appearances

- *Vice TV* “Dark Side of the ‘90s” Season 2
 - Episode 1: “Arsenio Hall” 06/14/2022, respondent
 - Episode 3: “COPS” 06/28/2022, respondent
 - Episode 7: “Black Sitcoms’ Last Laugh” 07/19/2022, respondent

Teaching Experience:

Spring 2024: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 307: Media and Society (143 students)
 RTF 386, RTF 377H, AFR 370: Black Media Studies (17 students, hybrid Grad/UG)

Fall 2023: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 307: Media and Society (192 students)
 RTF 335: Race, Class, and Gender in American Television (30 students)

Spring 2023: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication

RTF 370/AFR 370: Black Filmmakers (30 students)
 RTF/AFR 386: Black Media and Comedic Rage (Graduate Course, 5 Students)

Fall 2022: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 359S/AFR 359S: Black Television Comedy (25 students)
 RTF 359S: Film and Social Change (25 students)

Spring 2022: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 335: Race, Class, and Gender in American Television (25 students)
 RTF 370/AFR 370: Black Filmmakers (30 students)

Spring 2021: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 386: Black Popular Culture (Web-Based, Graduate Course, 15 students)

Fall 2020: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 370/AFR 370: Black Filmmakers (Web-Based, 25 students)
 RTF 359S/AFR 359S: Black Television Comedy (Web-Based, 25 students)

Summer 2020: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 359S/AFR 359S: Black Television Comedy (Web-Based, 40 students)

Spring 2020: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 359S: Film and Social Change (25 students)
 RTF 370/AFR 370: Black Filmmakers (25 students)
 RTF 335: Race, Class, and Gender in American Television (25 students)

Fall 2019: University of Texas at Austin, Moody College of Communication
 RTF 321C: History of American Television (25 students)
 RTF 359S/AFR 359S: History of the Black Sitcom (25 students)
 RTF 359S/AFR 359S: Film and Social Change (25 students)

Fellowships and Awards:

- Afrikan-American Affairs, Brandelyn Flunder Gavel for Student Advocacy
- Diversity Speaker, Popular Culture Association (2023)
- University of Texas at Austin, Center for Advancing Teaching Excellence (CATE): Above and Beyond Award (2022)
- University of Texas at Austin, Summer Research Assignment (2021)
- University of Pennsylvania, Pre-Doctoral Fellow for Excellence through Diversity, Annenberg School of Communications (2018-2019)
- UCLA Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellow (2014-2018)
- Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society (2017)
- Jack K. Sauter Award for Merit in Critical Television Studies (2017-2018)
- Ford Predoctoral Fellowship “Honorable Mention” (2016)

- Zora Neale Hurston Award Winner for the Best Thesis in the Social Sciences (2014)
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellow (2010)

Faculty Advising:

Dissertation/Thesis Committees

- Lily Kunda, *Targeting Black Bodies: Interrogating Race-based Corporate Social Responsibility as a remedy to systemic racism*, in progress. **Ph.D. Dissertation Co-Advisor.**
- Erik Holland (Communications), *Phobogenic Whiteness: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Contemporary Black Horror*, in progress. **Ph.D. Dissertation Committee member.**
- Sophia Abbey-Kuipers, RTF Master's **Thesis Advisor**, 2024.
- Kionta Reese, RTF Undergraduate **Thesis Advisor**, 2024.
- Aeron Walker, RTF Master's **Thesis Advisor**, *Pixel Perfect: A Disney Channel Original Movies, Interracial Casting, Coupling, and Themes*, 2023.
- Anthony Yanez, Plan II Honors Undergraduate **Thesis Advisor**, 2023.
- Rachael Hatchett, RTF Undergraduate **Thesis Advisor**, *Coded Fashion: The Cultural Self-fashioning of Black Women and Strategic Visibility*, 2023.
- Christal Spence, Women and Gender Studies Master's **Thesis Reader**, "*Fresh Photos with the Bold Lighting*": *Visualizing the Radical Work of Fat Black Women on Instagram*, (2021).
- Paris Vincent, RTF Undergraduate **Thesis Advisor**, *Chopped and Screwed Music and Space Assertion*, 2021.

Academic Service:

Department

- Co-Facilitator, RTF Colloquium (2022-)
- Executive Committee (2023-)
- Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (2023-2024)
- Graduate Studies Curriculum Committee (2022-2023)
- Faculty Advisor, Black Film Student Association/Black Lens (2019-)
- Graduate Admissions Committee Member (AY 2021-2022)
- Inclusion and Equity Officer, Department of Radio, Television, and Film (2019-2022)
- Pilot Cohort Member, Moody Faculty Diversity, Inclusion, Justice, and Equity Program (2021)

Field

- Co-Chair, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Comedy and Humor Studies Special Interest Group (2022-2025).
- Editorial Board, *Communication, Culture, and Critique* (2023-)
- Member, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Black Caucus.

- Panelist, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Professional Development Committee Discussion: “Finding a Book Publisher”
- Panelist, Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Media Industries Studies SIG Roundtable Discussion: “Applying to Academic Media Industries Jobs,” July 6th, 2022.
- Inaugural Member, Ethnic Studies Educators Academy, Virtual. August 19-23rd, 2021.

Conference Presentations:

- Sebro, A. “‘Gotta Love It! The Negotiated Crossover of Black Women in Comedy,” Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference. Boston, MA. March 15th, 2024.
- Sebro, A. “The Queen of Comedy, LaWanda Page,” Mediations of Racial Capitalism Conference. Virtual. February 16th, 2024.
- Sebro, A. “*The Black Gestapo*: white power Iconography and the Exhaustion of Blaxploitation,” Critical Approaches to Black Media Culture. New Orleans, LA. February 16th, 2024.
- Sebro, A. “Four(Fore)-Mothers: The Radical Ambiguity of Black Women in Comedy, LaWanda Page,” American Studies Association Conference. New Orleans, LA. November 4th, 2022.
- Sebro, A. “The Radical Ambiguity of LaWanda Page and *Sanford and Son*,” Console-ing Passions. Orlando, FL. June 24th, 2022.
- Sebro, A. “On Air Black: The Breakfast Club and Spreadable Black Popular Culture,” Roundtable: “What is This ‘Black’ in Black Media Studies?” International Communications Association Conference. Paris, France. May 29th, 2022.
- Sebro, A. “Four(Fore)-Mothers: The Radical Ambiguity of Black Women in Comedy,” Society of Cinema and Media Studies. Virtual, April 2nd, 2022.
- Sebro, A. “Streaming Black Lives,” American Studies Association Conference. Virtual, October 12th, 2021.
- Sebro, A. “Once Lost, Painfully Present: Maya Angelou’s *Blacks, Blues, Black!*” Cultural Studies Association Conference, Virtual. June 11th, 2021.
- Sebro, A. “‘We Live for Today’: Precarious Livelihood of Young Black Men in 1970s Media.” Fall Media Studies Colloquium, Department of Radio-Television-Film, University of Texas at Austin. November 21st, 2019.
- Sebro, A. Conference Paper Presenter, “Spiritual, Present, and Sometimes Heard: The Black Women of *Sanford and Son*.” at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference in Seattle, Washington. March 14th, 2019.
- Sebro, A. Conference Paper Presenter, “‘*Blacks, Blues, Black!*’ Local and Public Access Television in 1968.” at Critical Mediations: A Communication and Cultural Studies Conference, “The Fire This Time: Afterlives of 1968,” at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. October 4-5th, 2018.
- Sebro, A. Conference Paper Presenter, “‘Remember, I’ve Been Black the Longest,’ Esther Rolle and the Black Gender Politics of Tandem Productions” at the 15th Annual Yale Edward A. Bouchet Conference on Diversity and Graduate Education. Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New Haven, Connecticut. April 26-28th, 2018

Invited Lectures and Presentations:

- Sebro, A. “Scratchin’ and Survivin’: Hustle Economics and the Black Sitcoms of Tandem Productions,” Book Talk. Boston Cinema/Media Seminar, Virtual. January 30th, 2024.
- Sebro, A. “Scratchin’ and Survivin’: Hustle Economics and the Black Sitcoms of Tandem Productions,” Diversity Speaker Series, Popular Culture Association Conference, San Antonio, TX. April 7th, 2023.
- Sebro, A. “Introduction to Film and Social Change,” Introduction to Communication Foundations this Fall, COM301. Virtual, University of Texas at Austin. November 9th, 2022.
- Sebro, A. “Black Matters: Television and Social Change,” Interdisciplinary Communication Foundations, COM302. Virtual, University of Texas at Austin. September 17th, 2021.
- Presenter, Ethnic Studies Educators Academy, Virtual. August 23rd, 2021.
- Inclusive Teaching Workshop Panelist, Center for Advancing Teaching Excellence, Moody College of Communication, Virtual. August 3rd, 2021.
- Panelist, Diversity in Media Symposium for the Moody College of Communication, “Is this Black Media Renaissance Real?” Virtual, March 25th, 2021.
- Sebro, A. Guest Lecturer, “History of the Black Sitcom” for UCLA FTV 10A “American Television History” Spring 2019, Instructor: Dr. Andrew deWaard. April 25th, 2019.

Trade Publications/Interviews:

- Amy Ta. “Franklin gets the love he deserves in new ‘Peanuts’ special,” *KCRW*, 03/12/2024.
- Danielle Chiriguayo and Bennett Purser. “Thank ‘In Living Color’ for modern-day Super Bowl halftime,” *KCRW*, 02/06/2024.
- Jonathan Abrams and Christopher Kuo. “Norman Lear Reshaped How America Saw Black Families,” *New York Times*, 12/09/2023.
- Roberts, Michele. “How ‘Roots’ made television history and changed American culture,” *CNN*, 07/24/2023.
- Dent, Mark. “What old sitcoms reveal about America’s rising cost of housing,” *The Hustle*, 03/25/2023.
- Frederick, Candice. “In the ‘90s, A Black Psychic Friend Fooled White America. Then They Were Pissed,” *HuffPost*, 12/15/2022.
- Adams, Char. “Black women winning at the 2022 Emmys is more than just a monumental moment in Hollywood,” *NBC News*, 09/13/2022.
- Jensen, Erin. “Media, police pay less attention to missing Black people. HBO’s new doc wants to change that,” *USA Today*, 11/23/2021.
- Jackson, Angelique. “Sterling K. Brown, Jurnee Smollett and Jeremy Pope on Television Re-Imagining Black History,” *Variety Magazine*, 08/17/2021.

Public Scholarship:

- A. Sebro, Moderator, “The Black Beauty Effect” Screening and Panel Discussion. University of Texas at Austin, February 29th, 2024.
- A. Sebro, Speaker. “Playing in the Dark: Exploring Black Cinema and Visual Culture, A Two-Day Virtual Symposium.” Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco. May 31st, 2023.
- A. Sebro, Moderator, *Raymond Lewis: LA Legend* Documentary Screening and Filmmaker Discussion. University of Texas at Austin, February 27th, 2023.
- A. Sebro, Panelist, “Creatives on Campus with Debra Martin Chase: Producing Narratives That Feature Female Heroes and Black Voices in Hollywood.” University of Texas at Austin, November 14th, 2022.
- A. Sebro, Moderator. *Sankofa* Film Screening and Panel Discussion. In partnership with Moody College of Communication’s Office of Diversity, the Warfield Center, and Ava DuVernay’s ARRAY. University of Texas at Austin, February, 25th, 2022.
- A. Sebro, “Black Television Comedy: From Beulah to Black-ish,” Northbrook Public Library (Northbrook, IL). Virtual, February 22nd, 2022.
- RTF Media Studies Colloquium Book Talk: Alfred L. Martin Jr.’s *The Generic Closet: Black Gayness and the Black-Cast Sitcom*, University of Indiana Press. Virtual, April, 15th, 2021.
- A. Sebro and M. Alvarez. “The Legacy of the L.A. Rebellion: A Conversation with Filmmakers Charles Burnett and Haile Gerima,” University of Texas at Austin. Virtual, March 4th, 2021.
- Moody Movie Club: A Conversation with Elon Washington of the Black Film Alliance, in collaboration with the Black Film Student Association. Virtual, November 5th, 2020.
- Moody Movie Club: A Conversation with Director Rashaad Ernesto Green, in collaboration with the Black Film Student Association. Virtual, September, 30th, 2020.
- RTF Media Studies Colloquium Book Talk: Samantha N. Sheppard’s *Sporting Blackness: Race, Embodiment, and Critical Muscle Memory on Screen*, University of California Press. Virtual, September, 24th, 2020.

Memberships and Organizations:

- Board of Directors, First Star, Inc.
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies
- International Communications Association
- American Studies Association
- Popular Culture Association