

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for reading this letter. I'm very interested in and highly qualified for university employment opportunities in film and media instruction. I just completed my doctorate in Film and Television Studies and American Studies with the University of Nottingham. Starting in Fall 2008 and continuing through today, I have been teaching the Film History course at Folsom Lake College. Prior to that, I served as adjunct professor of cinema classes at Royal Holloway University of London and University of Derby, and served as a teaching assistant at University of Southern California and University of Nottingham. I have a Master of Arts in Critical Studies (Department of Cinematic Arts) from University of Southern California. I also have two Bachelors of Arts, both from University of California at Santa Cruz, one in Political Science and one in Filmmaking. I am particularly proud to have co-written and directed three independent feature-length film projects as detailed on this website.

Student diversity is both a challenge and a tremendous opportunity for faculty at any university, a crucial consideration at all levels of decision-making. College faculty recognition of diversity begins with an integrated curriculum. More than many disciplines, film studies has sought to incorporate multicultural and resistant perspectives for some time. My work situates such concerns at the forefront. For example, my paper, "How Mexico Found its Postcolonial Voice With the Help of Some Dogs and Your Mom," presented at Harvard University's 2004 conference on Ethnic Studies in the Age of Globalization, demonstrated how the work of Alejandro González Iñárritu and Alfonso Cuarón articulates a new Mexican realism that rejects previous sentimentality. In my Film History seminar for undergraduates for 2011, I have personally imposed the theme of examination of prejudice by assigning scholarship on discrimination and focusing on notorious years of cinema's history (e.g. 1915, 1927, 1939); I have re-titled the course "The Year of the Rabbit: Race, Role Models, and Representation." My recent feature, currently in post-production, *Fish, Chips, and Mushy Peas*, set in the very near future, is about an American man and Iranian woman competing against each other to win British citizenship on a sort of Big Brother-Fear Factor-like reality show. The piece explores issues of immigration, racism, and class conflict.

I am also accustomed to working with diverse populations. I recently served twenty-five hours a week as a tutor at the Making Waves Educational Program, devoted to giving at-risk and low-income kids assistance and empowerment to get them into college. I graduated from Berkeley High School, then and now 40% white, 40% black, 20% other, where the nation's first secondary school Afro-American Studies department still thrives and where the legacy of America's first voluntarily bused body of students is very much alive. When I served as a Residence Coordinator at University of Southern California, I personally trained my Resident Assistant staff to make awareness of diversity and sexual/identity harassment their highest priority. Additionally, I lived in Spain for a year and speak fluent Spanish.

Finally, I bring a great deal of enthusiasm and pedagogic rigor to any classroom. I am open to part-time, fill-in, or full-time work. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
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