

# Dr Darren C. Fisher

Visual Arts Lecturer, Graphic Storyteller  
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## Education

### **(2013-2017) Doctor of Visual Arts (Griffith Film School)**

Autofictography: Truth and Identity in Autobiographical Comics  
Primary supervisor: Associate Professor Andi Spark  
Secondary supervisor: Dr Peter Moyes

### **(2005-2009) Bachelor of Animation with Honours**

**1st Class, GPA 5.61 (Griffith Film School)**  
The Aesthetics and Mechanics of Sequential Art  
Undergrad Majors: 3D Animation, Character Animation

## Academic employment

### **University for the Creative Arts (Surrey, UK)**

(2025-current) Senior Lecturer in Games (Comic & Concept Art)

### **Swinburne University (Melbourne, Australia)**

(2022-2025) Adjunct Research Fellow, HDR supervision  
(2017-2022) Animation Lecturer & Convenor (Level B.2)

### **JMC Academy (Melbourne, Australia)**

(2017) Sessional lecturer & content developer

### **Griffith Film School (Queensland, Australia)**

(2014-2016) Sessional lecturer, assessment panelist  
(2010-2013) Develop & deliver evening courses

## Traditional Research

(2025) Book chapter - Folio: Stories of Australian Comics  
Reconsolidate, Revise, Reframe: Narrativising the Past with  
Diary Comics

(2025) Book Chapter - CILECT 21st Century Animation  
What it takes to succeed in the Creative Industries

(2022) Journal of Media Practice and Education [Shared visions  
of animation: Creativity and innovation in tertiary education](#)

(2021) Kiel University, Closure: E-Journal for Comics Research  
[Graphic Storytelling: Teaching Experience and Utility](#)

(2020) Association for Computing Machinery ["I Understand,  
Mate: A Co-designed Comic-based Digital Story 'Down Under'](#)

## Non-Traditional Research

(2023) [Developing Energy Literacies for Community Engagement](#)

(2022) [Slamming the Mental Health Stigma](#)

(2022) Natura Connect [Resilient conservation networks](#)

(2021) CNBSafe [12 Reasons not to get hurt](#)

(2021) HALT Australia [Origins](#)

(2021) The Conversation [Can I have a pet and be housed, too?](#)

(2020) ABC Radio National [Kicked out during coronavirus](#)

(2019) Regional Outreach Workers [The ROW Illustrated Story](#)

(2019) The Conversation [How to have better arguments about  
the environment, or anything else](#)

(2018) Squishzine Brunstown V2 [Scars](#)

(2016) [Ashcan X: True Stories](#) (organiser, editor, contributor)

## Conferences & Workshops

(2025) Concept Art and Character Design: Critical and Creative  
Perspectives, University for the Creative Arts (conference)  
[Diary Comics as a Method of Concept Discovery](#)

(2024/25) FH Joanneum, Austria (Masters Visual Arts)  
[Storyboarding workshop x 3, panel review x 3](#)

(2024) Auto/Bio/Fictional Symposium, University of London  
(conference) [Narrativising the Past with Diary Comics](#)

(2024) University of the Third Age, Victoria  
[Drawing from the Heart- 3 x 90min online comic workshops](#)

(2023) FH Joanneum, Austria (Masters Visual Arts)  
[Negotiating a career in academia \(in person lecture, Q&A\)](#)

(2022) Crises and Disasters in Popular Culture, University of Kiel  
(conference) [Catastrophe or Heroes Journey?](#)

(2022) OzCHI (Presentation) [A Comic-based Digital Storytelling Showcase to Support Positive Mental Health Outcomes](#)

(2022) ASPERA Conference [Shared Visions of Animation: Empowering Creativity and Innovation within Tertiary Education](#)

(2021) Mobile Studies Congress (conference) [Mobile Image Making for the 21st Century](#)

(2021) Southwest Popular Culture Association Conference [Reconceptualising the Mercurial Superhero](#)

(2019) FSNAU Conference [Fractured Forms](#)

(2019) International Conference of Graphic Novels & Comics [Entwined: Reinterpreting Polytheistic Gods in Modern Comics](#)

(2018) Superheroes Beyond Conference [Secret Identities](#)

(2018) The Drawing International Brisbane Symposium [Autofictography and the shifting self](#) (artist talk)

## Exhibitions

(2019) Australian Short Story Festival (organiser/exhibitor) [Indie Comic Voices of Australia](#)

(2019) Melbourne Writers Festival (group exhibition) [Squishface Studio: Artists in Residence](#)

(2016) Brisbane Writers Festival, State Library Queensland (organiser) [Ashcan Comics Retrospective](#)

(2015) The Edge Digital Media Centre (organiser/exhibitor) [TEXTure Digital Media Exhibition](#)

(2016) Jugglers Art Space (group exhibition) [Mint Condition: An Exhibition of Brisbane Comic Art](#)

(2015) The Drawing International Brisbane Symposium (group exhibition) [Roughing Out](#)

(2014) Reel Deal, Griffith Film School (group exhibition) [Buddy, his beat up Gibson, and the Gods of Guitar](#)

(2013) Shadow of a Mouse, Royal Queensland Art Society (group exhibition) [Works in sequence: Doctoral comics](#)

## Media

(2025) The New York Times (interview) [The changing politics of masks](#)

(2023) The Nature of Cities [Can comics help us advance solutions to our social and environmental challenges](#)

(2022) The Age newspaper (interview) [Can't Draw? You should keep doing it anyway](#)

(2022) The Ambition Incubator podcast [Why it's a myth that you can't draw](#)

(2022) Joy FM Drive radio [I can't Draw- Myth Busted](#)

(2021) ABC National Morning radio [Have I fallen for the myth of I can't draw](#)

(2021) RTRFM radio [World celebrates 'Animation Day](#)

(2021) The Conversation [Have you fallen for the myth of 'I can't draw'? Do it anyway – and reap the rewards](#)

(2021) The Suburban Review [Q&A with Darren Fisher](#)

(2020) ABC News [During coronavirus, we need social sciences and humanities more than ever. This is why](#)

(2019) Swinburne Newsroom [Reflections on a Top 5 Media Residency](#)

(2019) ABC Radio National [The masks superheroes wear tell us a lot about ourselves](#)

## Grants & Research Income

(2020) HALT & Social Innovation Research Institute (AUD 1500)

(2019) SASSH Conference Scheme Swinburne University (\$1300)

(2015) The Edge Media Centre, Griffith Film School (AUD 6000)

(2008) Endeavour Exchange Program. The Department of Education & Employment and Workplace Relations (AUD 5000)

## Judging & coordination

(2018-2023) Judge, animation: [CILECT Prize](#)  
(2018-2019) Judge, animation: [ATOM Awards](#)  
(2018) Judge, animation and live action: [AVP Awards](#)  
24 Hour Comic Challenge: organiser ([2016](#)) ([2015](#)) ([2014](#))

## Examination and Supervision

### **(2022-current) PhD (artefact exegesis)**

Swinburne University (Sarawak)

[Co-supervisor, design](#)

Thesis Title: *Exploring the Integration of Self-Expressive Art Therapy for Creative Nurturing into Design Higher Education: An Autoethnographic and Experimental Approach*

### **(2021-current) iPhD (artefact exegesis)**

Swinburne University of Technology (Melbourne)

[Co-supervisor, animation](#)

Thesis Title: *A Multi-species Ethnographic Storytelling of Platypus Worlds*

### **(2014-2021)**

PhD Draft Thesis- [examination and panel](#)

Master of Research confirmation- [examination and panel](#)

Bachelor of animation (honours)- [examination](#)

Bachelor of animation & games (Hons)- [examination and panel](#)

Bachelor of Communication (Hons)- [examination](#)

Bachelor of games (honours)- [examination](#)

Master of Visual Arts- [examination and panel](#)

## Teaching & Convening

### University for the Creative Arts

FGCT6019 Final Major Project: Production

FGCT6018 Professional Practice

FGCT6016 Final Major Project: Preproduction

FGCT5036 Industry Brief

FGCT5020 Life Drawing Elective

FGCT5015 Character and World Building

FGCT5013 Advanced Workflow and Techniques

FGCT4032 Client Brief

FGCT4011 Design Sprint 2

FGCT4010 Narrative Development for Concept & Sequential Art

FGCT4008 Visual Design Fundamentals

### Swinburne University

ANI30002 Major Project: Production and Post-Production

ANI20004 Producing for Animation

ANI30001 Major Project: Preproduction

ANI10002 2D Production Techniques

### JMC Academy

3DAN206 Screen Literacy 1 & 2

3DAN201 Production Art 1 & 2

3DAN302 Visual Storytelling 1 & 2

### Griffith Film School

6014GFS Topics in Screen Research

1117GFS Concept Design Fundamentals

1114GFS Reading the Moving Image

3121GFS Sequential Art and Illustration

### Short Courses

Environment Design for Artists

Comic Illustration Techniques

Creating a Graphic Novel

Drawing for Animation

## Keywords/tags

*Autobiography; identity; sequential art; underground comix; creativity; arts based research; illustration; cartooning; diary comics; animation; preproduction; visual communication; production management; film theory; graphic recording; project supervision; drawing; lifedrawing; wellbeing; art therapy*