

NORTHROP DAVIS

Associate Professor, University of South Carolina School of Visual Arts and Design/Media Arts
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Bio: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/visual_art_and_design/our_people/directory/davis_northrop.php

Site for his students' manga/Davis's research news: <http://www.wemakemanga.com/articles>

EDUCATION

MFA California Institute of the Arts (Major: Live Action Film)

BA Duke University (Major: History; Minor: English)

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Associate Professor, School of Visual Art and Design, University of South Carolina (2014-present)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Art, University of South Carolina (2008-2014)
- Adjunct Professor, University of California, Irvine (2006-2008)
- Guest speaker at Duke University, California Institute of the Arts, University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of Southern California (prior to 2006)

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

Awards

Breakthrough Star Award (2015)

- Awarded by the Office of the Vice President of Research "to faculty from a wide variety of disciplines, who show phenomenal commitment to their fields through research and scholarly activity."

Michael J. Mungo Undergraduate Teaching Award (2012)

- Annual undergraduate teaching award given to tenured/t-t faculty at USC.*

Titles of Academic Distinction and Honors

- Invited to walk with the Mace Party by the Trustees Office/President Pastides at commencement (2019)
- Invited by Dean Mary Anne Fitzpatrick to speak at USC Freshman Convocation (2013)
- Selected Scholar of the Month by the USC Office of the Vice President of Research "to recognize our outstanding scholars from across USC." (2010)

Grants

USC Provost's Creative and Performing Arts Grant, \$18,200 (2017)

- To fund artists for vol. 2 *The Hole: Space Airport* of the manga production project, written, originated and supervised by Northrop Davis (sole P.I.).

Hoso Bunka Foundation Award, \$4,000 (2015-2017)

- Funded by Japanese public TV broadcast network NHK for research on American anime localization.
- Co-P.I. with Associate Professor Mariko Koizumi of Kyoto Seika University.

*Nominated for the Michael J. Mungo Distinguished Professor Award, USC's top teaching award, 2017.

USC Provost's Creative and Performing Arts Grant, \$14,400 (2012)

- To fund artists for vol.1 of *The Hole* manga production project, written, originated and supervised by Northrop Davis (sole P.I.).

Write Brothers, Inc. Software Grant, \$10,945 (2012)

- Software to be utilized by USC SVAD students/faculty (Northrop Davis, sole P.I.).

Write Brothers, Inc. Software Grant, \$28,490 (2010)

- Software to be utilized by USC SVAD students/faculty (Northrop Davis, sole P.I.).

Final Draft Corporation Software Grant, \$8,000 (2009)

- Software to be utilized by USC SVAD students/faculty (Northrop Davis, sole P.I.).

Total grant money awarded: \$81,005

RESEARCH/SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Book:

Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood: The Amazing Rapidly Evolving Relationship between Hollywood and Japanese Animation, Manga, Television and Film. New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2016. [410 pages, in over 800 libraries: <https://www.worldcat.org/title/manga-and-anime-go-to-hollywood/oclc/882531052>]

Peer Reviewed Scholarly Papers:

"Peak TV and Anime: Why It Matters." *International Journal of Comic Art* 19.2 (print version-- March, 2018): 311-341. [12,483 words]

"Legendary Hollywood designer Syd Mead's Important Contributions to Landmark Anime." *International Journal of Comic Art* 20.2 (print version-- 20th Anniversary Issue, March 2019): 536-541.

SOME ARTICLES PUBLISHED IN PRINT DURING *MANGA AND ANIME GO TO HOLLYWOOD*'S RESEARCH PERIOD:

"Wind from the East, part 2." *Script* (October 2011): 26-31.

"Wind from the East: The growing influence of Japanese manga/anime in Hollywood." *Script* (August 2010): 26-29.

"Coming soon? On bringing anime and manga to Hollywood." *Otaku USA* (August 2010): 106.

Online Article:

"Pitching a screenplay by a pro." *Act Four Screenplays* (blog). (May 2010)

Most recent Peer-Reviewed Book Review (by editor's invitation):

Anime Boom in the United States: Lessons for Global Creative Industries by Michal Daliot-Bul and Nissim Otmazgin (Harvard University Press, 2017) in *Social Science of Japan Journal* 22.1 published by Oxford University Press. (Online version: December, 2018, Print version: 2019: pps. 203-206).

Manga series review:

Barefoot Gen by Keiji Nakazawa, titled “War...what is it good for? In the aftermath of the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima, young Gen remains optimistic.” *Otaku USA* (December 2011): 106.

CREATIVE PRODUCTION

As Hollywood screenwriter:

- *Alien Safari* feature screenplay project purchased by 20th Century Fox from Davis based on his orally pitched story and written treatment/story. Davis was then hired as sole screenwriter of the feature screenplay. With Disney’s takeover of Fox, *Alien Safari* is now owned by Walt Disney Pictures.
- *Cyber Ship* screenplay, purchased by Warner Brothers Studios (\$225,000 paid to him already, against \$450,000 upon production). Subsequent employment of Davis as screenwriter.
- Optioned (purchase price guaranteed upon film’s production): *Paparazzi*. Option contract signed in 2013 with Christine Yoo, Korean/American producer/director (whose credits include co-writer of the Sam Jackson-voiced Japanese anime *Afro Samurai* for Spike TV) and Gogogo Productions.
- *Madlands* feature screenplay project, purchased by Sony/Columbia studios from Davis from his orally pitched story. Davis was then hired as sole writer of the outline, treatment, and feature screenplay. Producer: Robert Stigwood (whose credits include classics such as *Saturday Night Fever*, *Grease*, *Gallipoli*, *Tommy*, and *Evita*).

As manga writer and artists' supervisor/co-visual designer ("created by" and "written by" credits):

- *The Hole* Volume 1 (completed) New York: Scout Comics, 2020. 135 pages
- *The Hole* Volume 2 New York: Scout Comics, 2020. 135 pages

Please note: both volumes of *The Hole* will be published one after another closer to when volume 2 is published, so as to not leave a long gap between the volumes for the readership

As writer/director/producer:

- KCRW National Public Radio 35 mm film and TV commercials: *No Speed Limit to the Mind*: 1990-1995, *At the Crossroads of your Mind*: 1996-1997. Voiced by Harry Shearer.
- Founder, director, and faculty advisor of WEMAKEMANGA.COM (established 2008). For production of creative and scholarly work by his students and Davis, the site ties together Davis's teaching and research. The site displays hundreds of pages of student manga created in Davis’s manga classes and presents summaries of his and his students research and their career achievements. The *Wemakemanga* site has attracted worldwide press and invitations for Davis to present in China and Japan. The international reputation of Davis’s manga teaching and research was demonstrated when Osaka Arts University (OAU) sent their professor Nobukio Hosada to USC/SVAD to observe Davis’s classes in 2013 (he was accompanied by an anime executive from Sunrise, the most successful and powerful anime studio in the world --Nobuo Masuda) to Columbia to observe Davis's

manga classes and discuss collaborations. This was reciprocated when Davis was invited to OAU and Kyoto Seika University to present his research and study their teaching methods in 2015. In fall 2015, at the request of Carolina President Pastides, Davis started a collaboration with the USC theatre (Prof. Tobolski) and music departments (Francis) faculty and three MART/Computer Science double-major students to, along with theater majors, record voice-acting performances for some manga on the site. This has evolved to also include table reads with student actors for screenplays and T.V. pilots written in his classes to make them readier for production and sale, and for his manga *The Hole*. This flourishing cross-departmental collaboration continues to the present. It has evolved into 3-d characters being animated from the mangas for W.M.M.

- **TEACHING** 1350+ students taught in 11.5 years -- Advanced Screen writing (MART 521A), TV Writing (521D), Art and Business of Manga and Anime (521C) and Media Writing (321).
 - **PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED LECTURES**
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Invited International Presentations (all were funded entirely or partially by the inviting institution/event, etc.):

- “Japan Pop Goes Global: Japanese Pop Culture on Aesthetics and Creativity.” Keynote Speaker and Book Talk at symposium. Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. Airfare/lodging paid by inviting professor’s grant, which also paid for Davis’s research there on anime/manga and funded his presentation of his manga to top publishers. (2017)
- Received a invitation from Prof. Mariko Koizumi to present his research at Kyoto Seika University, in Kyoto, Japan, in the summer of 2015. Invited to speak about his book, observe their classes and teaching methods and discuss future collaboration and sharing of students between the universities at the top manga university in the world. Kyoto Seika University, Kyoto, Japan. Honorarium paid by Kyoto Seika University. (2015)
- Invited to present his book’s research at Osaka Arts University, the other foremost manga university, in Character Creative Arts Department in Osaka, Japan. Observed classes and teaching methods and attended a lecture by (and met) top mangaka Kazuo Koike (*Lone Wolf and Cub*). (2015)
- “The history of manga and anime, their key traits that must be understood to create them and original English language manga story-telling and production techniques at Professor Davis’s Department of Art, University of South Carolina manga class and wemakemanga.com website.” Gave four paper presentations and lectures at the Department of Art and Design, College of Art, North China University of Technology (NCUT), Beijing, China. All trip expenses plus honorarium paid by NCUT. (2011)
- “Chinese artistic and cultural influences on American animation, movies and television and the future of Chinese comics, animation, live action movies and TV and how they can be improved by studying and comparing anime/manga to the American forms.” Keynote presentation at the Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU), Beijing, China. Honorarium paid by BCLU. (2011)

International invitations to present his research accepted by Davis with travel pending when his schedule permits:

- University of Tokyo's Institute of Social Science's Contemporary Japan Group

Other International Conferences attended:

- "Illustration & Adaptation." Université de Bourgogne- Dijon, France. (2019)
- "12th Screenwriting Research Network (SRN) International Conference: Fractured Narratives." Universidade Católica Portuguesa- Porto, Portugal. (2019)

Invited National Presentations (where trip was funded by inviting institution/event):

- "*Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood* book/research talk." Special Guest Speaker. S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. Syracuse University. Airfare/lodging and all expenses paid by Newhouse. (2018)
- "Anime and Manga come to Hollywood—and what happens Next." Special Guest Speaker, Anime Expo. Presented the scholarship of his book and current research to approximately 300 people. (Davis's lodging costs in L.A. funded by the Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation.) Anime and Manga Studies Symposium. Los Angeles, CA. (2016)

Invited National Paper Presentations (Juried):

- "'The Hole': Manga Hybridity--A Creatively Satisfying, Academically Funded Storytelling Project." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Augsburg University, Minneapolis, MN. PEER REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED. (2019)
- "Peak TV and Anime: Why It Matters." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Cal State L.A., Los Angeles, CA. PEER REVIEWED AND ACCEPTED. (2017)
- "How I taught Over 1,100 Writing Students in 7.5 Years with Excellence and Still Received Tenure at R-1 University." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Cal State L.A., Los Angeles, CA. PEER REVIEWED/ACCEPTED. (2017)
- "Super Limited Anime." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Las Vegas, NV. PEER REVIEWED/ACCEPTED. (2016)
- "Character Development Methods of Long-Running Japanese Anime Television Series." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Washington, D.C. PEER REVIEWED/ACCEPTED. (2015)
- "Hybridity and Transmedia Storytelling Methods between Japan and America." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Orange, CA. PEER REVIEWED/ACCEPTED. (2013)
- "Creating Fully Realized Characters." University Film and Video Association annual conference, Orange, CA. PEER REVIEWED/ACCEPTED. (2013)

Invited National Presentations (Non-Juried):

- "*Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood* book talk." Special Guest Speaker. Presented the scholarship in his book to prominent Anime/manga scholars and professors including Helen McCarthy, who issued the invitation. Fans Conference and Academic Symposium. Dallas, TX. (2016)
- "*Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood* book talk." Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (2015)

- “Hollywood Turns to Anime: What Was and What’s to Come.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (2014)
- “The Best of Wemakemanga.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (2013)
- “Research theories and creative production derived from the development of the manga/student website: wemakemanga.com.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium. (2012)
- “Wind from the East.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium. (2012)
- “Manga and anime in academia and Hollywood: development of the manga/student website, wemakemanga.com.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Anime and Manga Studies Symposium, Los Angeles, CA. (2011)
- “Adapting Anime.” Writers Guild of America, West (Education Committee). Additional roles: keynote presenter, moderator, and chair. Los Angeles, CA. (2010)
- “Japanese Manga, Anime and TV Remakes Meet Hollywood—How can you the writer benefit?” Screenwriting Expo. Los Angeles, CA. (2010)
- “Creating Manga in Universities.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Los Angeles, CA. (2010)
- *Manga and Anime Come to Hollywood.* Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Los Angeles, CA. (2010)
- “The Future of Original English Language Manga (OEL).” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Los Angeles, CA. (2009)
- “Influences of America and the west upon Yoshitaka Amano and influences from Japan upon Northrop Davis” at grand opening of the J-pop Cultural Center and Museum in Japantown on festival keynote panel along with anime artist Yoshitaka Amano (*Final Fantasy, Vampire Hunter D*). San Francisco, CA. (2009)
- “Can Manga Be Created in the USA and Become Commercially Successful?” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Los Angeles, CA. (2009)
- “Manga in Academia.” Anime Expo (Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation). Los Angeles, CA. (2009)

Other National Paper Presentations:

- “Manga/Anime and Hollywood—An Intense Interaction From The Birth Of The Japanese Forms.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, Chicago, IL. (2012)
- “Wind From The East.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, Chicago, IL. (2012)
- “Hollywood Studios Travel Abroad to Invest in Local Production (including anime).” University Film and Video Association annual conference, Boston, MA. (2011)
- “Japanese Anime and Manga's Influences on Modern Characters of Western Narratives.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, Burlington, VT. (2010)

- “We Make Manga.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, Burlington, VT. (2010)
- “Manga and Anime—Japan Dreaming: Imagination on the Edge Meets Commercial and Artistic Success.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA. (2009)
- “How to Develop Great Characters (including by using anime/manga techniques).” University Film and Video Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA. (2009)
- “Incorporating the Business of Screenwriting into the Classroom.” University Film and Video Association annual conference, New Orleans, LA. (2009)

Invited National Guest Lectures and Caucuses:

- Entertainment Industry Caucus. At multiple UFVA annual conferences between 2010-2017.
- “TV and manga writing, serialization similarities.” Point Park University. Guest lecture (via conference call), Pittsburgh, PA. Compensated. (2012)
- “Manga/writing, story creation methods, how they inter-connect and serialization.” Point Park University. Pittsburgh, PA. Compensated. (2011)
- “Pitching methods for feature screenwriters that also help hone your story.” Guest lecture at Howard University Washington, DC. (2010)
- “Screenwriting, TV and manga writing/creation methods.” Full Sail University. Guest lecture (via conference call), Orlando, FL. (2010)
- “Feature/manga and TV/writing, character development methods.” Point Park University. Guest lecture (via conference call), Pittsburgh, PA. Compensated. (2009)

Invited Regional and Local Paper Presentations:

- “*Manga & Anime Go to Hollywood* book talk.” Soda City Comic Con. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Columbia, SC. (2017)
- “We Make Manga: USC’s Manga Production Class.” Presentation at Nashi Con anime and manga annual convention. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Columbia, SC. (2017)
- “We Make Manga: USC’s Manga Production Class.” Presentation at Nashi Con anime and manga annual convention. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Columbia, SC. (2016)
- “*Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood* book talk.” Presentation at Nashi Con anime and manga annual convention. Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Columbia, SC. (2016)
- “Teaching Comics in Carolina.” USC Comics Studies Symposium pedagogy roundtable. Thomas Cooper Library, USC. Columbia, SC. (2013)
- “‘God of Manga’: Osamu Tezuka’s relationship with Hollywood.” South Carolina Book Festival. Columbia, SC. (2012)
- “*Battle Angel Alita* manga and its evolution into the Hollywood project.” Paper presented at Nashi Con anime and manga annual convention. Columbia, SC. (2010)
- “*Train Man*.” Presentation at Nashi-con. Columbia, SC. (2009)

- “*Train Man* (Densha Otoku): A Heartwarming Story Originating in a Digital Blog and Manifesting into Mass Entertainment in Various Digital Forms.” Presentation at “Ideas for the Future” panel. International Digital Media and Arts Association National Conference. Savannah, GA. (2008)

PRESS

International Press and Television:

- Canal + Film and TV studio of France flew Davis to Los Angeles to interview him for a documentary on manga and anime adaptations to Hollywood movies/TV, August 2019.
- Morgane Tual, “‘Ghost in the Shell,’ ‘Death Note,’ ‘Battle Angel Alita’ ... Why Hollywood is so interested in manga.” *Le Monde*. March 29, 2017.
- Morgane Tual, “‘The Knights of the Zodiac,’ ‘Castlevania,’ How Netflix Enters Anime.” *Le Monde*, August 8, 2017.
- Scott Emsen, “Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood Book Now Available.” Review of *Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood*, by Northrop Davis. AnimeBlurayUK Book Review. September 3, 2016.
- “Episode 95: Peak TV and Anime with Northrop Davis.” Animation for Adults: The Podcast. 2018. <http://www.podcasts.com/the-afa-podcast-b642b8758/episode/Episode-95-Peak-TV-and-Anime-With-Northrop-Davis-9650> (U.K.)
- Yu Yurong, Interview and feature article on Davis. [Note: this was a cover story, but its Chinese title does not translate well into English] *Outlook Weekly* (May 2013). Beijing, China. (*Outlook Weekly* has an estimated worldwide circulation of 400,000-500,000. It is comparable to *Time Magazine* of China and the government officials’ prime publication.)
- In November 2017 in Tokyo Davis was interviewed by Aya Takeuchi of the *The Daily Mainichi*, a major Japanese newspaper about his book and research.

National Press:

- C.B. Cannon, “Review of *Manga and Anime Go To Hollywood* by Northrop Davis.” *Choice Book Review [American Library Association]*. July 2016.
- Mikhail Koulikov, “Highlighting New Publications – Manga & Anime Go to Hollywood.” Review of *Manga and Anime Go to Hollywood*, by Northrop Davis. *Anime and Manga Studies: New Books*. March 24, 2016. <https://animemangastudies.wordpress.com/2016/03/24/manga-anime-go-to-hollywood/>
- “Prof. Northrop Davis—Univ. of South Carolina—WeMakeManga.com.” The Weekly Villain Podcast. April 13, 2014. <https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/weakly-villain/the-weekly-villain-podcast/e/33396378?autoplay=true>
Zac Bertschy and Justin Sevakis, “North by Northrop.” Anime News Network (the top journalistic anime/manga site globally). June 11, 2010. <https://www.animenewsnetwork.com/anncast/2010-06-11>

Regional Press:

- Gerry Melendez, “NashiCon brings the anime convention fun to Columbia.” April 15, 2015. <https://www.thestate.com/entertainment/local-events/article18577694.html>.

- “Voice Acting Students Bring Comic Art to Life.” Department of Theatre and Dance. University of South Carolina. Retrieved on 12/5/2018 from: https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/theatre_and_dance/theatre/about/theatre_news/2017/news_voice_acting_students_bring_comic_art_to_life.php
- C. Horn. “Don’t Be Boring.” *Carolinian* (Spring 2015): 16-18. Retrieved on 12/5/2018 from https://www.sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/artsandsciences/visual_art_and_design/documents/davis_documents/dont_be_boring.pdf
- C. Horn. “Making manga: Media arts prof uses cartoon-style medium as teaching tool.” October 14, 2012. *USC Times*. Retrieved on 9/3/2013 from: <http://www.sc.edu/news/newsarticle.php?nid=4966>.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Member of the Writers Guild of America, West (WGA—lifetime-vested member status)
- Member of WGA Asian, Latino, and Educational Committees.
- Member of the University Film and Video Association (UFVA)
- 2013 Member of UFVA Officers Nomination Committee
- Member of Entertainment Industry Caucus (EIC)

SERVICE

National Service:

- Member of UFVA Officers Nomination Committee, appointed by UFVA President Norman Hollyn. (2013)
- Chair, moderator, presenter and co-organizer of Adapting Anime presentation/panel at the Writers Guild of America, West (WGA Writers Education Committee). (2010)
- Judge of Cine student film awards along with Dr. Walt Hanclosky.(2009-2012)

Community Service:

- Presented about manga to the National Art Honors Society—a high school group for students who plan to study art in college. Columbia Museum of Art and McMaster Hall. (multiple times through 2018)

University and College Service:

- TWIST teaching committee member-- invited by Dean Ford due to Davis’s excellent reputation as a teacher -- for the purpose of improving teaching at Carolina (2017)
- Michael J. Mungo Teaching Award selection committee (2012-2015)
- Mungo Teaching Award Panel, Center for Teaching Excellence (2012)
- Faculty Senator (2010-2013 [sat in for Dr. Lydia Brandt due to her scheduling conflict, as well as serving a full term prior to that])
- Freshman Convocation speaker invited by Dean Fitzpatrick: “How extracurricular activities enrich classroom learning and expand employment horizons.” (2012)
- Magellan Scholarship selection committee (2012)
- Faculty Advisor for student organizations:
 - USC Anime Club (Nashi) 4+ years, ongoing

- USC Wemakemanga Productions Club 3 + years, ongoing
- Cocky Screenwriters (3+ years, unofficial club)
- USC Debate Club (previous)
- USC Kendo Club (previous)
- USC Comedy Club (previous)
- USC Chess Club (previous)

Departmental service

SVAD and Department of Art recruiting committee (multiple years, presently is chair of it)
 SVAD Curricular committee (3 years)
 SVAD and Art Awards committee (multiple years)
 SVAD and Art Scholarship committee (multiple years, currently)
 SVAD teaching committee (currently)
 Co-administers the Walt Hanclosky Social Issue for Media Arts Production Award
 (2017 - present)
 On search committee for the SVAD Art Studio area tenure track hire (2018-2019)
 Conducted Dinner Dialogues events for benefit of his students, sponsored by USC Office of
 Parents every semester, and for all summer courses he has taught, since his USC hire-- 23
 times. Sponsored by USC's Office Of Parent and Family Programs.