

**Dan
Castro** MA RCA, BA (hons)

25 Waterfront Avenue
Edinburgh
UK, EH5 1RT
(+44) 744-624-6498
dan@castroandfriends.co.uk

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH	Edinburgh, UK
PhD Candidate (Expected submission Jan 2025)	2021-2025
Thesis: <i>What the Plork? Playfulness at work and the work of playfulness in contemporary independent animation practice and pedagogy</i>	
Supervisors: Dr. Nichola Dobson, Dr. Jonny Murray	
ROYAL COLLEGE OF ART	London, UK
MA, Animation	2016- 2018
Thesis: <i>The Illusion of Strife: Changing uses of metaleptic misbehaviour in animation</i>	
EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF ART	Edinburgh, UK
BA (Hons) Animation	2007-2010
First Class Hons	

AWARDS AND HONORS

Associate Fellow, Higher Education Authority, 2023-present
Finalist, 3 Minute Thesis Competition 2024
Quarter Finalist, Best Super Short, SWIFF Film Festival, 2023
Nominated, CAHSS Recognition Awards, 2023

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English Native Speaker
British Sign Language Level 2

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH	Edinburgh, UK
Lecturer, Animation (part-time, 0.2)	Sept 2022 - Present

- Writing, designing and delivering course material
- Assessing students and providing feedback
- Providing guidance on professional practice
- Group and individual tutorials and crits
- Building studio culture through encouraging and supporting student-led screenings and workshops
- Overseeing inter-institution collaborations

Tutor, Illustration (part-time)

Sept 2021 - Present

- Writing, designing and delivering course material
- Assessing students and providing feedback
- Group and individual tutorials and crits

CASTRO + FRIENDS

Edinburgh, UK

Owner/Director/Designer

2010 – Present

- Running my own boutique artistic and commercial animation, teaching and design studio with an international client base and regularly screening work at international festivals

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Tutor, Illustration

Sept 2019 - August 2022

- Writing, designing and delivering course material
- Assessing students and providing feedback
- Group and individual tutorials and crits

HYPER ISLAND

Karlskrona, SWEDEN

Industry Leader, Motion Design

Oct 2018 – Mar 2023

- Designing and delivering Storytelling for Motion Design module
- Budgeting and timetabling visiting lecturers
- Ensuring module meetings institutional assessment criteria
- Delivering workshops
- Assessment and feedback

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Play and playfulness as methodologies for teaching and learning, signature pedagogies of play, developing growth mindsets, sustainability, interdisciplinary practice, studio-based learning and studio culture, narrative and storytelling, professional practice.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Project Advisory Board Member, *Medicine Without Doctors*, Edinburgh Medical School, The University of Edinburgh, 2024

Contributing/Associate Member, *Animation Research Network Scotland*, The University of Edinburgh, 2024

Course Organiser, *The Language of Animation*, BA Animation, The University of Edinburgh, 2023-2025

Panel Member, *Design Research Symposium*, The University of Edinburgh, 2024

Course Designer, *Storytelling I: Games, TV and Film*, Motion Design, Hyper Island, 2023-2025

Mentor, Arts Emergency, MA Animation, Professional Development Committee, 2015-2017

Student Representative, Royal College of Art, MA Animation, Professional Development Committee, 2013-2014

RESEARCH OUTPUT

PRESENTATIONS + WORKSHOPS

2024

PhD Showcase, University of Edinburgh
Animation (in) Flux, Edinburgh
Playful Learning Association Conference, Brighton
University of Norwich, Online
CAT Conference, Norwich
MOVE Summit, Edinburgh
[Pictoplasma](#), Berlin

2023

University of Edinburgh Learning and Teaching Conference
Society for Animation Studies Conference
Glasgow Youth Access Film Festival

POSTERS

2023-2024

[PhD Showcase 2024](#), University of Edinburgh
PhD Showcase 2023, University of Edinburgh

SCREENINGS + AWARDS

2023-2024

FINDING PLAY

LIAF, London

LSFF, London

Animateka, Ljubljana

UPUP

Interfilm Festival, Berlin

Pictoplasma, Berlin

LIAF, London

Festival Cartón, Buenos Aires

2020-2021

FATBOY

FINALIST – John Byrne Award

2018-2019

HERMAN BROWN IS FEELING DOWN

BFI London Film Festival, London

WINNER, Best Animation - Scottish Mental Health Film Festival

WINNER - Passion Pictures Award, RCA

WINNER - Elf Factory Award, RCA

2017-2018

BIG FINDS A TRUMPET

Fantoche, Sweden

Pictoplasma, Berlin

RESEARCH PROFILE

<https://www.research.ed.ac.uk/en/persons/dan-castro>

REFERENCES

Dr. Nichola Dobson Senior Lecturer, Animation, The University of Edinburgh

n.dobson@ed.ac.uk

Rachel Everitt Lecturer, Animation, The University of Edinburgh

r.everitt@ed.ac.uk

Fee Walker Program Manager, Motion Design, Hyper Island

Fiona.walker@hyperisland.com