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## LAURIER EXPERT ALERT: Blockbuster films and fandom

WATERLOO – This winter will see the return of several major Hollywood franchises and Blockbuster films with large fan followings, such as *James Bond: Spectre*, *Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 2* and *Star Wars: the Force Awakens*.

There are several Laurier experts available to comment on Hollywood film franchises and fandom.

**Sandra Annett**, assistant professor of Laurier’s Film Studies program, is an expert on fan culture, specifically *Star Wars* and science fiction. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x3175 or [sannett@wlu.ca](mailto:sannett@wlu.ca).

“In fan studies we look at how the audience engages with the film text – we study how film fans are more than just consumers, but creative and critical consumers,” said Annett. “Typically, we have assumed audiences are passive ‘dupes’ of the media; however, fan studies tends to think of fans as more active audiences.”

**Alexandra Boutros**, associate professor in Laurier’s Communication Studies program, is an expert on fan culture and fan responses to cultural productions. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x2917 or [aboutros@wlu.ca](mailto:aboutros@wlu.ca).

**Philippa Gates**, is a professor in Laurier’s Film Studies program and an expert in Hollywood film. Contact information: 519-884-0710 x2476 or [pgates@wlu.ca](mailto:pgates@wlu.ca).

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