

# Alexander Sherman

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## EMPLOYMENT

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2025-                      University of Texas at Austin  
                             Department of English  
                             Assistant Professor

## EDUCATION

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2025                      Stanford University  
                             Ph.D., English

2015                      University of Wisconsin-Madison  
                             B.A., English and Mathematics with Comprehensive Honors

## PUBLICATIONS

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Forthcoming            Matt Warner, Nichole Nomura, Carmen Thong, Alix Keener, Alexander Sherman, Gabi Keane, Maciej Kurzynski, and Mark Algee-Hewitt. "Slow, Painful and Expensive: Current Challenges in Text-Mining Corpus Construction for the Digital Humanities," *Digital Humanities Quarterly*.

Accepted with revisions    Svenja Guhr, Jessica Monaco, Alexander Sherman, Matt Warner, and Mark Algee-Hewitt. "Making BERT Feel at Home: Modelling Domestic Space in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century British and Irish Fiction," *Journal of Computational Literary Studies*.

Under review            Alexander Sherman, Meghan M. Shea, Fatoumata Binta Barrie, Rahsaan McFarland II, Stephen R. Palumbi, Fiorenza Micheli, and Margaret Cohen. "A Framework for Co-Creating Knowledge Across the Ocean Humanities and Sciences," *npj Ocean Sustainability*.

2025                      "Mapping Empire's Horror: Literary GIS and Colonial Spatial Logic," in *Space and Literary Studies*, ed. Elizabeth Evans (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): 249-66.

2024                      "Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829," *PMLA* 139, no. 3: 470-92. Selected as "Paper of the Month" by Cambridge University Press – Literature and Performance.

2023                      Review of Adam Sills, *Against the Map: The Politics of Geography in Eighteenth-Century Britain*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 56, no. 2: 330-2.

2021                      Nika Mavrody, Laura McGrath, Nichole Nomura, and Alexander Sherman. "Voice," joint issue of *Journal of Cultural Analytics* and *Post45*.

- 2015 John Hoffman, McKinley Meyer, Mariya Sardarli, and Alexander Sherman.  
 “Maximization of the size of monic orthogonal polynomials on the unit circle  
 corresponding to the measures in the Steklov class,” *Involve* 8, no. 4: 571–592.

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- 2024-5 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
- 2024-5 Lewis Award, Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund (declined)
- 2023-4 “Connecting the Blue Humanities and Ocean Sciences,” Stanford Woods  
 Institute for the Environment, Big Ideas for Oceans (PIs: Margaret Cohen and  
 Fiorenza Micheli)
- 2023-4 “Public Knowledge Infrastructures of the Ocean: Beyond the “Two Cultures,””  
 Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences, Humanities Seed Grants (PIs:  
 Margaret Cohen and Fiorenza Micheli)

## PRESENTATIONS

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### Conference Presentations:

- 2025 “Scene Change Detection in 20th-Century US-American Romance Fiction” (with  
 Svenja Guhr, Huijun Mao, Fengyi Lin, and Mark Algee-Hewitt), Alliance of  
 Digital Humanities Organizations, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa.
- 2025 “Positional Pandemonium at the Royal Society of London; or, Where Did the  
 ‘New Science’ Know From?,” Modern Language Association, New Orleans.
- 2025 Invited speaker for “*PMLA*: Getting Published as Graduate Students and Early  
 Career Scholars,” Modern Language Association, New Orleans.
- 2024 “A Home without a ‘House’: Modeling Domestic Space in Nineteenth-Century  
 British Fiction” (with Jessica Monaco), Alliance of Digital Humanities  
 Organizations, George Mason University.
- 2024 Organized panel on “Science and Sea in the Eighteenth Century,” American  
 Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto.
- 2024 “Can We Agree About Anything Important? Annotating Free Indirect Discourse  
 in Jane Austen as Case Study in Literary Critical Consensus” (with Mark Algee-  
 Hewitt), American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto.
- 2024 Organized roundtable on “Empire at Sea,” Modern Language Association,  
 Philadelphia.

- 2022 “Who is Not Seeing? Spectral Observers in Ann Radcliffe, James Cook, and Scientific Writing,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Baltimore.
- 2021 “Voyage Collections as Models of Imperial Information Flow,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (online).
- 2021 “Between Strategy and Tactics: The Pleasure of Place Names in Nautical Voyage Literature,” Modern Language Association (online).
- 2021 “Phenomenal Description: Cook, Radcliffe, and the Spectrality of Science,” The Gothic Research Group, Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Stanford University (online).
- 2020 “The Mysteries of Experience: Ann Radcliffe’s Critique of Experimentalism,” British Society for Literature and Science (online).
- 2019 “Representation and Motivation in Interdisciplinary Research, or How and Why to Explain Ordinality to Literary Critics,” College English Association Conference, New Orleans.
- 2019 “Reading for the Problem: How Do We Know ‘What’s at Stake?’,” Berkeley-Stanford Conference, Stanford University.

#### **Local and Lab Presentations:**

- 2024 “A Home without a House: Modeling Domestic Space in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction,” Literary Lab, Stanford University.
- 2023 “Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829,” Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University.
- 2023 “Modeling Domestic Space,” Literary Lab, Stanford University.
- 2022 “Technologies of Domesticity,” Literary Lab, Stanford University.
- 2021 “Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829,” Literary Lab, Stanford University.
- 2021 “What are Quality and Quantity? *Slave Voyages* and *Robinson Crusoe*,” Critical Data Practices Workshop, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University.
- 2019 “Voice: Or, How We Talk When We Talk About Books,” Literary Lab, Stanford University.

#### **Conferences Organized:**

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| 2025 | “Waves of Convergence: Ocean Sciences and Ocean Humanities,” Department of English and the Oceans Department, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University. |
| 2023 | “The Poetics of the City,” Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University.   |
| 2022 | “The Turn Against Fictionality,” Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University.   |

## TEACHING

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### University of Texas at Austin

- Plan II World Literature Part I, Autumn 2025-6

### Stanford University

As Instructor of Record:

- Literary Text Mining, Autumn 2023-4
- Pathogens and Populations: Representing Infectious Disease, Autumn 2022-23 (Co-taught with Mallory Harris; featured in *Stanford Report*:  
<https://news.stanford.edu/report/2023/01/03/students-examine-scientific-cultural-representations-disease/>)
- Travel and Education (Writing Intensive Seminar in English), Spring 2021-22

As Teaching Assistant:

- Pedagogy Seminar (graduate course), with Professor Mark Algee-Hewitt, Autumn 2022-3
- Introduction to English III: Modern Literature, with Professor Roanne Kantor, Autumn 2019-20
- The Public Life of Science and Technology, with Professors Paul Edwards and John Willinsky, Winter 2018-9

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

As Writing Fellow (embedded writing tutor):

- Special Topics in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Summer 2015
- The Roots of Zionism: Literatures, Cultures, and Ethics, Spring 2014-5
- The Dark Side of the Universe: Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and Black Holes, Autumn 2014-5
- Physical and Historical Geology, Summer 2014
- The Tale of Genji, Spring 2013-4

- Love & Attachment in Buddhist Art & Literature, Autumn 2013-4
- Literature of Muslim Societies, Spring 2012-3
- Scandinavian Heritage in America, Autumn 2012-3

## MENTORSHIP

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### Stanford University

Graduate:

Casey Ocasal, First Year Mentor, 2024-5  
 Louisa Bolch-Gillett, First Year Mentor, 2022-3  
 Sabrina Yates, First Year Mentor, 2021-2  
 Jessica Monaco, First Year Mentor, 2020-1  
 Ido Keren, First Year Mentor, 2020-1

Undergraduate:

Rahsaan McFarland II, Research Assistant, 2024  
 Valerie Trapp, Human Rights Capstone, 2022-23  
 Arielle DeVito, Honors Thesis Mentor, 2021-22 (Faculty Advisor: Alice Staveley)

## SERVICE

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### Stanford University

2021-5	Stanford Literary Lab Core Researcher
2021-3	Center for the Study of the Novel Graduate Coordinator
2021	English Graduate Student Council, Co-Chair
2020-1	English Graduate Admissions Committee

## LANGUAGES

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English (native)  
 French (reading)  
 German (reading)  
 Yiddish (reading)

R (including Shiny and Leaflet)  
 Python  
 Tableau

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations  
 Modern Language Association

## REFERENCES

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Margaret Cohen

Andrew B. Hammond Professor of French Language, Literature, and Civilization  
Stanford University, Department of English  
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305  
(650) 724-0106  
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Alex Woloch

Richard W. Lyman Professor of the Humanities  
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Mark Algee-Hewitt

Associate Professor and Director of the Stanford Literary Lab  
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Jessica Riskin

Frances and Charles Field Professor of History  
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