

Alexander J. Ashland

University of Iowa, Department of English
308 English-Philosophy Building, Iowa City, IA 52242
email: alexander-ashland@uiowa.edu

EDUCATION

University of Iowa, College of Arts and Sciences	Fall 2014-Spring 2019 (expected)
Ph.D. American Literature	
Public Digital Humanities Certificate	Spring 2018
Marquette University, College of Arts and Sciences	Magna cum laude, May 2013
M.A. British and American Literature	
Marquette University, College of Arts and Sciences	Magna cum laude, Dec. 2010
B.A. English, Writing-intensive	

DISSERTATION

The Documentary Turn in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature, 1850-1877

My dissertation examines the emergence of documentary aesthetics in nineteenth-century U.S. literature. I argue that the intersection of literary and non-literary texts radically altered, extended, and redefined the limits of what could be expressed in novels, poetry, and phototextual materials. Documents especially were creatively redeployed as a means of more precisely interrogating conceptions of race, gender, class, and nation. Responding to a political climate marked by intense “compromise,” writers of documentary literature deployed “source” material as a means of explicitly engaging the social and political concerns that pressed most urgently on their readers.

Dissertation Committee Co-Directors: Kathleen Diffley, Stephen Voyce

Committee Members: Ed Folsom, Lena Hill, Matthew Brown

ACADEMIC AWARDS, HONORS & MEMBERSHIPS

Fellowships

University of Iowa Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio (\$4,000)
Mellon/ACLS Fellowship Incentive Program (\$500)

Travel Grants

Annette K. Baxter Travel Grant (\$300), American Studies Association (ASA), 2016
University of Iowa, English Department (\$200), American Studies Association (ASA), 2016
University of Iowa, English Department (\$200), American Literature Association (ALA), 2016
University of Iowa, English Department (\$300), South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML), 2018

Marquette University

Dean's List (six semesters)
Rev. Dennis M. Burke Award
John F Kennedy Scholarship
Rev. Gassert Scholarship
MU Ignatius Scholarship – Distinction

Sigma Tau Delta

International English Honor Society

Phi Beta Kappa

International Arts and Sciences Honor Society

Association of Graduate Students in English

University of Iowa Graduate Student Organization

TEACHING AND RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Assistant, University of Iowa

Walt Whitman Archive

Fall 2014-Spring 2018

Old Age Letters (1888-1892)

Post Reconstruction Correspondence (1877-1887)

The Walt Whitman Encyclopedia

Pictures and Sound, "Gallery of Images"

New York Aurora, Journalism

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

Writing Center

Spring 2016-Spring 2018

Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

Foundations of the English Major

August 2014-May 2015

Adjunct Instructor, Marquette University

Rhetoric and Composition 1

August 2013-December 2013

Rhetoric and Composition 2

January 2014-May 2014

Teaching Assistant, Marquette University

Rhetoric and Composition 1

August 2012-December 2012

Rhetoric and Composition 2

January 2013-May 2013

TEACHING AREAS OF INTEREST AND COMPETENCE

19th and 20th Century American Literature, Media and Visual Culture, Literary Theory, Poetry and Poetics, Digital Humanities (Project Management, Data Visualization, Theory)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"*figures cannot lie*": Documenting Novel Sources in Antebellum U.S. Literature," South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML), Birmingham, AL, November 2018.

"Making Data Fit: What Digital Repackaging Can Do for the Humanities," Jakobsen Memorial Conference, University of Iowa, 24 March 2018.

"Animating Whitman's Correspondence: Pedagogy and Practice," American Literature Association (ALA), Boston, MA, Nov. 25-28, 2017.

"Postwar Appendage: Paratext and Reconstruction in Herman Melville's *Battle-Pieces and Aspects of the War*," American Studies Association (ASA), Denver, CO, Nov. 17-20, 2016.

"Aestheticizing the Archive: Documentary Poetics in Charles Reznikoff's *Holocaust*," American Literature Association (ALA), The Holocaust in Contemporary American Jewish Literature organized by the Society for American Jewish Literature, San Francisco, CA, May 26-29, 2016.

"Off the Grid: Hurston's Racial Geography in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," Craft Critique Culture (CCC) Conference, University of Iowa, April 8-9, 2016.

Moderator: "Virtual Bridges: Establishing Digital Connections Between Communities," Craft, Critique, Culture, University of Iowa, April 9, 2016.

"Pedagogies of Pain: An Exploration of Violence and Modernity in David Fincher's *Se7en* and *Zodiac*," Madlit 2014 "Texts and Violence," *Remediating Violence: Film, Photography, and the Aesthetics of Pain*, Madison, WI, February 21, 2014.

"Towards a More Perfect Union: Anti-Revolutionary Sentiment in Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*," Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Milwaukee, WI, November 8, 2013.

Co-chair: *Ekleptosis in American Poetry II*, Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Milwaukee, WI, November 8, 2013.

"Crystalizing Knowledge: When To Do Small Group Work," The 19th Annual UWM-Marquette 1st-Year English Graduate Student Conference, Milwaukee, WI, December 3, 2012.

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

Digital Humanities: Studio Summer Fellowship guest speaker, panel on "Project Planning and Management," June 13, 2018.

"DH Salon: Whitman's Letters—The Collaboration of the Walt Whitman Archive Correspondence Team," Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio, Presented in collaboration with Ed Folsom, Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schoeberlein, and Ryan Furlong, February 12, 2016.

"Exhibiting Correspondence: Gallery Space and the Postal Relay System," *The Avant-Garde as Media Cultures*, "Actor Networks, (Un-)Intelligible Objects," University of Iowa, December 8, 2015.

"(Re)mediating the Civil War: Poetics of Reconstruction in Herman Melville's *Battle-Pieces*," *Civil War Cultures: Roundtables*, "After Appomattox: A National Imaginary," University of Iowa, April 29, 2015.

"Visualizing Race in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," American Literature Colloquium, Marquette University, August 9, 2012.

"Re-membering Ethnicity: Proletarian Literature and the Multicultural Curriculum," Twentieth-Century American Literature Colloquium, Marquette University, May 11, 2012.

"Speaking from the Margins: Parodic Discourse, Subversion and Postmodernism," Twentieth-Century American Literature Colloquium, Marquette University, December 15, 2011.

PUBLICATIONS

"'All thy wide geographies': Reading Whitman's Epistolary Database," *The New Whitman Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 2019 (forthcoming).

"Off the Grid: Zora Neale Hurston's Racial Geography in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2017.

“Making Data Fit: What Digital Repackaging Can do for the Humanities,” *Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio*, 2017.

“Perioding Big Data: Reintroducing Punctuation Back Into Corpus Analysis,” *Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio*, 2017.

“Toward a More Perfect Union: Whitman, Ekphrasis, and the Daguerreotype,” *Ekphrasis in American Poetry: The Colonial Period to the 21st Century*, Cambridge Scholars Press, October 2015.

“DH Salon Recap: ‘Whitman’s Letters—The Collaboration of the Walt Whitman Archive Correspondence Team,” *Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio*, University of Iowa, in collaboration with Ed Folsom, Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schoeberlein, and Ryan Furlong.

“Night Unfolding Ever into Night,” *ZO Magazine*, 2015.

“Flux Year Box 2,” Fluxus Collection, University of Iowa.

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Mapping Whitman’s Correspondence (Whitmap), project creator:
<http://alexashland.github.io/alexashland/Whitmap.html/>

Public Digital Humanities Certificate, Spring 2018

Studio Fellow | Digital Scholarship & Publishing Studio Summer Fellowship Grant, 2017

Whitman Camp | University of Nebraska-Lincoln | Lincoln, NE | Summer 2015-2018

- Annual planning meeting for The Walt Whitman Archive where I discussed progress on current projects (Correspondence and Image Gallery).
- Presented updates on DH project Mapping Whitman’s Correspondence, as well as shared argument and findings of article written in collaboration with Whitman Archive staff.
- Participated in “code sprints,” website proofing and design, and future plans for the site.

Project management

- Hiring consultant for the Digital Scholarship and Publishing Studio’s editorial assistant position (Fall 2016-Spring 2017). Helped train interns on data entry and geocoding, as well as project overview for the Mapping Whitman’s Correspondence Digital Humanities project.

Additional Digital and Technical Skills:

- TEI | CSS | JavaScript | XML | HTML | Subversion/PuTTY | ArcGIS | Omeka | Cytoscape | Gephi | OutWit Hub | OpenRefine | Google Fusion | Tableau | D3 | R | Transcription and Encoding | Spreadsheet and Data Entry

GRADUATE COURSES COMPLETED

PhD

Seminar:

Walt Whitman: Walt Whitman and 19th-Century America (Ed Folsom)
American Literature and Culture: Civil War Cultures (Kathleen Diffley)
American Literature and Culture: Ralph Ellison and Democracy (Lena Hill)
Cultural Studies: Art, Ethics, and Justice (Linda Bolton)

Core:

Introduction to Contemporary Theory (Laura Rigal)
Introduction to Graduate Study (Lena Hill)
Readings in American Literature I: The World Perspective (Phillip Round)
Summer Doctoral Workshop in English (Kathleen Diffley)
New Media Poetics: Avant-Gardes as Media Cultures (Stephen Voyce)
Studies in African American Literature: Visual Culture in Black American Literature (Lena Hill)
Victorian Literature: Social Class and Victorian Literature (Florence Boos)
Literature as Letters: From New Criticism to Neoformalism (Garrett Stewart)
Advanced Studies in Literary Criticism (independent study, Stephen Voyce)
Advanced Studies in a Literary Period (independent study, Ed Folsom)
Advanced Studies in an Author (independent study, Kathleen Diffley)
Ph.D. Thesis (Stephen Voyce)

Digital Humanities:

Introduction to Geographic Visualization (Caglar Koylu)
Archives and Media (Lindsey Mattock)
Digital Humanities Theory and Practice (Christina Boyles)
New Media Poetics: Avant-Gardes as Media Cultures (Stephen Voyce)
Digital Humanities Capstone (David Eichmann)

Teaching:

Foundations of the Major: Colloquium (Lori Branch)
Foundations of the Major: Colloquium (Harry Stecopoulos)
Teaching in a Writing Center (Carol Severino)

MA

American:

20th Century American Literature: Imagination as Social Practice (Jodi Melamed)
Modern Critical Theory & Practice (Jodi Melamed)
American Literature to 1900 (Amy Blair)
Rhetoric and Composition: Theory (Jenn Fishman)
Individual Author: Hemingway (Larry Watson)

British:

English Literature to 1500: Violence of Representation (M.C. Bodden)
Renaissance Literature: Spenser, Milton & Epic History (John Curran)
Shakespeare (Amelia Zurcher)
Restoration & 18th Century Literature (Melissa Ganz)
19th Century British Literature: Victorian Greats (Thomas Jeffers)

OTHER

- Freelance editing for Chima J. Korieh, PhD, Department of History, Marquette University. Publications include *Igbo Studies Review* (*Journal of the Igbo Studies Association*); *Ofo: Journal of Transatlantic Studies*; 'Life Not Worth Living': *Nigerian Petitions Reflecting an African Society's Experiences During World War II*.
- General Editor of Marquette University's Online Literary Journal, the *Marquette Literary Review*.
- Co-founded the University of Iowa's 19th and 20th Century American Literature Reading Group.