

ALEX ZWEBER LESLIE

Rutgers University English Department
510 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

alex.leslie@rutgers.edu
@azleslie
<https://azleslie.com/>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate – Rutgers University	2017 – Present
M.A. – Rutgers University	2014 – 2017
B.A. – University of Notre Dame	2010 – 2014

Majors in English and Philosophy, *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

“Race, Region, and the Black Midwest in the Dunbar Decades,” forthcoming in *American Literary History* (2022).
“Dixon, Tourgée, and the Fair-and-Balanced Civil War,” forthcoming in *Race, Citizenship, and Nation in the Literary Work of Albion Tourgée*, ed. Sandra M. Gustafson and Robert S. Levine (Fordham University Press).
“Regional Nationalism and the Ends of the *Literary World*,” *J19: the Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 7.2 (Fall 2019): 249-275.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Article manuscript, “How Local was the Local Newspaper?”
Article manuscript, “Modeling Genre Cross-Pollination in Periodicals”
Dissertation, “Reading Regions: Cultural Geography and American Literature, 1865-1925” (March 2021 defense)
Director: Brad Evans
Committee: Meredith McGill, Nicholas Gaskill, Andrew Goldstone

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Louis Bevier Completion Fellowship, Rutgers University	2020 – 2021
Library Company of Philadelphia & Historical Society of Pennsylvania Joint Research Fellowship	2020 – 2021
Houghton Library Houghton Mifflin Visiting Fellowship in Publishing History	2020 – 2021
Raritan Dissertation Fellowship, Rutgers University	2019 – 2020
American Antiquarian Society Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Short-Term Fellowship	2019
Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis Graduate Fellowship	2018 – 2019
Seminar description: https://cca.rutgers.edu/annual-seminar/past-seminars/491-2018-2019-classification	
Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund Grant	Summer 2018
“Data and Culture” Digital Humanities Curriculum Development Fellowship	2017
Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund Grant	Summer 2017
Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Mellon Research Grant	2017
Rutgers Digital Humanities Initiative Seed Grant	2016 – 2017
Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund Grant	Summer 2016
Runner-up, Marius Bewley Prize for Best Department Coursework Essay “Re-Regionalizing Race and De-Racializing Region in Paul Laurence Dunbar”	2016
Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Mellon Summer Research Stipend	Summer 2015
Runner-up, Catherine Moynahan Prize for Best Graduate Department Essay “The End of the <i>Literary World</i> : Sectionalism and Antebellum Periodicals”	2015

TEACHING

Re-Writing and Re-Fighting the Civil War (358:442)	Summer 2018
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 5.00/5.00 (department term average: 4.75)	
Co-Taught w/ Brad Evans, The Cultural History of Now: Inequality–The New Gilded Age? (358:275)	Spring 2018
Principles of Literature: Poetry (359:201:25)	Fall 2017
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 4.63/5.00 (department term average: 4.57)	
Principles of Literature: Poetry (359:201:10)	Spring 2017
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 4.65/5.00 (department term average: 4.55)	

TA for Colin Jager, **Principles of Literature: Poetry** (359:201:07 & 08) **Fall 2016**
 "Teaching effectiveness of instructor" student evaluation: 4.70/5.00 (department term average: 4.53)
Expository Writing (101:EG) **Spring 2016**
Expository Writing (101:BA) **Fall 2015**

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Rutgers Libraries Digital Humanities Graduate Specialist **Spring 2018 – Summer 2020**
 Provided project consultations, worked with library data services, and developed workshops on digital methods.
 Workshops portfolio at <https://azleslie.com/projects/dh-workshops/>; 90% of attendees "Extremely satisfied"

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference (virtual due to COVID-19) **October 16-25, 2020**
 Panel chair, "Quantifying Consensus and Dissent": "What was National or Popular about National Popularity?"
Literary Tourgée Conference (Chautauqua, NY) **September 27-9, 2019**
 "Dixon, Tourgée, and the Fair-and-Balanced Civil War."
Society of Early Americanists Conference (Eugene, OR) **February 28-March 2, 2019**
 "Timothy Flint and the New Region"
 Invited Presentation: **HathiTrust Research Center "Digging Deeper, Reaching Further" Series** **July 17, 2018**
 "Mining and Analyzing Text from Chronicling America Newspapers"
 Invited Presentation: **Seton Hall Digital Humanities Symposium** (South Orange, NJ) **June 5-6, 2018**
 "Analyzing and Teaching Historical Newspaper Databases"
C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference (Albuquerque, NM) **March 22-5, 2018**
 "Dis-Placing Race and Re-Placing Region in Paul Laurence Dunbar"
American Literature Association Regionalism Symposium (New Orleans, LA) **September 7-9, 2017**
 "More than Color, Less than an -ism: the Postbellum Regional Novel"
American Literature Association Conference (Boston, MA) **May 25-8, 2017**
 "How the Leopard Changed its Spots: Tourgée, Dixon, and the Novel Reconstruction of Reconstruction"
Transatlantic Newspaper Symposium (London, England) **April 27, 2017**
Rutgers Digital Humanities Showcase (New Brunswick, NJ) **March 23, 2017**
 "Reputations in the Regions: American Newspapers and Literary Geography, 1865-1915"
C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference (State College, PA) **March 17-20, 2016**
 "It's A Small *Literary World* after All: Nation, Region, and Antebellum Magazines"

SELECTED DIGITAL HUMANITIES WORKSHOPS

Approaches to Web Scraping **Spring 2019, Spring 2020**
 Techniques for collecting content from websites: <https://github.com/azleslie/WebscrapeTechniques>
Data 101 **Fall 2018, Fall 2019**
 Introduction to data organization, manipulation, and analysis in R: <https://github.com/azleslie/Data101>
Introduction to Quantitative Textual Analysis **Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020**
 Introduction to R and the basics of quantifying text: <https://github.com/azleslie/TextAnalysisIntro>
Introduction to Mapping **Fall 2018, Spring 2019**
 Survey of mapping tools with tutorials on StoryMapJS and Palladio: <https://github.com/azleslie/MappingIntro>
Text Analysis with Newspapers **Spring 2018, Fall 2019**
 Intermediate two-part workshop on mining and analyzing newspapers from Chronicling America in R:
<https://github.com/azleslie/ChronAmQuant>

SERVICE

Member, Black Bibliography Project **2017 – Present**
Member, New Jersey Committee for the NEH Digital Newspaper Program **2015 – Present**
 Selects newspapers for digitizing at <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>; blogs.libraries.rutgers.edu/njdnp/
Dissertating Students Representative, English Department Executive Committee **2018 – 2019**
Co-Director, Rutgers Graduate Americanist Colloquium **2015 – 2017**
 Organized visiting speaker events, graduate student workshops, and discussion groups.