ALEX ZWEBER LESLIE

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate – Rutgers University   **2017 – May 2021**
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).
> Winner of the Spencer Eddy Prize for Best Essay Accepted for Publication, Rutgers English Department, 2021

"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, 2022).

"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, **"The Uneven Adoption of America's First Media Oligarchy"**
Article manuscript, **"Modeling Genre Mixing in Periodicals"**
Book project, **"Reading Regions: Cultural Geography and American Literature, 1852-1925"** (defended March 2021)
> Director: Brad Evans; Committee: Meredith McGill, Andrew Goldstone, Nicholas Gaskill, Nancy Bentley

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**
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**
Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Mellon Summer Research Stipend	**Summer 2015**
Runner-up, Catherine Moynahan Prize for Best Essay, Rutgers English Department	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 w/ 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 (355:101:EG)   **Spring 2016**
Expository Writing (355:101:BA)   **Fall 2015**

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Rutgers Libraries Graduate Digital Humanities Specialist   **Spring 2018 – Summer 2020**
> Provided project consultations, worked with library data services, and taught workshops on digital methods.
> See selected workshops below or complete workshop portfolio; 90% of attendees "Extremely satisfied"

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

Library Circulation Histories Workshop (virtual due to COVID-19)   **April 19-30, 2021**
> "Patterns and Predictability in Borrower Behavior"

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"

PORTFOLIO OF DIGITAL WORK

DH Workshop: Approaches to Web Scraping   **Spring 2019, Spring 2020**
> Techniques for collecting and organizing content from websites, including introductions to R, HTML, and CSS

DH Workshop: Humanities Data 101   **Fall 2018, Fall 2019**
> Introduction to data organization, manipulation, and analysis in R, plus basic visualization

DH Workshop: Introduction to Quantitative Textual Analysis   **Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020**
> Introduction to R and the basics of quantifying text, such as word usage, linguistic time, and sentiment analysis

DH Workshop: Text Mining Approaches with Historical Newspapers   **Spring 2018, Fall 2019**
> Intermediate two-part workshop on mining and analyzing Chronicling America newspapers or messy OCR in R

Digital Edition: *A Fable for Critics* (1848) by James Russell Lowell
> Built website and edited this famous satire of American literature to explain references and emphasize reception

Curated Dataset: Newspaper Syndicates, 1875-1894
> Discovered, transcribed, regularized, and supplemented directories of the most pervasive suppliers of newsprint

SERVICE

Grant Application Reviewer, NEH National Digital Newspaper Program   **2021**

Member, Black Bibliography Project   **2017 – Present**
> Contributes to strategies for content management and open access; https://blackbibliog.org/

Member, New Jersey Committee for the NEH Digital Newspaper Program   **2015 – Present**
> Evaluates historical significance, logistics, and user needs for newspaper digitization in Chronicling America

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.