

Erik Fredner

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Education

2014–21 Stanford University
Ph.D., English
Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities

2008–12 Harvard University
A.B., English *magna cum laude*

2011–12 Harvard Graduate School of Education
Undergraduate Teacher Education Program

2010–11 University of Oxford
St Peter’s College
Visiting Student of English

Appointments

2025– Oregon State University
School of Writing, Literature, and Film
Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities and Literature

2024–25 University of Richmond
Department of English
Visiting Assistant Professor of Data Science and Statistics

2021–24 University of Virginia
College of Arts and Sciences
Postdoctoral Research Associate and Lecturer

2018–19 The City College of New York
Department of English
Graduate Teaching Fellow

Publications

Articles

2024 Erik Fredner and J.D. Porter. “Counting on *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*.” *PMLA/Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*, 139(1):

- 50–65. [doi:10.1632/S0030812923001189](https://doi.org/10.1632/S0030812923001189)
- 2022 “A Meaning Apart from Its Indistinguishable Words.” *Nathaniel Hawthorne Review*, 48(1): 82–98. [doi:10.5325/nathhawtrevi.48.1.0082](https://doi.org/10.5325/nathhawtrevi.48.1.0082)
- 2021 “Hamlin Garland’s ‘Problem of Individual Life.’” *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, 76(3): 354–383. [doi:10.1525/ncl.2021.76.3.354](https://doi.org/10.1525/ncl.2021.76.3.354)
- 2017 David McClure, Mark Algee-Hewitt, Steele Douris, Erik Fredner, and Hannah Walser. “Organizing Corpora at the Stanford Literary Lab: Balancing Simplicity and Flexibility in Metadata Management.” *Proceedings of the Workshop on Challenges in the Management of Large Corpora*, 25–29. [doi:10.5281/zenodo.1137914](https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.1137914)

Book Chapter

- 2018 Mark Algee-Hewitt, Erik Fredner, and Hannah Walser. “The Novel as Data.” In *The Cambridge Companion to the Novel*, ed. Eric Bulson, 189–216. Cambridge University Press. [doi:10.1017/9781316659694.013](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781316659694.013)

Dataset

- 2025 “Moving the Capital of US Literature from Boston to New York: Evidence from 11 Million Library of Congress Catalog Records.” *The Nineteenth-Century Data Collective*, ed. Meredith Martin and Megan Ward. Princeton University Libraries. [doi:10.34770/xcgb-zn76](https://doi.org/10.34770/xcgb-zn76)

Review

- 2020 “Enumerations: Data and Literary Study by Andrew Piper.” *Studies in the Novel*, 52(2): 220–222. [doi:10.1353/sdn.2020.0026](https://doi.org/10.1353/sdn.2020.0026)

Dissertation

- 2021 “Averaging Americans: Literature, Statistics, and Inequality.” Committee: Gavin Jones, Mark Algee-Hewitt, Mark McGurl, and Paula Moya. purl.stanford.edu/rp8o2rv5947

Works in Progress

Book

Averaging Americans: Why US Literature Started Thinking Statistically

A computational literary history arguing that the increasing centrality of statistical thinking differentiates US fiction published after the Civil War.

Essays

“Anthologies at Scale: Reading, Fast and Slow”

Co-authored with J.D. Porter. Preliminarily accepted for *Cultures of Scale: Disciplines, Data, and Labor*, ed. Joshua Ortiz Baco, Jim Casey, Benjamin Charles Germain Lee, and Sarah H. Salter. *Debates in Digital Humanities*, series ed. Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein. University of Minnesota Press.

“Reading Instead”

Preliminarily accepted for a special issue of *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies* on “Cultural AI” edited by Richard Jean So and Aarthi Vadde.

“The Ends of Reading”

Analyzes US Census Bureau statistics showing a significant decline in reading for pleasure in the US from 1982 to 2023. (Under review.)

“Leaving New York? Locations of US Literary Publishing Since 1945”

Co-authored with Luca Messarra. Using Library of Congress catalog records, this essay demonstrates that most works of American literature were only published in New York City between 1947 and 1964. The essay studies technological explanations for this counterintuitive literary historical pattern, especially the rise of offset lithography. (Under review.)

“The Literary Canon on *Jeopardy!*, 1984-2024”

Identifies approximately 70,000 questions asked on *Jeopardy!* that reference literature. Uses the dollar value of those questions to measure the subjective rarity of what they test.

“*The MLA International Bibliography*’s English-Language Literary History, 1981-2023”

Co-authored with Mark Algee-Hewitt. First large-scale analysis of about 900,000 records from *The MLA International Bibliography* describing research on literatures in English.

Awards

2024	College Fellows Development Grant, University of Virginia Supporting research on the representation of literature on <i>Jeopardy!</i>
2022	College Fellows Development Grant, University of Virginia Supporting research on <i>The MLA International Bibliography</i>
2020–21	Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center
2018–19	CUNY-Stanford Exchange Fellow, The City College of the City University of New York
2017–18	G.J. Pigott Scholar, Stanford University
2017	Excellence in Teaching Award, Stanford University, Department of English

Presentations

- 2025 “The Literary Canon on *Jeopardy!*, 1984-2024,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa
- 2025 “The ‘Already Implicit’ Canon: Data from Anthologies of African American Literature,” Digital Americanists Panel, The American Literature Association, Boston, Massachusetts
- 2025 “Leaving New York? Imprint Geographies of US Literature since 1945,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2024 “The Ends of Reading,” Faculty and Staff Symposium, University of Richmond
- 2024 “*The MLA International Bibliography’s* History of English-Language Literary Studies,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, George Mason University
- 2024 “Anthologies as Databases,” Digital Americanists Panel, The American Literature Association, Chicago, Illinois
- 2024 “The Ends of Reading: Reading Statistics and the Overestimation of Literary Studies’ Aim,” Reader Studies in the Digital Age Symposium, Price Lab for Digital Humanities at the University of Pennsylvania
- 2024 “How Much is Literary Knowledge Worth on *Jeopardy?*” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2024 “How to Publish (Computational) Literary Studies Research,” Stanford University, Department of English
- 2024 “Challenging Nineteenth-Century Data Legacies,” Mellon Sawyer Seminar, Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis
- 2024 “Mining *The MLA International Bibliography*,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2024 “Mining *The MLA International Bibliography*,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2024 “Du Bois, Statistical Thinking, and Irony,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 2023 “Implications of Large Language Models for Teaching and Research,” University of Virginia, New Curriculum Pedagogy Workshop
- 2023 “How Literary Canons Evolve: A Data-Driven Approach,” The College of William & Mary, Department of English
- 2023 “*Elden Ring* and Exegesis,” University of Virginia, Department of English Speakers Series
- 2023 “What Good is Distant Reading for Our Reading?” Duke University
- 2022 “On Scholarly Podcasting,” Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis
- 2022 “Counting on *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*,” DH Unbound, The Association for Computers and the Humanities
- 2021 “Counting on Literature,” University of Virginia, New Curriculum Lecture

- 2021 “Length and Weight,” Universitatea Lucian Blaga, Sibiu, Romania
- 2021 “Introduction to Computational Text Analysis in Python,” Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis
- 2021 “New Histories of Quantitative and Computational Methods,” Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada
- 2020 “Citizenship at Scale,” C19 2020, University Park, Pennsylvania
- 2020 “Antebellum and Postbellum,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2020 “Typicality in the US Novel,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Ottawa, Canada
- 2020 “Celebrities,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2020 “Introduction to Computational Text Analysis in Python,” Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis
- 2020 “Models of Enlightenment Knowledge” (presider), Modern Language Association, Seattle, Washington
- 2020 “Modeling Hawthorne’s Concept of the Nation,” Modern Language Association, Seattle, Washington
- 2019 “Microgenres,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Utrecht, Netherlands
- 2018 “*n* Types of Typicality,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2018 “Norton Anthologies: Database, Canon, Career,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2018 “The Statistical Imaginations of Hamlin Garland and Henry James,” Stanford University, Department of English
- 2018 “Typicality,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2017 “Distant Reading with the *Oxford English Dictionary*,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2017 “Reformism and Statistics in *Jason Edwards*,” Stanford Consortium on the Novel
- 2017 “The Type of the Average,” Stanford Working Group on the Novel
- 2017 “Microgenres,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2017 “Reading the Norton Anthologies,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Montréal, Canada
- 2017 “Security in *Foreign Affairs*,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2017 “Synchronic and Diachronic Suspense,” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2017 “How Many Novels Have Been Published in English?” Stanford Literary Lab
- 2016 “Reading Norton Anthologies,” SyncDH, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2016 “Reading the Norton Anthologies: Databases, Canons, and Careers,” Stanford Literary Lab

- 2016 “Standing Underneath: Melville, Confidence, Testimony,” Berkeley-Stanford Conference, University of California, Berkeley
- 2015 “Fallible and Unreliable Narration in *The Sound and The Fury*,” Stanford University, Narrative and Narrative Theory
- 2015 “Another Castle: The Stolen Princess Narrative in Literature and Video Games,” Stanford University, Infinite Possibilities: The Speculative Fiction Working Group
- 2015 “Virality,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 “Suspense... Language, Narrative, Affect,” Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Sydney, Australia
- 2015 “Current Projects of the Literary Lab,” SyncDH, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 2015 “Two Blocks Joined by a Corridor: Time in *To The Lighthouse*,” Stanford Literary History
- 2014 “Inveigling *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* to Become a Ballet: cummings’s *Tom*,” Berkeley-Stanford Conference, Stanford, California
- 2014 “On the Stanford Literary Lab’s Pamphlet Series,” Future of Publication Workshop, Stanford, California

Collaborations

- 2022– “Counting on Anthologies of African American Literature,” with J.D. Porter (University of Pennsylvania); Arthur Knight and Alexander Nwala (College of William & Mary)
- 2021– “*The MLA International Bibliography* as Literary History,” with Mark Algee-Hewitt (Stanford Literary Lab)
- 2018 “Typicality,” with Mark Algee-Hewitt (Stanford Literary Lab)
- 2017 “Microgenres,” with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Michaela Bronstein, Abigail Droge, Ryan Heuser, Alexander Manshel, Nichole Nomura, J.D. Porter, and Hannah Walser (Stanford Literary Lab)
- 2015 “Security,” with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Whitney McIntosh, and Stephen Stedman (Stanford Literary Lab)
- 2014 “Suspense,” with Mark Algee-Hewitt, Abigail Droge, Tasha Eccles, Morgan Day Frank, J.D. Porter, Andrew Shephard, and Hannah Walser (Stanford Literary Lab)

Teaching

As instructor of record

- 2024–25 [Data Science and Statistics 389: “Advanced Data Science,”](#) University of Richmond
- 2024–25 [Data Science and Statistics 289: “Introduction to Data Science,”](#) University of Richmond

- 2024 [“Text Classification with Large Language Models,”](#) The Text Analysis Pedagogy Institute
- 2021–24 [Empirical and Scientific Engagement 1520: “From Language to Data,”](#) University of Virginia
- 2021–24 [Engaging Aesthetics 1510: “Punching Up: US Satire,”](#) University of Virginia
- 2020 Summer Research Program, Stanford Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis
- 2018–19 [English 184E: “Literary Text Mining,”](#) Stanford University
- 2018–19 [World Humanities 101: “What It Is Like To Be Alive,”](#) The City College of New York
- 2017–18 [English 162W: “Average Americans:” Writing Intensive Seminar in English,](#) Stanford University

As teaching assistant

- 2018–19 [English 184E: “Literary Text Mining,”](#) Stanford University. Instructor of record: Ryan Heuser.
- 2017–18 English 396L: Pedagogy, Stanford University. Instructor of record: Paula Moya.
- 2015–16 English 161: “Narrative and Narrative Theory,” Stanford University. Instructors of record: Paula Moya and J.D. Porter.
- 2014–15 English 100C: “Literary History III (1850-1950),” Stanford University. Instructor of record: Franco Moretti.

Public Humanities

Roles

- 2019–21 Data scientist, “The Stuff of Fame,” discourses of celebrity in the US, Stanford Literary Lab and Smithsonian Institution
- 2019–21 Editor, [Café](#) podcast, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2017–21 Presenter, Data Privacy and Security Workshop, Stanford University
- 2016– Contributor, [Techne](#), Stanford Literary Lab
- 2014–16 Writer, [Kill Screen](#) magazine, Kill Screen Media
- 2014–16 Writer, Ph.D. Journalist Project, Stanford Humanities Center

Articles

- forthc.* “Read for Pleasure!” Center for Humanities Communication
- 2020 [“Typicality in US Literature,”](#) *Techne*
- 2019 [“Finding needles in 34 million haystacks,”](#) *Techne*

- 2017 [“How many novels have been published in English? An Attempt,”](#) *Techne*
- 2016 [“The peculiar future of video game history,”](#) *Kill Screen*
- 2015 [“Eavan Boland interrogates identity and nationhood in new collection,”](#) *The Humanities at Stanford*
- 2015 [“Stanford literary scholar: White whales and the ‘Melville Effect,’”](#) *The Humanities at Stanford*
- 2014 [“The year in anti-games,”](#) *Kill Screen*
- 2014 [“Stanford scholar questions whether statues appropriate way to commemorate Mandela,”](#) *The Humanities at Stanford*

Podcasts

- 2022 [“Matriculation: The Academic Transition to College,”](#) *Symposia*, Brown Residential College at the University of Virginia
- 2021 [Andrea Goulet, Michelle Robinson, and Héctor Hoyos on crime narrative,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2021 [Nicholas Paige on *Technologies of the Novel*,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2021 [Dorothy Hale, Nancy Ruttenburg, and Alex Woloch on *The Novel and the New Ethics*,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2021 [Sharon Marcus on the 2020 Ian Watt Lecture,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2020 [Wai Chee Dimock, John Plotz, and Colin Milburn on planetary futures,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2020 [Ato Quayson, John Kerrigan, and Richard Halpern on postcolonial tragedy,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2020 [Emily Apter, Rhonda Garelick, and Anne Higonnet on fashion stories,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2020 [Stephen Best, Mario Telò, and Kris Cohen on *None Like Us*,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel
- 2019 [Rita Felski on the 2019 Ian Watt Lecture,](#) *Café*, Stanford Center for the Study of the Novel

Service

- 2025– Reviewer, *Humanities*
- 2025– Reviewer, *Post45 Data Collective*
- 2024– Reviewer, *PMLA/Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*

2024–25	Generative Artificial Intelligence Committee, University of Richmond, Department of English
2024–	Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities—Office of Digital Humanities
2023–	Invited Referee, European Research Council
2022–	Reviewer, <i>Digital Scholarship in the Humanities</i>
2020	Consultant, Stanford University, Department of English transition to virtual instruction
2017–20	Website administrator, Stanford Literary Lab
2016–	Reviewer, Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations Conference
2015–19	Liaison, Berkeley-Stanford English Graduate Student Councils
2015–18	Examiner, American literature practice qualifying exams, Stanford University, Department of English
2014–19	Coordinator, Stanford Literary Lab

Conferences Organized

2017	“Findings: Is Computation Changing the Study of Literature?” Stanford University
2016	“Literature: A History of the Word,” Stanford University
2015	“Making and Breaking: The Berkeley-Stanford Conference,” University of California, Berkeley
2015	“Micromégas: The Objects of the Digital Humanities,” Stanford University

Affiliations

2020–	The Association for Computers and the Humanities
2020–	American Literature Association
2019–	C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
2014–	Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations
2014–	Modern Language Association

Technical

programming	Python, R, tidyverse , Jupyter, RStudio, zsh , git
scientific publishing	pandoc , Quarto, Markdown, LaTeX , Django, HTML
databases	postgres , DBeaver, SQL
data visualization	matplotlib , ggplot , Tableau
natural language processing	nlTK , spaCy , stanza , Ollama, OpenAI API

Languages

Spanish (intermediate); French (reading); Chinese (2 semesters)

References

Available upon request.