

James E. Dobson

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Education

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
Ph.D., English
Minor Field: Literary Theory

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
A.M., Program in the Humanities

University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA.
B.A., English (*cum laude*).

Education (Institutes)

Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College
2016–2018, 2021 (Plenary Faculty)
2011– (Administrator)
2005–2009 (Participant)
Summer Institute in Cognitive Neuroscience, Dartmouth College
2003–2005 (Participant).
fMRIDC Summer Workshop, Dartmouth College
2003–2005 (Faculty and Participant).

Academic Appointments

2020 - Assistant Professor of English and Creative Writing
Department of English and Creative Writing, Dartmouth College
2020 - Director, Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College.
2019 - 20 Interim Director, Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College.
2019 - 20 Senior Lecturer of English and Creative Writing.
2015 - 19 Lecturer, Department of English and Creative Writing.
2014 - 15 Resident Scholar in English, Dartmouth College
2014 - 19 Lecturer, Masters of Arts and Liberal Studies (MALS) Program, Dartmouth College
2012 - 19 Lecturer of Writing, Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College
2011 - 19 Program Manager, Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College
2011 - 12 Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Dartmouth College
2009 - 11 Associate Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University
2007 - 08 Program Assistant, Franke Institute for the Humanities, University of Chicago
2003 - 19 Data Scientist, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience,
Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Dartmouth College

Works In Progress

2. "Objective Vision: Confusing the Subject of Computer Vision" (under review)
1. *The Awkward Age of Autobiography* (book manuscript in prep).

Books

5. with Rena J. Mosteirín, *Perceptron* (punctum books, under contract)
4. *The Birth of Computer Vision* (University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming).
3. with Rena J. Mosteirín, *Moonbit* (punctum books, 2019).
2. *Critical Digital Humanities: The Search for a Methodology* (University of Illinois Press, 2019). Reviewed by *Journal of Folklore Research*, Choice Reviews, *Leonardo Reviews*, *Pedagogies*, *Journal of Web Librarianship*, *Journal of Literary Theory*.
1. *Modernity and Autobiography in Nineteenth-Century America: Literary Representations of Communication and Transportation Technologies* (Palgrave, 2017). Reviewed by *Biography*.

Journal Publications

17. “Algorithmic Governmentality and the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Ácoma: Rivista internazionale di Studi Nordamericani* (forthcoming)
16. **Dobson, J.** and Sanders, S. “Distant Approaches to the Printed Page” *Digital Studies / Le champ numérique* (forthcoming)
15. “Computation and Close Reading,” *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature* (forthcoming)
14. “Vector Hermeneutics: On the Interpretation of Vector Space Models of Text,” *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities* 37, no. 1 (2022): 81-93.
13. “Interpretable Outputs: Criteria for Machine Learning in the Humanities” *DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly* 15, no. 2 (2021).
12. “Narratives of the Later Life of Frederick Douglass” *Common-place* 17, no. 2 (2017).
11. “Lucy Larcom and the Time of the Temporal Collapse” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 33, no. 1 (2016): 82-102.
10. “Can an Algorithm be Disturbed?: Machine Learning, Intrinsic Criticism, and the Digital Humanities” *College Literature* 42, no. 4 (2015): 543-564.
9. “Bits of Autobiography: Radical Deindividualization and Everydayness” *Arizona Quarterly* 71, no. 1 (2015): 83-99.
8. “What does the ‘Temporal Turn’ Mean for Autobiography? Mark Twain, Memory, and the Failures of Historicism.” *Mark Twain Annual* 11 (Fall 2013): 62-76.
7. Pandey, S., Voorsluys, W., Rahman, M., Buyya, R., Chiu, K., and **Dobson, J.** “A Grid Workflow Environment for Brain Imaging Analysis on Distributed Systems.” *Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience* 21, no. 16 (2009): 2118-2139.
6. Pandey, S., Voorsluys, W., Rahman, M., Buyya, R., Chiu, K., and **Dobson, J.** “Brain Image Registration Analysis Workflow for fMRI Studies on Global Grids,” *Proceedings of the 23rd IEEE International Conference on Advanced Information Networking and Applications* (May 2009).
5. **Dobson, J.**, Woodward, J., Schwarz, S.A., Marchesini, J.C., Farid, H., and Smith S., “The Dartmouth Green Grid,” *Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Computational Science - Volume Part II* (2005): 99-106.
4. Van Horn, J.D., Wolfe, J., Agnoli, A., Woodward, J., Schmitt, M., **Dobson, J.**, Schumacher, S., and Vance, B. “Neuroimaging Databases as a Resource for Scientific Discovery,” *International Review of Neurobiology* 66 (2005): 55-87.
3. Zhao, Y., **Dobson, J.**, Foster, I., Moreau L., Wilde, M. “A Notation and System for Expressing and Executing Cleanly Typed Workflows on Messy Scientific Data,” *ACM SIGMOD Record* 34 (2005): 37-43.
2. Zhao, Y., Wilde, M., Foster, I., Voekler, J., **Dobson, J.**, Gilbert, E., Jordan, T. and Quigg, E. “Virtual Data Grid Middleware Services for Data-intensive Science.” *Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience* 18, no. 6 (2004): 595-608.

1. Zhao, Y., Wilde, M., Foster, I., Voeckler, J., Jordan, T., Quigg, E., and Dobson J., "Grid Middleware Services for Virtual Data Discovery, Composition, and Integration," *MGC '04 Proceedings of the 2nd Workshop on Middleware for Grid Computing* (2004): 57-62.

Book Chapters

3. "Procrustes and Progress: Linear Alignment and Historical Analysis." In *Digital Humanities Beyond Modern English*, ed. Joseph Dexter and Pramit Chaudhuri (in preparation).
2. "Knowing and Narration: Shirley Jackson and the Campus Novel." In *Shirley Jackson: Influences and Confluences*, ed. Melanie R. Anderson and Lisa Kröger, 123-141. New York: Routledge, 2016.
1. Van Horn, J.D., **Dobson, J.**, Woodward, J., Wilde, M., Zhao, Y., Voeckler, J., Foster, I. "Grid-Based Computing and the Future of Neuroscience Computation." In *Methods in Mind*, eds. Michael Gazzaniga, Carl Senior, and Tamara Russell, 141-170. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006.

Para/Academic Writing

4. "James E. Dobson on Critiquing Digital Humanities Methods," *University of Illinois Press Blog*, April 1, 2019.
3. "Dartmouth in the Popular Imagination," *Dartmouth Undying: A Celebration of Place and Possibility*, Edited by David Shribman and Jim Collins (Orange Frazer Press, 2019)
2. "Ways of Reading: Reading for The American Renaissance MOOC."
<http://amrenx.dartmouthx.org/ways-of-reading>
1. "The Indiana University School of Letters and the Mid-Century Transformation of Literary Studies." Indiana University Archives, June 2014.
<https://blogs.libraries.iub.edu/iubarchives/2014/06/16/dobson/>

Invited Talks and Papers

- "Necropolitics, Algorithmic Governmentality, and the COVID-19 Pandemic," Plenary Talk, Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
- "Moonbit: A Creative and Critical Reading of the Apollo 11 Guidance Computer Code," Library Book Talks, Dartmouth College, November 7, 2019.
- "Critical Digital Humanities," Bookstock 2019, Woodstock, VT. July 26-28 2019.
- "The Use and Misuse of Semantic Space for Literary Criticism," Digital Humanities Beyond Modern English: Computational Approaches to Premodern and Non-Western Literature. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. April 2019.
- "Techniques of the Computational Observer: Mixed-Method Governmentality and the Image," Plenary Talk, Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. June 2018.
- "The Cultural Significance of k-NN," Plenary Talk, Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. June 2017.
- "Introduction to Text Mining in the Humanities," Digital Humanities at Dartmouth. Workshop. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. February 20, 2017.
- "Protocols, Methods, and Workflows: Digital Literary Hermeneutics," Plenary Talk, Futures of American Studies Institute. Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. June 2016.
- "Digital Learning and American Literature," Dartmouth Club of Rhode Island, Providence, RI. May 10, 2016.
- "*Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Material Culture," Guest Lecture, English 72.08, Dartmouth College, April 2016.

"How Literature Became a Problem: The History of Autobiography in Psychology" 28th Annual *Arizona Quarterly Symposium*, Tucson, AZ. April 7-9, 2016.

"Kate Chopin and Transatlantic Naturalism" *La Maison Française*, Dartmouth College. April 4th, 2016.

"Digital Seminar: Digital Annotation in Theory and Practice" *Dartmouth Digital Humanities Seminar*, February 2016.

"Best Books of 2015," *The Briefing* with Mike Mastanduno. SiriusXM. December, 2015.

"*Fin-de-siècle* Form: Mark Twain's *Roughing It*, Autobiography, and Travel Narrative," Guest Lecture, English 52, Dartmouth College, October 2015.

"Re-Learning How to Teach American Literature through Dartmouth's edX Program" with Donald E. Pease. Dartmouth College, June 2015. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkixPtatiZ0>

"Experiences with Text Mining," *Dartmouth Summer Seminar for Composition Research*, August, 2014.

"QDA Miner Workshop," The Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College, June (part one) and August (part two) 2014.

"What Matters to Me and Why," Tucker Foundation, Dartmouth College, October 2013.

"Regionalism's Failed Homecoming," Guest Lecture, English 52, Dartmouth College, October 2013.

"fMRI Data Management," fMRI Brown Bag Series, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience, Dartmouth College. September 2008.

"Henry Adams and 'The Adams Memorial'," SGNHS "Sculptural Visions," Cornish NH. September 2008.

"High Performance Computing and fMRI Databases," SNIA, Washington, D.C., November 2005.

"fMRI on the Grid" fMRIDC Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2005.

"The Grid: A Platform for High Throughput Data Analysis," fMRIDC Summer Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2004.

Talks / Conference Papers

"Statistics and Reading Statistically: Biopolitical Forms of Empire," American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Denver, CO. March 2019.

"Situating Computer Vision" MLA Convention, Chicago, IL. January 2019.

"Moonbit: A Creative and Critical Reading of the Apollo 11 Guidance Computer Code," SIGCIS / SHOT 2018: Stored in Memory. St. Louis, MO. October, 2018.

"Moonbit" HaPoP 2018: Fourth Symposium on the History and Philosophy of Programming. Oxford, UK. March 2018.

Participant. "Critical Digital Humanities: A Symposium" University of Westminster. London, UK. May, 2017.

Roundtable Participant. "Visionary Compacts at Thirty: Literature, Politics, and the Field(-Imaginary) of American Studies" MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA. January 2017.

- "Digital American Cultural Studies" MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA. January 2017.
- "Machine Learning, Distant Reading, and American Literature," NeMLA, Hartford, CT. March 2016.
- "Narratives of the Later Life of Frederick Douglass: Old Age Autobiography Before Senescence," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA. March 2016.
- "Keywords, Concepts, Modularity: Approaching the College Classroom after MOOCs," *Catalyzing Community: A Humanities Symposium on Digital Learning & Engagement*. Dartmouth College. October 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjxGNrJVK8A>
- "Amateur Theory." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA. March 2015.
- "The Value of Old Criticism: Periodization and Passé Critique." Panel: *Here and After: Periodization and American Literary Studies*. MLA Convention, Vancouver, BC. January 2015.
- "The Telephonic Self: A Non-Systemic Systems Theory of Autobiography." American Circuits, American Secrets. Banff, Alberta. September 2014.
- "The Telephonic Self: A Non-Systemic Systems Theory of Autobiography." American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY. March 2014.
- Symposium Participant. "New Media in American Literary History Interdisciplinary Symposium." Northeastern University, Boston, MA. December 2013.
- "Autobiography in Neuroscience and Neuroscience in Autobiography." NeMLA, Boston, MA. March 2013.
- "What does the 'Temporal Turn' Mean for Autobiography? Mark Twain, Memory, and the Failures of Historicism." Center for Mark Twain Studies, Elmira College, Elmira, NY. October 2012.
- "What does the 'Temporal Turn' Mean for Autobiography? Mark Twain, Memory, and the Failure of Linearity." Northeastern University, Boston, MA. March 2012.
- "Experiences with Distant, Computer-Aided Reading: Imagining a New Way of Reading a New Century." C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA. May 2010.
- "Digital Humanities, Desire, and the Ends of Reading." Indiana University, Bloomington, IN. March 2010.
- "Was the *Education* Adams's Final Synthesis?" American Literature Association, Boston, MA. May 2009.
- "Regionalism's Countermonumental Impulse." Conference on the Literature of Northern New England, Norwich University, Northfield, VT. April 2009.
- "'Why, Where Have You Been These Twenty Long Years?': The Missing Event of *The Education of Henry Adams*," Tufts English Graduate Student Conference, Tufts University, October 2008.
- "GStar Grid Tools" GriPhyN (Grid Physics Network) All-Hands Meeting, Argonne, IL, April 2005.
- "Grid Middleware Services for Virtual Data Discovery, Composition, and Integration," ACM/Usenix/IFIP Middleware '04, Toronto, Canada. October 2004.
- "The Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) Data Center" 2003 HPC Consortium, Phoenix, AZ,

November, 2003.

“Data Warehousing and Integration for Scientific Data Management” SuperG Conference, Berlin, Germany, May 2003.

**Chaired or
Organized Panels
and Conferences**

Session Chair. “Merciful Failure, Delightful Disasters, and Practices of Hope” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. November 2018.

Co-Organizer. “Critical Digital Humanities: A Symposium” Dartmouth College, April, 2017.

Organizer and Presider. “Teaching Literature in Public: Large-Scale Online Teaching and Reading” MLA Convention, Austin, TX. January 2016.

Organizer. *Catalyzing Community: A Humanities Symposium on Digital Learning & Engagement*. Dartmouth College, October, 2015.

Respondent. “Researching Romance” Conference. Department of French and Italian. Dartmouth College. April 2015.

Panel Chair. “American Traumas: History, Memory, Violence.” International Conference on Narrative. Cambridge, MA. March 2014.

Organizer and Presider. “Newer New or Coming After?: Americanist Literary Criticism at the Present Moment.” MLA Convention, Chicago, IL. January 2014.

Teaching

Department of English, Dartmouth College

- “Cultural Analytics” ENGL-64.05 (Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)
- “Dartmouth Fictions” ENGL-55.12 (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Winter 2021)
- “Race and Modernity” (Co-Instructor) ENGL-53.43 (Fall 2019)
- “Game of Thrones” ENGL-53.36 (Winter 2018, Winter 2019)
- “The Historical Philosophy of W. E. B. Du Bois” (Co-Instructor) ENGL-53.40 (Summer 2017)
- “Neuroscience and the Novel” ENGL-55.08 (Fall 2016)
- “The American Renaissance at Dartmouth” (Co-Instructor) ENGL-54.02 (Winter 2016)
- “American Drama” ENGL-34 (Co-Instructor) (Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017).
- “American RenaissanceX” (Co-Instructor) DartmouthX, Massive Open Online Course (MOOC). Dartmouth College (2015 - 2016).
- “American Fiction to 1900” ENGL-42 (Co-Instructor). (Fall 2013).
- “American Drama” ENGL-47 (Teaching Assistant). (Spring 2012).
- “Nineteenth-Century American Fiction” ENGL-42 (Teaching Assistant). (Fall 2011).

Department of Comparative Literature, Dartmouth College

- “Contemporary Literary Theory and Criticism” COLT-100 M.A. Seminar (Fall 2018)

Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies, Dartmouth College

- “Autobiography & Selfie Culture” MALS-297 (Spring 2019)
- “Cultural Studies” MALS-318 (Co-Instructor) (Summer 2016)
- “Digital American Cultural Studies” MALS-289 (Instructor) (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)
- “American Cultural Studies” MALS-289 (Instructor) (Winter 2015, Fall 2015)

Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College

- “Expository Writing” (Instructor). WRIT-5 (2012 – present).
Course titles: Campus Life, Neuroscience and the Novel, Dartmouth College in Fiction and in Fact, The University in the Popular Imagination.

Department of English, Indiana University

- Elementary Composition ENG-W131 (Instructor). (Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011).
- Argumentative Writing ENG-W170 (Instructor) (Fall 2011)

Other

- Open Science Grid (OSG) Grid Summer School (Instructor), University of Texas, Brownsville (2005).
- Courses on Unix and Linux (Instructor), Thomas College and Bridge Education, Westbrook, Maine (2002-2003).

Advising**Undergraduate Students**

- Agnes C. Ugoji '22, “Race, Bias, and Cultural Analytics” (Spring 2022)
- Ananya N. Vaidya '23, Presidential Scholar (Fall 2021, Winter 2022)
- Catherine Parnell '22, Neukom Scholar (Summer 2020)
- Catherine Parnell '22 and Julianna Thomson '20, "Religious Change Over Time: Semantic Change of Religious Language Using Word Vectors" (Winter 2020)
- Brian Muleri '21, “Computational Literary Analysis: Using Computational Methods to Analyze Literary and Social Trends" (Winter 2020)
- Allison Hufford '21, “Feminism in Fantasy: A Cultural Analysis of Female Political Ambition, Agency, and Power in HBO’s Game of Thrones” (Honors Thesis, English, 2021)

Graduate Students

- Yipu Su, M.A. (Comparative Literature) Thesis Advisor, 2022.
- Natalie Svoboda, “Designing for Digital Burnout: Elevating Human-Computer Interaction,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Second Reader).
- Janina Misiewicz, “Conditional Recognition and the Popularization of the Contemporary Wellness Industry ,” MALS Thesis Advisor (First Reader), 2021.
- Mingchu Zang, “Chinese Myths in New Media,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Third Reader), 2020.
- Daniel Affsprung, “The Data Turn: Subjects in the Shadow of Big Data” MALS Thesis Advisor (First Reader), 2020. Winner of Byam Shaw-Brownstone M.A.L.S. Thesis Excellence Award in Cultural Studies.
- Sarah Coulter, “Fashion: The Temporality and Performance of Femininity and Identity and the Fight to Be Modern” MALS Thesis Advisor (First Reader), 2020.
- Margaryta Kremneva, “Writing About Writing for Gaming: A Cross-Genre Literary Inquiry into Writing Questlines for the Role-Playing Computer Games” MALS Thesis Advisor (Second Reader), 2019.
- Kawisara Limaksorn, “From ‘Purple’ to ‘Rainbow’: Re-defining Lesbianism in Thailand,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Third Reader), 2018.
- Amanda C. Leong, “Photography and Empathy’s Ethical Potential,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Second Reader), 2018.
- Jialu Audrey Fang, M.A. (Comparative Literature) Thesis Advisor, 2018.
- Xinyuan Qiu, “Feminine Disestablishment,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Second Reader), 2017.

- Scott Mohr, “I-Insta-Google’d-the-Book: An Observation of Technology’s Effect on Student Learning,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Second Reader), 2017.
- Emily Hedges, “The Fair or Providence,” MALS Thesis Advisor (Third Reader), 2016.
- Amy Hunt, “Not Your Typical Prose: Documenting Software,” MALS Thesis Advisor (First Reader), 2016.
- Xu Wang, MALS Thesis Advisor (First Reader), 2016.

Graduate Independent Studies

- Daniel Affsprung (Fall 2019)
- Dawn Hearne (Summer 2019)
- Sarah Coulter (Spring 2017)
- Pamela J. Weeks-Dorji (Summer 2015)
- Emily Hedges (Fall 2015)

Grants and Awards Dean of the Faculty Teaching Award (2019).
 Leslie Center for the Humanities, Humanities Lab (\$5000) for "Cultural Analytics" (2019).
 Dartmouth College, Dean of the Faculty, “The Dartmouth Green Grid,” 2005 (\$100K). Principle Investigator.
 National Institutes of Health, “Core Data Analysis and Modeling” (NS37470) 2003 - 2005 (\$283K). Essential Personnel.
 National Institutes of Health, “On-Line Study of Error Adjustment, Adaptation, and Skill Learning” (NS44393) 2003 - 2005 (\$177K). Essential Personnel.
 National Science Foundation, “The National FMRI Data Center” (9978116). 2003 - 2005 (\$4.9M). Essential Personnel.

Service to the Profession Member. Editorial Board. *Resources for American Literary Studies* (2020 -)
 Program Committee. Digital Humanities Workshop (DHW). Kyiv, Ukraine (2021)
 Co-Chair: Group on Authorization/Policy (TG-Policy), Open Science Grid (2005)

Service to Dartmouth Member. Committee on Instruction (COI) (2019 -)
 Member. Committee of Chairs (COC) (2019 -)
 Member. Council for Interdisciplinary Programs (CIP) (2019 -)
 Member. Council on Undergraduate Research (CUGR) (2019 -)
 Member. Editorial Board. *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine* (2017 -)
 Davis Study of Student Writing, Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College (2012–2013).
 Summer Assessment Research Group. Institute for Writing and Rhetoric, Dartmouth College (2015).

Reviewing Activities Book manuscript review for University of Chicago Press, Routledge, MIT Press.
 Journal article manuscript review for DHQ: Digital Humanities Quarterly, Studies in American Fiction, PMLA, Arizona Quarterly, Resources for American Literary Studies, Interdisciplinary Science Reviews.

Professional Affiliations C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
 Mark Twain Circle of America
 Henry Adams Society
 Modern Language Association
 SIGCIS: The Special Interest Group for Computing, Information, and Society
 HASTAC Consortium (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory)

Languages

French: basic knowledge, reading

Spanish: basic knowledge, reading

Programming Languages: Python, Perl, C, Matlab, Awk/Bash/Bourne Shell.