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# Phillip R. Polefrone

## Education

*Columbia University*

Ph.D. Candidate, English Literature (2013–Present)

M.Phil., English and Comparative Literature, 2016.

M.A., English and Comparative Literature, 2014.

Certificate, Columbia Publishing Course, School of Journalism, 2012.

*New York University*

B.A., English and American Literature, 2012. *Magna Cum Laude*

## Grants and Awards

2017   Archival Research Funding from the Department of English and Comparative Literature,
Columbia University

Awarded funding to attend the Jack London Collection at the Huntington Library in Pasadena, California.

2015   SIPA and Carnegie Corporation of New York Grant for Doctoral Student Research on Internet Policy

Awarded funding for research into semantic patterns in online harassment of feminist activists. Using a corpus of thousands of tweets using the "gamergate" hashtag, considered the applicability of semantic categorization tools in characterizing online disputes.

**2014** *Robert John Bennett Memorial Award*

Awarded to the best Masters Essay on a comparative or interdisciplinary topic; "Gilman's Garden: Ecological Economy, Coevolution, and Utopian Naturalism in *Herland*", 2014.

## Publications

**Articles** "Rising Tides, Rising Profits." *Public Books*. 27 June 2017. (link)
"Regreening Technology: Gestures Beyond Prometheanism in Kim Stanley Robinson's *Mars Trilogy*." *Politics Slash Letters*. 27 June 2016. (link)

**Chapters** *"Critical Computing in the Humanities,"* with Dennis Tenen and John Simpson. *Doing Digital Humanities*. London: Routledge, 2016. Print. (link)

## Talks

**May 2017** "Gilman's Garden: *Herland* and the Anthropocene," American Literature Association Conference 2017, Boston

Part of the "Texts, Contexts, and Subtexts: Charlotte Perkins Gilman in Her Time" panel, hosted by the Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society.

**February 2017** "Semi-Automated Literary Mapping," Columbia University

Presented a platform (in development) that expedites literary mapping using a combination of automated and human toponym resolution techniques.

## Teaching Positions

**Spring 2016 - Present** *Writing Associate*, Cooper Union Writing Center

Consulted with undergraduate students at the Cooper Union after receiving program-specific pedagogical training.

**Fall 2015 - Present**   *University Writing: Readings in Sustainable Development*, Columbia, University Writing Program

Developed and taught a composition syllabus with a sustainable development theme. Topics included the commons, environmental justice, neoliberal environments, and environmental ethics.

**Spring 2015**   *Computing in Context*, Columbia, Computer Science and English

As a teaching assistant, taught two weekly sections covering the intersection of digital and computational methods and literary theory. The material covered included both the basics of programming in Python and fundamental methodologies of Digital Humanities.

**Fall 2014**   *History of English*, Columbia, English and Comparative Literature

Assisted in setting up lecture materials, grading, and leading review sections for a course covering the history of the English language from the medieval era to the present.

**2009 - 2012**   *Undergraduate Writing Tutor*, NYU Expository Writing Program

Tutored undergraduate students in academic essay writing, commenting on electronic drafts and meeting with students; mentored new tutors.

**Summer 2010**   *Writing Instructor*, NYU Opportunities Program (BEST)

Taught two daily seminars in literary analysis, research, and essay writing to students from underserved neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

## Digital Projects

*Framework for Semi-Automated Literary Mapping*, 2016-2017. Columbia University Digital Centers Intern Program.

Developed an online framework for automatically tagging and georeferencing locations, particularly for use in literary mapping projects. Using Python, NLTK, and the GeoNames API, designed a process for detecting locations and recommending spatial coordinates to expedite human location tagging. Funding provided by Columbia University's Digital Centers Internship Program.

*LitCity*, January 2016. CODEX Hackathon at MIT.

> Contributed to backend development, natural language processing, and data analysis for a prototype of a literary traveling app. The prototype automatically extracted and mapped locations from a sample literary corpus, layering textual data from multiple texts over a map interface. More detail and demo on the hackdash.

*RogetTools*, Summer 2014. Columbia University.

> Created a Python library for identifying and analyzing the broad semantic categories of words based on the category hierarchy of Roget's Thesaurus. Description.

*Sortes Vergilianae/Pynchonianae Twitter Bot*, 2015.

> Created and maintained a Twitter bot based on the principles of the "Sortes Vergilianae," a form of bibliomancy in which a random passage of *The Aeneid* is consulted for divination purposes. Once developed, it was extended to Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow*. (Samples)

*Group for the Experimental Methods in the Humanities (Website)*. Columbia University.

> Helped develop website using Jekyll: contributed to fundamental code, consulted on design and functionality, and discussed its place in the group's overall workflow.

## University Service and Affiliations

**2014 - 2016**  Representative, Graduate Student Council, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University

> Represented student interests and concerns to department leadership; helped organize events for current and incoming students; organized workshops for early-stage doctoral students. Spurred digital communications initiatives.

**2014 -**  Core Team Member, Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities

> Helped develop goals, operations, and web presence for Columbia's Digital Humanities group. http://xpmethod.github.io