

CURRICULUM VITAE

Department of English
University of Virginia
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RYAN CORDELL

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, University of Virginia, expected May 2011
B.A., English Language and Literature, *magna cum laude*, The George Washington University, 2004

DISSERTATION

Committee: Stephen Railton (director), Jerome McGann, Victoria Olwell, Heather Warren

In my dissertation, "'That Great Burning Day': Apocalyptic in Antebellum Literature and Culture," I investigate the intersections of apocalyptic rhetoric and symbolism in literary and popular fiction (Stowe, Hawthorne, Cooper, Thoreau, Melville, Poe, and Lippard), theological texts, sermons, and religious newspapers before the Civil War. Most literary studies of antebellum American apocalyptic have neglected its immediate historical and cultural roots in nineteenth-century evangelical eschatology, while most studies of nineteenth-century evangelical eschatology have neglected the imaginative engagement of period writers with the apocalyptic. I attempt to amend both oversights, using the prominence of the apocalyptic across period genres, authors, and ideologies to think about how scholars understand and constitute boundaries between sacred and secular texts—boundaries that are unclear in nineteenth-century works. I argue that apocalyptic rhetoric and symbolism bleed in, among, and between nearly all aspects of antebellum written culture, and that antebellum authors and preachers interpreted emerging secular dogmas such as nationalism, reform, technology, and progress through apocalyptic "signs of the times."

AWARDS

SHANTI Exploratory Cohort Fellowship, for technical training, initial design, and help implementing a digital edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Celestial Railroad" (forthcoming at celestialrailroad.org), 2009-10.

Buckner W. Clay Endowment for the Humanities Summer Research Grant, for startup research and development work on celestialrailroad.org, Summer 2009

Tane Travel Scholarship, for travel to the Bicentennial Poe Conference in October 2009

PUBLICATIONS

"'Enslaving You, Body and Soul': The Uses of Temperance in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and 'Anti-Tom' Fiction," *Studies in American Fiction* (Spring 2008)

"Alcohol and Temperance" and "Harriet Beecher Stowe," *Encyclopedia of the Early Republic and Antebellum America*, M. E. Sharpe (forthcoming, 2009)

In Progress

"'Taken Possession of': Hawthorne's 'Celestial Railroad' in the Nineteenth Century Evangelical Canon," revising for resubmission to *American Literary History*

DIGITAL PROJECTS

Researcher, designer, and curator of celestialrailroad.org, a comparative digital edition of Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The Celestial Railroad," 2008-present

Project Manager, University of Virginia Writing Program website development team (redschoolhouse.org), 2009-present

Research Assistant and Electronic Text Creator for Professor Stephen Railton, "Uncle Tom's Cabin and American Culture" (www.iath.virginia.edu/utc/), 2005-2006

CONFERENCES

"Hawthorne's 'Celestial Railroad' in the Nineteenth-Century Evangelical Canon," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Inaugural Conference, May 2010 (upcoming), State College, Pennsylvania (Nineteenth-Century American Literature and New Media panel)

"Coming to an End for Certain': Apocalyptic Skepticism in Poe and Lippard," Poe Studies Association's Third International Edgar Allan Poe Conference (The Bicentennial), October 2009, Philadelphia ("Poe, Lippard, and Place" panel)

"Thoreau's *Walden* and Freshman Comp," American Literature Association (ALA) 2008, San Francisco ("Teaching Thoreau in the Twenty-First Century" roundtable, sponsored by the Thoreau Society)

Moderator and respondent for the "Harriet Beecher Stowe and Nineteenth-Century Religious Communities" panel, sponsored by the Harriet Beecher Stowe Society, ALA 2008, San Francisco

"The Light Which Puts Out Our Eyes': The Spring Apocalypse in Thoreau's *Walden*," Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) 2007, Bellingham, WA ("Promethean Visions and Communities of Belief in Nineteenth-Century American Literature" panel)

"Dim and Wondrous Imagery': *Uncle Tom's Cabin* at the End of Time," Popular and American Culture Associations of the South (PCAS/ACAS) 2007, Jacksonville, FL ("Uncle Tom's Cabin and Antebellum Culture" panel)

"Mas'r isn't good to himself: Temperance Rhetoric in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*," ALA 2006, San Francisco ("Future Directions in Stowe Scholarship" panel, sponsored by the Stowe Society)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (PORTFOLIO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST)

Teaching Interests: Nineteenth-century American literature, composition, nineteenth-century fiction, religion and literature, science fiction, American periodical culture

The University of Virginia, Department of English

Courses Taught (instructor of record)

Pavilion Writers (advanced first-year composition), Spring 2009

Religion and American Fiction (introductory seminar in literature), Fall 2008

Science Fictions (themed first-year composition), Fall 2007

Thoreau, *Walden*, and American Culture (themed first-year composition), Fall 2006 and Spring 2007

Courses Taught (discussion leader)

History of English Literature III (twentieth-century literature in English), for Professors Stephen Cushman and Michael Levenson, Fall 2007

Academic and Professional Writing (advanced composition), Spring 2006

History of English Literature I (medieval and renaissance literature), for Professor Elizabeth Fowler, Fall 2005

INVITED TALKS OR LECTURES

Panelist, Professionalization Workshop on Academic Publication, University of Virginia Slavic Department, December 2009.

Panelist, "Geospatial Data and Tools in Humanities Research" session, NEH and UVA Scholars' Lab's "Institute for Enabling Geospatial Scholarship," University of Virginia, November 2009.

"Antebellum American Apocalypticism," guest lecture in Prof. Judith Kovac's "Revelation to John" course, Religious Studies Department, University of Virginia, January 2008 and November 2008

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Director, University of Virginia Writing Center, 2009-present

Assistant Director, University of Virginia Writing Center, 2008-2009

Chief Writing Consultant to the College of Arts and Sciences, McIntire School of Commerce, School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies Program; Assessment of Student Writing; University of Virginia's Office of Institutional Assessment and Studies; 2008-2009

Reader, AP English Examination, Educational Testing Services, 2008-present

Copy Editor, *New Literary History* (NLH), 2007-2008

Tutor, University of Virginia Writing Center, 2004-2007

Research and Copyediting Assistant for Professor Mark Edmundson, 2007

Assistant to Professor Stephen Railton and the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, "Uncle Tom's Cabin in the Web of Culture: A Multi-Disciplinary Conference," 2007

Grading Assistant for Professor Raymond Nelson, 2005

Grading and Research Assistant for Professor Mark Edmundson, 2004

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Teaching Resource Center workshop leader, "Leading an Effective Discussion Section" workshops at the College of Arts and Sciences August Teaching Workshop 2009, August Teaching Workshop 2008, and January Teaching Workshop 2008

Teaching Resource Center workshop leader, "Grading Student Writing" workshops for the Spanish and Italian Department (September 2009), Architecture Department (September 2008), and Religious Studies Department (August 2007).

Newsletter and Website Editor, Harriet Beecher Stowe Society, www.stowesociety.org, 2006-present

Treasurer, Graduate English Student Association, University of Virginia, 2006-2007

MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association, Poe Studies Association, Harriet Beecher Stowe Society, Henry David Thoreau Society, American Culture Association of the South

LANGUAGES

German

TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES

HTML, XML, CSS, Drupal, Dreamweaver, Omeka

REFERENCES

Stephen Railton, Professor, University of Virginia

(434) 924-6612; sfr@virginia.edu

Victoria Olwell, Assistant Professor, University of Virginia

(434) 924-6803; vjo2f@virginia.edu

Jerome McGann, John Stewart Bryan Professor, University of Virginia

(434) 924-6669; jjm2f@virginia.edu

Gregory Colomb, Professor and Director of Academic Writing, University of Virginia

(434) 924-6614; ggc8n@virginia.edu

Heather Warren, Associate Professor, Religious Studies, University of Virginia

(434) 924-6719; haw6w@virginia.edu

Bethany Nowviskie, Director of Digital Research and Scholarship, UVA Library

(434) 243-2218; bethany@virginia.edu