

Curriculum Vitae



Alex Beringer

Professor
University of Montevallo
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EMPLOYMENT

University of Montevallo

Professor (2023-Present)
Associate Professor (2017-2023)
Assistant Professor (2012-2017)

University of Michigan—Ann Arbor

Lecturer (2011-2012)

EDUCATION

University of Michigan—Ann Arbor

Ph.D (May 2011)
M.A. (December 2005)

Areas of Concentration: Nineteenth Century American Literature, Graphic Narratives, Visual Culture, History of Popular Culture.

Dissertation: "The Pleasures of Conspiracy in American Literature"

Committee: Gregg Crane (chair), Jonathan Freedman, June Howard, Howard Brick.

University of Wisconsin—Madison

B.A. (December 2003)

Major: English Literature

Thesis: "Identities in Peril/Identities in Repair: The Cultural Criticism of Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o and George Lamming."

Imperial College of London—London, England

University of Wisconsin—Madison study abroad program (January – April, 2002)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lost Literacies: Experiments in the Nineteenth Century US Comic Strip. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2024.

Co-Editor, "Forum: New Approaches to Comics in Periodical Media" *American Periodicals*, Volume 32, Issue 2, December 2022. The Ohio State University Press, 91-102.

"Spectacular Failures: Comics in Nineteenth-Century American Humor Magazines." *American Periodicals*, Volume 32, Issue 2, December 2022. The Ohio State University Press, 100-108.

"Humbug History: The Politics of Puffery in Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy." *The Mark Twain Annual*, Volume 14, 2016. Pennsylvania State University Press.

"Transatlantic Picture Stories: Experiments in the Antebellum U.S. Comic Strip." *American Literature*, September 2015, Duke University Press.
Honorable Mention, Norman Foerster Prize for best article published in *American Literature* in 2015.

"'Some Unsuspected Author': Ignatius Donnelly and the Conspiracy Novel." *Arizona Quarterly*, Winter 2013, University of Arizona Press.

"Henry James and The Pleasures of Conspiracy." *Studies in American Fiction*, Spring 2012, Johns Hopkins University Press.

REVIEWS AND GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

Review, "Authorizing Superhero Comics: On the Evolution of a Popular Serial Genre," *American Periodicals*, Volume 33, Issue 2, Fall 2023, The Ohio State University Press. pp. 209-212.

Review, "Incorrigibles and Innocents: Constructing Childhood and Citizenship in Progressive Era Comics," *INKS: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, Volume 3, Issue 2, October 2019, The Ohio State University Press. pp. 216-218.

Review, "Walt Disney in the Library of Babel," PopMatters, <http://www.popmatters.com/review/walt-disney-in-the-library-of-babel/> posted July, 18, 2018.

Review, "Comics Scholarship Finds its Voice with INKS," PopMatters, <http://www.popmatters.com/review/inks-journal-comics-studies-society-drawing-the-line-comics/> posted October 6, 2017.

Review, "Reconsidering Vietnam in The Best We Could Do," PopMatters, <http://www.popmatters.com/review/the-best-we-could-do-an-illustrated-memoir-by-thi-bui/> posted June 2, 2017

Review, "Do Our Superheroes Satisfy a Secret Craving for Authoritarianism: A Secret History of Superheroes," PopMatters, <http://www.popmatters.com/review/do-our-superheroes-satisfy-secret-craving-for-authoritarianism/> posted Feb. 14, 2017.

Review, "Lure of the Arcane." *Eighteenth Century Studies*, Vol. 37. Issue 4, Nov. 2014, Johns Hopkins University Press. pp. 567-8.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Scholarly Projects Grant (2023-24)

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Scholarly Projects Grant (2021-22)

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Scholarly Projects Grant (2020-21)

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Scholarly Projects Grant (2019-20)

American Antiquarian Society, Jay & Deborah Last Research Fellow in Graphic Arts (2018-19)

University of Montevallo, Summer Stipend for Pre-Tenured Faculty (2017)

University of Montevallo, Research and Creative Projects Grant (2016-17)

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Learning Grant (2015-16)

National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship, Summer Institute: "City of Print, New York and the Periodical Press" (2015)

University of Cambridge, Visiting Fellow, Center for Research in the Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences (2014)

University of Montevallo, Teaching and Learning Grant (2013-14)

University of Michigan, Rackham Humanities Research Dissertation Fellowship (2009-10)

University of Michigan, Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship (2008-09)

University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School Thesis Research Grant (2008)

University of Michigan, Summer Departmental Fellowship (2005-2006)

University of Michigan, Research Assistant Fellowship (2005)

University of Michigan, Departmental Fellowship (2004-2005)

University of Wisconsin, University League Undergraduate Research Grant (2003)

University of Wisconsin, Honors Fellowship (1999-2000)

TEACHING AWARDS

College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, University of Montevallo (2023)

Outstanding Honors Program Faculty, University of Montevallo (2018)

Information Literacy Innovator Award, University of Montevallo (2015)

David and Linda Moscow Prize for Excellence in Composition Instruction, University of Michigan (2008)

English Undergraduate Association Award, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan (2006)

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Service to the Field

Peer Reviewer: American Literary History, American Periodicals, INKS: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society, MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States, Studies in American Humor, Studies in American Naturalism.

Selection Committee: American Antiquarian Society Short-Term Fellowships (2022)

Advisory Board: "History Cartoons: The Editorial Art of Clubb and Messner," NEH Digital Advancement Project, Rochester Institute of Technology (2018-Present)

Staff Writer: PopMatters.com (2017-19)

Chair: Comics and Graphic Narratives Circle, American Literature Association (2016-2018)

Service at the University of Montevallo

Graduate Coordinator, English Department (2016-2023)

Faculty Senate (2013-2016, 2023-Present)

- President-Elect (2024-Present)
- Executive Governance Committee (2023-Present)
- Faculty Development Advisory Committee Liaison (2023-Present)
- Academic Policies Subcommittee (2015-2016)
- Untenured Faculty Liaison (2015-16)

Search Committees:

- Chair, British Literature Faculty Position, English Department (2023-24)
- Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs (2016-17)
- Early Modern and Renaissance Literature Faculty Position, English Department (2015-16)
- 18th Century Literature Faculty Position, University of Montevallo (2014-15)

English and World Languages Scholarships Committee (2016-Present)

- Chair 2023-Present

English and World Languages Web Oversight Committee (2017-Present)

Faculty Development Advisory Committee (2020-Present)

Honors Program Committee (2013-Present)

English Graduate Program Committee (2016-Present)

- Chair, 2016-2023

Founder's Day Committee (2021-2022)

Academic Educational Technology Support Committee
(2018-2019)

English Major Committee (2014-2018)

Sophomore Literature Committee (2012-2017)

College Night Committee (2013-2014)

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, AND INSTITUTES

Panel Chair and Organizer, "A *Fin de Siecle* for Comics in America," C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists, Pasadena, CA (2024)

"The End of Pictographic Wit," C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists, Pasadena, CA (2024)

"Frank Bellew's Radical Romanticism," Comics Studies Society, Virtual Conference, 2024

Seminar Participant, CHAViC seminar, "On Stage: Spectacle in Nineteenth Century America," American Antiquarian Society, Worcester MA (2022)

"The 'Social Comedy Comics' of Mary Levison's *Nick Nax*," Caricature and Cartooning Symposium, The Ohio State University (2021)

"Spectacular Failures: Nineteenth Century American Periodical Comics," Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Online Conference (2021)

Seminar Participant, "Caricature, Cartooning, and Comics Before 1900," The Ohio State University (2021)

"Creative Cross-Pollinations: Publishing Houses, Technology, and Innovation in Nineteenth-Century American Comics," Comics Studies Society, Henderson State University (2020, Cancelled due to COVID-19)

Session Chair, "New Approaches to Comics in Periodicals" Research Society for American Periodicals Virtual Symposium (2020)

"Three Tableaux in Nineteenth Century American Comics," Fellows Talk, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA (2019)

Session Chair, "Affect in American Comics," American Literature Association, Boston, MA (2019)

Session Chair, "Mark Twain and Social Activism," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Birmingham, AL (2018)

"Bohemianism and Radicalism in Nineteenth Century American Comics," Cartoon Crossroads, Columbus, OH (2018)

"Drawn from the Stage: Nineteenth Century U.S. Comics and New York's Theater Culture," Modern Language Association, New York, NY (2018)

"'An Accidental Blot': Cultural Capital in early Nineteenth Century Comic Strips," South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, GA (2017)

Session Chair: "Queering Comics History," American Literature Association, Boston, MA (2017)

"The Early American Comic Strip and the 'Feminization' of American Theater," American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, CA (2016)

Session Chair: "C19 and Graphic Storytelling," C19: The Society of 19th Century Americanists Conference, State College, PA (2016)

"Graphic Travels: Augustus Hoppin's Travelogue Comics, 1852-1880," C19: The Society of 19th Century Americanists Conference, State College, PA (2016)

"The Honest Home-Writ Page: The Search for the Antebellum American Comic Strip," American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA (2015)

"Punch Takes Manhattan: Exchanges between British and American Exchanges in Nineteenth Century Comics," Popular Culture and American Culture Conference, New Orleans, LA (2015)

"Paranoid Masculinities in Mark Twain's Fiction," Public Lecture at the University of Cambridge, Cambridge UK (2014)

"Taking Digital Humanities Projects to Live Publics," The Humanities and Technology Camp, Birmingham AL (2014)

"Lost Literacies: Experiments in the American Comic Strip, 1846-1866," National Popular Culture and American Culture Conference, Chicago IL (2014)

"Humbug History in *Tom Sawyer's Conspiracy*," American Literature Association, Boston, MA (2013)

Session Chair and Commentator: "Dropping Out/Opting Out: Iconoclasts in American Culture," American Studies Association, San Antonio, TX (2010)

"The Pleasures of Conspiracy in Henry James' *The Princess Casamassima*," Great Lakes Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (2010)

"Anarchist Secret Societies in Henry James' *The Princess Casamassima*," United States Literature and Cultures Consortium Colloquium, University of Michigan (2009)

"Read Between the Lines: Conspiracy as Archival Vision in Donnelly's *Caesar's Column*," Great Lakes American Studies Association Conference, Notre Dame

University (2009)

"A Class of Readers Hitherto Beyond the Reach of Thoughtful Men': Conspiracy Narratives in Late Nineteenth Century American Working-Class Novels," Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Boston, MA (2009)

"Conspiracy as Literary Genre in Gilded Age Literature," United States Literature and Culture Consortium Colloquium, University of Michigan (2008)

"Conspiracy, Paranoia, and Historiography in Charles Chesnut's Fiction," Nineteenth Century Studies Association Conference, Florida International University (2008)

"Masonic Motifs in James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*." Language and Rhetorical Studies Workshop Conference, University of Michigan (2007)

INVITED TALKS AND GUEST APPEARANCES

Invited Talk: "Lost Literacies: Experiments in the 19th Century US Comic Strip," American Antiquarian Society (2024)

Invited Talk: "Lost Literacies: Experiments in the 19th Century US Comic Strip," [New York Comics and Picture-Story Symposium](#) (2024)

Podcast Episode: "Experiments in the Nineteenth Century US Comic Strip," (2024)

Invited Talk: "The Science of Superheroes," University of Alabama at Birmingham (2024)

Invited Talk: "Comics and Cognition," University of Alabama at Birmingham (2023)

Invited Talk: "The Language of Comics," University of Alabama at Birmingham (2016)

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

American Popular Culture Association

C19: The Society of 19th Century Americanists

Comics Studies Society

Modern Language Association

Nineteenth Century Studies Association

Phi Kappa Phi

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Taught and Designed at the University of Montevallo (2012-Present)

Art 307 and English 439: The Origins of the Comic Strip: Graphic Narratives Before 1940

English 101: Composition I

English 102: Composition II

English 231: Global Literature I: "Conspiracy and Paranoia"

English 232: Global Literature I: "Introduction to Comics and Graphic Narratives"

English 233: Honors Global Literature I: "Conspiracy and Paranoia"

English 234: Honors Global Literature II: "Introduction to Comics and Graphic Narratives"

English 300: Introduction to the English Major

English 306: Survey of British and American Literature II 1660-1865

English 405/505: Mark Twain (Fall 2013, Spring 2017)

English 419/519: "Hoaxes, Hucksters, and Artful Deceptions: The Aesthetics of Deception and Illusion in 19th Century American Literature and Culture"

English 419/519 and Environmental Studies 401, "The Science of Superheroes"

English 431/531: "The Idea of Equality in 19th Century American Literature"

English 431 and Philosophy 465: "American Transcendentalism"

English 432/532: "American Literature After 1865"

English 471/571: Against Slavery! Literature in the Fight over the Transatlantic Slave System, 1654-1865

English 485: Senior Capstone Seminar

English 500: Introduction to Graduate Studies

English 590: Graduate Seminar: The Idea of Equality in American Literature

Courses Designed and Taught at the University of Michigan (2006-2012)

English 124: "Writing and Literature: Narrating Reality"

English 125: "College Writing: Pop Rhetoric"

English 225: "Advanced Argumentation and Rhetoric"

English 230: "Introduction to Short Fiction and the Novel: Conspiracy and Paranoia in American Literature 1830-Present"

English 298: "Introduction to Literary Studies: 'Beautiful Lies'"

English 362: "The American Novel"

Research Projects Advised

Committee Member: Falon Nesmith, M.A. Thesis, ""You hear nothing but truth from me—': Or, Psychological Abuse in Jane Austen's Emma, Mansfield Park, and Pride and Prejudice" (2024)

Committee Member: Alison Swiney, M.A. Thesis, "An Analysis of the Language of the Admissions Department at the University of Montevallo" (2024)

Committee Member: Anjum Lnu, M.A. Thesis, "The Interplay of Emotions and Affects in Wuthering Heights" (2021)

Committee Member: Rebekah Womble, M.A. Thesis, "The Power of a Woman's Voice: Comparing Beatrice in The Cenci and Elizabeth in Frankenstein" (2021)

Independent Study Advisor, Shannon Veitch, Special Topics in Creative Writing "Creating Comics," (2021)

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Kayla Johson, McNair Undergraduate Research Project, "Black Female Superheroes: An Interactive Exhibit" (2018)

Committee Chair, Mary Ashley Canevaro, "Eco-criticism and an Internship at Alden Systems." (2018-19)

Advisor, Laura DeRocher Honors Thesis, "Viewing the Moon in the Anthropocene." (2018)

Committee Chair, Hannah Hurley, M.A. Thesis, "Avengers Sassemble: Feminist and Queer Activism in Comics Letters Columns." (2017-18)

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Zachary Clifton, "Western reception of Yaoi Manga" (2015)

Committee Chair, Will Hasenbein, M.A. Thesis, "Honorable Materialism in Antebellum American Literature." (2014-15)

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Lindsay Hodgens, McNair Undergraduate Research Project, "The Necessary Good: Commodity Culture in Chris Ware's Graphic Novels." (2014)

Committee Member: Kristin Gilmore, M.A. Thesis, "Pinecone Warriors, A Memoir." (2013-14)

Teaching Assistant at the University of Michigan

English 351: "Milton to Whitman: English Literature 1660-1830" (Winter 2006, 2 sections)

English 305: "Modern English" (Fall 2005, 2 sections)

English 371: "Medieval and Early Modern Literature" (Summer 2008)