

# Curriculum Vitae

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## Alex Beringer

Associate Professor &  
Graduate Program Coordinator in English  
University of Montevallo  
Department of English  
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## EMPLOYMENT

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### University of Montevallo

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

### University of Michigan—Ann Arbor

Lecturer (2011-2012)

## EDUCATION

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University of Michigan—Ann Arbor  
Ph.D (May 2011)  
M.A. (December 2005)

Areas of Concentration: Nineteenth- and Twentieth-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  
(January – April, 2002)  
University of Wisconsin—Madison study abroad program.

## PUBLICATIONS

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*Lost Literacies: Experiments in the Nineteenth Century American Comic Strip* (Book forthcoming from the Ohio State University Press, January 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

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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**

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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**

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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**

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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)

Founder's Day Committee, University of Montevallo (2021-2022)

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

Faculty Development Advisory Committee, University of Montevallo (2020-Present)

Academic Educational Technology Support Committee, University of Montevallo (2018-2019)

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

Staff Writer: PopMatters.com (2017-18)

English Department Web Oversight Committee, University of Montevallo (2017-Present)

Search Committee: Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs position, University of Montevallo (2016)

Director: Master's Program in English, University of Montevallo (2016-Present)

English Department Scholarships Committee, University of Montevallo (2016-Present)

Chair: English Graduate Program Committee, University of Montevallo (2016-Present)

Academic policies subcommittee, University of Montevallo (2015-2016)

Faculty Senate Liaison to Untenured Faculty, University of Montevallo (2015-16)

Search Committee: Early Modern and Renaissance Literature Faculty Position, University of Montevallo (2015-16)

English Major Committee: University of Montevallo (2014-Present)

English Graduate Program Committee: University of Montevallo (2014-Present)

Faculty Senate: University of Montevallo (2013-2016)

Honors Program Committee: University of Montevallo (2013-Present)

Sophomore Literature Committee: University of Montevallo (2012-2017)

Faculty Research Workgroup: University of Montevallo (2012-Present)

Search Committee: 18<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Faculty Position, University of Montevallo (2014-15)

College Night Committee, University of Montevallo (2013-2014)

Search Committee: Associate Director of English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan (2010-11)

Coordinator: United States Literature and Cultures Consortium, University of Michigan (2007-09)

Invited Panelist: "Creating Assignments for Composition," English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan (2009)

Invited Panelist: "Academic Argumentation," English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan (2008)

Conference Organizer: “The Language and Rhetoric of Citizenship,” University of Michigan (2007)

Workshop Facilitator: “Teaching with Technology,” English Department Writing Program, University of Michigan (2007)

Department Representative: Rackham Graduate Student Forum, University of Michigan (2006-07)

Coordinator: Language and Rhetorical Studies Interdisciplinary Workshop, University of Michigan (2006-08)

Conference Organizer: “Africa Without Borders,” University of Wisconsin—Madison (2003)

Board Member: Distinguished Lecturer Series, University of Wisconsin—Madison (2001-2004)

### **PUBLIC TALKS, CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION, AND SEMINARS**

Seminar Participant, CHAViC seminar, “On Stage: Spectacle in Nineteenth Century America,” American Antiquarian Society, Worcester M.A. 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)

Invited Talk, “The Language of Comics,” University of Alabama at Birmingham (2016)

“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 19<sup>th</sup> Century Americanists  
Conference, State College, PA (2016)

“Graphic Travels: Augustus Hoppin’s Travelogue Comics, 1852-1880,” C19: The Society of 19<sup>th</sup>  
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)

Keynote Speaker, “Why English Majors Get all the Jobs!,” Sigma Tau Delta Initiation,  
University of Montevallo (2013)

“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)

## **ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP**

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Modern Language Association

American Popular Culture Association

Comics Studies Society

Nineteenth Century Studies Association

Phi Kappa Phi

## **TEACHING AND ADVISING**

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

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 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature and Culture"

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

English 431 and Philosophy 465: "American Transcendentalism"

English 432/532: "American Literature After 1865"

English 439 and Art 307: The Origins of the Comic Strip: Graphic Narratives Before 1945

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 (Fall 2014)

### **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 Project Advising**

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:**

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

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

**Grader:**

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

**Pedagogy Advisor:**

Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), University of Michigan, (2009- 10)

English Language Institute (ELI), University of Michigan, (2010)