

Michael Germana

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Department of English
West Virginia University
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EDUCATION:

Ph.D., English, University of Iowa, 2006

M.A., English, Virginia Tech, 2000

B.A., English, Virginia Tech, 1994

POSITION:

Current:

Associate Professor, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2012-present

Previous:

Assistant Professor, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2006-2012

PUBLICATIONS:

Book:

Standards of Value: Money, Race, and Literature in America. University of Iowa Press, 2009.

Essays:

“The Balances of Deceit; or, What Does Silver Mean to Me?: Constance Fenimore Woolson’s ‘Castle Nowhere’ and the Money Question During Reconstruction.”

Witness to Reconstruction: Constance Fenimore Woolson and the Postbellum South, 1873-1894. Ed. Kathleen Diffley. University of Mississippi Press, 2011. 17-33.

“Counterfeiters and Con Artists: Money, Literature, and Subjectivity.” *American Literary History*. 21.2 (2009): 296-305.

“Honoré Grandissime.” *Student’s Encyclopedia of Great American Characters*. Ed. Matthew J. Bruccoli and Judith S. Baughman. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

“Real Change: George Washington Cable’s *The Grandissimes* and the Crime of ‘73.” *Arizona Quarterly* 61.3 (2005): 75-108.

“Dollars and Cents: A Reading Journal Response about ‘Bartleby, the Scrivener,’ American Money, and Literary Magazines of the 1850s.” *American Periodicals* 12 (2002): 193-97.

In Progress:

Essays: “Peristrepic Visions: Henry Box Brown, Ralph Ellison, and the Panoramic Logic of *Invisible Man*.” Under review.

“Rhopographic Photography and Atemporal Cinema: The Link Between Ralph Ellison’s Polaroids and *Three Days Before the Shooting...*” Under review.

Book: “Ralph Ellison, ~~Spiritual~~ Temporal Technologist” — Examines Ellison’s use of photographic, cinematic, panoramic, and polyrhythmic technologies to trouble constructions of historical time and, by extension, the forms of subjectivity they underwrite.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “ ‘Modulate, Daddy, Modulate!’: Polyrhythms and Metric Modulation in the Fiction of Ralph Ellison.” American Literature Association, May 2014
- “Camerae Obscurae: The Link Between Ralph Ellison’s Polaroids and *Three Days Before the Shooting...*” American Literature Association, May 2013
- “Revolving Visions: Henry Box Brown, Ralph Ellison, and the Panoramic Logic of *Invisible Man*.” American Literature Association, May 2011
- “The Gold Standard and the Passing Novel: Monetary and Racial Politics in Charles Chesnut’s *The House Behind the Cedars*.” Modern Language Association Convention, December 2009
- “Jacksonian Abolitionism: Money, Minstrelsy, and *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2008
- “ ‘A Red Hot . . . Hard-Money Advocate’: Constance Fenimore Woolson’s ‘Castle Nowhere,’ The Book of Amos, and the Monetary Politics of Reconstruction.” American Literature Association Conference, May 2007
- “The Balances of Deceit; or, What Does Silver Mean to Me?: Constance Fenimore Woolson’s ‘Castle Nowhere’ and the Money Question During Reconstruction.” Seventh Biennial Conference of the Constance Fenimore Woolson Society, February 2007
- “Banknotes from Underground: *Invisible Man*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and the Fiat of ‘Race.’” M/MLA Conference, November 2006
- “Real Change: Monetary Allegory as Social Critique in George Washington Cable’s *The Grandissimes*.” MAASA/GLASA Conference, April 2003
- “Middlebrow-ing the Holocaust: Bernhard Schlink’s *The Reader* and Oprah’s Book Club.” SHARP Conference, July 2002
- “Reflection / Reflexion: *Mise en Abyme* in Alain Resnais’ *Night and Fog*.” SCLA Conference, September 1999

SESSIONS ORGANIZED:

- “On the Lower Frequencies: *Invisible Man* and the Power of Popular Culture.” M/MLA Conference, November 2006

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

- Book Subvention, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2008
- Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2007
- West Virginia University Faculty Travel Grant, 2007, 2010, 2011
- West Virginia University Faculty Development Grant, 2007
- John C. Gerber Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Iowa General Education Literature Program, 2005
- Ada Louisa Ballard Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Iowa, 2005-2006
- Best Essay Prize for “Real Change: George Washington Cable’s *The Grandissimes* and the Crime of ‘73,” University of Iowa Department of English, 2005

University of Iowa Graduate College Summer Fellowship, 2004

COURSES TAUGHT:

American Literature and American Studies, West Virginia University

Undergraduate:

ENGL 241: American Literature I: American Literature survey from first contact to 1865.

ENGL 242: American Literature II: American Literature survey from 1865 to the present with an emphasis on the transformation of the literary marketplace by persons and peoples previously excluded from it.

ENGL 258: Popular American Culture: Examines popular culture from theoretical, historical, and practical perspectives, and provides an overview of traditions, forms, genres, and texts distinctive to American popular culture.

ENGL 337: Study of a Major Author—William Faulkner: Advanced undergraduate course that examines the life and work of William Faulkner during the most prolific period of his artistic career.

ENGL 337: Study of a Major Author—Ralph Ellison: Advanced undergraduate course that traces the career of Ralph Waldo Ellison and examines his influence in the twenty-first century.

ENGL 347: American Literature 1865-1915: Advanced undergraduate course that examines the cultural politics of Reconstruction, the Gilded Age, and the Progressive Era through the lens of American literature.

ENGL 349: Contemporary American Literature: Advanced undergraduate course exploring the major genres, authors, themes, and topics of American literature from 1960 to the present.

ENGL 384: Introduction to American Studies: Advanced undergraduate course that teaches the fundamentals of cultural studies and examines how these fundamentals form the foundation of contemporary American Studies scholarship.

Graduate:

ENGL 741: Seminar in American Studies-19th Century American Literary Magazines: Graduate seminar that explores the evolution of American magazines and the social and cultural forces that transformed the literary marketplace during the century.

ENGL 793A: Special Topics Seminar: New Economic Criticism: Graduate seminar that examines the foundations and development of, as well as recent trends in, the field of New Economic Criticism.

INVITED TALKS:

“Rhopographic Photography and Atemporal Cinema: Ralph Ellison’s Polaroids and *Three Days Before the Shooting...*” Faculty Research Colloquium, West Virginia University, March 2013

“Epic Fail: Retry? Yes. or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love Having Bombed.” Invited Speaker, English Graduate Organization, West Virginia University, September 2009

“Two Autumns; or, What Do Competitive Eating, College Romance, and an Eighteenth-Century Haiku Have to Do With One Another?” Invited Speaker, Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony, West Virginia University, October 2006

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:

American Literature Association
Constance Fenimore Woolson Society
Ralph Ellison Society (Founding Member)
Modern Language Association