

Michael Germana

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Department of English

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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:

Professor, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2019-present

Previous:

Associate Professor, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2012-2019

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

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

Ralph Ellison, Temporal Technologist. Oxford University Press, 2018.

Reviewed in *African American Review*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, and *Modern Language Review*

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

Essays:

“Blackness and Value from the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement.” *Money and American Literature*. Ed. Peter Crosthwaite. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.

- “The Economy of Race.” *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Economics*. Ed. Paul Crosthwaite, Peter Knight, and Nicky Marsh. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022. 133-147.
- “Ellison’s Durational View of Bebob.” *Ralph Ellison in Context*. Ed. Paul Devlin. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. 207-218.
- Review of *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Charles W. Chesnutt*. Ed. Susanna Ashton and Bill Hardwig. *Studies in the Novel*. 51.2 (2019): 313-315.
- “On *Invisible Man*: Past, Present, and Present-past.” *Critical Insights: Invisible Man*. Ed. Bob Evans. Ipswich: Salem Press, 2018. 219-230.
- Review of *The New Territory: Ralph Ellison and the Twenty-First Century*. Ed. Marc C. Conner and Lucas E. Morel. *African American Review*. 51.2 (2018): 151-52.
- “Rhopographic Photography and Atemporal Cinema: The Link Between Ralph Ellison’s Polaroids and *Three Days Before the Shooting...*” *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*. 17.1 (2017): 3-30.
- Review of *Richard Wright in a Post-Racial Imaginary*. Ed. Alice Mikal Craven, William E. Dow, and Yoko Nakamura. *American Literary History Online Review*. Series VIII. 2016.
- “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.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- “Roundtable Discussion: Ralph Ellison and His Photography.” American Literature Association, May 2023
- “Ralph Ellison’s Archaeology of History.” American Literature Association, May 2018
- “Invisibility and the Groove of History: Dynamic Time, Social Recognition, and Ralph Ellison’s Music Criticism.” American Literature Association, May 2015
- “ ‘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 AND/OR CHAIRED:

- “Re-Thinking Invisibility in the Work of Ralph Ellison.” American Literature Association Conference, May 2015
- “The Media of Modernism: Modernism and Comics Culture.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, November 2014
- “On the Lower Frequencies: *Invisible Man* and the Power of Popular Culture.” Midwest Modern Language Association Conference, November 2006

INVITED TALKS:

- “Time as a Weapon of Whiteness: Ralph Ellison’s Plunge into the Philosophy of Temporality.” Benedum Distinguished Scholar Awards Celebration, West Virginia University, February 2021
- “Cantata for Two Music Critics: Ralph Ellison and Theodor W. Adorno.” (Re)Reading Ralph Ellison Symposium, July 2019
- “Dynamic Time, Chaotic History, and Rhizomatic Becoming in *Invisible Man*.” Ralph Ellison Seminar, June 2016

- “Bergsonian Time, Nietzschean History, and Deleuzian Becoming in Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*” Faculty Research Colloquium, West Virginia University, April 2016
- “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.” 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?” Sigma Tau Delta Induction Ceremony, West Virginia University, October 2006

AWARDS AND GRANTS:

- Sigma Tau Delta Outstanding Teacher Award, West Virginia University, 2023, 2016
- Benedum Distinguished Scholar Award in the Humanities and Art, 2020
- Book Subvention Grant, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2017, 2008
- Book Preparation Grant, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2015
- Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 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 154/254: African American Literature: Survey of African American literature from its beginnings to the present.

ENGL 241: American Literature I: American Literature survey from its beginnings 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 346: American Literature 1800-1865: Advanced undergraduate survey of antebellum and Civil War American fiction, drama, and poetry that revolves around online research in nineteenth-century literary magazines.

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 348: 20th Century American Literature: Advanced undergraduate survey of Twentieth Century fiction, drama, and poetry.

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.

ENGL 496: Senior Thesis – Capstone: Capstone experience for English majors in Literary and Cultural Studies.

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 741: Seminar in American Studies-Ralph Ellison and his Influence(s): Graduate seminar on the fiction, criticism, photography, and enduring influence of Ralph Waldo Ellison.

ENGL 793A/782: New Economic Criticism: Graduate seminar that examines the foundations and development of, as well as recent trends in, the field of New Economic Criticism.

GRADUATE STUDENTS MENTORED:

Defenses:

Rachel Hoag, “Looking Inward, Looking Back: John le Carré and the Spy Narrative after the Cold War”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 6/28/2023

Aaron J. Rovan, “Sacramental Ethnicity: Women’s Culture and Vernacular Religion in Twentieth-Century America”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/14/2022

Jeffrey Yeager, “Prescribing the Profession: Representations of Medical Professionalization Debates in American Literary Forms, 1830-1940”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 3/23/2020

Valerie Surrect, “Biopolitical Cyborgs in Post-1980 North American Critical Dystopias”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/13/2017

Michael Buso, “ ‘Here There Is No Plague’: The Ideology and Phenomenology of AIDS in Gay Literature”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/3/2017

Steph Buongiorno, “Challenging the Dark Pools of Neoliberal Affect in Materialist Theories”: MA Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 3/20/2017

Douglas Terry, “Sites of Education: Race, Memory, and the Conflicting Discourses of Learning in America, 1827-1914”: PhD Thesis Chair – Date of Defense: 4/14/2016

Courtney Novosat, “Spectacular Struggles: Utopian Whiteness, Black Resistance, and the National Imaginary in Nineteenth-Century America”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/4/2016

Cara Snider, “Christ in the Margins: Confronting Racism through the (Written) Word in Post-Civil War America”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/16/2015

Jessica Queener, “Victorians Thinking Globally: Identity and Empire in Middle-Class Reading”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 1/30/2015

James M. Greene, “ ‘None but the Bravest of Men’: Violence and Popular Sovereignty in Revolutionary War Veteran Narratives”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/16/2013

Amy Howard Green, “From Sinners to Saints: Emerging Agency in American Women’s Novels Before the Civil War”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/4/2013

Nevena Stojanovic, “Living Pictures: Performances of Jewishness in Late Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century American Novels”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/10/2012

Jason Stupp, “The Word and the World: The Activist Spirit in American Literature, 1968-1998”: PhD Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/5/2012

Aaron Rote, “the last look out!”: MFA Thesis Committee Member – Date of Defense: 4/14/2010

Dissertation Committees (Active):

Yu Uchida (Dissertation Chair)

Bryan Alukonis

Catherine Kong

Missy Roberson

Sarah Trautwein

SERVICE/COMMITTEES:

Distinguished Alumni Board Member, English Department, Virginia Tech, 2019-present

Editorial Board Member, *NANO (New American Notes Online)*, 2009-present

Curriculum and Academic Policy Committee, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2022-2023

Board of Directors, West Virginia University Press, 2018-2023

DEI & Social Justice Working Group Co-Chair, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2022-2023

DEI & Social Justice Working Group Chair, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2021-2022

Faculty Senator, West Virginia University, 2018-2021

Chair of Faculty Senate's Committee on Committees, Membership, and Constituencies, 2020-2021

University Graduate Scholarship and Fellowship Committee, West Virginia University, 2020-2021

Faculty Advisor, Students for Sensible Drug Policy, 2016-2021

MA Admissions Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2021, 2010, 2008

Advisory Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2018-2020

Creative Writing Search Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2019

Faculty Evaluation Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2017-2018, 2010-2011, 2007-2008

Research and Graduate Studies Committee Member, Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University, 2013-2014

Ph.D. Admissions Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2013, 2012, 2009

Faculty Evaluations Gradations Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2012

Proseminar Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2011-2012, 2009-2010

Latinx Search Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2009-2010

Constance Fenimore Woolson Society Planning Committee Member, 2007-2009

Graduate Program Committee Member, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2008-2009

Faculty Sponsor, Sigma Tau Delta, Alpha Xi chapter, West Virginia University, 2007-2008

Undergraduate Literature Symposium Committee Member, West Virginia University, 2006-2007