

## CURRICULUM VITAE

### Alexander Catchings

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## EDUCATION

### University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in English (May 2021)

*Research Areas:* 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American; African American; Digital Media Studies  
Novel and Narrative; World Literature

*Dissertation:* *The Wikipedic Novel: Reading & Writing in the Open-Source Era*

*Committee:* Dorothy Hale (advisor), Scott Saul, Tom McEnaney, Sonnet Retman

### University of Washington, Seattle

B.A., with honors in English (May 2013)

## PUBLICATIONS

“Ishmael Reed Online” (under review)

“Aggregating Amazon: Reviewing *The Sellout*” (under preparation for submission)

*Hashtag Reading: Race in Web 2.0 Literature* (manuscript in preparation)

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Chancellor’s ADVANCE Postdoctoral Fellow | UC Irvine, 2022-23

Pathways to Academia: Visits and Experiences (PAVE) Grant, Creating  
Connections Consortium (C3) | UC Berkeley, 2022

Berkeley English Department Lectureship | UC Berkeley, 2021-22

Bridge Connect Summer Fellowship | UC Berkeley 2020-2021  
*Selected as Bridge Connect Senior Fellow ‘21*

Berkeley Connect Fellowship | UC Berkeley, 2019  
*Selected as English Department Starkey Fellow*

Art of Writing Daniel E. Koshland Award | UC Berkeley, 2016

Mentored Research Award & Fellowship | UC Berkeley, 2016

University of California Berkeley Chancellor's Mellon Fellowship | UC Berkeley, 2013

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention | 2013

Leadership Alliance Mellon Research Award | Princeton University, 2013

Presidential Research Scholar | University of Washington, 2012-13

Ronald E. McNair Scholar | University of Washington, 2012-13

Mary Gates Research Scholar | University of Washington, 2012-13

## PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

“The Amazon Critic: Search Bar Satire in *The Sellout*” (Apr 2023)

University of California President's Postdoctoral Retreat

“Reading Public Formation and the Digital Commons” (Feb 2023)

University of California, Irvine Digital Humanities Exchange

“The Anatomy of a Wikipedic Novel” (Nov 2022)

University of California, Merced Symposium on Interdisciplinary Arts

“The Souls of Blog Folk: Black Male Fragility in Ishmael Reed's *JUICE!*” (May 2021)

Department of English Faculty Colloquium at Haifa University

“Streaming Selfishness and the Encyclopedic Sentence in Lucy Ellman's *Ducks, Newbury Port*” (Oct 2020)

Department of Foreign Literatures & Linguistics at Ben-Gurion University Colloquium

“The Souls of Blog Folk: Black Male Fragility in Ishmael Reed's *JUICE!*” (May 2021)

Department of English at Lang College of The New School

“Clickable Style in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Novel” (Spring 2021)

The Modern Language Association | Online

*Panel: Analog Persistence*

“How'd You Know That?: Gerard Genette, Pressed Words, and the Contemporary Novel” (Spring 2020)

The International Conference on Narrative | New Orleans, LA

*Panel: Becoming Part of the Narrative – Readers' Authority in Books and Games*

“Cosmopolitan Point of View and the Web(site) of the Subject in *Open City*” (Autumn 2017)

The Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) | Oakland, CA

*Panel: Characters without Identity: Emergence, Process, and the Site of the Subject*

“The Metanarrative Critique in Ishmael Reed” (Autumn 2016)

American Studies Association (ASA) | Denver, CO

*Panel: Re-examining Resistance Narratives*

“Double-Taking History: Humor and Pastiche in the Neo-Slave Narrative” (Spring 2013)

Pacific Ancient Modern Language Association (PAMLA) | Seattle, WA

*Panel: African American Humor*

“Slavery, Humor, and National Ethic” (Summer 2012)  
The Leadership Alliance National Symposium | Hartford, CT

## COURSES TAUGHT

### PRIMARY INSTRUCTION & COURSE DESIGN

Lecturer – English 125E, The Contemporary Novel: Seeing Books Like Seeing Screens (Spring 2022)  
*Upper division course theme: Examination of avant-garde novels whose form simulates the process of using online interfaces. Texts from Joshua Cohen, Meg Cabot, Matthew McIntosh*

Lecturer – English 133T, Humor and the Neo-Slave Narrative (Fall 2021)  
*Upper division course theme: The political and theoretical logic behind parodic representations of slavery in the works of Henry Box Brown, Harriet Jacobs, Ishmael Reed, Paul Beatty, and Richard Pryor*

Graduate Student Instructor – English R1A, Visual Rhetoric and the Novel (Fall 2020)  
*Course theme: The intersection between digital interfaces and the physical pages of books. Texts from Ellen Ullman, Marshall McLuhan, Barbara Browning, Jaron Lanier*

Graduate Student Instructor – English 133T, Humor and the Neo-Slave Narrative (Summer 2020)  
*Course theme: The political and theoretical logic behind parodic representations of slavery in the works of Ishmael Reed, Charles Johnson, Paul Beatty*

Graduate Student Instructor – English R1A, Cosmopolitan Reading (Spring 2019)  
*Course theme: Explored limits and possibilities of “traveling through books” in texts from Kawabata, O’Connor, Adichie, Lispector*

Graduate Student Instructor – English R1B, Unreliable Friends (Spring 2019)  
*Course theme: Unreliable narrators in texts from Perkins Gilman to Junot Diaz*

## TEACHING ASSISTANT

Graduate Student Instructor for Prof. Dorothy Hale – English 161, Intro. to Literary Theory (Spring 2021)

Graduate Student Instructor for Prof. Steven Lee – English 45C, Literature Survey from 1880-2010 (Spring 2016)

Graduate Student Instructor for Prof. Steven Lee – English 45C, Literature Survey from 1880-2010 (Autumn 2015)

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Sonnet Retman – American Ethnic Studies AFRAM 290, Black Aesthetics (Spring 2012)

Teaching Assistant for Prof. Sonnet Retman – American Ethnic Studies AFRAM 214, African American Literary Genres (Winter 2011)

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PEDAGOGY

**Panelist**, Canvassing Futures: Career Exploration and Project Management  
UC Irvine School of Humanities | Irvine, CA

Invited to speak with graduate students from a range of humanities disciplines on applying their skills into business, non-profit work, and the private sector. Explained the mechanics behind starting a business, managing business relationships, forging connections with research and disciplinary interests, and sales and marketing.

### **Curriculum Designer (2017-18)**

The Simpson Family Literary Project | Berkeley, CA

Conceived of and created eight ninety-minute lesson plans for three UC Berkeley creative writing instructors. They taught units on poetry, micro-fiction, creative non-fiction, and college personal statements to diverse communities at the Contra Costa County Juvenile Hall, Girls Inc. Alameda County, and Northgate High School.

### **English Instructor, Mentor, Advisory Board Member (2014 – 2018)**

First Graduate | San Francisco, CA

First Graduate is a non-profit that provides free counseling, supplemental schooling, and extracurricular support to children who want to be the first in their families to attend and graduate from college. Volunteered as a mentor and offered summer class instruction and guidance to over one-hundred potential first-generation middle schoolers in the Mission District of San Francisco. Wrote and delivered two English reading and writing curricula to sixty seventh-graders, along with one Secondary School Admissions Test curriculum annually for three years to fifty eighth-graders. Student population was 40% Hispanic, 25% African American, and 30% first-generation Asian, and 5% of other ethnic backgrounds.

### **Co-Founder (2017-19)**

Open Story Prep English Language Center | Fremont, CA

Taught intensive SAT English classes to small groups of students (eight or fewer per class). Led creative non-fiction writing workshops supporting the drafting of college and graduates school essays. Offered private coaching to Silicon Valley executives in business communication.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Working Group Co-Organizer | UC Berkeley, 2016–2019

“Consortium on the Novel” - *Townsend Center for the Humanities*

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“Consortium on the Novel” - *Townsend Center for the Humanities*

Organized guest speaking engagements and panels for researchers specializing in the novel, collaborated with Stanford University’s Center for the Study of the Novel to run a semesterly conference, and established community conversations around topics including theoretical approaches to understanding “form,” teaching long novels, and autofiction

Working Group Co-Organizer | UC Berkeley, 2015-16 “Interdisciplinary Working Group on the Early US”

*Townsend Center for the Humanities*

Working Group Participant | UC Berkeley, 2013-15

“Transnational Ethnic and American Studies Working Group”

*Townsend Center for the Humanities*

## THESIS ADVISING

### Dissertation Committee Second Reader

Reem Mansour (Ph.D. Candidate, Haifa University)

*“Our Diabolic Dye”: Revisiting Female Experience in Contemporary Speculative Neo-Slave Narratives*

### Honors Thesis Second Reader

Alejandra Cooper (English Honors Student, UC Berkeley)

*“Not Knowing is the Most Intimate”: The Transfiguring Potential of Zen in American Literature*

## RESEARCH AND EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Dorothy Hale | UC Berkeley, 2019-20

Provided bibliographic support for Prof. Hale’s book *The Novel and the New Ethics* (published 2020, Stanford University Press) and provided course planning support for her research seminar “William Faulkner’s Temporalities”

Research Assistant to Prof. Scott Saul | UC Berkeley, 2013-14

Collected permissions and copyright contracts from corporate and individual entities for the manuscript *Becoming Richard Pryor* (published 2014, HarperCollins)

Research Assistant to Prof. Nadia Ellis | UC Berkeley, 2013-14

Collated music, tracks, sources and preliminary background research for article “New Orleans and Kingston: A Beginning, A Recurrence” (published 2014, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*)

Editor’s Assistant for *The Black Scholar Journal* | Seattle, 2012-13

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

African American Literature Association

Modern Language Association

The Association for the Studies of the Arts of the Present

The American Studies Association

Pacific Ancient Modern Language Association

## REFERENCES

**Dorothy J. Hale**

*Professor*

*Rachel Anderson Stageberg Chair in English*

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**Theodore Martin**

*Associate Professor of English*

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**Scott Saul**

*Professor of English*

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**Sonnet Retman**

*Associate Professor of American Ethnic Studies*

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