

CURRICULUM VITAE

Alexander Catchings

alexcatchings@gmail.com

15 Rana

Irvine, CA 92612

(510) 989-5965

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in English (May 2021)

Research Areas: 20th and 21st 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)

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

PUBLICATIONS

Writing Digital Blackness: Cultural Discourse from the Internet to Literature (manuscript in preparation)

“Ishmael Reed Online: Black Animism as Screenname” (article in preparation)

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

“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 21st 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)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PEDAGOGY

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.

THESIS ADVISING

Dissertation Committee Second Reader

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

Sankofarration in Women 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

ACADEMIC SERVICE

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

“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

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 Hale

Professor

Rachel Anderson Stageberg Chair in English

UC Berkeley

dhale@berkeley.edu

Theodore Martin

Associate Professor of English

UC Irvine

theodojm@uci.edu

Scott Saul

Professor of English

UC Berkeley

ssaul@berkeley.edu

Sonnet Retman

Associate Professor of American Ethnic Studies

University of Washington

sretman@uw.edu