

Benjamin D. Bascom

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English, Ball State University, 2017–Present

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2017
M.A. in English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2011
B.A. in English, *summa cum laude*, Brigham Young University, 2009

MONOGRAPH MANUSCRIPT

“Feeling Singular: Masculinity and Desire in the Early United States” examines the conflict between individuality and republican masculinity in the life narratives of non-canonical early U.S. authors. I argue that their status as outsiders helps to articulate the emerging norms for republican belonging, offering queer readings of the fraught and ill-fated desires and aesthetic limitations facing marginalized and eccentric individuals in the new nation.

PUBLICATIONS

“‘A thought struck me’: John Fitch and the Federal Republic.” *Early American Literature* 48.1 (Spring 2013): 153–76.

“Frontier History and Domestic Fiction: *Angle of Repose* and 1970s Marriage Politics.” *Papers on Language and Literature* 46.4 (Fall 2010): 415–40.

BOOK REVIEW

“Strong Abjections.” Rev. of Mark J. Miller’s *Cast Down: Abjection in America, 1700–1850* (U of Pennsylvania P, 2016) in *Common-Place: The Journal of Early American Life* 17.4.5 (Fall 2017). <<http://common-place.org/book/strong-abjections/>>.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

Rev. of “Digressions on Falling: Departing from the Work of Henri Michaux” by Berkay Ustun. *Forty-Five: A Journal of Outside Research* (14 Nov. 2017). <<http://forty-five.com/papers/139,>>.

“Citizens as Verbs: The Politics of Belonging in Nineteenth-Century and Contemporary American Citizenship.” *Kritik*. Response to Derrick Spires and J. David Cisneros. 18 Mar. 2016. <<http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2016/03/unit-faculty-fellows-symposium-panel-3.html>>.

“Jonathan Plummer and the Problem of Print.” *Conversant*. 23 Nov. 2015. <<http://www.pem.org/library/blog/?p=8484>>.

“Sexual Sovereignties.” *Kritik*. Response to Ann Cvetkovich. 10 Mar. 2014. <<http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2014/03/sexual-sovereignties-guest-writer-ben.html>>.

“Pleasure without Depth.” *Kritik*. Response to Stephen Best and Heather Love. 17 Feb. 2012. <<http://unitcrit.blogspot.com/2012/02/ends-of-history-pleasure-without-depth.html>>.

FELLOWSHIPS

2017	NEH Summer Institute for College Teachers, 2-week research fellowship, \$2,100
2015–2016	Lauter McDougal Fellowship, University of Illinois, 4-course teaching release, \$20,000
2015	Dissertation Travel Grant, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois, \$3,000
2015	Summer Fellowship, Competitive English Department Award, \$3,000
2015	Phillips Library Visiting Fellowship, Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA, \$700
2015	Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, \$1,800
2014–2015	Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship, 2-course teaching release, \$10,000
2015	Gragg-Barr Graduate Fellowship, University of Illinois English Department, 2-course teaching release, \$10,000
2014	Mildred E. and William E. Winter Fellowship, 2-course teaching release, \$10,000
2014	Summer Fellowship, Competitive English Department Award, \$3,000
2012	Nicholson Graduate Student Summer Fellowship, \$1,400

TEACHING HONORS

Department of English Teaching Award, University of Illinois (student-nominated and peer-reviewed), Fall 2016

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Summer 2016, Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010

PRESENTATIONS and SEMINARS

2017 “When Hermits Were Queer: Solitary Counterpublics and the Early Republic.” American Studies Association. Chicago: 9–12 November.

- “Perversions in Prints: Privacy and Community in the Early Republic.” Narrative Conference. Lexington: 23–26 March.
- 2016 “Jonathan Plummer and the Perambulations of Print.” McNeil Center for Early American Studies. Philadelphia: 25–27 May.
- “Unsettling Vermont: Whiteness, Witness, and the Memoirs of Jeffrey Brace.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA: 17–20 March.
- “Jeffrey Brace and the Black Anti-Sentimental Tradition.” Modern Language Association. Austin, TX: 7–10 January.
- 2015 “John Fitch Queered: Steam, Manhood, Failure.” American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada: 8–11 October.
- “Jonathan Plummer’s Conversions.” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic. Raleigh, NC: 16–19 July.
- Seminar participant in Cultural History seminar with Jay Cook and Alexis McCrossen. Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Raleigh, NC: 18 July.
- “Sentimentalizing Memory.” Futures of American Studies. Hanover, NH: 22–27 June.
- “Feeling Singular: Republican Desire and the Art of Failure.” Brown Bag Lunch. American Antiquarian Society. Worcester, MA: 21 May.
- 2014 “Print Seductions: ‘Harriot’ Wilson and the Evangelical Hermit.” Seminar participant in Meredith McGill’s “Public Domains: Print and the Commons in the 19th Century U.S.” C19: The Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, 13–16 March.
- “Poe, Dickinson, and Solitude’s Queer Spaces.” Emily Dickinson International Society and Poe Studies Association at the Modern Language Association. Chicago: 9–12 January.
- 2013 “Museum/Empire: *The Last American* and World Culture.” American Literature in the World. Yale University Graduate Conference. New Haven, CT: 19 April.
- 2012 “The Nineteenth-Century Imperial Balloon: Race, Empire, Spectacle.” American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico: 15–18 November.
- “Reading *Sheppard Lee*: The Body and the Book in Antebellum Print.” Rocky Mountain MLA. Boulder, CO: 11–13 October.
- Seminar participant in John Brenkman’s “Philosophy of the Passions/Rhetorics of Affect.” School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University, June–July

- “John Fitch and the Republic of Risk.” Charles Brockden Brown Society Conference. CUNY Graduate Center. New York City: 19–21 April.
- “Getting and Keeping Students Involved: Discussion Sections in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.” Graduate Academy for College Teaching. Urbana, IL: 11 January.
- 2011 “Eating Bodies/Consuming Fictions.” Gender and Women’s Studies. University of Illinois. Urbana, IL: 12 December.
- “Guarding the Gold: Catechisms, Didactic Fictions, and the Mainstreaming of Moroni.” Summer Symposium on Mormon Culture. Provo, UT: 18 August.
- “Politics and Prostitution: Caroline Slade and Sociopolitical Modernism.” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. Louisville, KY: 24–26 February.
- 2010 “Killing a Lobster/Killing a Man: Animality, Absurdity, and the Ethics of Form.” University of Illinois British Modernities Group. Urbana, IL: 23 April.
- 2009 “The Racial Operating Table: Technology and the Human in *Pudd’nhead Wilson*.” International Mark Twain Conference. Elmira, NY: 7 August.

PANELS ORGANIZED and CO-ORGANIZED

- 2016 “Unsettled Conversions: Race, Religion, and the Politics of Belonging,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA: 17–20 March.
- 2015 “Queer Misery: Queer Lives, Queer Texts, and Producing the Possible in Early America,” American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada: 8–11 October.
- 2012 “Whales, Balloons, and Boxcars: Imperial Objects in the Long Nineteenth Century,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ball State University

Undergraduate

Studies in Early American Literature, Spring 2018 ENG 345

Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature, Fall 2017 ENG 346

Literature & Gender, Fall 2017 ENG 490

Graduate

Studies in Early American Literature, Spring 2018 ENG 641

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Nineteenth-Century African American Literature, Fall 2016 ENGL 259

Persuasive Writing, Fall 2016 BTW 271

Business Publics, Spring 2017, Summer 2016 BTW 250

Business and Technical Writing, Fall 2009, Spring 2011

BTW 250

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCEAssistant Editor, *American Literary History*, 2012–2014

First-reader of all submissions to the journal: wrote reports assessing essays' argumentative clarity and critical stakes; in consultation with Professor Gordon Hutner, invited specialists to write readers' reports for approved essays; conducted correspondence with authors and external reviewers; assembled recently published monographs for essay reviews and proposed names of invited authors.

Managing Editor, *American Literary History*, 2011–2012

Proofread and formatted accepted essays; worked with authors to clarify prose and verify citations; corresponded with authors regarding publication schedule; ordered new academic-press books for external review

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

English Department Colloquium Committee, University of Illinois, 2014–15. Elected.

Graduate Student representative, Advisory Committee to the Head of the English Department, University of Illinois, 2013–14. Elected.

Co-Organizer, American Studies Group at Illinois, University of Illinois, 2011–14.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Poetry Workshop Coordinator, Books 2 Prisoners, Urbana, IL, January–July 2016

Met weekly for one hour. Taught lessons on poets, poetry, and poetic forms to incarcerated adult men; workshopped poems written by inmates; provided inmates with chapbooks of their own poetry.

MEMBERSHIPS

C19: The Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic

Modern Language Association

American Studies Association