Alexander Sherman

University of Texas at Austin, Department of English
alexander.sherman@austin.utexas.edu | alexander-j-sherman.github.io

EMPLOYMENT

2025- University of Texas at Austin
Department of English
Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

2025 Stanford University
Ph.D., English

2015 University of Wisconsin-Madison
B.A., English and Mathematics with Comprehensive Honors

PUBLICATIONS

2026 Alexander Sherman, Meghan M. Shea, Fatoumata Binta Barrie, Rahsaan McFarland II, Stephen R. Palumbi, Fiorenza Micheli, and Margaret Cohen. "A Framework for Co-Creating Knowledge Across the Ocean Humanities and Sciences," *npj Ocean Sustainability* 5, no. 16.

2025 Matt Warner, Nichole Nomura, Carmen Thong, Alix Keener, Alexander Sherman, Gabi Keane, Maciej Kurzynski, and Mark Algee-Hewitt. "Slow, Painful and Expensive: Current Challenges in Text-Mining Corpus Construction for the Digital Humanities," *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 19, no. 3.

2025 Svenja Guhr, Jessica Monaco, Alexander Sherman, Matt Warner, and Mark Algee-Hewitt. "Making BERT Feel at Home: Modelling Domestic Space in 19th-Century British and Irish Fiction," *Journal of Computational Literary Studies* 4, no. 1.

2025 "Mapping Empire's Horror: Literary GIS and Colonial Spatial Logic," in *Space and Literary Studies*, ed. Elizabeth Evans (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press): 249-66.

2024 "Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829," *PMLA* 139, no. 3: 470-92. Selected as "Paper of the Month" by Cambridge University Press – Literature and Performance.

2023 Review of Adam Sills, *Against the Map: The Politics of Geography in Eighteenth-Century Britain*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 56, no. 2: 330-2.

2021 Nika Mavrody, Laura McGrath, Nichole Nomura, and Alexander Sherman. "Voice," joint issue of *Journal of Cultural Analytics* and *Post45*.

2015 John Hoffman, McKinley Meyer, Mariya Sardarli, and Alexander Sherman. "Maximization of the size of monic orthogonal polynomials on the unit circle corresponding to the measures in the Steklov class," *Involve* 8, no. 4: 571–592.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2024-5 Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship

2024-5 Lewis Award, Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fund (declined)

2023-4 "Connecting the Blue Humanities and Ocean Sciences," Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, Big Ideas for Oceans (PIs: Margaret Cohen and Fiorenza Micheli)

2023-4 "Public Knowledge Infrastructures of the Ocean: Beyond the 'Two Cultures,'" Stanford School of Humanities and Sciences, Humanities Seed Grants (PIs: Margaret Cohen and Fiorenza Micheli)

PRIZES

2026 Alden Dissertation Prize

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations:

2026 "The Ocean Humanities and Ocean Sciences: Common Ground Beyond the Eighteenth Century," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Philadelphia.

2026 Organized panel on "Placing Sylvia Wynter's Eighteenth Century," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Philadelphia.

2026 "Egocentrism and Terror: The Personal Position and the Virtual Position in Daniel Defoe," American Comparative Literature Association, Montreal.

2025 "Scene Change Detection in 20th-Century US-American Romance Fiction" (with Svenja Guhr, Huijun Mao, Fengyi Lin, and Mark Algee-Hewitt), Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa.

2025 "Positional Pandemonium at the Royal Society of London; or, Where Did the 'New Science' Know From?," Modern Language Association, New Orleans.

2025 Invited speaker for "*PMLA*: Getting Published as Graduate Students and Early Career Scholars," Modern Language Association, New Orleans.

2024 "A Home without a 'House': Modeling Domestic Space in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction" (with Jessica Monaco), Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations, George Mason University.

2024 Organized panel on "Science and Sea in the Eighteenth Century," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto.

2024 "Can We Agree About Anything Important? Annotating Free Indirect Discourse in Jane Austen as Case Study in Literary Critical Consensus" (with Mark Algee-Hewitt), American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto.

2024 Organized roundtable on "Empire at Sea," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia.

2022 "Who is Not Seeing? Spectral Observers in Ann Radcliffe, James Cook, and Scientific Writing," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Baltimore.

2021 "Voyage Collections as Models of Imperial Information Flow," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (online).

2021 "Between Strategy and Tactics: The Pleasure of Place Names in Nautical Voyage Literature," Modern Language Association (online).

2021 "Phenomenal Description: Cook, Radcliffe, and the Spectrality of Science," The Gothic Research Group, Division of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Stanford University (online).

2020 "The Mysteries of Experience: Ann Radcliffe's Critique of Experimentalism," British Society for Literature and Science (online).

2019 "Representation and Motivation in Interdisciplinary Research, or How and Why to Explain Ordinality to Literary Critics," College English Association Conference, New Orleans.

2019 "Reading for the Problem: How Do We Know 'What's at Stake?'," Berkeley-Stanford Conference, Stanford University.

Local Presentations:

2024 "A Home without a House: Modeling Domestic Space in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction," Literary Lab, Stanford University.

2023 "Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829," Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University.

2023 "Modeling Domestic Space," Literary Lab, Stanford University.

2022 "Technologies of Domesticity," Literary Lab, Stanford University.

2021 "Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829," Literary Lab, Stanford University.

2021 "What are Quality and Quantity? *Slave Voyages* and *Robinson Crusoe*," Critical Data Practices Workshop, Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis, Stanford University.

2019 "Voice: Or, How We Talk When We Talk About Books," Literary Lab, Stanford University.

Conferences Organized:

2025 "Waves of Convergence: Ocean Sciences and Ocean Humanities," Department of English and the Oceans Department, Hopkins Marine Station, Stanford University.

2023 "The Poetics of the City," Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University.

2022 "The Turn Against Fictionality," Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University.

TEACHING

University of Texas at Austin

Undergraduate:

- Plan II World Literature Part I, Autumn 2025-6, Autumn 2026-7
- Plan II World Literature Part II, Spring 2025-6

Graduate:

- Introduction to Digital Humanities, Autumn 2026-7

Stanford University

As Instructor of Record:

- Literary Text Mining, Autumn 2023-4
- Pathogens and Populations: Representing Infectious Disease, Autumn 2022-23 (Co-taught with Mallory Harris; featured in *Stanford Report*: https://news.stanford.edu/report/2023/01/03/students-examine-scientific-cultural-representations-disease/)
- Travel and Education (Writing Intensive Seminar in English), Spring 2021-22

As Teaching Assistant:

- Pedagogy Seminar (graduate course), with Professor Mark Algee-Hewitt, Autumn 2022-3
- Introduction to English III: Modern Literature, with Professor Roanne Kantor, Autumn 2019-20
- The Public Life of Science and Technology, with Professors Paul Edwards and John Willinsky, Winter 2018-9

University of Wisconsin-Madison

As Writing Fellow (embedded writing tutor):

- Special Topics in Agricultural and Applied Economics, Summer 2015
- The Roots of Zionism: Literatures, Cultures, and Ethics, Spring 2014-5
- The Dark Side of the Universe: Dark Matter, Dark Energy, and Black Holes, Autumn 2014-5
- Physical and Historical Geology, Summer 2014
- The Tale of Genji, Spring 2013-4
- Love & Attachment in Buddhist Art & Literature, Autumn 2013-4
- Literature of Muslim Societies, Spring 2012-3
- Scandinavian Heritage in America, Autumn 2012-3

MENTORSHIP

University of Texas at Austin

Graduate:

Madison Maloney, First Year Mentor, 2026-7

Stanford University

Graduate:

Casey Ocasal, First Year Mentor, 2024-5
Louisa Bolch-Gillett, First Year Mentor, 2022-3
Sabrina Yates, First Year Mentor, 2021-2
Jessica Monaco, First Year Mentor, 2020-1
Ido Keren, First Year Mentor, 2020-1

Undergraduate:

Rahsaan McFarland II, Research Assistant, 2024
Valerie Trapp, Human Rights Capstone, 2022-23
Arielle DeVito, Honors Thesis Mentor, 2021-22 (Faculty Advisor: Alice Staveley)

SERVICE

University of Texas at Austin

2027	Member, English Department Executive Committee
2026-7	Member, English Department Search Committee
2025-6	Nominating Committee for English Department, Outstanding Graduate Research Fellowship
2025-6	Judge, Parker Prize in Literary Criticism
2025-	Director, Graduate Portfolio in Digital Studies
2025-6	Member, English Department AI Committee
2025-6	Member, MA/MSInfoStds Dual Degree Admissions Committee

Stanford University

2021-5	Stanford Literary Lab Core Researcher
2021-3	Center for the Study of the Novel Graduate Coordinator
2021	English Graduate Student Council, Co-Chair
2020-1	English Graduate Admissions Committee

LANGUAGES

English (native)
French (reading)
German (reading)
Yiddish (reading)

R (including Shiny and Leaflet)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
Association for Computers and the Humanities
American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies
Modern Language Association
North American Society for the Study of Romanticism

REFERENCES

Margaret Cohen
Andrew B. Hammond Professor of French Language, Literature, and Civilization

Stanford University, Department of English
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 724-0106
macohen@stanford.edu

Alex Woloch
Richard W. Lyman Professor of the Humanities
Stanford University, Department of English
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 723-4594
woloch@stanford.edu

Mark Algee-Hewitt
Associate Professor and Director of the Stanford Literary Lab
Stanford University, Department of English
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 723-2634
malgeehe@stanford.edu

Jessica Riskin
Frances and Charles Field Professor of History
Stanford University, Department of History
450 Jane Stanford Way, Stanford, CA 94305
(650) 723-9379
jriskin@stanford.edu