

Alexander Sherman

Stanford University, Department of English
ajsherm@stanford.edu | [alexander-j-sherman.github.io](https://github.com/alexander-j-sherman)

EDUCATION

Ph.D.

Stanford University, English, ABD (Anticipated Graduation: June 2024)
Dissertation: *Dangers Near and Far: Virtual Positions in Science, Seafaring, and the Gothic*
Committee: Margaret Cohen, Alex Woloch, Mark Algee-Hewitt, and Jessica Riskin

B.A.

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

PUBLICATIONS

- Forthcoming (May 2024) “Four Theses on the Real and Imaginary British Empire, 1697-1829,” *PMLA* 139, no. 3.
- Forthcoming (2024) “Mapping Empire’s Horror: Literary GIS and Colonial Spatial Logic,” in *Space and Literary Studies*, ed. Elizabeth Evans (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- 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 With Nika Mavrody, Laura McGrath, and Nichole Nomura. “Voice,” joint issue of *Journal of Cultural Analytics* and *Post45*.
- 2015 With John Hoffman, McKinley Meyer, and Mariya Sardarli. “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.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations:

- 2024 Organized panel on “Science and Sea in the Eighteenth Century,” 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.

Stanford Literary Lab:

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

- 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

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

GRANTS

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)

MENTORSHIP

Graduate:

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:

Valerie Trapp, Human Rights Capstone, 2022-23
Arielle DeVito, Honors Thesis Mentor, 2021-22 (Faculty Advisor: Alice Staveley)

SERVICE

2021- 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)
Python
Tableau

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association
American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies

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
malgeeche@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