

Benjamin J. Murphy

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EDUCATION

Expected 2021 Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature.
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Chapel Hill, NC.
2014 B.A. *summa cum laude* with Honors in Humanities and Writing.
Houghton College. Houghton, NY.

DISSERTATION

“Provisional Beings”: *Crowd Science and Race in American Literature, 1877-1900*

Committee: Matthew Taylor (director); Daniel Christmas; Gregory Flaxman; Jane Thrailkill; Priscilla Wald (Duke University)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Articles

2019 “Not So New Materialism: Homeostasis Revisited” *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* 27.1 (Winter 2019): 1-36
2018 “Exceptional Infidelity: James Dickey’s *Deliverance*, Film Adaptation, and the Postsouthern” *Mississippi Quarterly* 69.2 (Spring 2016) [Published Summer 2018]: 206-225

Book Reviews

2020 Review of *Driving in Cars with Homeless Men* by Kate Wisel (University of Pittsburg Press, 2019) *Gulf Coast* (Forthcoming)
2020 Review of *The Rapture Index: A Suburban Bestiary* by Molly Reid (BOA Editions, Ltd., May 2019) *Full Stop* (Forthcoming)
2020 Review of *Futures A Science Fiction Series*. Serialized short story collection from Radix Media, April - October 2019. *PopMatters* (January)
2019 Review of *GlassHouse* by Louis Armand (Equus Press, 2019) *Full Stop* (August)
2019 Review of *Whitman Speaks: His Final Thoughts on Life, Writing, Spirituality, and the Promise of America, as told to Horace Traubel*. Edited with introduction by Brenda Wineapple (Library of America, April 2019) *PopMatters* (August)
2019 Review of *Good Enough: The Tolerance for Mediocrity in Nature and Society* by Daniel S. Milo (Harvard University Press, June 2019) *PopMatters* (June)
2019 Review of *Song for the Unraveling of the World* by Brian Evenson (Coffee House Press, June 11, 2019) *Chicago Review of Books* (June)
2019 Review of *Terra Nullius* by Claire G. Coleman (Small Beer Press, 2019) *Full Stop* (March)
2019 Review of *Samuel Johnson’s Eternal Return* by Martin Riker (Coffee House Press, October 2018) *Gulf Coast* (March)

- 2018 Review of *An Untouchable House* by Willem Frederik Hermans (Archipelago Press, 2018). Translated from Dutch by David Colmer. [Full Stop](#) (December)
- 2018 “The Lasting Impressions of Biopower,” Review of Kyla Schuller’s *The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century* (Duke University Press, 2018) *sympløke* 26.1 (2018): 453-456
- 2018 Review of *The Gunners: A Novel* by Rebecca Kauffman (Counterpoint Press, March 2018) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (June)
- 2017 “The Universes of Speculative Realism,” Review of Steven Shaviro’s *The Universe of Things: On Speculative Realism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014) [boundary 2: b2o review](#) (June)
- 2017 Review of *Experimental Animals (A Reality Fiction)* by Thalia Field (Solid Objects, 2016) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (September)
- 2017 “Experiments in Incomprehension: A Review of *A Collapse of Horses* by Brian Evenson.” (Coffee House Press, 2018) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (January)
- 2015 Review of *Where the Bird Signs Best* by Alejandro Jodorowsky” (Restless Books, 2015) *The Carolina Quarterly* 65.1

Public Writing and Interviews

- 2019 “True Croc Cinema: The Fossil Horror of *Crawl* in the Anthropocene” [ASAP/J](#). Open-access platform of Association for the Study of Arts of the Present. (September)
- 2019 Interview with John Warner, author of *Why They Can’t Write* (Johns Hopkins Press) and *The Writer’s Practice* (Penguin Random House) [Pedagogy and American Literary Studies \(PALS\)](#) (June)
- 2019 With Carly Schnitzler. Hosted by Sarah George-Waterfield. “[Episode 5: Segment on Book Reviews and Reviewing](#).” CQ Speaks, The podcast of *The Carolina Quarterly*. (April)
- 2019 “Why Does Alex Garland’s *Annihilation* Perpetuate the Hidden Figure of Henrietta Lacks?” [PopMatters](#) (January)
- 2018 “Tree Time and Mortality in the Eyes of Alfred Hitchcock, Richard Powers, and Ursula K. Le Guin” [The Millions](#) (October)
- 2015 Co-hosted with Travis Alexander. “Deep Time, Decline, and Nostalgia: An Interview with Noah Heringman and Jonathon Sachs.” Podcast Interview for ETHOS: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics. (March)
- 2015 Co-hosted with Sean DiLeonardi. “The Nonhuman Turn: An Interview with Kate Marshall.” Podcast Interview for ETHOS: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics (March)
- 2014 “Bates Motel and the Pathology of Place” *ETHOS: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics* (September)

Digital Work

- 2019-present Contributing Editor, “A Red Record” ([lynching.web.unc.edu](#))
Collaborative website project for documenting and mapping lynching sites in the American south. Project directors since 2015 inception: Seth Kotch (UNC, American Studies) and Elijah Gaddis (Auburn University, History).

CONFERENCES

Conferences Organized

- 2018 3rd Annual Graduate Student “Post45” Symposium. Sponsored by Yale University. New Haven, CT (March)
- 2016 1st Annual Graduate Student “Post45” Symposium. Sponsored by the University of Chapel Hill Department of English & Comparative Literature, the Graduate School, and the School of Arts and Sciences. Chapel Hill, NC (February)

Papers Presented

- 2020 Presenter, “An Unread Red Record: Unpublished Abolitionism, Crowd Psychology, and Lynching” (for “Unpublished America” roundtable) C19, Coral Gables, FL (Upcoming - April)
- 2019 Presenter, “Charles Chesnutt’s ‘Age of Crowds’: Crowd Psychology and Racial Violence in the 1890s.” American Studies Association (ASA) Honolulu, HA (November)
- 2018 Presenter, “Stephen Crane’s Almost Mob: Crowd Psychology, Emergence, and Literary Form.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Toronto, CA (November)
- 2017 Presenter, “‘Betwixt human and brute life’: Romancing the Biopolitical in Hawthorne’s The Marble Faun.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ (November)
- 2017 Presenter, “Twitter, Drones, and Literature: Teju Cole on Undifferentiation.” Configurations of Contemporary Empire: UNC-KCL Workshop. London, UK (August)
- 2017 Presenter, “Diagnosing Eco-Theory: Tracking Health & Environment.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), Detroit, MI (June)
- 2016 Presenter, “Homeostasis and the Ecology of Bodies.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Atlanta, GA (November)
- 2015 Presenter, “Combative Adaptation: Media and Deliverance in Novel and Film,” Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA), Durham, NC (November). [Winner of “Best Graduate Student Paper Award” – declined award to pursue alternate publication.]
- 2015 Presenter, “Damning the River of Deliverance,” The Association for the Study of the Arts and the Present (ASAP/7), Greenville, SC (September)
- 2015 Presenter, “‘The Scientists of the Future’: Anthropocene Storytelling in Beasts of the Southern Wild,” National Meeting of the American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association (ACA/PCA), New Orleans, LA (April)
- 2013 Presenter, “Inclusive Language and Writing Center Pedagogy,” The Penn-York Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn-State, Behrend, PA (November)

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Crowds and Race in the 19th Century. American Studies Association (ASA) Honolulu, HA (November)
- 2018 With Antoine Traisnel. “The Emergence of Emergence.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Toronto, CA (November)
- 2017 “Health & Environment.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), Detroit, MI (June)

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 Quarry Farm Fellowship, Center for Mark Twain Studies
 2019-20 Maynard Adams Fellowship for the Public Humanities, UNC
 2019 Hobby Dissertation Fall Semester Fellowship, UNC English Dept.
 2019 Summer Research Dissertation Fellowship, UNC Graduate School

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2019 Travel Grant, UNC Center for the Study of the American South
 2019 Graduate Student Transportation Grant, UNC Graduate School
 2017 Travel Award, UNC Department of English, Keffer Fund
 2016, '17, '18 Travel Award, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts
 2016, '17, '18 Travel Grant, SLSA National Science Foundation
 2016 Best Graduate Student Essay, South Atlantic MLA (SAMLMA)
Declined due to essay publication
 2016 Grant Recipient, UNC-King's College Global Partnership
 2015 Summer Research Grant, UNC English Dept., "Top-Up" Funding
 2014 Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges & Universities
 2014 Student-Elected Baccalaureate Speaker, Houghton College
 2013 Barcus Award, Outstanding English & Writing Student, Houghton College

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Primary Instructor:

- Spring 2020 ENGL 128: Major American Authors: 19th-Century Lit
 Spring 2018 ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric
 Fall 2017 ENGL 144: Popular Genres
 Spring 2017 ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric
 Fall 2016 ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric
 Spring 2016 ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric
 Fall 2015 ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric

Teaching Assistant (including guest lecturing):

- Fall 2018 ENGL 268: Lit., Medicine, and Culture (Prof. Matthew Taylor)

Graduate Research Consultant (including guest lecturing):

- Spring 2019 CMPL 142: Visual Culture (Prof. Gregory Flaxman)
 Fall 2018 ENGL 344: Lit. of the American West (Prof. Gregory Flaxman)

Duke Talent Identification Program (academic classes for gifted high school students)

- Summer 2020 Speculative Fiction: Writing and Reading About Alternate Worlds

TEACHING AWARDS

- 2018 Erika Lindemann Award for Teaching Composition & Literature
 UNC Department of English
 2018 Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching
 UNC Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

2017 *Five awarded across the university*
 Student Undergraduate Teaching Award
 UNC Student Government Association
Six awarded across the university

SERVICE

2019-present Editorial Assistant, *American Literature*, Duke University Press.
 2017-2019 Peer Mentoring Committee. (Elected position for pedagogy mentoring.)
 2019-present Staff Writer, *PopMatters*.
 2018-2019 Revision and Editorial Team, *The Tarbeel Writing Guide*. (Department textbook for composition and rhetoric.)
 2017-2019 Editor (Book Reviews), *The Carolina Quarterly*. (UNC literary journal.)
 2016 Conference Assistant, "[Novel Sounds: American Fiction in the Age of Rock and Roll](#)," National Humanities Center.
 2015-2018 Co-Founder and Steering Committee, *Post-45 Graduate Collective*.
 2015-2018 Co-Chair and Organizer, *Duke-UNC Americanist Speaker Series*.
 2014-2015 Research Assistant, Studio for Instructional Tech. in English Studies.
 2014-2015 Research Assistant, Critical Speakers Series. (Dept. lecture series.)
 2014-2015 Editor (Website), *The Carolina Quarterly*. (UNC literary journal.)
 2014-2015 Editor (Interviews), *ETHOS: Digital Review*
 2013-2014 Editor-in-Chief, *The Lanthorn*, (Houghton College Literary Journal.)

RELATED WORK

2015-2019 Processing Specialist, UNC Music Library.
 2016 Tutor, College Essay Specialist, [ColPrep Tutoring](#), Chapel Hill, NC.
 2016 Tutor, UNC Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes.
 2012-2014 Tutor, Writing Center, Houghton College.
 2011-2014 Circulation Desk, Willard J. Houghton Library, Houghton College.

LANGUAGES: Reading proficiency: French, Spanish

REFERENCES:

Matthew Taylor (director)
 Associate Professor of English
mattheta@email.unc.edu

Jane Thrailkill
 Associate Professor of English
tkill@unc.edu

Daniel Christmas
 Assistant Professor of English
dchristmas@unc.edu

Priscilla Wald (Duke University)
 Professor of English
pwald@duke.edu

Gregory Flaxman
 Associate Professor of English
gflax@email.unc.edu