

Benjamin J. Murphy

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Department of English
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Education

UNC-Chapel Hill 2014-[2021]
Ph.D., English

Houghton College (Houghton, NY) 2010-2014
B.A., *summa cum laude* with honors, Humanities and Writing

Fellowships

ACLS/Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship 2020-2021

Quarry Farm Short-Term Fellowship, Center for Mark Twain Studies 2020

Maynard Adams Fellowship for the Public Humanities, UNC Public Humanities 2019-2020

Hobby Dissertation Fall Semester Fellowship, UNC English Department 2019

Summer Research Dissertation Fellowship, UNC Graduate School 2019

Writing

Dissertation

“Provisional Beings”: *Crowds and Race in American Literature, 1877-1914*

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

Peer Reviewed Articles

“‘Multiplied without Number’: Lynching, Statistics & Visualization [2021]
in Ida B. Wells, Mark Twain & WEB Du Bois” *American Literature* 93.2: forthcoming

“Not So New Materialism: Homeostasis Revisited” 2019
Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology 27.1: 1-36

“Exceptional Infidelity: Dickey’s *Deliverance*, Film Adaptation & the Postsouthern” 2018
Mississippi Quarterly 69.2 (Spring 2016) [Published 2018]: 206-225

Public Writing and Interviews

- “True Croc Cinema: The Fossil Horror of *Crawl* in the Anthropocene” [ASAP/J](#) 2019
- Interview of John Warner, author of *Why They Can't Write* and *The Writer's Practice Pedagogy and American Literary Studies (PALS)* 2019
- “Why Does *Annihilation* Perpetuate the Hidden Figure of Henrietta Lacks?” [PopMatters](#) 2019
- “Tree Time and Mortality in the Eyes of Hitchcock, Powers, and Le Guin” [The Millions](#) 2018
- Interview of Noah Heringman and Jonathon Sachs, with Travis Alexander, on “Deep Time, Decline, and Nostalgia,” *ETHOS* 2015
- Interview of Kate Marshall, with Sean DiLeonardi, on “The Nonhuman Turn” *ETHOS* 2015

Digital Work

- Contributing Editor, “A Red Record,” a collaborative website to document and map lynching in the American south ([lynching.web.unc.edu](#)) 2019 - present

Book Reviews

- Driving in Cars with Homeless Men* by Kate Wisel (U. of Pittsburg Press) *Gulf Coast* 32.5 2020
- The Rapture Index: A Suburban Bestiary* by Molly Reid (BOA Editions) [Full Stop](#) 2020
- Futures A Science Fiction Series* (Radix Media) [PopMatters](#) 2020
- GlassHouse* by Louis Armand (Equus Press) [Full Stop](#) 2020
- Whitman Speaks* ed. by Brenda Wineapple (Library of America) [PopMatters](#) 2019
- Good Enough: The Tolerance for Mediocrity in Nature and Society* by Daniel S. Milo (Harvard UP) [PopMatters](#) 2019
- Song for the Unraveling of the World*, Brian Evenson (Coffee House) [Chicago Review of Books](#) 2019
- Terra Nullius* by Claire G. Coleman (Small Beer Press) [Full Stop](#) 2019
- Samuel Johnson's Eternal Return* by Martin Riker (Coffee House) [Gulf Coast](#) 2019
- An Untouched House* by Willem Frederik Hermans (Archipelago Press) [Full Stop](#) 2018
- The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century* by Kyla Schuller (Duke UP) *symploke* 26: 453-456 2018

<i>The Gunners: A Novel</i> by Rebecca Kauffman (Counterpoint Press) The Carolina Quarterly	2018
<i>The Universe of Things: On Speculative Realism</i> , Steven Shaviro (U. MN Press) boundary 2	2017
<i>Experimental Animals (A Reality Fiction)</i> , Thalia Field (Solid Objects) Carolina Quarterly	2017
<i>A Collapse of Horses</i> by Brian Evenson (Coffee House Press) The Carolina Quarterly	2015
<i>Where the Bird Signs Best</i> , Alejandro Jodorowsky (Restless Books) <i>Carolina Quarterly</i> 65.1	2015

Presentations

Conferences Organized

3 rd Annual Grad Student “Post45” Symposium (hosted by Yale University)	2018
1 st Annual Grad Student “Post45” Symposium (hosted by UNC-Chapel Hill)	2016

Conference Papers Delivered

“Lies, Damned Lies, & Statistics: Gender, Numbers, & Lynching in Mark Twain and Ida B. Wells” (Modern Language Association) Toronto	Jan 2021
“An Unread Red Record: Unpublished Abolitionism, Crowd Psychology, and Lynching” (C19) Coral Gables - <i>No presentation due to COVID-19</i>	April 2020
“Charles Chesnutt’s ‘Age of Crowds’: Crowd Psychology and Racial Violence in the 1890s” (American Studies Association) Honolulu, HA	Nov 2019
“Stephen Crane’s Almost Mob: Crowd Psychology, Emergence, and Literary Form” (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts) Toronto	Nov 2018
“‘Betwixt human and brute life’: Romancing the Biopolitical in <i>The Marble Faun</i> ” (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts) Tempe, AZ	Nov 2017
“Twitter, Drones, and Literature: Teju Cole on Undifferentiation” (UNC-KCL Workshop) London, UK	Aug 2017
“Diagnosing Eco-Theory: Tracking Health & Environment” (Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment) Detroit, MI	June 2017
“Homeostasis and the Ecology of Bodies” (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts) Atlanta, GA	Nov 2016

- “Combative Adaptation: Media and Deliverance in Novel and Film”
(Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association) Durham, NC
Winner of “Best Graduate Student Paper Award” – *declined to publish*. Nov 2015
- “Damning the River of Deliverance”
(Association for the Study of the Arts and the Present) Greenville, SC Sept 2015
- “‘Scientists of the Future’: Anthropocene Stories in *Beasts of the Southern Wild*”
(American Culture Association/Popular Culture Association) New Orleans, LA April 2015
- “Inclusive Language and Writing Center Pedagogy”
(Penn-York Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn-State) Behrend, PA Nov 2013

Conference Panels Organized

- “Crowds and Race in the 19th Century”
(American Studies Association) Honolulu, HA Nov 2019
- “The Emergence of Emergence,” with Antoine Traisnel
(Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts) Toronto Nov 2018
- “Health & Environment: Tracking Ecological Metaphors”
(Association for the Study of Literature & the Environment) Detroit, MI June 2017

Invited Talks

- “The Color of Crowds: Antebellum Fiction and the Radicalization of Revolt”
Houghton College, Faculty/Guest Lecture Series Oct 2020
- Panelist, “Overhearing Frederick Douglass’s *The Heroic Slave*”
(UNC Public Humanities Virtual Happy Hour: “Religious Traditions of Solitude”) May 2020

Awards

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

Teaching

Primary Instructor

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

Teaching Assistant (including guest lecturing)

ENGL 268: Lit., Medicine, and Culture, with Professor Matthew Taylor	Fall 2018
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Graduate Research Consultant (including guest lecturing)

CMPL 142: Visual Culture, with Professor Gregory Flaxman	Spring 2019
ENGL 344: Lit. of the American West, with Professor Gregory Flaxman	Fall 2018

Teaching Awards

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, 5 awarded annually	2018
Student Undergraduate Teaching Award UNC Student Government Association, 6 awarded annually	2017

Service

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

Related Work

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

Languages: Reading proficiency: French, Spanish

References:

- Matthew Taylor, Director, Associate Prof. of English (UNC) mattheta@email.unc.edu
- Danielle Christmas, Assistant Prof. of English (UNC) dchristmas@unc.edu
- Gregory Flaxman, Associate Prof. of English (UNC) gflax@email.unc.edu
- Jane Thrailkill, Associate Prof. of English (UNC) tkill@unc.edu
- Priscilla Wald, Prof. of English (Duke University) pwald@duke.edu