

JACOB T. WATSON

Department of English and Comparative Literature
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
watsonjt@live.unc.edu

Greenlaw Hall, CB #3520
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

201 NC 54 / Apt. 628
Carrboro, NC 27510

Education

PhD, English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Defending 2018
M.A. English, University of Georgia at Athens, 2011
B.A. English, Philosophy Minor, University of Georgia at Athens, 2009 (*magna cum laude*)

Dissertation

“The Page in the Screen: Early Broadcast Television and the Visualization of Information.”
This project looks at television from the experimental up to the early commercial period (1929-1949) as a prefiguration of our contemporary digital landscape. I demonstrate that very early television had much in common with the graphically-constituted screen spaces we interact with in digital environments. Examining how early television constructed a new kind of space allows me to trace the conceptual origins of the screen spaces that now predominate.

Committee: Gregory Flaxman (director), Florence Dore, Mark B.N. Hansen, Matthew Taylor, Henry Veggian, Rick Warner

Research Interests

- ◆Critical Theory
- ◆History and Philosophy of Cinema
- ◆Media Studies
- ◆Speculative and Science Fiction
- ◆Digital Humanities
- ◆Visual Culture

Awards, Honors and Fellowships

2017-18 UNC-CH English and Comparative Literature Distinguished Teaching Fellowship
2016-17 UNC Graduate School Dissertation Completion Fellowship
2016 The Eliason Dissertation Fellowship (UNC)
2015 The Carol and Edward Smithwick Summer Research Fellowship (UNC)
2015 John R. Bittner Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Literature and Media (UNC)
2015 UNC-CH English and Comparative Literature Senior Teaching Fellowship
2006-2009 National Merit Scholarship, University of Georgia at Athens
2006-2009 Robert Carlyle Byrd Honors Scholarship, University of Georgia at Athens
2006-2009 Honors Program, University of Georgia at Athens

Peer-Reviewed Publications

"The Suffusion of the Televisual in *The Crying of Lot 49*." *Style* 51.2 (2017).

Publications under Review

“Making Room for Information: Early Television and the Evolution of Graphic Space.”
Television and New Media. 2018.

Courses Taught (syllabi available upon request)

ENGL 137: Literature in a Digital Age.

A course on literary works created through digital means as well as the theory and criticism of electronic literature. Spring 2018, 20 students.

ENGL 124: Contemporary Literature.

A course on late-twentieth century through present day authors and literary movements. Spring 2016, 15 students.

ENGL 143: Film and Culture.

A course on film and visual culture including major theories and approaches to the study of audiovisual media. Spring 2015, 25 students.

ENGL 142: Introduction to Film Studies.

An introduction to the appreciation of film focusing on formal analysis and major genres. Spring 2014, 30 students.

ENGL 105: Introduction to Composition and Rhetoric.

A course in rhetorical theory and writing in the disciplines. Fall 2017, Fall 2015, Fall 2014, Spring/Fall 2013, Fall 2012, 19 students.

ENGL 102: Composition and Rhetoric 2.

A composition course focusing on academic and professional writing. Spring 2012, 25 students.

ENGL 101: Composition and Rhetoric 1.

A composition course focusing on popular culture writing. Fall 2011, 25 students.

ENGL 1102: Introduction to Literature.

An introduction to the analysis of fiction, poetry and drama. Spring 2011, 29 students.

ENGL 1101: Basic Composition.

An introduction to argumentative writing and rhetorical analysis. Fall 2010, 29 students.

Conference Presentations and Activities

2016 "Graphic Visualization and the Invention of TV News."

The Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS), Atlanta, Georgia.

2016 "From Visualization to the Visual: World War II and the Birth of the TV Newscast."

Post-45 Graduate Conference, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2015 "'Virulent Madness:' The Rise of Television as Told by Cinema."

North Eastern Modern Language Association (NEMLA), Toronto, Ontario.

2013 Panel Organizer, "Signs Within Signs: Deciphering Postmodern America."

English Graduate Association Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

2013 "Faulkner's Impossible Revision: Ephemerality and Permanence in *The Reivers*."

English Graduate Association Conference, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga.

2013 "A Short-Circuit in the Cartesian Theater: Meditations on *TV Buddha*."

"Dualism and its Discontents" Conference, CUNY, New York, NY.

2012 "'The Root of Sanity:' Ecological Thinking in *Lady Chatterley's Lover*."

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA), Durham, NC.

2012 Moderator and Interim Chair, "The Roots of Life."

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA), Durham, NC.

Service and Professional Activities

2015 Contributing Editor, *Tarheel Writing Guide, 1st Edition* (UNC writing textbook)
2014-15 Fiction Reader, *Carolina Quarterly* (internationally circulated literary journal)
2013-2015 Regular Contributor and Peer Reviewer, *Ethos* (I.A.H. sponsored journal)
2012–2015 First-Year Mentor, UNC-CH Comp. Lit. & English Assoc. of Graduate Students
2012-2013 Writing, English, and Philosophy Tutor, UNC-CH Athletics Program
2009-2010 Writing and Literature Tutor, UGA Athletics Program

Languages

Spanish: advanced reading.
German: intermediate reading.
French: intermediate reading.
Old English (West-Saxon): intermediate reading.

Professional Memberships

Modern Language Association
Northeastern Modern Language Association
Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Technical Skills

Videography, video recording and production (Adobe Premiere, Camtasia)
Audio recording and editing/ music composition and production (Audacity, Fruityloops)
Web-publishing and website management (Wordpress)
Image editing (Adobe Photoshop)

References

Gregory Flaxman
Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
gflax@email.unc.edu

Florence Dore
Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
fdore@unc.edu

Matthew Taylor
Associate Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
mattheta@email.unc.edu

Rick Warner
Assistant Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
crwarner@email.unc.edu

Mark B.N. Hansen
Professor of Literature, Duke University
mark.hansen@duke.edu