

Benjamin J. Murphy

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. *in progress*. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2014 – present
 B.A. Houghton College. Houghton, NY. May 2014
summa cum laude with Honors in Humanities and Writing

HONORS & AWARDS

Hobby Dissertation Fellowship, UNC Department of English, Fall Semester	2019
Graduate Student Transportation Grant, UNC Graduate School	2019
Summer Research Dissertation Fellowship, UNC Graduate School	2019
Erika Lindemann Teaching Award in Composition & Literature, Department of English	2018
Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost [Five awarded across the university]	2018
Travel Award, UNC Department of English, Keffer Fund	2017
Teaching Award, Student Undergraduate Teaching Award [Six awarded across the university]	2017
Travel Award, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts	2016, '17, '18
Travel Grant, SLSA National Science Foundation	2016, '17, '18
Best Graduate Student Essay, South Atlantic MLA (SAMLA) [Declined due to essay publication]	2016
Grant Recipient, UNC-King's College Global Partnership	2016
Summer Research Grant, UNC English Department, "Top-Up" Funding	2015
Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges & Universities	2014
Student-Elected Baccalaureate Speaker, Houghton College	2014
Barcus Award for Outstanding Student in English & Writing, Houghton College	2013

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

Scholarly Reviews

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] *symploke* 26.1 (2018): 453-456

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 1, 2017)

Public Writing & Reviews

2019 Review of *Terra Nullius* by Claire G. Coleman (Small Beer Press, 2019) [Full Stop](#) (March 28, 2019)

2019 Review of *Samuel Johnson’s Eternal Return* by Martin Riker (Coffee House Press, October 2018) [Gulf Coast](#) (March 11, 2019)

2019 “Why Does Alex Garland’s *Annihilation* Perpetuate the Hidden Figure of Henrietta Lacks?” [PopMatters](#) (January 23, 2019)

2018 Review of *An Untouchable House* by Willem Frederik Hermans (Archipelago Press, 2018). Translated from Dutch by David Colmer. [Full Stop](#) (December 11, 2018)

2018 “Tree Time and Mortality in the Eyes of Alfred Hitchcock, Richard Powers, and Ursula K. Le Guin” [The Millions](#) (October 16, 2018)

2018 Review of *The Gunners: A Novel* by Rebecca Kauffman (Counterpoint Press, March 2018) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (June 2018)

2017 Review of *Experimental Animals (A Reality Fiction)* by Thalia Field (Solid Objects, 2016) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (September 2017)

2017 “Experiments in Incomprehension: A Review of *A Collapse of Horses* by Brian Evenson” (Coffee House Press, 2018) [The Carolina Quarterly](#) (January 2017)

2015 Review of *Where the Bird Signs Best* by Alejandro Jodorowsky” (Restless Books, 2015) *The Carolina Quarterly* 65.1 (Fall 2015)

2014 “*Bates Motel* and the Pathology of Place” [ETHOS: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics](#) (September 2014)

Podcasts:

- 2019 With Carly Schnitzler; hosted by Sarah George-Waterfield. [“CQ Speaks: Episode 5.” Segment on Book Reviews and Reviewing.](#) *The Carolina Quarterly*. April 2, 2019.
- 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 30, 2015
- 2015 Co-hosted with Sean DiLeonardi. [“An Interview with Professor Kate Marshall: The Nonhuman Turn.”](#) Podcast Interview for *ETHOS: A Digital Review of Arts, Humanities, and Public Ethics*. March 5, 2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, 2015 – present

Primary Instructor:

ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric (17 students)	Spring 2018
ENGL 144: Popular Genres (31 students)	Fall 2017
ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric (19 students)	Spring 2017
ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric (19 students)	Fall 2016
ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric (18 students)	Spring 2016
ENGL 105: Composition and Rhetoric (19 students)	Fall 2015

Teaching Assistant (including guest lecturing):

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

Graduate Research Consultant (including guest lecturing):

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

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conferences Organized:

- 2018 3rd Annual Graduate Student “Post45” Symposium. Sponsored by Yale University. New Haven, CT (March 2018)
- 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 2016)

Panels Organized:

- 2019 Presenter, "Charles Chesnutt's 'Age of Crowds': Crowd Psychology and Lynching in the 1890s." (Panel: "Crowds and Race in the 19th Century"). American Studies Association (ASA) Honolulu, HA (Forthcoming - November 2019)
- 2018 Chair and Presenter, "Stephen Crane's Almost Mob: Crowd Psychology, Emergence, and Literary Form." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Toronto, CA (November 2018)
- 2017 Chair and Presenter, "Diagnosing Eco-Theory: Tracking Health & Environment." Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE), Detroit, MI (June 2017)
- 2016 Chair and Presenter, "Homeostasis and the Ecology of Bodies." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Atlanta, GA (November 2016)

Papers Presented:

- 2020 Presenter, "Shared Efforts, Short Fiction: Crowd Complicity in Stephen Crane." (Panel: "Narratives of Complicity, Complicity of Narratives") Modern Language Association (MLA) Seattle, WA (Forthcoming - January 2020)
- 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)
- 2017 Presenter, "Twitter, Drones, and Literature: Teju Cole on Undifferentiation." Configurations of Contemporary Empire: UNC-KCL Workshop. London, UK (August 2017)
- 2015 Presenter, "Combative Adaptation: Media and *Deliverance* in Novel and Film," Southern Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLMA), Durham, NC (November 2015). [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)
- 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 2015)
- 2013 Presenter, "Inclusive Language and Writing Center Pedagogy," The Penn-York Undergraduate Research Conference at Penn-State, Behrend, PA (November 2013)

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present Editorial Assistant, *American Literature*, Duke University Press
- 2017-2019 Peer Mentoring Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill
Elected by peers to two, one-year paid terms of pedagogy mentoring
- 2015-2019 Processing Specialist, Music Library, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2016 Tutor, UNC's Academic Support Program for Student-Athletes
- 2014-2015 Research Assistant, Studio for Instructional Technology in English Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
- 2012-2014 Tutor, Writing Center, Houghton College
- 2011-2014 Circulation Desk, Willard J. Houghton Library, Houghton College

SERVICE

- 2019-present Staff Writer, [PopMatters](#)
- 2017-2019 Editor (Book Reviews), [The Carolina Quarterly](#)
- 2016 Conference Assistant, "[Novel Sounds: American Fiction in the Age of Rock and Roll](#)," National Humanities Center, October 2016
- 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, UNC Critical Speakers Series
- 2014-2015 Editor (Website), [The Carolina Quarterly](#)
- 2014-2015 Editor (Interviews), [ETHOS digital review and journal](#)
- 2013-2014 Editor in Chief, *The Lanthorn*, Literary Magazine, Houghton College.

MEMBERSHIPS

- MLA (Modern Language Association)
ASA (American Studies Association)
SLSA (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts)

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

American Literature from 1830-1914
Science & Literature
19th Century American History
Critical Theory
Environmental Humanities and Ecocriticism

LANGUAGES

French (reading proficiency)