

PAUL BENZON

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of English, Skidmore College, Fall 2018-present

Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Media and Film Studies, Skidmore College, Fall 2017-Spring 2018

Associate Director of Media and Film Studies, Skidmore College, Fall 2016-Spring 2018

Andrew Mellon Fellow in Media and Film Studies, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Skidmore College, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Assistant Professor of Teaching and Instruction, Department of English, Temple University, Fall 2008-Spring 2015

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, Fall 2007, Summer 2008

Education

Ph.D., English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, October 2008

Dissertation: "The Language of Information: Intermedia Appropriation and Contemporary Literary Form"
Committee: Richard Dienst (Director), Brent Edwards, John McClure, Nicole Fleetwood

M.A., English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, January 2005

B.A. *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, English, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, June 1999

Publications

Scholarly Monograph

Archival Fictions: Materiality, Form, and Media History in Contemporary Literature (under contract at the University of Massachusetts Press as part of the series "Page and Screen: New Perspectives in Book Studies")

Chapters in Edited Collections

"Work, Play, and the Banality of the Digital: Boredom as Form." *Humans at Work in the Digital Age: Forms of Digital Textual Labor*. Eds. Shawna Ross and Andrew Pilsch. New York: Routledge, 2019.

“Hello Again: An Untimely Requiem for the Flip Phone.” Invited contribution to *The Routledge Companion to Media Technology and Obsolescence*. Ed. Mark Wolf. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“Lost in the Clouds: A Media Theory of the Flight Recorder.” Invited contribution to *The Routledge Companion to Media Studies and Digital Humanities*. Ed. Jentery Sayers. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“On Unpublishing: Fugitive Materiality and the Future of the Anthropocene Book.” *Publishing as Artistic Practice*. Ed. Annette Gilbert. Berlin: Sternberg Press, 2016.

Journal Editing

“The Aesthetics of Erasure.” Introduction and Special Issue Co-Guest Editor for *Media-N*, Journal of the New Media Caucus of the College Art Association 11.1, Spring 2015.

http://median.newmediacaucus.org/the_aesthetics_of_erasure/

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

“Three Moments on Mediation.” Invited Contribution to “Mapping Media Studies,” Inaugural Issue of *MAST: The Journal of Media Art, Study, and Theory*, April 2020. https://mast-nemla.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/MAST_Vol1_No1.pdf

“Weather Permitting: Shelley Jackson’s *Snow* and the Eco-poetics of the Digital.” *College Literature* 46.1, January 2019.

“Archival Time, Absent Time: On William Basinski’s *The Disintegration Loops*.” *Media-N*, Journal of the New Media Caucus of the College Art Association 11.1, Spring 2015.

http://median.newmediacaucus.org/the_aesthetics_of_erasure/the-disintegration-loops/

“Bootleg Paratextuality and Digital Temporality: Towards an Alternate Present of the DVD.” Invited contribution to *Narrative* 21.1, January 2013. Winner of the James Phelan Prize for the Best Contribution to *Narrative*.

“Digital Media, 419, and the Politics of the Global Network.” Invited contribution to *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 13.3, September 2011. <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol13/iss3/19>.

“Lost in Transcription: Postwar Typewriting Culture, Andy Warhol’s *Bad Book*, and the Standardization of Error.” *PMLA* 125.1, January 2010. Winner of the William Riley Parker Prize for an Outstanding Article Published in *PMLA*.

“How Authority Figures: Pedagogical Performance and the Graduate Student Instructor.”

Proceedings of the NAIRTL/CASTL Graduate Education Symposium, November 2007.

<http://www.nairtl.ie/documents/CASTL%20layout.pdf>

Book Reviews

Invited Review of *Digital Modernism: Making It New in New Media*, by Jessica Pressman. *Modern Fiction Studies* 62.2, Summer 2016.

“Forgetting Media Studies: Anthologies, Archives, Anachrony.” Invited contribution to *electronic book review*, December 2009. <http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/criticalecologies/forgetting>.

Fellowships and Awards

Recipient, Faculty Development Grant for *Archival Fictions* Book Project, Skidmore College, 2020

Recipient, IdeaLab Colab Grant, Skidmore College, 2019-2020

Recipient, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Schachterle Essay Prize for the best essay on literature and science written in English by a nontenured scholar, 2019.

Recipient, Faculty Development Grant for *Unbound Aesthetics* Book Project, Skidmore College, 2019

Researcher in Residence, Signal Culture, 2017

Recipient, Faculty Development Grant for “Hello Again: An Untimely Requiem for the Flip Phone,” Skidmore College, 2017

Recipient, Project VIS Visual Literacy Course Development Grant, Skidmore College, 2015

Recipient, Temple Libraries Alternate Textbook Project Grant, 2015-2016 (declined)

Finalist and College of Liberal Arts Nominee, Innovative Teaching with Technology Award, Temple University, 2015 (<http://sites.temple.edu/tts2015/paul-benzon/>)

Recipient, James Phelan Prize for the Best Contribution to *Narrative*, 2013

Recipient, Outstanding Instructor Award, Temple University First-Year Writing Program, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2010

Recipient, Philadelphia Experience Course Development Stipend, Temple University General Education Program, Spring 2011

Recipient, William Riley Parker Prize for an Outstanding Article Published in *PMLA*, 2010

Recipient, Spencer L. Eddy Prize for Best Literary Essay Accepted for Publication, Rutgers University English Department, 2008

Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Dissertation Seminar, Rutgers University English Department, 2007

Alternate, Rutgers University Bevier Dissertation Fellowship, 2007-2008

Presidential Fellow, Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, January 2007-May 2008

Graduate Fellow, Rutgers University Center for Cultural Analysis, 2006-2007

Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, Rutgers University English Department, 2005-2006

Recipient, Andrew W. Mellon Research Grant, Rutgers University English Department, 2005

Conference Presentations

- “Bad Books: Annotation and Decay in Glenn Ligon’s *Untitled*.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- “Notes on Notes on *Notes*: Glenn Ligon Reads James Baldwin.”
ASAP/11: Ecologies of the Present, College Park, MD, October 2019.
- “Synthwave, Light, and New Nostalgias.”
ASAP/11: Ecologies of the Present, College Park, MD, October 2019.
- “Ceci N’est Pas, or, The Treachery of Instagram.”
ASAP/10, New Orleans, LA, October 2018.
- “Cinematic Slow Time and the Media Archaeology of Whiteness.”
ASAP: As Slowly as Possible, Amsterdam, May 2018.
- “Playing Paper: Kevin Young and the Undead History of the Phonograph.”
International Conference on Narrative, Montreal, Canada, April 2018.
- “Zombie Media and the Untimely Resurrection of the Flip Phone.”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, March 2018.
- “Digital Melt: Shelley Jackson’s *Snow* and the Deep Time of Instagram.”
ASAP/9: The Arts of the Present, Oakland, CA, October 2017.
- “Weather Permitting: Shelley Jackson’s ‘Snow’ and the Deep Time of Instagram.”
Ordinary Media Symposium, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, May 2017.
- “Literary Futurity and the Slow Time of Paper.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX, January 2016.
- “Thinking Inside the Box: A Media Theory of the Flight Recorder.” Presenter and Panel Chair, “Objects of Global Media.” *Modern Language Association Annual Meeting*, Austin TX, January 2016.
- “The Aesthetics of Erasure.” Panel Organizer and Chair.
International Symposium on Electronic Art 2015: Disruption, Vancouver, BC, August 2015.
- “Afrofuturist Anachrony: Rammellzee Excavates the Alphabet.”
Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, March 2015.
- “The Transhistorical Poetics of Erasure.” Invited Panel Respondent.
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, January 2015.
- “The Cronut Has Legs: William Gibson’s Archive of the Ephemeral.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, BC, January 2015.
- “To Tweet or Not to Tweet: #bestPractices and #pitfalls2Avoid.”
Temple University Teaching with Technology Symposium 2014, Temple University, March 2014.

- “Use Waste: Kenneth Goldsmith and the Network Archeology of Paper.”
Capitals: American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, New York University, March 2014.
- “Redacting with Confidence: Public, Private, and the Darkness of History.” Presenter and Roundtable Organizer,
“Deletion, Erasure, Cancellation: Negative Textualities.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- “Pynchon’s Prism, Gibson’s Prequel: A Brief History of ICE.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- “Redaction Aesthetics: On the Public Opacity of Private Data.”
Media in Transition 8: Public Media, Private Media, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2013.
- “From Text to Work: Douglas Coupland’s Digital Interruptions and the Labor of Form.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2013.
- “Lost in Plain Sight: Microdot Technology and the Compression of Reading.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, January 2013.
- “The Last Big Thing?: Of Trash and Temporality.”
Collapse/Catastrophe/Change: American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Brown University, March 2012.
- Invited Participant, *Critical Code Studies Working Group*, February 2012.
- “The Weight of the Digital.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, January 2012.
- “Archive, Cache, Database: Digital Literature in Transition.”
Media in Transition 7: Unstable Platforms: The Promise and Peril of Transition, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2011.
- “Page Shredding: Literary Metadata and the Archival Topographies of *Dakota*.” Presenter and Panel Chair, “The Poetics of Metadata.” *Society for Textual Scholarship Sixteenth Biennial International Interdisciplinary Conference*, Penn State University, PA, March 2011.
- “Analog History: Kevin Young’s *To Repel Ghosts* and the Textuality of the Turntable.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011.
- “Bootleg Paratextuality and Media Aesthetics.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011.
- “Borges.app.”
George Borge Smorgasbord, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, February 2010.
- “Digital, Banal, Residual, Experimental.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.
- “The Digital Archive in Motion: Data-Mining as Authorship.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, December 2009.

- “Cameroon, Capital of the Digital Empire?, or, Typosquatting, Transmission, and the Globalization of Error.”
Media in Transition 6: Stone and Papyrus, Storage and Transmission, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, April 2009.
- “Reading and Writing 419: Digital Media and the Geopolitics of Multiauthorial Narrative.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 2008.
- “Network and Narrative: Global Novels and the Six-Degrees Myth.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, December 2008.
- “Andy Warhol’s Queer Alphabet.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, December 2007.
- “Type as Performance: Gender, Technology, and Collaboration in the Typing Explosion.”
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, December 2007.
- “Literary Form and the Alien Rhythms of Code.”
Changing the Subject: Post-Humanism in the Twentieth Century, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, November 2007.
- “Conceptualizing the Typing Pool: Technology, Textuality, and Transience in the Postwar Office.”
American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 2007.
- “Image, Network, Narrative: Creative Dispersion in the Novel of Digital Culture.”
Media in Transition 5: Creativity, Ownership, and Collaboration in the Digital Age, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2007.
- “How are we going to write ‘Oouh:’ Technology, Transcription, and Distributed Authorship in Andy Warhol’s *a*.”
Society for the Study of Narrative Literature International Conference on Narrative, Washington, D.C., March 2007.
- “From Translation to *Transmission*: Digital Information, Global Circulation, and the Viral Image.”
Figures of Comparison in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Center for Comparative Literature and Society, Columbia University, March 2007.
- “Interacting with Students Inside and Outside the Classroom.”
The Teaching Assistant Project, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, February 2007.
- “Bugging Warhol: Tape, Type, and the Dissonance of Mediated Authorship.”
The Human and Its Others: American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Princeton University, March 2006.
- “Telling Stories that Aren’t There: Don DeLillo’s *Running Dog* and the Problem of Missing Film.”
Media in Transition 4: The Work of Stories, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, May 2005.
- “Hybrid Narrative and Posthuman Authorship in Bruno Latour’s *Aramis*.”
Collage as Cultural Practice: 2005 Obermann Humanities Symposium, University of Iowa, March 2005.
- “Nonsense! Love in technology?!: Bruno Latour and the Variable Geometry of Utopia.”
Utopias and Dystopias, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, February 2005.

“Sonic Identities, Sonic Communities: Early Radio Technology and African-American Modernity.”
The Harlem Renaissance-New Readings and Contexts, Rhode Island College, May 2004.

“Sampling the Future: Appropriation in Recent Literature and Media.” Panel Organizer and Chair.
Central New York Conference on Language and Literature, SUNY Cortland, October 2003.

“Falling Indelibly?: Crossing Borders of Media and Temporality in the Prologue to Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*.”
Border Crossings: Interplay within English Studies, Texas Tech University, February 2003.

“Broadcasting Sound, Recasting Subjectivity: Early African-American Radio as a (Counter)Performance of Migrant Identity.”
Performing Ethnicity, Harvard University, February 2003.

“Concrete Writing: Graffiti as Visual Textuality and Political Resistance from Michael Herr’s *Dispatches to Contemporary Urban Space*.”
Text and Image: The Transliterations Project’s Annual Graduate Student Conference, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, March 2002.

Teaching Experience

Skidmore College

Senior Seminar: Critical Digital Studies

Introduction to Literary Studies

Remixes, Memes, and Mashups: Appropriation and Authorship in Contemporary Literature and Media

Introduction to Media Studies

Graphic Narratives and Comic Books

Fiction

Writing Seminar II: Digital Identity

Literature in the Digital Age

American Realism

Temple University

Special Topics: Electronic Literature

Issues in Digital Culture: Identity, Privacy, Social Change

Debates in Digital Culture

Network Cultures

Introduction to Media and Culture

Advanced Contemporary Literature: Reading Literature, Reading Media

Capstone Seminar in Modern American Literature: Literature, Media, and the Archive

Contemporary American Fiction: Global America and the Future of the Novel

Introduction to Academic Discourse: Writing About Gender in American Culture

American Literature, 1865-Present

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

Technology and American Culture: Writing, Mixing, Networking

Popular Culture and Media Form

Principles of Literary Study: Machines, Monsters, and Writing

Principles of Literary Study: Narrative Bodies

Research in the Disciplines: Ethnic Identities

Research in the Disciplines: Science, Medicine, and Society

Expository Writing

Fields of Interest

Literature and Media

Modern and Contemporary American Literature

Media Studies and Digital Culture

Film and Visual Culture

Departmental and Professional Service

Member, Media and Film Studies Program Personnel Committee, Fall 2019-present

Member, Periclean Honors Forum Council, Skidmore College, Fall 2019

Chair, Romanticism and Eighteenth-Century Search Committee, English Department, Skidmore College, 2018-2019

Member, Curriculum Committee, English Department, Skidmore College, 2018-present

Member, Advisory Board, Media and Film Studies Program, Skidmore College, 2018-present

Primary Investigator, Project VIS, Skidmore College, 2017-2018

Associate Director, Media and Film Studies Program, Skidmore College, 2016-2018

Member, Project VIS Visual Literacy Steering Committee, Skidmore College, 2016-2018

Co-Chair, Graduate School and Career Committee, English Department, Skidmore College, 2016-2018

Member, Digital Liberal Arts Committee, Skidmore College, 2015-present

Member, Project VIS Visual Analysis Assessment Committee, Skidmore College, 2015-2016

Member, Departmental Strategic Planning Committee, Temple University English Department, 2015

Member and Foundational Text Subcommittee Leader, Analytical Reading and Writing Course Design Committee, First-Year Writing Program, Temple University English Department, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Reviewer, Writing-Intensive Course Prize Committee, Temple University, 2013

Member, Technology Committee, First-Year Writing Program, Temple University English Department, Fall 2011-Spring 2015

Teaching Circle Leader, First-Year Writing Program, Temple University English Department, Spring 2012-Spring 2015, Spring 2009, Fall 2009

Member, Textbook Committee, First-Year Writing Program, Temple University English Department, Fall 2008-Fall 2009

Administrative Liaison, Undergraduate Film Program, Rutgers University English Department, 2007-2008

Head Teaching Assistant for Expository Writing I, Rutgers University Writing Program, Spring 2005

Co-founder, Contemporary Studies Group, Rutgers University English Department, 2002-2003

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

International Society for the Study of Narrative

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

References

Rebecca Krefting, Associate Professor of American Studies, Skidmore College, rkreftin@skidmore.edu

Susannah Mintz, Professor of English, Skidmore College, smintz@skidmore.edu

Richard Dienst, Associate Professor of English, Rutgers University, rdnst@rci.rutgers.edu

John McClure, Professor Emeritus of English, Rutgers University, jmclure@rci.rutgers.edu

Brent Edwards, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, bhe2@columbia.edu

Carolyn Williams, Professor of English, Rutgers University, csw1066@aol.com

Marianne DeKoven, Professor Emeritus of English, Rutgers University, marianne.dekoven@gmail.com

Eli Goldblatt, Professor Emeritus of English, Temple University, eligold@temple.edu