Sean A. Witters, Ph.D. Senior Lecturer Department of English, University of Vermont, 400 Old Mill Burlington, VT 05405 <u>switters@uvm.edu</u> https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9395-9215

#### Education

Ph.D. English and American Literature, Brandeis University, 2010
Field: 20th Century American Literature
Dissertation: *The Logic of the Brand: Authorship and Literary Authenticity in the Modern American*Novel. with committee members Michael T. Gilmore (dir.), Caren Irr, and Stephen Whitfield.
MA English and American Literature, Brandeis University, 2001
BA English, with honors, University of Vermont, 1998

## Honors

2014 UVM Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award 1999-2000 Fredrick M. Corse Fellowship for Post-Graduate studies in Literature

## **Book Project:**

Using Addict: Representing Drugs and Dependency—1821 to the Present

#### Submitted Articles and Works in Progress

"Not many people ever hear it": Addiction, Abstraction, and Soul in "Sonny's Blues." [submitted]

"The Steps of Capital: QAnon and Anti-Recovery" co-authored with Frank Smecker.

"The Connotations of an Opium-Eater: Thomas De Quincey Using 'Addiction"

## **Publications**

"Drugs Cause Paranoid Reading and Writing," *Points: The Blog of the Alcohol & Drugs Society.* 29 Mar., 2019. Web < <u>https://pointsadhsblog.wordpress.com/2019/03/21/drugs-cause-paranoid-reading-and-writing</u>>

"Literary Value and the American Marketplace." *The Handbook of the American Novel of the Twentieth and Twenty- First Centuries.* Ed. Timo Müller, Berlin: De Gruyter, 2017.

"For the Love of Big Brother: Paranoid Reading and Nineteen Eighty-Four." *Nineteen Eighty-Four: Critical Insights.* Ed. Thomas Horan. Ipswich, Ma: Salem Press, 2016.

"'Observe,' said the Director': Brave New World, Surveillance Studies, and the Dystopian Tradition." Brave New World: Critical Insights. Ed. M. Keith Booker. Ipswich, Ma: Salem Press, 2014.

"Words have to mean something more: Folkloric Reading in Brave New World." *Huxley's Brave New World: Essays.* Ed. David Garrett Izzo and Kim Kirkpatrick. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2008.

"Mary McCarthy." *The Literary Encyclopedia*. 1 Mar. 2008. The Literary Dictionary Company. http://www.litencyc.com/php/speople.php?rec=true&UID=3028

# Invited Talks:

"Needle, Image, Tomb: Rebecca Massey Wood, History, and Addiction" 16 Oct, 2019 Victorian Persistence Seminar, LARCA (Laboratoire de Recherche sur les Cultures Anglophones), University Paris-Diderot, Paris, France.

"Bebop Epiphanies and 'Sonny's Blues." Osher Life Long Learning Institute Lecture, Brandeis University. Oct 2006

## Select Conference Papers

"Organizing During COVID-19" AAUP Summer Institute, July 2020

"The Primal Addict: Freud, Cocteau, and the Productivity of Pleasures" LACK iii Conference, Clark University, Worcester, MA, May 2019

"Not many people ever hear it": Addiction, Abstraction, and Soul in "Sonny's Blues." Persisting Souls Conference, Catholic University of Paris, Paris, France, April 2019

"Using Addict, or Is It Working Yet?" Substance Use and Abuse in the Long 19th Century Conference, Edgehill University, Ormskirk UK, September 2018.

"Trapped in Your Own Dirty Body: Genre, Identity, and Authenticity in *Giovanni's* Room." James Baldwin Society Conference, Suffolk University, Boston MA, March 2009.

"Disunity: Mary McCarthy and the Branded Self." American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Princeton University, May 2006.

"Words have to mean something more: Folkloric Reading and *Brave New World*," Society for the Study of Narrative Literature Conference, University of Vermont/Middlebury College, April 2004

## Appearances

"The Steps of Capital: QAnon and Anti-Recovery," Jouissance Vampires with Daniel Tutt, 17 Feb,

2021

Vermont State Senate Education Committee, Expert Testimony, May 2020

"The Job Market for Professors," Vermont Edition 11 Dec. 2014, Vermont Public Radio.

"Salinger Expert Says Posthumous Works Coming," 29 Jan. 2012, WCAX.

## Professional Service/Peer Reviewer

Manuscript peer reviewer for monograph on cultural studies in addiction, Routledge 2021

Editorial review (acknowledged) Norton Anthology of Literary and Critical Theory, 3rd Edition.

## Select Courses Taught (UVM)

\*Indicates courses taught in both in-person and online configurations.

English 172 "Paranoia in the Postmodern American Novel": a course on paranoia and the uncanny in postmodern novels and theory.

English 172 "The Spectacle of Addiction": an exploration of representations of addiction in contemporary novels including David Foster Wallace's *Infinite Jest*.

English 166 "Modern American Novel: Branding the Author": a course on literary taste and modernism in the marketplace that works from Gertrude Stein to Philip Roth.

English 100\* "Critical Theory": a theory course for advancing English majors.

English/Film & Television Studies 96 "Dystopian Narratives in Modernity": traces the evolution of the dystopian genre in British, American, and European novels and films.

English 085 Introductory seminar for new majors.

CRES 095/ENGS 057 (Diversity 1)\* "Race & Ethnicity": a course that explores the "metaphors and metaphysics" of race in America through modern and postmodern fiction and culture.

English 050 Expository Writing: a writing course thematically centered on the influence and effects of surveillance in postmodern culture.

Jewish Studies 193/English 030 Kafka and his Children: a diasporic study of Franz Kafka and his influence on modern American and global writing.

English 024\* American Literature: a survey of American literature from 1865 to the present.

English 023 American Literature: a survey of early American Literature to 1865.

Film & Television Studies 008 Classical Cinema: a survey of early film from 1895-1945.

English 005: "Reading the 80's: Nostalgia, Nihilism, and Things Unspoken": A writing course that explores the dark social dreaming of 1980s popular culture from films to the "literary brat pack."

#### Academic Appointments

Senior Lecturer, Graduate College, University of Vermont, Spring 2018

Senior Lecturer, English Department, University of Vermont, Fall 2018

Lecturer, English Department, University of Vermont, 2006-2018

Lecturer, General Education Department, Berklee College of Music, 2002-2004

Lecturer, English Department, Suffolk University, Fall 2003

Graduate Teaching Fellow, English Department, Brandeis University, 2001-2003

Instructor, English as a Second Language Program, Brandeis University, 2001-2003

Teaching Assistant, English Department, Brandeis University, 2001-2002

#### **University Service**

2016-2020 United Academics Civil Rights Committee

2020 English Department Symposium Director

2019 Host Visiting Scholar: Susan Zieger

2018 English Department Symposium Co-Director

2016-2018 United Academics Full-time Bargaining Unit Contract Negotiation Team

2015 ENGS 086/100 Sub-Committee for Curriculum Revision

2013-2015 English Dept. Evaluation Committee 2012 English Dept. Curriculum Committee

2012 United Academics PT Bargaining Unit Contract Negotiation Team April

2011 Faculty Sponsor and host for performance and talk by Robert Pinsky

2008 Co-Host Visiting Scholar: Lauren Berlant

2003: English as a Second Language Planning Committee, Brandeis University

2003: English as a Second Language Student Admissions Reader, Brandeis University

## **Graduate Supervision**

2019-2020 MA comprehensive exam and tutorials on Postmodernism, University of Vermont

## Honors Thesis Committees, University of Vermont

Nov 2020, Lindsey Imhoff, "The Writing on the Wall: Queer: Asynchronicity and Queer Literature"

May 2018, Elizaveta Shkurina, "Fragments of Memories in Translation."

Nov. 2017 Alex Benoit, "Concepts of Moral Geography in Dante Alighieri and James Joyce"

May 2017: Sophie Thorup, 'Let Us Record the Atoms As They Fall Upon the Mind': Virginia Woolf Wrestles With James Joyce's Ulysses"

May 2017: Ashlin Ballif, "Felix Gonzalez-Torres and Ken Okiishi: The Evolution and Representation of Experience."

May 2016: Molly Gormley, "Rumination, Negative Life Events, and Depressive Symptoms in a Sample of College Students."

May 2015: Grady Kennison, "And the Tide was Way Out."

Dec 2014: Marissa Bucci: "It's the End of the World as We Know It (And I Feel Fine): MTV, Postmodern Theory and Generational Shifts in the United States."

May 2014: Michael Eaton, "Small Town Sense of Place: The Search to Find Meaning in a Rural Setting."

May 2009: Alyssa Samson, "The Key to the Locked Room: An Existential Exploration of Paul Auster's Fiction."

April 2009 Jacqueline Ryan, "She's Still There: Self-Portraits in Acrylic."

May 2008: Michael D. Raymond, "Liberalism's Endless Task: Accommodating Citizens in State Education."

May 2007: Drew Bucy, "Virginia Woolf, Sigmund Freud, and the Modern, Post-War Consciousness."

# **Professional Affiliations** AAUP

AFT

Modern Language Association

LACK (Lacanian psychoanalytic theory and German Idealism)

United Academics