

Chris R. Vials

Professor, Department of English
University of Connecticut, Storrs

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2006 University of Massachusetts-Amherst. English with American Studies concentration
M.A. 1997 Ohio State University-Columbus. English.
B.A. 1993 University of Texas-Austin. English and History.

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Professor, University of Connecticut-Storrs, April 2020 to present
Associate Professor, University of Connecticut-Storrs, August 2014 to April 2020
Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut-Storrs, August 2010 to August 2014
Assistant Professor, SUNY Buffalo State College, 2008-2009
Visiting Assistant Professor, Hampshire College, 2006-2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Late nineteenth to twenty-first century American literature and American Studies, political economy, ethnic American literature, popular culture, cultural studies, working class literature, empire studies, social movements (left and right), fascism, Asian American literature, visual culture, social class and racial formation

PUBLICATIONS

Books (Monographs)

Haunted by Hitler: Liberals, the Left, and the Fight Against Fascism in the United States (University of Massachusetts Press, 2014)

Reviews: *American Quarterly* 69.1 (2017); *Journal of American History* 103.1 (2016); *American Literary History*, Online Review Series, III; *Science and Society* 80.3 (2016); *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft (ZfG)*, 64.6 (2016); *Arbeit, Bewegung, Geschichte: Zeitschrift für Historische Studien*, September 2016; *Against the Current* 180 (January-February 2016); *The Volunteer* (journal of the veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade), December 8, 2015; *Choice: Current Reviews for American Libraries* 52.10 (2015)

Realism for the Masses: Aesthetics, Popular Front Pluralism, and U.S. Culture, 1935-1947 (University Press of Mississippi, 2009)

Reviews: *American Literature* 82.1 (March 2010)

Books (edited collections)

The U.S. Antifascism Reader. Co-editor, with Bill Mullen (Verso Press, 2020).

American Literature in Transition, 1940-1950 (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

Articles / Book Chapters

“Empire after Human Rights: The Transatlantic Right and Identitarian War” Forthcoming, *Journal of American Studies* (Cambridge, UK)

“The Spanish Civil War and the Alternate History of U.S. Intervention.” Forthcoming in volume on the 80th Anniversary of the Spanish Civil War, Praxis (Argentina)

“Ellen Emmet Rand, Bourgeois Portraiture, and the Disruption of Ideological Fantasy.” In, *Ellen Emmet Rand: Gender, Art, Business*. Ed., Alexis Boylan. Bloomsbury Academic, 2020.

“The Second Sino-Japanese War, World War II, and Asian American Antifascism.” Oxford Encyclopedia of Asian American and Pacific Islander Literature and Culture, Oxford University Press., 2019

“The ‘Race Radical’ Thrust of Ethnic Proletarian Literature in the 1930s. *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature of the 1930s*, ed. William Solomon, Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“White Supremacy: Geschichte und Politik des Weißseins in den USA” (“White Supremacy: The History and Politics of Whiteness in the USA”). “Aus Politik und

Zeitgeschichte.” Special edition on “Black America.” Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (German Federal Agency for Civic Education), March 2018.

“Why We Fight: Contending Narratives of the Second World War,” *American Literature in Transition, 1940-1950*, ed. Chris Vials, Cambridge University Press, 2017

“Antifascism as Political Grammar and Cultural Force,” *American Literature in Transition*, Cambridge University Press, ed. Chris Vials, Cambridge University Press, 2017

“The AAUP and the Contradictions of Academic Freedom,” *Journal of Asian American Studies* 19.1 (2016)

“Margaret Atwood’s Dystopic Imagination and Contradictions of the Neoliberal State,” *Textual Practice* 29.2 (2015): 235-254

“Red Feminists and Methodist Missionaries: Dorothy McConnell and the Afterlife of the Popular Front,” *Lineages of the Literary Left: Essays in Honor of Alan M. Wald*, Ed. Paula Rabinowitz (Ann Arbor, MI: Maize Books, 2015)

“Broken Frames: The World War II Novel and the Dwindling Legibility of Class in the US Historical Imagination,” *Created Unequal: Class and the Making of American Literature*, Ed. Andrew Larson (London: Routledge, 2014)

“What’s His Suit Got to Do with It? Alan Wald’s Method of Collective Biography and the Phenomenological Turn in Postwar Marxism.” *Science and Society* 78.3 (2014): 343-350

“Can We Still Use the ‘F’ Word? The Invisibility of Fascism in the Postwar United States,” *Against the Current*, January/February 2014

“What Can Happen Here? Philip Roth, Sinclair Lewis, and Fascism in the Left-Liberal Imagination.” *Philip Roth Studies*. 7.1 (2011), 9-26

“The Origin of the Zombie in US Radio and Film: B-Horror, U.S Empire, and the Politics of Disavowal,” *Generation Zombie: Essays on the Living Dead in Modern Culture*. Ed. Stephanie Boluk and Wylie Lenz (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Press, 2011)

“Fight Against War and Fascism and the Origins of Antifascism in US Culture,” *Cultural Logic*. 2010 Special Issue: Culture and the Crisis

“Whose Dixie? Erskine Caldwell’s Challenge to *Gone With the Wind* and Dialectical Realism.” *Criticism* 48.1 (2007)

“The Popular Front in the American Century: *Life Magazine*, Margaret Bourke-White, and

Consumer Realism, 1936-1941." *American Periodicals: a Journal of History, Criticism, and Bibliography* 16.1 (2006)

"The Despotism of the Popular: Anarchy and Leon Czolgosz at the Turn of the Century." *Americana: the Journal of American Popular Culture* (1900-present) 3.2 (2004)

MEDIA APPEARANCES/WORK (selected)

Interview, *Where We Live*, Connecticut NPR, February 10, 2021

Interview, *The Nomiki Show*, November 25, 2020

"Here's What We Learned about the Far Right from Donald Trump's Presidency." *Jacobin*. November 2020.

Interview, *Between the Lines: Counterpoint*. With Scott Harris, WPKN, Bridgeport, CT and nationally syndicated. 21 March 2016, 20 March 2017, 7 September 2020, 23 November 2020

Chris Vials, Bill Mullen, and David Palumbo-Liu, "The Campus Antifascist Network is Winning the Fight Against Fascism at Universities," *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, February 10, 2018.

Television and Radio Interview on the subject of American fascism, on "Story in the Public Square," televised on Rhode Island PBS then broadcast nationally on SIRIUS XM (POTUS Channel). Aired July 8, 2017.

Interview, "American Fascism: It Can't Happen Here?" *Ideas*. With Paul Kennedy. CBC Radio, 17 Jan. 2017

Interview, "American Fascism: From the 1920s to Trump." *Where We Live*. With John Dankosky. WNPR, Hartford, CT. 24 Mar. 2016.

Consulted for pieces and reports on American fascism and antifascism by *The New Yorker*, *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, *Morning Star* (London), *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Connecticut Post*, *VICE News*, and *Connecticut Mirror*.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

"Capitalism and the American Reich" Review of Michael Joseph Roberto, *The Coming of the American Behemoth: The Origins of Fascism in the United States, 1920-1940*. *The Journal of Labor and Society* 22.2 (June 2019).

Review of *Race and the Totalitarian Century* by Vaughn Rasberry. *Journal of American History* 24.2 (September 2017), 549-550.

“Adorno’s *Authoritarian Personality*.” *Against the Current* 187 (March/April 2017)

“Fast Times in East Germany? The Sexual Revolution in the GDR.” Review of *Love in the Time of Communism: Intimacy and Sexuality in the GDR*. *English Language Notes*, 53.1 (2015). Special Issue, “Sexing the Left”

Review of *For Home and Country: World War I Propaganda on the Home Front*, by Celia Malone Kingsbury. *Modern Fiction Studies*, 57.4 (2011)

Review of *America’s Asia: Racial Form and American Literature, 1893-1945* by Colleen Lye. *Journal of Asian American Studies*, 8.2 (2005)

Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature, Emmanuel Nelson, ed. Greenwood Press, 2005. Entries for Joseph Freeman, Edward Dahlberg, Edwin Rolfe, and Guy Endore

INVITED TALKS / CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (selected)

“Stand Back and Stand By: What Donald Trump Taught Us about Authoritarianism in the United States,” Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT, January 28, 2021.

“Antifascist Language in Multilingual Societies: Debating Ways Forward,” Invited roundtable participant. Dartmouth College, April 23-24, 2020

“The History and Dynamics of American Fascism.” Invited talk with Jason Stanley. Public Forum at Parish House United Church on the Green, New Haven. October 19, 2019

“Antiracism through an Antifascist Lens.” Roundtable on Antiracism. American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, November 7-10, 2019

“White Nationalism after Trump.” Invited talk. Charter Oak Cultural Center. Hartford, CT. January 30, 2018.

“The Legacies of 1968.” Chair of panel featuring Kathleen Cleaver. American Studies Association, Atlanta, November 10, 2018

“Haunted by Hitler: The Fight against Fascism in the United States.” Invited lecture, University of Southern Maine, April 5, 2018.

“Deep Roots: Fascist and Antifascist Conflict in the United States, from the 1920s to the Age of Trump.” Invited talk. Miami University, Oxford, OH. November 16, 2017

“Afterlives of the Russian Revolution.” Roundtable Panel Chair. American Studies Association, Chicago, November 11, 2017

“Antifascist Memory in the United States.” Invited presentation. Conference entitled “Fascism and Antifascism in our Time.” Hamburg Institute for Social Research, Hamburg, Germany, Nov 2, 2017

“Deep Roots: Fascism, Antifa, and Free Speech in the United States.” Invited talk. September 14, 2017, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford CT

Roundtable participant. “Sites of Marxist Practice in the Twenty-First Century,” *American Studies Association*, 2016

“International *Faschismustheorien* in the United States of the 1930s,” European Social Science History Conference, Valencia, Spain, April 2, 2016

“The American Association of College Professors (AAUP) and the Discourse of Academic Freedom.” Asian American Studies Association, Evanston, IL, April 2015.

“The Legacies of the 1930s in AIDS Activism and the Waning of the Antifascist Paradigm,” American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA. November 2014.

“Twenty-first Century Asian War Narratives and the Crisis of Neoliberal Temporality in the United States,” Asian American Studies Association, San Francisco, CA. April 2014.

“Margaret Atwood’s Dystopic Fiction and the Contradictions of Neoliberal Freedom,” American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY. March 2014.

“Financial Analysis and U.S. Conservative Support for Fascism in the 1930s,” American Studies Association, Washington, DC. November 2013.

“Brownshirts in the Twilight Zone: Rod Serling and Cold War Cultural Critique in the Early 1960s US.” Modern Languages Association annual meeting, Boston, MA. January 2013

“Call of Duty? Neoliberal Development, US Empire, and the Rise of Apocalyptic Popular Culture.” American Studies Association annual meeting, San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.

“More than a Witch Hunt: Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible* and the Tenacity of Antifascism in the Cold War.” Annual Conference of the American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2011.

“HUAC, Joe McCarthy, and the Discourse of Antifascism in the 1950s.” American Studies Association annual meeting. San Antonio, TX. November 2010.

“Pearl Buck’s *Dragon Seed* and the Contradictory Politics of Exclusion Repeal.” Asian American Studies Association, Austin TX, April 2010

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE (selected)

Co-Chair, Native American and Indigenous Cluster Hire Search, 2020

Co-organizer of Metanoia on Youth Activism, 2018-2019

Director of American Studies, term began Fall 2015

Associate Graduate Director, Department of English, Spring 2013- Spring 2015

Executive Committee, American Studies, University of Connecticut, Spring 2011 to present

Executive Committee, UConn American Association of University Professors, April 2012 to 2016, 2018-2021

Negotiating Team, UConn American Association of University Professors, 2015-2016

Search Committee for Executive Director and Associate Director of UConn-AAUP, 2014

Chair, Undergraduate Enrichment Committee, 2011-2012

Interim Director of American Studies, University of Connecticut, Spring 2011

President-elect of the Graduate Employee Association (United Auto Workers Local 2322), University of Massachusetts-Amherst, 2003-2004

Steering Committee, Save-UMass, 2002

AWARDS

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Faculty Excellence in Social Justice Award, 2019

University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, Book Support Fund, 2017.

Faculty Large-Grant, University of Connecticut Research Foundation, 2012

University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, Faculty Residential Fellowship, 2011-2012.

James and Sylvia Thayer Short-Term Research Fellowship. University of California, Los Angeles. June 2010.

Award for Excellence in Teaching as Evaluated by Students, University of Massachusetts Division of Continuing Education, Summer 2001 and Summer 2002

Civil Rights Social Justice Award, United Auto Workers, Region 9A, January 2005. Awarded to the Graduate Employee Organization (GEO) during my term as President

Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition presented by U.S. Congresswoman Rosa L. DeLauro, 3rd district of Connecticut, January 2005. Awarded to GEO during my term as President

International Programs Scholarship for Study in Constance, Germany, Fall 2000

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Ph.D. students currently in coursework not listed

Dissertations, Advisor

Dan Graham, "Spectral Speculations: The Political Economy of American Spiritualism, 1848-1905" (2018)

Anna Ziering, "Dirty Forms: Deviant Erotics and Desire in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature" (in process)

Dissertations, Associate Advisor

Brandon Benevento, "Upkeep: Maintenance in American Representations of Work, 1945-Present" (2019)

Joseph Darda, "When Is Postwar? American Narratives in an Age of Permanent War" (2016)

Jared Demick, "Alien Comforts: The Languages and Foodways of Chinese Americans and Hawaiian Locals in U.S. Popular Culture" (2015)

Ramon Elinevsky, "For the Wild: A Critique of Civilization" (2015)

Amy Fehr, "Student Bodies: The University and Post-1945 U.S. Fiction" (completed exams and first chapter)

Kate Gross, "Writing Wrongs: Humanitarian Activism in Contemporary World Literature and Film" (2019)

Shawn Higgins, "'Literary Soundscapes: Cultural Nationalism and U.S. Literature, 1870-1940" (2015)

Matthew Jones, "Tradition's Chains: Wales in British Literature, 1780-1870." (2019, expected)

Alaina Kaus, "Humanitarian Coercion: Literature of War, Violence, and Migration" (2017)

Patrick Lawrence, "Obscene Gestures: Sexual Transgression and Late Twentieth-Century American Political Culture." (2016)

Michelle Maloney-Mangold, "Under the Table, Off the Grid: Fictional Representations of the American Underclass in the Age of Neoliberalism, 1970 to the Present" (2014)

Rachel Nolan, "Professions of Intimacy: Work, Reproduction, and the Professional Woman in the Progressive Era United States" (2018)

Erick Piller, "Invention in the Age of Innovation: Creativity, Writing Studies, and Social Change" (2017)

Daniel Pfeiffer, "The Art of Crisis: Neoliberalism, Gentrification, and New York City Art Fiction in the Twenty-First Century" (just defended prospectus)

Patrick Russell, "Criminals, Victims, and the Crime-Based Construction of Reality in American Literature, Film, and Television" (2019, expected)

Jorge Santos, "Race, Religion, and Rupture: Re-Reading the Civil Rights Era" (2014)

Maria Seger, "At All Costs: Property and Extralegal Violence in American Literature and Culture" (2016)

GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

Marxist Theory and Marxist Cultural Studies (ENGL 6500): Fall 2019

American Studies: Methods and Major Texts (AMST 6000/ENGL 6800): Spring 2019

American Studies: Methods and Major Texts (AMST 6000/ENGL 6800): Spring 2017

Professional Development (ENGL 5160): Spring 2016

Seminar in Literary Theory: Liberalism and Neoliberalism (ENGL 6500): Spring 2015

Professional Development (ENGL 5160): Spring 2014

Seminar in Literary Theory: Class Frames (ENGL 6500): Spring 2013

REVIEWER

PMLA, *Journal of American History*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *MELUS*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *American Periodicals*, *American Literary History*, and University of Massachusetts Press

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Studies Association, Modern Language Association, Asian American Studies Association

American Studies Association, Marxism Caucus, 2016-

COMMUNITY WORK

Co-founder of the Neighbor Fund, with Kathleen Tonry (March 2017). Now a 501(c)3 nonprofit that raises money for deportation defense, legal defense and other financial needs of undocumented immigrants in Windham and Tolland Counties, CT, in collaboration with area immigrant defense organizations. theneighborfund.org.

Founder, UConn chapter of the Campus Antifascist Network (August 2017)

With Heather Turcotte and Connecticut-based carpenters and laborers unions, led a campaign to get a “Responsible Contractor Ordinance” for the Town of Mansfield, CT, 2012-2013

Served on Energy Commission for Town of Windham, CT. Helped secure state grants for local solar panel installation.

LANGUAGES

German