

# Michael L. Black

michael\_black [at] uml [dot] edu

## EDUCATION

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University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Doctorate of Philosophy in English May 2014  
Specialization in Digital Humanities & 20th Century American Culture

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA  
Master of Arts in English May 2008

University of Louisville, Louisville, KY  
Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Minor in Philosophy May 2006  
Summa Cum Laude

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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*Current:*

Assistant Professor of English Sept. 2015 – Present  
University of Massachusetts Lowell

*Past:*

Associate Director Aug. 2014 – Aug. 2015  
Institute for Computing in Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences  
National Center for Supercomputing Applications  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## BOOK PROJECT

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“Transparent Cultures: Imagined Users and the Politics of Software Design”

This project investigates the ideal of “transparency” in software design as it emerged and evolved over four decades using an archive of popular periodicals, technical papers, science fiction, and source code. It offers a new approach in digital media studies by studying software repositories using a suite of digital tools, authored specifically for this project, to analyze multiple iterations and releases of application software. A selection from it was recently published in *Digital Humanities Quarterly* (see below).

## PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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*Single Author:*

Black, Michael L. “The World Wide Web as Complex Data Set: Expanding the Digital Humanities into the Twentieth Century and Beyond through Internet Research.” *Internal Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 10.1 (2016): 95-109.

Black, Michael L. “A Textual History of Mozilla: Using Topic Modeling to Trace Sociocultural Influences on Software Development.” *Digital Humanities Quarterly* 9.3 (2015): <http://www.digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/9/3/000224/000224.html>

Black, Michael L. "Narrative and Spatial Form in Digital Media: A Platform Study of the SCUMM Engine and Ron Gilbert's *The Secret of Monkey Island*." *Games and Culture*. 7.3 (May 2012): 209-237.

*Collaborative:*

Brown, Nicole M., Ruby Mendenhall, Michael L. Black, Mark Van Moer, Assata Zerai, and Karen Flynn. "Mechanized Margin to Digitized Center: Black Feminism's Contributions to Combatting Erasure within the Digital Humanities." *International Journal of Humanities and Arts Computing* 10.1 (2016): 110-125.

Underwood, Ted, Michael L. Black, Loretta Auvil, and Boris Capitanau. "Mapping Mutable Genres in Structurally Complex Volumes." *Proceedings of the IEEE: Big Data 2013*. <http://arxiv.org/abs/1309.3323>

Littlefield, Melissa and Michael Black. "Critical Receptions: Reading Technology and Literature in the Twentieth Century." *Critical Insights: Technology and Humanity*. Ed. Carol Colatrella. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Salem Press, 2012.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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"Pinning Down the Materiality of Open Source Software: A Brief History of Mozilla Firefox." Conference on College Composition and Communication. Indianapolis, IN 2014.

"Shut Out By Copyright: Methodological Problems (and Possible Solutions) in the Cultural History of Software." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference. South Bend, IN 2013.

"'Transparent' Computing and the Politics of Operating Systems." Neoliberalism 2.0: Technology and Resistance Across Borders. Urbana, IL, 2013.

"User Friendly? The 'Transparent' Design of Personal Computers." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference. Milwaukee, WI, 2012.

"Don't Phreak Out! Ma Bell is Watching: Recovering the Hacker in the Fictional Systems of Thomas Pynchon, Joseph McElroy, and William Gaddis." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference. Indianapolis, IN, 2010.

"Creating 'More Narrative': How The Reader-As-Hyperdetective Can Solve the Case of the Missing Endings in Paul Auster's New York Trilogy." The Louisville Conference for Literature and Culture after 1900. Louisville, KY, 2009.

Black, Michael L., Bonnie Friel, Joan Jasak, and Matthew Lombard, "An Evaluation of Portrayals of Telepresence and Romantic Relationships in Film and Television." PRESENCE 2008: 11th Annual International Society of Presence Research Conference. Padua, Italy, 2008.

“Public Opinion in the *U.S.A.*: Mediated Containment in the Novels of John Dos Passos.”  
South Atlantic Modern Language Association Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2007.

## **ACADEMIC AWARDS & HONORS**

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Dissertation Completion Fellowship. University of Illinois. Fall 2013 – Spring 2014.

INTERSECT: Network for Neuro-Cultures Fellowship. College of Liberal Arts and Science, University of Illinois. Fall 2012 – Spring 2013.

## **PAST RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS**

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Postdoctoral Research Associate, Institute for Computing in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. National Center for Super Computing Applications. 2014-2015.

Grant writing, project management, and event planning.

Software development and consulting

Workflow design for XSEDE high-performance computing systems.

Research Assistant, Institute for Computing in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences. National Center for Super Computing Applications. 2014-2015.

Software development and consulting

Research Assistant, Prof. Ted Underwood. University of Illinois. 2012-2013

Developed batch processing and corpus management software in Python.

Built and maintained metadata database in SQL for over 800,000 digitized volumes.

Built metadata database front-end in Java to assist in the creation of training data.

Research Assistant, Prof. Melissa Littlefield and Prof. Spencer Schaffner. University of Illinois, Fall 2011

Collaborative writing and library research.

Research Assistant, Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory. University of Illinois, 2010 – 2012

Helped to organize 4-5 academic events per semester including public lectures, conferences, workshop, and graduate symposia.

Managed the program’s website and blog.

Produced and distributed print and digital publicity material.

Editorial Assistant, Acquisitions Department. Temple University Press. Fall 2007

Cataloging and data entry of new manuscripts.

Conducted correspondence with authors and peer reviewers.

## **PROJECT & TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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Software Development: Python, Java, C++, SQL, R

Web management: HTML/CSS, PHP, Java, Javascript, Wordpress, Apache

Linux server administration and virtualization technologies

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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University of Massachusetts Lowell, English Department

English 2000: Critical Methods of Literary Inquiry. Fall 2015, Spring 2016.

English 3690: Reading and Writing New Media. Fall 2015, Spring 2016.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, English Department.

English 116: Introduction to American Literature. Spring 2012

English 109: Introduction to Fiction. Fall 2010, Spring 2011

English 260: African-American Literature II (Discussion Leader). Fall 2009

English 255: Early American Literature (Discussion Leader). Spring 2009

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Academic Writing Program.

Rhetoric 100: Tutorial for Rhetoric 101/102. Fall 2008, Spring 2010

Rhetoric 101: College Writing I. Fall 2008

Rhetoric 102: College Writing II. Spring 2009, Spring 2010

Rhetoric 103: College Writing I. Fall 2009

Temple University, First Year Writing Program.

English 50: First Year Writing. Fall 2006 – Spring 2008

## **TEACHING HONORS**

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“Excellence in Undergraduate Education”. English Department, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

“Outstanding Instructor.” First Year Writing Program, Temple University. Fall 2006

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Peer Reviewer:

*Digital Humanities Quarterly*

*Games and Culture*

*Configurations*

Conference Planning:

Organizer. Digital Humanities Symposium. Urbana, IL. 2015.

Organizer. Computational Social Science Workshop. Urbana, IL. 2014.

Abstract review and budget consultation. HASTAC. Lima, Peru. 2014.

Abstract review and scheduling committee. Digital Humanities: Literary Studies and Information Science. British Modernities Group Annual Conference. Urbana, IL 2013

Organizer. Technology in Theory and Practice. Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory's Graduate Symposium. Urbana, IL 2012

## **CAMPUS & DEPARTMENT SERVICE**

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Faculty Senator (Elected), English Department, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Fall 2016 – Present.

Digital Humanities Working Group (Appointed), English Department, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Fall 2015 – Present.

Graduate Studies Committee (Appointed), English Department, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Fall 2015 – Present.

Online Education Committee (Appointed), English Department, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Fall 2015 – Present.

Outreach and Training Committee (Appointed), NCSA @ University of Illinois, Fall 2014.

Undergraduate Teaching Award Committee (Appointed), English Department, University of Illinois. Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Communications Committee (Elected), English Graduate Students Association. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Fall 2010 – Spring 2011

Vice President (Elected), Graduate English Association. Temple University. Fall 2007 – Spring 2008

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Modern Language Association

**References available upon request**

**Last Updated: April 2016**