

Alan Williams

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Academic positions

University of Washington | Department of English
Lecturer, 2020–
Graduate student instructor, 2014–19

Education

Ph.D. University of Washington, English, 2020
— Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (Yokohama, Japan), 2017–18
M.A. University of Washington Bothell, Cultural Studies, 2010
B.A. Evergreen State College, 2006

Interests

Transpacific studies, Queer studies and LGBTQ history, Asian American and Ethnic studies and literature, Cultural studies, U.S.-Japan relations, Rhetoric and composition (past research: Religion studies)

Dissertation: “Queering the Transpacific: Race and Sexuality across the U.S. and Japanese Empires.”
Committee: Shawn Wong (chair), LeiLani Nishime, Michelle Liu, Vincent Schleitwiler

Publications

journal articles

“Queering the Color Line within the Color Line: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Transwar Transpacific.”
American Studies 61, no. 4 (2022): 31–63. (published May 2023)
<https://doi.org/10.1353/ams.2022.a913747>

“Rethinking *Yaoi* on the Regional and Global Scale.” *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific* 37 (2015). <http://intersections.anu.edu.au/issue37/williams.htm>

“Mormon and Queer at the Crossroads.” *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* 44, no. 1 (2011): 53–84. <https://doi.org/10.5406/dialjmormthou.44.1.0053>

invited book chapters

“Queer Histories of Colonial Modernity.” In *Oxford Handbook of LGBTQ History*, edited by Howard Chiang and Dominic Janes. NY: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“A Case of Asian American Queer Cultural Nationalism: Soon-Tek Oh’s *Tondemonai—Never Happen!*” In *Interventions: Asian American Rhetorical Commonplaces Across Time and Space*, edited by Amy Wan and Morris Young, forthcoming.

“Raping Apollo: Sexual Difference and the Yaoi Phenomenon.” In *Boys’ Love Manga: Essays on the Sexual Ambiguity and Cross Cultural Fandom of the Genre*, edited by Antonia Levi, Mark McHarry and Dru Pagliassotti, 221–31. Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 2010.

in preparation

“A Neglected Queer Play Hidden in Plain Sight: Soon-Tek Oh’s *Tondemonai—Never Happen!* (1970)” (article)

“Contending with Asian Universalisms: Supplementing the Peril–Model Binary with the Yellow–White Peril Binary” (article)

public scholarship, advocacy (selected)

“Who is Actually Being Served by the Exclusion Policy Reversal?” *Affirmation: LGBTQ Mormons, Families & Friends*. April 6, 2019. <https://affirmation.org/who-is-actually-being-served-by-the-exclusion-policy-reversal/>

“The Curious Case of Mormons and LGBT Rights.” *Religion Dispatches*. March 27, 2013. <https://religiondispatches.org/the-curious-case-of-mormons-and-lgbt-rights/>

fiction (selected)

“Adolescence” (excerpt from *Ockham’s Razor*). In *Latter-Gay Saints: An Anthology of Gay Mormon Fiction*, edited by Gerald Argetsinger, 50–52. Maple Shade, NJ: Lethe Press, 2013.

Ockham’s Razor: a novel. Self-published, BookSurge Publishing, 2009. ISBN: 1439235279
Press for *Ockham’s Razor* (selected):

Interview: *Affirmation: LGBTQ Mormons, Families & Friends*. August 2010.
<https://affirmation.org/resources-old/books-films-plays-television/books-articles/3077-2/>

Presentations

academic conferences

“Cultural Theory and Generative AI: Building Cognitive Assemblages in the Cultural Studies Classroom.” Cultural Studies Association (CSA) annual conference, May–June 2024, online.

“Resurfacing a Queer Play in Homonationalist Times: Soon-Tek Oh’s *Tondemonai—Never Happen!*” in the panel “Misfit Narratives: On (Not) Belonging in Asian American Studies.” Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) annual conference, Seattle, WA, April 2024.

“Supplementing the Peril–Model Binary with the Yellow–White Peril Binary.” Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) annual conference, Long Beach, CA, April 2023.

“Asian Racialization and the Early 20th-Century Queering of Empire,” in the roundtable discussion “Queering Racialized Capital and Labor across Asian/Pacific Time and Space.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS) annual conference, March 2021, online.

———. Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) annual conference, Washington, DC, April 2020 (conference canceled due to Covid-19).

“Karārain no naka no karārain: W. E. B. Dyuboisu no shiten kara mita taiheiyō niokeru jinshu” [The Color Line within the Color Line: Race in the Pacific from the Perspective of Du Bois]. Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies annual conference (in Japanese), Yokohama, Japan, June 2018.

“Queering the Color Line within the Color Line: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Transpacific.” Japanese Association for American Studies (JAAS) annual meeting, University of Kitakyushu, June 2018.

“Dyuboisu no nihon teikoku e no shiji” [Du Bois’ Support of the Japanese Empire]. Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies summer program conference (in Japanese), Yokohama, Japan, August 2017.

“Queering the Transpacific: Inter-imperial Relations in Lonny Kaneko’s ‘The Shoyu Kid’ and Oshima Nagisa’s ‘Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence.’” Association for Asian American Studies (AAAS) annual conference, Portland, OR, April 2017.

“U.S./Japan: The Transpacific Partnership is a Same-sex Marriage,” in the panel (organizer) “Queer Asia and Homonationalism.” Association for Asian Studies (AAS-in-Asia) conference, Doshisha University, June 2016.

“Fostering Afro-Asian Connections at the University of Washington.” University of Washington English Department, Praxis Conference 2015, Seattle, WA, May 2015.

“Mormon and Queer at the Crossroads.” Masters in Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference, University of Washington Bothell, June 2010.

invited talks, panels

“Queer Temporality in the Films of Ōshima Nagisa.” Class talk invitation extended by Prof. James Welker, Kanagawa University, November 2017.

“The Curious Case of Mormons and LGBT Rights (plus update to ‘Mormon and Queer at the Crossroads’).” Compassionate Cause Symposium: Deepening the Conversation of Gays in the Church, University of Washington, August 2013.

“The Yaoi Ronsō in 1990s Japan.” Class talk invitation extended by Nobuko Yamasaki, University of Washington, February 2011.

“Two Paradigms for ‘Gay,’” in the panel “The Gay Mormon Literature Project.” Sunstone Symposium, Salt Lake City, UT, August 2010.

“BL Research: Beyond the Ivory Tower,” panel for the book *Boys’ Love Manga: Essays on the Sexual Ambiguity and Cross-Cultural Fandom of the Genre*. Yaoi-Con, San Francisco, CA, October 2009.

Grants & awards

David A. Robertson dissertation fellowship. Department of English, University of Washington, April–June 2020.

Graduate and Professional Student Senate, travel award. University of Washington, May 2016.

Japan-America Society of the State of Washington, ANA essay contest, travel award (two plane tickets to Japan), for winning essay: “Japan Can Halt the Threat of Sino-U.S. (Cold) War.” April 2016. <https://jassw.org/blog/2016/04/25/ana-essay-contest-results/>

University of Washington, low-income graduate grant. 2012–16.

“New Voices: Awards for New Writers.” *Dialogue: Journal of Mormon Thought*, 2011.

Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences, travel grant. University of Washington Bothell, October 2009.

Teaching experience

University of Washington

Department of English, lecturer:

2023–24 *Introduction to Cultural Studies* (207), WINTER.
Composition/Expository (131), two sections in AUTUMN.

2022–23 *Writing/Social Sciences* (198), linked to lecture course in the Department of Global Health: “Introduction to Global Health,” SPRING.
Composition/Expository (131), SPRING & WINTER.
Writing/Social Sciences (198), linked to lecture course in the Department of American Ethnic Studies: “In/Justice For All: Introduction to Comparative American Ethnic History,” AUTUMN.
Writing/Social Sciences (298), unlinked, but also themed American Ethnic History, AUTUMN.

Department of American Ethnic Studies, lecturer:

2021–22 *Comparative American Ethnic Literature* (212), SUMMER.

Department of English, lecturer cont'd:

2021–22 *Composition/Multimodal*: “Transpacific Studies” (182), two sections in SPRING, one in AUTUMN.
Reading Literary Forms: “Tracing 20th-Century U.S. Racialization through Literary Forms” (200), WINTER.

- 2020–21 *Composition/Multimodal*: “On Anti-Asian Racism” (182), SPRING.
Composition/Expository (131), WINTER.
Reading Prose Fiction: “Tracing 20th-Century U.S. Racialization through Literary Forms” (242), WINTER.
Writing/Social Sciences (298), linked to lecture course in the Jackson School for International Studies: “States & Capitalism,” AUTUMN.

Department of American Ethnic Studies, teaching assistant:

- 2019–20 *Race, Ethnicity, Education* (340), taught by Prof. Rick Bonus, WINTER (TAed two sections).

Department of English, graduate student instructor:

- 2019–20 *Writing/Social Sciences* (298), linked to lecture course in the Department of History: “Race and American History,” AUTUMN.
- 2018–19 *Writing/Social Sciences* (198), linked to lecture course in the Department of Psychology: “Introduction to Psychology,” SPRING.
Writing/Humanities (297), linked to lecture course in the Department of Classics: “Greek Mythology,” creative writing component, WINTER & AUTUMN.
- 2016–17 *Composition/Literature*: “Critical Race Theory through Asian American Literature” (111), SPRING, WINTER & AUTUMN.
- 2015–16 *Composition/Expository* (131), SPRING.
Reading Prose Fiction: “Afro Asia & U.S. Multiculturalism” (242), WINTER & AUTUMN.
- 2014–15 *Composition/Expository* (131), SPRING, WINTER & AUTUMN.

Editorial experience

Assistant editor, Blind Eye Books (queer sci-fi & fantasy small press). Bellingham, WA, 2011–17.
Several novels copyedited.

Social Work experience

Residential counselor, “The 1811 Eastlake Project” (supportive housing for previously homeless residents with chronic alcohol use). Downtown Emergency Service Center, Seattle, WA, 2007–12.

Chemical dependency aide, Detox and Sobering Centers. Metropolitan Development Council, Tacoma, WA, 2005–07.

Caregiver, Kitsap Home Care Services. Bremerton, WA, 2002–04.