

Marc Singer

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Education

Ph.D., English, University of Maryland, College Park, 2001.
M.A., English, University of Maryland, College Park, 1996.
B.A., English, University of Maryland, College Park, 1994, *summa cum laude*.

Faculty Appointments

Professor, Department of English, Howard University, 2020-present.
Associate Professor, Department of English, Howard University, 2012-2020.
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Howard University, 2006-2012.

Assistant Professor, Department of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy, Tennessee State University, 2003-2006.

Visiting Lecturer, Department of English, Linguistics, and Speech, University of Maryland, 2001.

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Maryland, College Park, 1996-2003.

Research and Teaching Interests

American literature, postmodernist and contemporary literature, genre fiction, visual culture, critical theory, literature and science.

Books

Breaking the Frames: Populism and Prestige in Comics Studies. University of Texas Press, 2018.

Named a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title, 2019.

Nominated for a Will Eisner Award for Best Academic/Scholarly Work, 2019.

Grant Morrison: Combining the Worlds of Contemporary Comics. University Press of Mississippi, 2012.

Detective Fiction in a Postcolonial and Transnational World. Co-edited with Nels Pearson. Ashgate, 2009.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Comics is... plural? No, singular! No—,” “Building Out the Bookshelf: A Reply to Bart Beaty,” and “Form, Medium, Experience: A Response to Johnathan Flowers.” *Comics Is...: Debating the Subject of Comics Studies*, edited by Martin Lund. Palgrave, 2025, pp. 1-2, 11-19, 44-49.

“Superheroes in Graphic Novels.” *The Cambridge Companion to the American Graphic Novel*, edited by Jan Baetens, Hugo Frey, and Fabrice Leroy. Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. 122-38.

“The Future that Failed: Speculation and Nostalgia in Francis Spufford’s *Red Plenty*.” *Contemporary Literature*, vol. 61, no. 4, 2020, pp. 483-504.

“George Pérez and the Classical Narrative Style.” *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, vol. 4, no. 3, 2020, pp. 288-308.

“Superheroes.” *Comics Studies: A Guidebook*, edited by Bart Beaty and Charles Hatfield. Rutgers University Press, 2020, pp. 213-26.

“Views from Nowhere: Journalistic Detachment in *Palestine*.” *The Comics of Joe Sacco: Journalism in a Visual World*, edited by Daniel Worden. University Press of Mississippi, 2015, pp. 67-81.

“The Myth of Eco: Cultural Populism and Comics Studies.” *Studies in Comics*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2013, pp. 355-66.

Reprinted in Madeline Gangnes, Christopher Murray, and Julia Round, editors, *Multimodal Comics: The Evolution of Comics Studies*. Intellect, 2024, pp. 37-49.

“Time and Narrative: Unity and Discontinuity in *The Invisibles*.” *Critical Approaches to Comics: Theories and Methods*, edited by Matthew J. Smith and Randy Duncan. Routledge, 2012, pp. 55-70.

“Dark Genesis: Falls from Language and Returns to Eden from ‘Pog’ to *Promethea*.” *Studies in Comics*, vol. 2, no. 1, 2011, pp. 93-104.

“Recursion, Supplemmentarity, and the Limits of Subjectivity in John Barth’s ‘Menelaiad.’” *KronoScope*, vol. 10, no. 1-2, 2010, pp. 35-48.

“The Limits of Realism: Alternative Comics and Middlebrow Aesthetics in the Anthologies of Chris Ware.” *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing Is a Way of Thinking*, edited by Martha Kuhlman and David Ball. University Press of Mississippi, 2010, pp. 28-44.

“Making History: Cinematic Time and the Powers of Retrospection in *Citizen Kane* and *Nixon*.” *JNT: Journal of Narrative Theory*, vol. 38, no. 2, 2008, pp. 177-97.

“Embodiments of the Real: The Counterlinguistic Turn in the Comic-Book Novel.” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2008, pp. 273-89.
Excerpted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism*, vol. 295, 2010, pp. 185-89.

“‘Trapped By Their Pasts’: Noir and Nostalgia in *The Big Lebowski*.” *Post Script*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2008, pp. 84-96.

“‘A Serious House on Serious Earth’: Rehabilitating *Arkham Asylum*.” *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2006, pp. 269-82.

“Unwrapping *The Birth Caul*: Word, Performance, and Image in the Comics Text.” *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2004, pp. 236-49.

“‘A Slightly Different Sense of Time’: Palimpsestic Time in *Invisible Man*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2003, pp. 388-419.

“‘Black Skins’ and White Masks: Comic Books and the Secret of Race.” *African American Review*, vol. 36, no. 1, 2002, pp. 107-19.

Reprinted in David M. Haugen, editor, *Comic Books*. Greenhaven Press-Thomson Gale, 2005, pp. 122-35.

“Moving Forward to Reach the Past: The Dialogics of Time in Amy Tan’s *The Joy Luck Club*.” *JNT: Journal of Narrative Theory*, vol. 31, no. 3, 2001, pp. 324-52.

“Invisible Order: Comics, Time and Narrative.” *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 1, no. 2, 1999, pp. 29-40.

Fiction

“Projections Do Not Guarantee Future Returns.” *Abyss & Apex*, no. 69, 2019.

“Johnny Come Lately.” *Adventure*, vol. 1., edited by Chris Roberson, MonkeyBrain Books, 2005.

Book Reviews and Other Publications

Review of *Frank Miller’s Daredevil and the Ends of Heroism* by Paul Young (Rutgers UP, 2016). *The Journal of Comics & Culture*, vol. 2, 2017, pp. 67-69.

Review of *The New Mutants: Superheroes and the Radical Imagination of American Comics* by Ramzi Fawaz (New York UP, 2016). *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2017, pp. 111-17.

Review of *Critical Inquiry* special issue on “Comics & Media,” edited by Hillary Chute and Patrick Jagoda (U of Chicago P, 2014). *European Comic Art*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2015, pp. 106-10.

Review of *Building Stories* by Chris Ware (Pantheon, 2012). *The Cincinnati Review*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2013, pp. 183-87.

Review of *Making Comics* by Scott McCloud (HarperCollins, 2006). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2008, pp. 570-74.

Review of *Matters of Gravity: Special Effects and Supermen in the 20th Century* by Scott Bukatman (Duke UP, 2003). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 8, no. 1, 2006, pp. 576-78.

Review of *Narrative Dynamics: Essays on Time, Plot, Closure, and Frames*, edited by Brian Richardson (Ohio State UP, 2002). *symplokē*, vol. 11, no. 1-2, 2003, pp. 260-61.

“Two Unpublished Letters from F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald to Thornton Wilder.” *Resources for American Literary Study*, vol. 28, 2003, pp. 153-57.

Review of *Comics and Ideology*, edited by Matthew P. McAllister, Edward H. Sewell, Jr., and Ian Gordon (Peter Lang, 2001). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 5, no. 1, 2003, pp. 391-93.

“*Underworld: A Bibliography*.” Co-written with Jackson R. Bryer. *Underworlds: Perspectives on Don DeLillo’s Underworld*, edited by Joseph Dewey, Steven G. Kellman, and Irving Malin. University of Delaware Press, 2002, pp. 204-11.

Review of *Narrative Innovation and Cultural Rewriting in the Cold War Era and After* by Marcel Cornis-Pope (Palgrave, 2001). *symplokē*, vol. 10, no. 1-2, 2002, pp. 225-27.

Review of *Batman Unmasked* by Will Brooker (Continuum, 2000). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 4, no. 2, 2002, pp. 330-36.

Review of *Comic Book Culture* by Matthew J. Pustz (UP of Mississippi, 1999). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2000, pp. 312-14.

Review of *Reinventing Comics* by Scott McCloud (Paradox, 2000). *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 2, no. 2, 2000, pp. 314-16.

Grants and Awards

Ph.D. Career Pathways program grant, Council of Graduate Schools, 2021-2024.

Research sabbatical, Howard University, 2013, 2022.

Fund for Academic Excellence course development grant, Howard University, 2009-2010.

Reginald Lewis Travel Fund award, Howard University, 2007-2019.

Conference Travel Fund award, Department of English, University of Maryland, 1998, 2000, 2003.

Jacob K. Goldhaber travel grant, Graduate Studies and Research, University of Maryland, 2000.

Honors and Recognition

M. Thomas Inge Award for Comics Scholarship. Comic Art and Comics Area, Popular Culture Association, 1999, 2003.

Member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society.

Courses Taught

Howard University

Studies in American Literature (ENGG 243) – graduate seminar
 American Literature II (ENGG 234) – graduate readings course
 American Literature I (ENGG 233) – graduate readings course
 Special Topics (ENGG 206) – graduate seminar
 Genres in American Literature (ENGL 233)
 Twentieth and Twenty-First Century American Literature (ENGL 232)
 American Realism and Naturalism (ENGL 231)
 Early American Writing to Romanticism (ENGL 230)
 Major American Author: Ishmael Reed (ENGL 201)
 Fiction Across Cultures (ENGL 142)
 American Literary Foundations (ENGL 112)
 Sophomore Seminar II: Theories of Interpretation (ENGL 105)
 Sophomore Seminar I: Introduction to Literature (ENGL 104)
 Honors Directed Readings—Senior Thesis (ENGL 093)
 Composition for Honors II (ENGL 076)
 Introduction to Humanities I (ENGL 014)
 Freshman Writing I (ENGL 002)
 Classic Films in English (HUMA 111)

Tennessee State University

Studies in American Literary Thought (ENGL 662) – graduate seminar
 The English Novel: Twentieth Century (ENGL 4510)
 Twentieth-Century British Literature (ENGL 3510)
 Contemporary American Fiction (ENGL 3690)
 Critical Approaches to Literature (ENGL 3010)
 World Literature II, 1650-Present (ENGL 2320)
 American Literature I, Beginnings to the Civil War (ENGL 2010)
 Freshman Writing II (ENGL 1020)
 Freshman Writing I (ENGL 1010)

University of Mary Washington

African American Literature (ENGL 351)

University of Maryland, College Park

Introduction to the Novel (ENGL 241)

Introduction to African American Literature (ENGL 234)

Introduction to American Literature, 1865-Present (ENGL 222)

Introduction to Western World Literature, Renaissance to the Present (ENGL 202)

Introduction to Academic Writing (ENGL 101)

Introduction to Academic Writing, Honors version (ENGL 101H)

Introduction to Academic Writing, First Year Focus cluster (ENGL 101U)

Conference Papers

“‘You Don’t Want to Give Him an Appetite’: Matter-Eater Lad and the Construction of Taste.” Joint International Graphic Novel and International Bande Dessinée Society Conference, 30 June 2025, Centre Belge de la Bande Dessinée, Brussels, Belgium.

“Politics as Vocation and Absolution in *Days of Destruction*, *Days of Revolt*, and *March*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 11 January 2025, New Orleans, LA.

“Unsettled Acts of Mediation.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference, 17 October 2024, CUNY Graduate Center, New York, NY.

“Kim Stanley Robinson’s *The Ministry for the Future*: Climate Change, Cryptocurrencies, and the Limits of Populism.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference, 6 October 2023, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

“Shadowboxing: Critique and the Postcritical Turn in Comics Studies.” International Comic Arts Forum, 21 April 2023, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada.

“‘What Can One Man Do?’ The Limits of Relevance.” Comics Studies Society Conference, 7 August 2021, online.

“From Red Plenty to the Gray Wastes: The Stylistics of Fantasy as Cultural Critique.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Conference, 11 October 2019, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

“Framing the Bronze Age: George Pérez and the Mediated Image.” Comics Studies Society Conference, 26 July 2019, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada.

“Editing an Anthology, Writing a Book, and Timetables for Book Publication.” Best Practices in Comics Scholarly Publishing Roundtable, Comics Studies Society Conference, 25 July 2019, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada.

“Maps and Legends: Empiricism and the Humanities in Comics Studies.” Comics Studies Society Conference, 11 August 2018, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL.

“Selective Essentialism and Dual Address in *Between the World and Me*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 7 January 2017, Philadelphia, PA.

“Partners in Crime: Text and Image in Kyle Baker’s *Nat Turner*.” International Comic Arts Forum, 16 April 2016, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC.

“*Persepolis* and the Neoliberal Self.” Joint International Graphic Novel and International Bande Dessinée Society Conference, 22 June 2015, University of London Institute in Paris, France.

“*Persepolis* Without Comics: Satrapi in Critical Context.” International Comic Arts Forum, 14 November 2014, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH.

“Morrison in Glasgow: Local Color for a Global Audience.” Joint International Graphic Novel and International Bande Dessinée Society Conference, 25 June 2013, University of Glasgow, UK.

“The Myth of Eco: Comics Scholarship and Cultural Studies.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 29 March 2013, Washington, DC.

“Views from Nowhere: Journalistic Detachment in Joe Sacco’s *Palestine*.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 4 January 2013, Boston, MA.

“Morrison, Incorporated.” Comics Arts Conference, 15 July 2012, San Diego, CA.

“Deus ex Machina: Grant Morrison and the Ethics of Metafiction.” International Conference on Narrative, 7 April 2011, Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

“Dark Genesis: Falls from Language and Returns to Eden in the Comics of Alan Moore.” Magus: Transdisciplinary Approaches to the Work of Alan Moore, 29 May 2010, University of Northampton, Northampton, UK.

“Missing Faces and Replacement Heads: Embodied Meaning in Grant Morrison’s *Doom Patrol*.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 10 April 2009, New Orleans, LA.

“Menelaus, More or Less: Recursion, Supplemmentarity, and the Limits of Subjectivity.” International Society for the Study of Time Conference, 30 July 2007, Monterey, CA.

“Motionless, Imperceptible Time: Metonymy and Continuity in *The Ice Storm*.” University of Florida Conference on Comics, 3 March 2007, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

“The Unmaking of the President: Narrative Discontinuity, Historical Revisionism, and the Films of Oliver Stone.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 29 December 2006, Philadelphia, PA.

“‘A Serious House on Serious Earth’: *Arkham Asylum* Reconsidered.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 13 April 2006, Atlanta, GA.

“Patterns of Compulsion: Repetition and Labor in the Modernist Short Story Sequence.” Narrative: An International Conference, 9 April 2005, Louisville, KY.

“Open Cases: Postcoloniality, Detective Fiction, and the Epistemologies of Form.” Narrative: An International Conference, 8 April 2005, Louisville, KY. Panel organizer and chair.

“Anomalous Eyes: Postcoloniality and the Detective.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, 28 December 2004, Philadelphia, PA. Panel organizer and chair.

“Unwrapping *The Birth Caul*: Word, Speech, and Image in the Comics Form.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 17 April 2003, New Orleans, LA.

“‘Men Out of Time’: History as Palimpsest in ‘Harlem Is Nowhere’ and *Invisible Man*.” Washington Area Modernists Symposium, 19 October 2002, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

“‘Trapped by Their Pasts’: *The Big Sleep* from Chandler to the Coen Brothers.” American Literature Association Conference, 31 May 2002, Long Beach, CA.

“Redemption from High to Low: Modernism and Popular Culture in the Poetry of Langston Hughes.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, 14 October 2001, Rice University, Houston, TX.

“Deconstructing ‘Reconstruction’: Challenging the Discourse of Contemporary Comics.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 12 April 2001, Philadelphia, PA.

“‘Black Skins’ and White Masks: Superhero Comics and the Secret of Race.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 20 April 2000, New Orleans, LA.

“On Byron Shelley and Crazy Jane: Romanticism and Modernity in the Comics of Grant Morrison.” International Comic Arts Festival, 16 September 1999, Bethesda, MD.

“Renaissance Representations: The Harlem Renaissance in *Invisible Man* and *Mumbo Jumbo*.” American Literature Association Conference, 30 May 1999, Baltimore, MD.

“Invisible Order: Comics, Time and Narrative.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 1 April 1999, San Diego, CA.

“Humbird’s Accident: Automobiles and Accidents in *This Side of Paradise*.” International F. Scott Fitzgerald Conference and Thomas Wolfe Festival, 25 September 1998, Asheville, NC.

Public Lectures, Panels, and Appearances

“*The Chameleon: Creative Connections.*” 22 October 2023, Theater J, Washington, DC. Invited speaker.

“Framing Comics Studies.” RoCCET Lab Seminar, 5 October 2021, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada. Invited speaker.

“Shadows of the Past: Fictions of History in *Nat Turner.*” Faculty Authors, 3 April 2019, Howard University Bookstore, Washington, DC.

“From Hercules to Harry Potter and Venom to Vader: Exploring Heroes and Villains.” District of Columbia Public Schools Summer Enrichment Program, 19 July 2016, Hardy Middle School, Washington, DC. Invited guest speaker.

“Harlem’s Rattlers in Popular Literature.” Harlem’s Rattlers and the Great War in Popular Culture and Historical Context, 10 November 2014, Institute of African American Affairs, New York University, New York, NY. Invited speaker.

“Scottish Comics.” Joint International Graphic Novel and International Bande Dessinée Society Conference, 24 June 2013, University of Glasgow, UK. Respondent to keynote lecture by Grant Morrison.

“Secret Identities and Mutant Minorities.” Black Comic Book Festival, 12 January 2013, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY. Invited speaker.

“Mutation and Difference: Minority Cultures and Mutant Politics in *New X-Men.*” Department of English Graduate Colloquium Series, 23 February 2011, Howard University, Washington, DC.

White Scripts and Black Supermen: Black Masculinities in Comic Books. Directed by Jonathan Gayles, California Newsreel, 2011. Interview subject.

“Teaching Comics.” Small Press Expo, 12 September 2010, Bethesda, MD. Invited speaker.

“Comics on Campus.” Howard University, 4 March 2010, Washington, DC. Organizer and moderator for lectures by Kyle Baker and William H. Foster III.

“Comic Strips: Online and in Print” and “Spotlight on Peter Kuper.” Small Press Expo, 26 September 2009, Bethesda, MD. Invited moderator.

“Drawing the Election.” Invited moderator. Small Press Expo, 5 October 2008, Bethesda, MD.

“The Word Made Flesh: Language, Iconography, and the State in Contemporary Literature.” Department of English Graduate Colloquium Series, 23 April 2008, Howard University, Washington, DC.

“Words on Will: Shakespeare + Manga.” Words on Will lecture series, 31 March 2008, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC. Invited moderator.

“Comics and Graphic Novels in the Classroom.” PEN/Faulkner Foundation, 8 November 2007, Washington, DC. Invited speaker.

“Words and Pictures in the Classroom: A Symposium.” MoCCA Art Festival, 22 June 2003, New York, NY. Invited moderator. A transcript was published in *International Journal of Comic Art*, vol. 6, no. 1, 2004, pp. 316-28.

Dissertation and Thesis Committees

Austin Anderson, Ph.D. 2025.

Forrest Yerman, Ph.D. 2025.

Gadah Algarni, Ph.D. 2022.

Orrieann Florius, Ph.D. 2022.

Kendra Parker, Ph.D. 2014.

Whitney Edwards, Ph.D. 2009.

Simon Abramowitsch, MA. 2009.

Departmental and University Service

Associate Chair, Department of English, Howard University. 2020-2024. Responsibilities included scheduling classes, recruiting graduate and undergraduate students, welcoming new students, and responding to student and faculty concerns.

Chair of the Humanities Division, College of Arts and Sciences, Howard University. 2019-2021. Responsibilities included rewriting COAS bylaws as part of the Executive Committee.

Member, Graduate School task force on the GRE, Howard University. Spring 2020. Responsibilities included evaluating research and surveying programs to determine whether Howard should require prospective graduate students to take the GRE.

Acting Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English, Howard University. Fall 2019. Responsibilities included coordinating advising and registration for English majors, orienting new majors, maintaining communications with majors and minors, and responding to student concerns.

Chair, Appointments, Promotion & Tenure committee, Department of English, Howard University. 2014-2016. Responsibilities included supervising one promotion with tenure and three tenure-track job searches, as well as coordinating temporary appointments and peer evaluations for all English department faculty.

Coordinator, Undergraduate Program Curriculum Review, Department of English, Howard University. 2018. Responsibilities included supervising committees to review the faculty

workload, timetable to graduation, and course offerings, including the development of a new internship practicum for course credit within the English major.

Creator and moderator, Professional Development Workshop on academic publishing, Department of English, Howard University. 2023-present. Responsibilities include compiling resources for academic publishing and conducting an annual workshop for graduate students.

Creator and moderator, Professional Development Workshop on graduate student fellowships, Department of English, Howard University. 2017-2022. Responsibilities included assembling fellowship application materials and conducting an annual workshop for graduate students.

Creator and moderator, Professional Development Workshop on the academic job search, Department of English, Howard University. 2008-2022. Responsibilities included assembling job search materials and conducting an annual workshop to introduce graduate students to the academic job search.

Internal Faculty Evaluator, Mellon Foundation New Directions Fellowship, 2020.

Faculty Evaluator, Ernest E. Just-Percy L. Julian Graduate Research Assistantship, 2017.

Service to the Profession

Associate Editor, *Inks: The Journal of the Comics Studies Society*, 2022-present.
Nominated for a Will Eisner Award for Best Comics-Related Periodical, 2025.

Manuscript reviewer:

MELUS, 2023-2024, 2013
African American Review, 2023
Kritika Kultura, 2021
LEAVES, 2020
Inks, 2019, 2016-2017
Routledge, 2019, 2016
Journal of Commonwealth Literature, 2019, 2011
Journal of Religion and Popular Culture, 2017
PMLA, 2016
ImageText, 2016, 2013
University of Texas Press, 2015-2017
Journal of Comics and Culture, 2015
Transformative Works and Cultures, 2012
Scandinavian Journal of Comic Art, 2011
Kronoscope: Journal for the Study of Time, 2010
Indiana University Press, 2008

External tenure and promotion reviewer, Department of English, Colorado State University, 2021.

Member of the Executive Committee, International Comic Arts Forum. 2001-2007. Chair, 2006-2007. Responsibilities included organizing programming, securing funding, and overseeing public relations for an annual academic conference housed at the Library of Congress.

Editorial Associate, *Resources in American Literary Study*. Responsibilities included conducting research and editing articles for an annual journal in American literary criticism. 2002-2003.

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association
 Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present
 Comics Studies Society

References

Professor Dana Williams, Dean, Graduate School, Howard University.
 Associate Professor Sheshalatha Reddy, Department of English, Howard University.
 Professor Jackson R. Bryer, Editor, *Resources for American Literary Study*; Emeritus Professor,
 Department of English, University of Maryland, College Park.
 Professor Nels Pearson, Department of English, Fairfield University.
 Professor Charles Hatfield, Department of English, California State University Northridge.