

Brian Alexander Alston, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Literatures in English
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Education

- 2023 Columbia University, New York, NY.
Ph.D., English & Comparative Literature.
- 2014 Columbia University, New York, NY.
M.A., African & African-American Studies.
- 2012 Duke University, Durham, NC.
B.A., African & African-American Studies.

Fellowships & Awards

- 2023 Cheryl A. Wall Postdoctoral Associate in African American & African Diasporic
Literary Studies, Department of English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick
- 2022 Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship
Columbia University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Travel Grant
- 2017 Provost's Diversity Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship
- 2014 Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship Award, University of California, Riverside,
- 2014 Langston Hughes Award for Best Thesis in the Humanities, Columbia University,
Institute for Research in African-American Studies
- 2012 Academic Achievement Fellowship, Columbia University, Institute for Research in
African-American Studies
Karla F.C. Holloway Award for Service, Duke University, Department of African
& African-American Studies

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2020 “Muddled Metaphoricity: Figurative Language and the Human-Animal Binary in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” *Scholar and Feminist Online* 16.2, ed. Monica L. Miller & Tami Navarro.
<https://sfoonline.barnard.edu/zora-neale-hurston/muddled-metaphoricity/>

Other Publications

- 2020 “Books I Teach.” *Black Agenda Report*. “BAR Book Forum.”
<https://blackagendareport.com/index.php/bar-book-forum-books-i-teach-5>
- 2019 Review of *Speculative Blackness: The Future of Race in Science Fiction*, by André M. Carrington. *Science Fiction Film and Television* 12.2, 262-267.
<https://muse-jhu-edu.ezproxy.cul.columbia.edu/article/729416>
- 2015 “Arms and the Man.” *The New Inquiry*, 45, “Cops 2.”
<http://thenewinquiry.com/essays/arms-and-the-man/>

Conference Presentations

Invited Panels

- 2016 “The Posthuman Hurston”
Hurston’s Avant-Garde; Zora Neale Hurston at 125 Symposium
Barnard University, New York, NY

Organized Panels

- 2023 “Animal Alterity: Blackness, Indigeneity and the Human in 20th Century America”
Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA

Papers Presented

- 2024 Jean Toomer’s *Cane* and the Blues of Black Land Sovereignty,
Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2022 “Loose Cows & the Limits of Mutual Vulnerability: Nonhuman Animality in *The History of Mary Prince*”
American Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA
- “Animal Afterlives: 19th Century Abolitionism & The Discourse of Species”
Abolition Studies 9th Annual Quarry Farm Symposium, Elmira, NY
- “Chesnutt’s Animals”
American Literature Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- “The Sound and the Fury: Blackface Minstrelsy & *Their Eyes Were*

Watching God

Columbia University Music Scholarship Conference, Remoted

2015

“Queering the Human”

Pacific Modern Languages Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR

“Zora’s Animals”

UC Berkeley, Rhetoric, Graduate Conference, Berkeley, CA

“It’s After the End of the Human, Don’t You Know That Yet”

UC Riverside, English, Graduate Conference, Riverside, CA

Teaching Experience

2024

Instructor, Issues and Problems in Black Literature

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, English Department

2023

Adjunct Lecturer, Composition 120: Seminar in Writing & Rhetoric

Rider University, English Department

2022

Graduate Writing Instructor, Summer Research Program

Columbia University, GSAS Office of Academic Diversity and Inclusion

2021

Adjunct Instructor, Modern African-American History

Hostos Community College, Social & Behavioral Sciences Unit

Graduate Instructor, English C1010: University Writing

Columbia University, Writing Program

2020

Graduate Instructor, English C1010: University Writing

Columbia University, Writing Program

2019

Graduate Instructor, English C1010: University Writing

Columbia University, Writing Program

2017

Graduate Instructor, English 1C: Advanced Composition

University of California, Riverside, University Writing

Instructor, W.E.B. Du Bois Scholars Institute, Princeton University

2016

Graduate Instructor, English 4: English Writing

University of California, Riverside, University Writing

Graduate Lecturer, African-American Literature After the Harlem Renaissance
University of California, Riverside, English

Graduate Instructor, English 1B: Intermediate Composition
University of California, Riverside, University Writing

2015 Graduate Instructor, English 1A: Basic Composition
University of California, Riverside, University Writing

2013 Servant Leader Intern, Children's Defense Fund's Freedom School Program,
Duke University

Other Professional Experience

Present Associate Editor, Exhibition Catalog for Arthur Jafa: *Live Evil* at the LUMA Arles

2021-23 Administrative Assistant to Josef Sorett, Professor of Religion & AAADS,
Black Studies & the Study of Religion Working Group, Columbia University

2021-23 Writing Consultant, Baruch College Writing Center

Affiliations

American Literature Association
Modern Languages Association