

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

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

“When Libertarians Give the Sieg Heil: Neoliberalism and Its Monsters.” Review Essay. *American Literary History* 38.1 (2025). Forthcoming.

“Sinclair Lewis: *It Can’t Happen Here* (1935).” *The Cambridge Companion to the Twentieth-Century American Novel and Politics*, ed. Bryan Santin (Cambridge University Press, 2023).

“Antifascist Narrative and the Politics of Optimism.” *American Literary History*. Special issue on “Democracy and the Novel.” 35.1 (2023), 158-172.

“Empire after Liberalism: The Transatlantic Right and Identitarian War.” *Journal of American Studies* 56 (2022), 1, 87-112.

“Guerra Civil Espanhola e a história alternativa da Intervenção dos Estados Unidos da América.” *A Guerra Civil Espanhola e as Américas*, eds. Ângela Meirelles de Oliveira, et. al. (São Paulo: Todas as Musas, 2022), 111-136.

“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)

MEDIA APPEARANCES/WORK (selected)

Panel, "Are We Listening? Discussion of *US and the Holocaust* by Ken Burns, and the Current Threat to Democracy." With co-director Sarah Botstein and CT NPR's Ray Hardeman. Westport Public Library, December 14, 2022

Panel, "'Domestic Extremism and Political Violence: The Threat to Liberty," CATO Institute, Washington DC, Virtual Panel, Oct 17, 2022

Interview, *Redeye*, Vancouver Co-op Radio, FM 100.5, Vancouver, BC. January 28, 2022.

Interview, "Democracy Nerd," KXRY, 91.1 FM, Portland, OR. February 10, 2021

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. March 21, 2016, March 20, 2017, September 7, 2020, November 23, 2020, September 5, 2022, April 8, 2023; November 5, 2024; February 8, 2025

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

Rev. of *The Triumph of Broken Promises: The End of the Cold War and the Triumph of Neoliberalism*. *Journal of American History* (110.4), March 2024.

"Dialectic of the Periphery." Rev. of Samir Amin, *Only People Make Their Own History: Writings on Capitalism, Imperialism, and Revolution*. *Science and Society* (84.3) July 2020.

"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)

"Project 2025 and Authoritarian Ambition." Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT, September 12, 2024

"Authoritarian Agency: Locating Fascism in Political Cultures of Liberalism," Invited Presentation, University College London, June 14-15, 2024.

"Sham Elections and Instagram Strongmen: The Faces of Authoritarianism in the 21st Century," Charter Oak Cultural Center, Hartford, CT, January 22, 2024

"Authoritarian Agency," *Not Here, Not Now* workshop, Boston College, November 3, 2023.

"Historizing Fascism for the Twenty-First Century," Paper. American Studies Association conference, New Orleans, November 4, 2022.

"Know Your Enemy: Understanding the Nature of the Right-Wing Authoritarianism." Shelter and Solidarity, Boston, September 3, 2021.

"Confronting Fascism in America," Invited Workshop Panelist. Rowan University, March 26, 2021

"Anti-Semitism and the Far Right," Invited Panelist, University of Texas-Austin, March 11, 2021

"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 round-table 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

"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

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

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP & SERVICE (selected)

President, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), UConn, 2024-2025

Director of American Studies, Fall 2015 through Fall 2022

Chair, Native American and Indigenous Literature Faculty Search, Fall 2022 and Fall 2023

Member, Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment Committee, 2022 and 2023

Member, Full Professor Promotion Committee, 2021

Member, Catalyzing Antiracist Futures Cluster Hire Search, 2020

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

Executive Committee, UConn American Association of University Professors, April 2012 to 2016, 2018-2022, 2023-2024

Chair, English Courses and Curriculum Committee, 2020-2021

Executive Committee, English Department, 2019-2021

Chair, Contract Committee, American Association of University Professors, 2019-2020

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

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

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

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

University of Connecticut Humanities Institute, Full Year Faculty Fellowship, 2025-2026

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" (2022)

Dissertations, Associate Advisor

Katie Peters, "Far Right Women and Moral Responsibility" (2025)

Paula Weinman, "Hooked on a Feeling: How Representation Matters" (2024)

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, "Global Citizenship, The University, and Post-1945 U.S. Fiction"

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)

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

Cultures of Political Reaction (AMST 6850): Fall 2021
American Studies: Keywords (ENGL 6500 or 6850): Fall 2019; Spring 2025
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, American Literary History, Journal of Asian American Studies, MELUS, Modern Fiction Studies, American Studies (Kansas), American Periodicals, Connecticut History Review, Labor: Journal of Working Class History, and University of Massachusetts Press, Textual Practice

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

COMMUNITY WORK

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

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 (proficient), Spanish (basic)