

**Brian Becker**

Writing Program  
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey  
510 George Street  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

317 Pavonia Ave, Apt 3  
Jersey City, NJ 07302  
(972) 310-9062  
beckerbri@gmail.com

**Education**

**Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**, New Brunswick, NJ  
Ph.D. in English Literatures, received May 2015

*Dissertation*

“Folk Moderns and Modern Folks: Media, Modernity, and the Migration of Real Americans”  
Committee: Brad Evans (chair), Myra Jehlen, and Cheryl Wall

**University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

M.A. in Humanities, June 2006

Concentration in 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature and contemporary critical theory

Master's Thesis: "Folk-Modernism: Intersection and Overlap in Sherwood Anderson and Jean Toomer," Advisor: Bill Brown

**George Washington University**, Washington, DC

B.A. in English Literature with honors, May 2005

Honors Program, 2001-2005

Enosinian Scholar, 2004-2005

Semester abroad in Paris, France, 2003

**Relevant Work Experience**

**Assistant Director and Instructor**, Rutgers, The State University of NJ, New Brunswick, NJ  
May 2016 – Present

*As Basic Composition Coordinator*

- Design curriculum and oversee quality for 2,000+ students per year
- Train and support teachers in these classrooms
- Write and maintain a new (open-source) textbook for students

*As Placement Test Writer*

- Oversee and streamline the placement-test process, including statistical analysis
- Write new test questions and formulate new methods of online testing
- Teach sections of all classes (101 and below) into which incoming students could be placed.

*As Director*

- Conduct performance reviews with instructors and manage orientation sessions.
- Participate in professional-development sessions with area high-school teachers.
- Oversee other departments' placement and testing needs.

**Author/Trainer**, SAT/ACT/GRE Preparation, The Princeton Review, New York, NY  
September 2005 – January 2017

- Author of “Writing and Language” section for the new *Course Workbook for the SAT* (used company-wide in classes and tutorials).
- Author of two entire ACT exams, with all questions and passages in English, Math, Reading, and Science.
- Contribute various documents to department of Research and Development (pedagogical materials, web and print), including editor- and authorship for the following publications (abbreviated list): *1,296 Questions for the ACT* (2008, 2015), *ACT 8.0* and *8.1* course manual (2008, 2015), *Cracking the SAT* (2009-2016), *Cracking the GRE in Literature Subject Test* (2009), *Critical Reading Skills Builder* (2013), and *SAT Honors* (2014).
- Author of approximately 50 lessons on Articulate, an online learning program, in SAT, ACT, and GRE.
- Teach all sections of the New SAT (Reading, Math, Writing), ACT (English, Reading, Math, Science), and GRE.
- Train incoming ACT and SAT instructors (throughout the US and Canada) in content and pedagogy.

**Developer**, Bloomberg Assessment Test, Bloomberg, New York, NY  
2011 – 2015

- Author for all four sections of the Bloomberg Assessment Test: News Analysis, Situational and Ethical Judgment, Math, and Analytical Reasoning.
- Editor and test designer for News Analysis items and passages.

### **University Teaching Experience**

Stand-alone courses (literature)

- “Principles of Literary Study: Prose,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2013
- “Twentieth-Century American Literature” Instructor, Rutgers, Summer 2011

Stand-alone courses (composition)

- “Expository Writing,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2016
- “Basic Composition with Reading,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
- “English as Academic Discourse, Level II,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2017
- “Research in the Disciplines,” Instructor, Rutgers, Spring 2018
- “English as Academic Discourse, Level I,” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2018
- “Composition Skills (098),” Instructor, Rutgers, Fall 2018

Course assistant

- “Black Narrative,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2014
- “Harlem Renaissance,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2013
- “Principles of Literary Study: Prose,” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Fall 2012
- “Introduction to American Literature 1” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Fall 2010 (MTA) and Spring 2011
- “Introduction to American Literature 2” Teaching Assistant, Rutgers, Spring 2010

### **Honors and Awards**

Graduate School Fellowship, 2014 – 2015.

Dissertation Teaching Award, Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, Honorable Mention, 2013 – 2014.

Summer Departmental Funding, Summer 2013, Summer 2014.

Graduate School Fellowship, 2011 – 2012.

Mellon Summer Departmental Funding, Summer 2011, Summer 2012.

Presidential Fellowship, Rutgers, 2008 – 2009.

Teaching or Research Assistant Funding, 2009 – 2010, 2010 – 2011, 2012 – 2013, 2013 – 2014.

Enosinian Scholar, Outstanding Undergraduate Research, George Washington University, 2005.

University Honors Program Student, George Washington, 2001-2005.

## **Publications**

“Radio’s Disappearing Act: The Creation of Modern Folks,” *Raritan Quarterly*, Fall 2018

## **Presentations**

“Radio’s Folk-Modernity: From Regions to Regionlessness,” Article workshop with Edward Miller (CUNY), Americanist Seminar, October 30, 2013.

“‘No use’n you rakin’ up de ole times’: *The Emperor Jones*, Minstrelsy, and the Birth of the American theater,” Modernism and the Folk Conference (co-organized), Rutgers, March 23, 2012.

“The World Republic of Noir: *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, Adaptation, and International Circulation,” ACLA conference, Vancouver, BC, April 1, 2011.

“‘It’s all in de tale’: Dialect and Experimentation in *The Conjure Woman*,” Graduate Symposium, April 22, 2010.

## **Other Organizations**

**Participant**, *Americanist Seminar*, Rutgers, New Brunswick, NJ

August 2008 – Present

- Periodical meetings organized to discuss scholarly work in Americanist criticism.

- Hosts seminars with area scholars to discuss works in progress.

**Participant**, *Poetry and Poetics Workshop*, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

September 2005-December 2006

- Bi-weekly meetings organized to discuss scholarly work in progress by upper level Ph.D. candidates and area faculty (University of Chicago, University of Illinois – Chicago, DePaul University) and to “workshop” this work via questions and suggestions.

**Co-Founder, Editor**, *Le Culte du Moi*, George Washington University, Washington, DC

May 2002-May 2005

- Founded and launched magazine in May 2002.

- Semi-annual literary journal publishes fiction, poetry, and literary critical non-fiction by University students and professors.

**Editor, *Phoenix: Undergraduate Honors Journal***, George Washington University  
Fall 2002-Spring 2003

-Selected and edited scholarly work by Honors Program Undergraduates in all disciplines.

### **Archival Affiliations**

Firestone Library, Princeton University  
Houghton Library, Harvard University  
Museum of Broadcast Communications, Chicago  
Paley Center for Media, New York City  
Willa Cather Archives, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### **Languages**

English  
Danish (intermediate)  
French (advanced)  
Spanish (advanced)  
German (reading)