

ALEXANDER MENRISKY

Curriculum Vitae

Department of English | University of Connecticut
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APPOINTMENTS

2021–Present	Assistant Professor University of Connecticut Department of English
2018–2021	Lecturer University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Department of English & Communication First-Year English Program Honors College
2012–2018	Instructor University of Kentucky Department of English Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

EDUCATION

2014–2018 **PhD**, English | University of Kentucky

2012–2014 **MA**, English | University of Kentucky
Graduate Certificate in Social Theory

2008–2012 **BS**, Journalism (*summa cum laude*) | Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University
Undergraduate Minors in English & French

RESEARCH INTERESTS

American cultures from 1900 to present, multiethnic literatures of the United States, environmental humanities, writing studies, gender studies and queer theory, critical race and Indigenous studies.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology. Cambridge University Press, 2020.

Everyday Ecofascism: Cultural Narratives of Climate and Consumption. Drafting started, proposal solicited by Bloomsbury Publishing.

Book Chapters

“Embracing Identity in the Climate Classroom.” *An Existential Toolkit for Climate Justice Educators*, edited by Sarah Jaquette Ray and Jennifer Atkinson. Chapter submitted, publication forthcoming.

“Edward Abbey.” *Palgrave Global Handbook of Sustainability*, edited by Robert Brinkmann, Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter submitted, publication forthcoming. Solicited by the editor.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Hicks, Homos, and Home Cooking: Literary Recipes in Queer Appalachia.” Forthcoming in *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*.

“The Reluctant Environmentalist: Finding Evidence of Injustice in James Wright’s Ambivalent Writing of Place and Identity.” Forthcoming in *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2022.

“Hallucinogenic Ecology and Psychoanalytic Prehistory in Margaret Atwood.” *Mosaic, an Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*, vol. 52, no. 3, 2019, pp. 19–36.

“The Ecological Alternative: Edward Abbey, the New Left, and Environmental Authenticity.” *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts*, vol. 61, no. 1, 2019, pp. 51–71.

“The Natural Death of Alexander Supertramp: Ecological Selfhood and the Freudian Rhetoric of *Into the Wild*.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2019, pp. 46–64.

Public-Facing Articles

“How Being an Environmentalist Became an Identity.” *Edge Effects Magazine*, February 2021.
<https://edgeeffects.net/alex-menrisky-environmentalist-vocabulary/>

“Eco vs. Ego: Environmentalism, Identity, and Psychological Vocabulary.” *Fifteen Eighty Four: Academic Perspectives from Cambridge University Press*, December 2020.
<http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2020/12/eco-vs-ego-environmentalism-identity-and-psychological-vocabulary/>

“The Vocabularies We’ve Inherited.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), December 2020.
https://www.asle.org/features/modern-environmentalisms-identity-politics-or-the-vocabularies-weve-inherited/?fbclid=IwAR2JRlmU4S1a1Bi5T4WmAddwQ6yNqV3ndxiLp82E65FFtDwevv_taIUYsRg

>> Featured on the Network in Canadian History & Environment’s (NiCHE) “Environmental History Worth Reading” list as one of 2020’s “most popular and significant environmental history articles.”
<https://niche-canada.org/2021/01/12/envhist-worth-reading-december-2020/>

“Can a Shaman Cure My Fear of Normalcy?” and Other Curveballs.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS) Blog, June 2019.
<https://melusteachingblog.wordpress.com/2019/06/06/can-a-shaman-cure-my-fear-of-normalcy-and-other-curveballs/>

“Embracing Identity in the Environmental Classroom.” *Edge Effects Magazine*, January 2019.
<http://edgeeffects.net/environmental-identity-in-the-classroom/>

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Conference Proceedings

“Interdisciplinarity and Community Engagement in the Environmental Justice Classroom: A Sample Assignment Arc.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Virtual, July 2021.

“Fascist Foodstuffs: Everyday Settler-Colonialism and Representations of Consumption.” Modern Language Association (MLA), Western Literature Association (WLA) Session. Toronto, ON (virtual), January 2021.

“American Environmentalism’s Identity Politics.” Modern Language Association (MLA), Race and Ethnicity Session. Toronto, ON (virtual), January 2021.

“Hicks, Homos, and Home Cooking: Appalachian Environmentalism and Queer Literary Culture.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Seattle, January 2020.

“Psychedelic Primitives, Prelinguistic Myths, and the Poetry of Simon Ortiz.” MELUS: The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States. Cincinnati, OH, March 2019.

“The Identity Politics of Ecology: Postwar Literature, Radical Psychoanalysis, and the Authentication of American Environmentalism.” The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College. June 2018.

“‘The Hallucinogenic Oceans of the Mind’: Ecology, Catastrophe, and *The Year of the Flood*’s Psychedelic Language of Decay.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Detroit, MI, June 2017.

“Queer Ecology and Psychoanalytic History.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.

“Abbey’s Alternative: Nature, Self, and Civilization after the American New Left.” American Literature Association (ALA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. San Francisco, CA, May 2016.

“*Into the Wild*’s Psychoanalytic Ecologies.” Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Session. Columbus, OH, November 2015.

“Family Portraiture: *The House of the Seven Gables*’ Uncanny American Identities.” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA). Nashville, TN, October 2015.

“Myth and Masculinity in American Literature and Culture.” Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. Louisville, KY, February 2014.

Invited Talks

“Everyday Ecofascism: A Response.” Respondent to “Ecofascism as Heuristic” panel. Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE). Virtual, July 2021.

“Understanding Ecofascism.” Queer Scholars Series, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. March 2021.

“American Environmentalism’s Identity Politics.” Department of American Studies, Fordham University. March 2021.

“Everyday Ecofascism.” Department of English, University of Connecticut. February 2021.

Honors Faculty Night. Honors College, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Dartmouth, MA, October 2020.

“Performing Ecological Attachments.” Roundtable and workshop in collaboration with performance artists. Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP). College Park, MD, October 2019.

“The Walking Cure: The Environmentalist Afterlives of Political Psychoanalysis.” Cincinnati Association for Psychoanalytic Thought. June 2019.

“Black Writers and the Identity Politics of Ecology.” English Department, Missouri Southern State University. February 2019.

“University English and the Job Market Today.” English Graduate Student Organization, University of Kentucky. February 2018.

“State of Nature Skepticism: Toni Morrison and the Identity Politics of Ecology.” Urbana University. January 2018.

Session Organization and Moderation

Panel Organizer, “Everyday Ecofascism: Representation and Resistance.” Modern Language Association (MLA), Western Literature Association (WLA) Session. Toronto, ON, January 2021.

Panel Chair, “Writing Women’s Lives.” KY Gender and Women’s Studies Conference. Lexington, KY, September 2017.

Panel Chair, “Post Humanist.” International Conference on Narrative. Lexington, KY, April 2017.

Panel Organizer, “Antisocial Ecologies.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.

Area Chair, “Psychology and Literature.” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA). Dallas, TX, October 2016.

Panel Organizer, “Contemporary Perspectives on Psychoanalytic Theory in Literature and Culture.” Louisville Conference on Literature since 1900. Louisville, KY, January 2014.

INTERVIEWS

“New Books in Environmental Studies: *Wild Abandon: American Literature and the Identity Politics of Ecology*.” *New Books Network*, August 2021. Podcast episode.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/wild-abandon>

“The Ego and the Eco: Alex Menrisky and the Identity Politics of Ecology.” *ASLE EcoCast*, April 2021. Podcast episode.
<http://asleecocast.podbean.com/>

“Alexander Menrisky: Scholar of the Month.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)*, July 2020. Print interview.
<https://www.asle.org/stay-informed/scholar-of-month/alexander-menrisky-july-2020-scholar-of-the-month/>

SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2021	Robert G. Darst University Honors College Service Award University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2020–2021	Service-Learning Faculty Fellow University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2020	Scholar of the Month Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
2020	Professional Equity Grant Conference on College Composition and Communication
2019	Honors College Development Fellowship University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
2017	Dissertation Writing Fellowship University of Kentucky, College of Arts and Sciences
2017	Ellershaw Award for an Outstanding PhD Candidate University of Kentucky, English Department
2017	Nominee, Presidential Fellowship University of Kentucky
2016	Honoree, Alpha Sigma Phi Selfless Professor Reception University of Kentucky

2016	Summer Research Fellowship University of Kentucky, English Department
2016	Excellence in Teaching Award University of Kentucky, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies
2016	Finalist, Jean G. Pival Outstanding Writing Teaching Assistant Award University of Kentucky
2012–2014	Daniel R. Reedy Quality Achievement Award (3 times) University of Kentucky
2012	Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Ohio University
2012	Second Place, Ohio University Research and Creative Expo
2009–2011	Dean’s Discretionary Fund Grant (4 times) Ohio University
2010	Provost’s Research Fund Grant Ohio University

COURSES

(Courses organized by latest year of development.)

University of Connecticut

2021	<i>Literature and the Environment</i> (ENGL 2635E). An introduction to human relationships with environment through the lens of literature, with an eye specifically toward how ideas about “nature,” race, and gender have influenced each other in an American context.
2021	<i>Writing through Research</i> (ENGL 2049W). Course devoted to considering and putting into practice the differences between, uses of, and methods for primary and secondary research, as well as writing new arguments in conversation with existing ones.
2021	<i>Writing about Climate</i> (ENGL 3003W). Topical seminar in writing studies that explores the rhetorical challenges of writing about climate for a general audience and puts into practice strategies for communicating climate changes effectively.

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

2021	<i>Environmental (In)Justice</i> (HON 202). Honors seminar investigating asymmetrical environmental impacts on people of color in the United States from the colonial era to the present, with a service-learning component.
2021	<i>A History of Hip in American Lit</i> (ENL 200). Traces the development of countercultural capital in the United States from the Harlem Renaissance to the present, especially as it has involved transits and appropriations across lines of race and ethnicity.
2020	<i>Honors Research Across Disciplines</i> (HON 301). Interdisciplinary preparation for honors thesis project, including research methods and ethics, presentation, and time management. Course culminates in submission of prospectus and selection of project adviser.
2020	<i>American Politics, Literary Disgust</i> (ENL 200). A consideration of disgust as a prominent literary tone or theme, as well as its role in representations of various political and social exclusions in the United States.
2019	<i>Critical Writing & Reading II</i> (ENL 102). Online syllabus also developed and taught.
2019	<i>Critical Writing & Reading Workshop</i> (ENL 099). Provides added developmental support for students in ENL 101.
2019	<i>Critical Writing & Reading I</i> (ENL 101). Honors syllabus also developed and taught.

University of Kentucky

2017 *Introduction to Literature: The Walking Cure* (ENG 230). Examines American wilderness narratives from the early twentieth century to the present, especially as they have encoded cultural assumptions about race, gender, and nation.

2017 *Survey of American Literature to 1865* (ENG 251). Teaching assistant.

2016 *Accelerated Composition & Communication* (WRD 112).
“UK Feminist Alliance” film project by students Sydney Hendrix, Archana Jeeji, Carson Mullins, and Kristen North selected for publication in 2017 WRD Spring Writing Gallery.

2016 *Technical Writing* (WRD 204). Online syllabus also developed and taught.

2015 *Business Writing* (WRD 203).
“Kentucky Farm Chain” web site project by students Sara Newman, Megan Semall, and Carmen Siguenza received Honorable Mention for Group Digital Project at the 2016 WRD Excellence in Composition awards.

2014 *Composition & Communication II* (WRD 111). Online syllabus also developed and taught.

2013 *Composition & Communication I* (WRD 110).

Invited Teaching

2021 *Literature and the Environment* (ENGL 250). Invited by Nicole Seymour, California State University Fullerton. Unit on ecofascism and environmental justice.

2020 *American Environmental Writing* (ENL 357). Invited by Jerry Blitefield, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. Unit on Indigenous American environmentalisms.

2016 *Queer Literature* (GWS 300). Invited by Carol Mason, University of Kentucky. Unit on transnational queer fiction in Eastern Europe.

SERVICE

Institutional (University of Connecticut)

2021–Present Department of English committee service (TBD)

Institutional (University of Massachusetts Dartmouth)

2021 First-Year English Peer Observation Reform Working Group

2021 Organizer, Office of Faculty Development Reading Group

2020–2021 Honors College Curriculum Committee

2020–2021 Program Coordinator, Honors College “Research Roundtable” Speaker Series

2020–2021 Academic Adviser, Arts & Sciences Undeclared

2018–2021 First-Year English Curriculum Assessment/Development Committee

2020 Office of Faculty Development Online Pedagogy Working Group, Honors College Rep

2020 Inaugural Honors College Faculty/Curriculum Development Committee

2020 Professional Development Session: “Tour My Course” (campus-wide instructional support during COVID-19 pandemic)

2020 English Department advising data collection and analysis

2020 “Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship in the UMass Dartmouth Honors College” Pedagogical Resource Development Working Group

2019–2020 First-Year English Accelerated Learning Program Working Group

2018–2020 Chair, College Now Entrance Essay Review Committee

2019 Pilot Instructor, First-Year English Accelerated Learning Program

2019 Organizer, American Studies Student Reading Group

2018–2019 University Studies Writing Curriculum Committee

Institutional (University of Kentucky)

2017 Consultant, Dissertation Bootcamp

2017 Professional Development Session: Proposing a Panel at an International Conference.

2016–2017 Treasurer, English Graduate Student Organization

2015–2017 Instructor, “FastTrack” summer sequence in Composition & Communication

2015–2016 Administrative Assistant, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies

2012–2013 Consultant, Writing Center

Professional

2021–Present Manuscript Reviewer, *Ecocene*

2018–Present Creator and Curator, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE) Teaching Resource Bank

2016–Present Manuscript Reviewer, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*

2013–2014 Editorial Board, *disclosure: A Journal of Social Theory*

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021 Engaged Scholarship Symposium | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

2021 Public Writing and Civic Engagement Workshop | Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

2020 Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Teaching General-Education Literature | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English

2019 Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Retention | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English

2019 Professional Learning Community: Strategies for Bolstering Participation | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, Department of English

2018 New Faculty Institute | University of Massachusetts Dartmouth

2015–2018 “Lacan Salon” Trans-Disciplinary Reading Group

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)
Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

OTHER WRITING/EDITING EXPERIENCE

2013–2015 Editorial Staff | *Pulse Magazine* (Lexington, KY)
2012–2013 Editorial Staff | *Limestone Review* (Lexington, KY)
2012 Editorial Staff | Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University
2010–2012 Reporter | *The Athens NEWS* (Athens, OH)
2009–2012 Publisher/Associate Editor/Feature Writer | *Backdrop Magazine* (Athens, OH)
2011 Public Information Office Staff | Supreme Court of the United States (Washington, DC)
2010–2011 Research Apprentice | Honors Tutorial College, Ohio University
2010 Textbook Draftsman | Ohio University
2007–2008 Reporter | *Springboro Star Press* (Springboro, OH)

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)
French (reading, writing, and speaking proficiency)

REFERENCES

Michael Trask	Guy M. Davenport Professor in English University of Kentucky matras2@uky.edu 859-257-1313
Nicole Seymour	Associate Professor of English California State University, Fullerton nseymour@fullerton.edu 657-278-2713
Virginia Blum	Associate Cincinnati Psychoanalytic Institute vblum1@uky.edu
Jay Zysk	Assistant Professor of English UMass Dartmouth jzysk@umassd.edu 508-999-8864
Alexis Teagarden	Associate Professor/Writing Program Administrator UMass Dartmouth ateagarden@umassd.edu 508-999-8287
Carol Mason	Professor and Chair of Gender and Women's Studies University of Kentucky carol.mason@uky.edu 859-257-1788