MELANIE WALSH

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019-   **Cornell University**
Present   Postdoctoral Associate in Information Science

EDUCATION

2019   Ph.D.   **Washington University in St. Louis**, English & American Literature

Dissertation Title: "Postwar Redux: The Recirculation of Postwar American Literature and the Rise of Networked Readers in the Twenty-First Century"

Dissertation Chair: William J. Maxwell

2015   M.A.   **Washington University in St. Louis**, English

2013   B.A.   **Washington University in St. Louis**, English
summa cum laude

2011-   **Keble College**, **Oxford University**, English
2012   Visiting Student

PUBLICATIONS

Articles & Book Chapters
"DH Readership and Reception," forthcoming in *Debates in Digital Humanities 2021*, ed. Lauren Klein and Matt Gold, University of Minnesota Press.

"'Tweets of a Native Son: The Quotation and Recirculation of James Baldwin from Black Power to #BlackLivesMatter," *American Quarterly*, 70, no. 3 (September 2018): 531-559.

"Social and Conceptual Networks in Eighteenth-Century German Periodical Literature," with Professor Matt Erlin, *Network@1800: Non-Linear European Cultural Histories*, ed. Birgit Tautz and Crystal Hall (under review with University of Michigan Press).

Digital Projects
Tweets of a Native Son, www.TweetsofaNativeSon.com, a website featuring interactive data visualizations about James Baldwin's digital afterlives.

Essays, Reviews, & Interviews
"Review: Name That Twitter Community!," *Reviews in Digital Humanities*, January 2020.

"Beautifying Beale Street," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, December 2018.

"A Conversation with Cathy Davidson: On the Digital in the Humanities and Her Journey to Revolutionize Higher Ed," *Human Ties*, September 2018.

Fiction
"Unattended Packages," *Chicago Reader*, December 2018.

Editorial Work
"Echoes: Memes, Art, & Collectives on the Internet," *The Spectacle*, July 2019.

Works-in-Progress
"The Goodreads 'Classics': A Computational Study of Contemporary Readers, Amazon, and Crowdsourced Literary Value," with Maria Antoniak, abstract accepted to special crossover issue of *Cultural Analytics* and *Post45*, full article due November 2019.

When Postwar American Fiction Went Viral: Literary Protest, Corporate Profit, and Popular Readers in the Twenty-First Century (book project)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2019 **Emerging Open Scholarship Award, Honorable Mention**
Canadian Social Knowledge Institute
*Awarded for exemplary open scholarship carried out by undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and early stage professionals.

2019 **Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence**
Arts & Sciences, Washington University in St. Louis
*Awarded annually to graduate students in Arts & Sciences who have been nominated for outstanding teaching by their home department.

2018 **Dissertation Fellowship**
Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis
*Awarded annually to six doctoral candidates in the humanities in support of the dissertation.

2018 **Digital Humanities Bursary Scholarship**
The Association for Computers and the Humanities (ACH)
*Awarded to ten early career scholars in support of travel to the Digital Humanities 2018 Conference in Mexico City, Mexico.

2018 **Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship**
Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria

2015-2018 **Digital Approaches Reading Group Grant**
Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis
*Awarded to support the Digital Approaches Reading Group, an interdisciplinary community of Washington University in St. Louis graduate students and faculty that meet to discuss readings, workshop articles, and collaborate on small projects

broadly related to "digital approaches."

2018	**William J. Hill Visiting Researcher Travel Grant** Wittliff Collections, Texas State University
2018	**Everett Helm Visiting Fellowship** The Lilly Library, Indiana University
2015-2017	**Humanities Digital Workshop Summer Fellowship** Washington University in St. Louis *A summer fellowship program where students collaborate with faculty on digital humanities projects.
2017	**National Science Foundation Travel Grant** Internet Archive, San Francisco, CA *Awarded to thirty researchers to support travel to "Archives Unleased," a web archiving workshop for developing open-source tools and approaches to web archives.
2010	**Harriet Schwenk Kluver Prize** English Department, Washington University in St. Louis *Awarded annually to two freshmen for excellence in writing.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2019	**"Documenting Twitter Protest"** American Studies Association Honolulu, HI
2019	**"Working with Twitter Data"** Day of Data – Cornell University Library Ithaca, NY
2019	**"The Crowdsourced 'Classics'"** Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present College Park, MD
2019	**"New Horizons in Network Analysis"** Co-Organizer and Presenter ACH Conference Pittsburgh, PA
2019	**"Mapping the Librotraficante Movement"** Global DH Symposium East Lansing, MI
2019	**"Between Readers: A Short Methodological** **History of Networked Reading"** MLA Annual Convention Chicago, IL
2018	**"James Baldwin, #BlackLivesMatter,**

and Networks of Textual Recirculation"
DH 2018 Conference
Mexico City, Mexico

2018   **"Kurt Vonnegut Unstuck in Time for $1.99:**
            Amazon Kindle Worlds and the Readerly
            Reimagination of Postwar American Fiction"
            Post45 Graduate Symposium
            New Haven, CT

2017   **"Stories of Dissent: Rereading #Ferguson"**
            Panel Organizer and Presenter
            American Studies Association
            Chicago, IL

2017   **"Access"**
            Discussant
            Text Mining the Novel (NovelTM) Workshop
            Montreal, Canada

2017   **"Cultural Analytics"**
            Discussant
            Computational and Data-Intensive Cultural Studies Symposium
            South Bend, IN

2017   "**Geospatial Workshop"**
            Participant
            Text Mining the Novel (NovelTM) Workshop
            South Bend, IN

2017   **"James Baldwin's New Media Readers"**
            Global DH Symposium
            East Lansing, MI

2017   **"Archives Unleashed"**
            Participant
            Web Archiving Workshop for Researchers
            Internet Archive, San Francisco, CA

2017   **"Tweets of a Native Son: James Baldwin**
            and the Literary-Critical Use of a Social Media Archive"
            Midwest Modern Language Association
            St. Louis, MO

TEACHING

Courses Taught as
Primary Instructor

2020   "**Introduction to Cultural Analytics: Data, Computation, & Culture"**
            Cornell University, Information Science

This course will prepare students in the humanities to analyze, interpret, and visualize cultural data—such as novels, movies, tweets, and more—with computational methods. After a basic introduction to the programming language Python, we will cover topics such as data collection and curation through web scraping and data retrieval, text mining, image analysis, network analysis, and data visualization. We will survey and discuss how these computational tools are applied in humanistic research. We will also reflect on the specific problems, challenges, and ethical dilemmas posed by the computational study of culture. This course is specifically designed for students in the humanities who have no previous programming background.

2018   **"Humanities by the Numbers: Essential Readings in the Digital Humanities"**
Co-designed and co-taught with Professor Matt Erlin
Washington University in St. Louis, Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities

Through a seminar and weekly technical lab, this 400-level graduate course introduced doctoral students to current discussions and debates in the digital humanities, as well as tools, methods, and packages—including text mining, network analysis, data visualization, and geospatial mapping.

2017   **"American Fiction in the Social Media Age"**
Washington University in St. Louis, English Department

This 300-level undergraduate course explored how twenty-first-century American writers represent and incorporate forms of new media, mostly focusing on the novel but also considering works that experiment with new media platforms and expand our sense of what literature is and can be. We examined the evolving shape of contemporary American fiction by reading both established writers, such as Ruth Ozeki and Jonathan Franzen, and new emerging voices, such as Ben Lerner and Chimamanda Adichie, and by considering novels from major publishing houses as well as self-published novels and Twitter fiction.

Course website: www.afsma17.com

2015, 2016   **"College Writing 1"**
Washington University in St. Louis, College Writing Program

This introductory writing course for freshmen helped students find their writerly voice and prepared them to enter conversations in a wide range of disciplines with confidence and clarity. We covered a broad spectrum of reading material, from James Baldwin's *Notes of a Native Son* to academic research about anti-aging science, and we tackled an equally broad number of writing genres, from the personal essay to a cumulative final research project. Together we learned to analyze texts, ask meaningful questions, conduct research, cite responsibly, and build complex arguments.

Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant

2016   **"American Fiction From 1945 to the Present"**
Washington University in St. Louis, English Department

Teaching Assistant with Professor Long Le-Khac

This 300-level undergraduate course surveyed American fiction from 1945 to the present with special emphasis on how a rapidly diversifying U.S. gave voice to gendered, classed, and racialized groups that were struggling for inclusion. As teaching assistant, I guest-lectured on Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Vladimir Nabokov's *Lolita*, Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*, and Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. I also graded student papers and held weekly office hours.

SERVICE

2019	**Cultural Analytics Society** Cornell University Co-founder and mentor
2018	**Redesigning Doctoral Education – Curriculum Innovation Committee** Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis Member
2017-2018	**Digital Humanities Drop-in Clinic for Graduate Students** Humanities Digital Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis Founder and Consultant
2017-2018	**Graduate Advisory Panel** English Department, Washington University in St. Louis Convener
2015-2018	**Digital Approaches Reading Group** Washington University in St. Louis Co-founder and Co-convener
2017	**"Responsible Teaching Under a Trump Administration"** English Department, Washington University in St. Louis Co-coordinator
2016	**Faculty Search Committee –** **Assistant Professor in English Literature** **with Specialty in Computational Approaches** English Department, Washington University in St. Louis Member
2014-2016	**Peer Mentor** English Department, Washington University in St. Louis

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python
Programming language

Website development and maintenance

Raw HTML & CSS (web design languages), static-site generators (Jekyll), and content management systems (WordPress)

Software packages
Gephi (network analysis and visualization), Tableau (data visualization), QGIS (mapping), OpenRefine (data cleanup), Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator

JavaScript, some experience
Programming language

D3.js, some experience
JavaScript data visualization library

LANGUAGES

Spanish
Advanced reading and writing, basic speaking