

# Alison Sperling

## Curriculum Vitae

Postdoctoral Fellow  
ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry  
Alison.sperling@gmail.com

### Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Positions

IPODI Fellow, International Postdoctoral Initiative (July) 2020-2022  
Zentrum für Interdisziplinäre Frauen und Geschlechterforschung  
*Center for Women's and Gender Studies*  
Technische Universität Berlin  
*Technical University Berlin*

Postdoctoral Research Fellow 2018-2020  
Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin

### Education

Ph.D. English, Literature and Cultural Theory 2017  
University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee  
Dissertation: “Weird Modernisms”  
Committee: Jane Gallop (chair), Richard Grusin, Jason Puskar, Rebekah Sheldon  
(Indiana at Bloomington), Gerry Canavan (Marquette)

M.A. English Literature, San Francisco State University 2010  
Committee: Geoffrey Green (chair) and Emily Merriman  
Certificate in Reading Composition, San Francisco State University, 2010

May 2005: B.A. English, Philosophy, University of Miami Florida, 2005

### Journal Publications

“Climate Fictions: An Introduction.” *Paradoxa: Studies in World Literary Genres*, Issue 31, forthcoming 2020.

“Weird Temporalities,” co-authored with Jordan Smith-Carroll. *Studies in the Fantastic*, forthcoming Summer/Fall 2020.

“Forum: Area X: Five Years Later.” Editor and Introduction, “On Not Going Home,” *Science Fiction Research Association Review*, p. 22-55, November 11, 2019, Online.

“The Weird and the Queer.” *Collateral: Online Journal for Cross-Cultural Close Reading*, a cluster on “The Weird and the Anthropocene in Jeff VanderMeer,” July 2019.

“Post-Atomic: Alison Sperling and Anna Volmar on the Photography of Donald Weber.” *Kunstlicht, Issue 40*, “Nuclear Aesthetics,” March 2019, pp. 56-70.

“H.P. Lovecraft’s Weird Body,” *Rhizomes: Cultural Studies in Emerging Knowledge*, Issue 31, 2017. Online.

“Second Skins: A Body Ecology of Sickness in *The Southern Reach Trilogy*.” *Paradoxa*, Vol. 28, December 2016.

“Freak Temporality: Female Adolescence in the Novels of Carson McCullers,” *Girlhood Studies*, Vol. 9, Issue 1: “Disability and Girlhood: Transnational Perspectives,” pp. 88-103, March 2016.

### **Book Chapters**

“In *Manifold*: Nuclearity, Feminism, and the Video Art of Emilija Škarnulytė,” forthcoming 2021, edited Andrew Berardini, Sternberg Press.

“Margaret Atwood and Nonhuman Futurity.” *Uneven Futures*, ed. Gerry Canavan, Sean Guynes, and Ida Yoshinaga, NYU Press, forthcoming 2021.

“Ecocritical Approaches to Climate Change and the Body.” *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Body*, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2021.

“Star Trek and Ecology.” *Routledge Companion to Star Trek*. Ed. Sean Guynes-Vishniac, Sabrina Mittermeier, and Stefan Rabitsch. Routledge Press, forthcoming 2021.

“Radiating Exposures.” *Weathering*, ed. Arnd Wedermeyer and Cristoph Holzhey, Cultural Inquiry Series, ICI Berlin Press, forthcoming 2020.

“Love in the Time of the Anthropocene: A Conversation Between Alison Sperling and Jeff VanderMeer.” *Surreal Entanglements: Essays on Jeff VanderMeer’s Fiction*. Routledge Press, forthcoming 2020.

“Queer Ingestions: Weird and Vegetative Bodies in Jeff VanderMeer’s Fiction.” *Speculative Vegetation: Plants in Science Fiction*. Wales University Press, 2020.

“Anthropocene.” *Bloomsbury Handbook of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Feminist Theory*, ed. Robin Goodman. Bloomsbury Press, February 2019.

“H.P. Lovecraft’s Weird Body.” *Lovecraft Annual*, no. 10, ed. S. T. Joshi, pp. 81-103, Hippocampus Press, 2016. (Reprinted journal article).

### **Edited Journal Issues**

“Weird Temporalities.” A special issue of *Studies in the Fantastic*, co-edited with Jordan Smith Carroll, forthcoming 2020.

“Climate Fictions.” A special issue of *Paradoxa: Studies in World Literary Genres*, Forthcoming 2020.

### **Book and Film Reviews**

“ ‘We’re All Damaged Goods Here’: Gender and Shared Trauma in Alex Garland’s *Annihilation*.” *Gothic Nature: New Directions in Ecohorror and the EcoGothic*, forthcoming 2020.

Book Review: *Editing the Soul: Science Fiction in the Genome Age*, Everett Hamner. *Science Fiction Film and Television*, forthcoming 2020.

“On Futurity and Futility: Jeff VanderMeer’s *Dead Astronauts*.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, December 7, 2019.

Book Review: *Against Purity: Living Ethically in Compromised Times*, Alexis Shotwell. *PhiloSOPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism*. SUNY Press, 2019.

Book Review: *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene*, Donna J. Haraway. *EuropeNow*, The Council for European Studies, Columbia University, 2018. Online.

“Acknowledgment is not Enough: Coming to Terms with Lovecraft’s Horrors.” Review of *The Age of Lovecraft*, edited by Carl H. Sederholm and Jeffrey Weinstock, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 2017.

### **Invited Talks**

Interview with Jeff VanderMeer, a public session for The Conference for the Study of the Fantastic and the Arts, March 21, Orlando, FL (upcoming).

M/Others and Future Humans event series, Art Laboratory Berlin, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, Berlin, Germany (upcoming).

“Jeff VanderMeer and the Weird. An invited workshop. University of Ghent, May 2019.

“The New Weird.” Haus der Kulturen der Welt. Berlin, Germany, March 2019.

“Science Fiction and Ecology.” Diffrakt: Zentrum für Theoretische Peripherie. Berlin, Germany, March 2019.

“Nuclear Afterlives: Nonhuman Embodiment in the Anthropocene.” Gerrit Reitveld Academie, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, February 2019.

“The Nuclear Wild.” American Studies Center, University of Warsaw. January 2019.

### **Conference Presentations**

Co-chair: “Weird Temporalities.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 2020 (upcoming).

Chair: “Animal Futures in an Age of Mass Extinction.” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 2020 (upcoming).

“New Materialisms and Politics.” Materialism and Politics Conference, ICI Berlin and Centre Marc Bloch, Berlin, Germany, April 2019.

A Roundtable on Kim Stanley Robinson. Association for Literature and the Environment (ASLE), UC Davis, July 2019.

“Domestication: Toxic Legacies and the Problems of Place.” Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), Toronto, Canada, November 2018.

Chair: “Queer, Nonhuman Care.” National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA), Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Emergent Forms of Queer/Crip Care.” American Studies Association (ASA), Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

Chair: “The Queer Ecologies of *Star Trek: Discovery*.” Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA), Milwaukee, WI, July 2018.

Roundtable on Alex Garland’s *Annihilation*. International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA), Orlando, FL, March 2018.

Roundtable on Plants in Speculative Fiction, International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL, March 2018.

“Temporalities of Collision: Crisis and Melancholia in the Anthropocene.” Society for Science, Literature, and the Arts (SLSA), Tempe, AZ, November 2017.

“Moss Temporality in Contemporary Weird Fiction.” Society for Science, Literature, and the Arts, Tempe, AZ, November 2017.

Co-Chair: “Contamination and the Future Form.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP), Berkeley, CA, October 2017.

“Radioactive Tides: Post-Life After Nuclear Contamination.” Science Fiction Research Association (SFRA), Riverside, CA, June 2017.

“Recovering the World, Ecologies of Scale: Depression and Climate Change in Lars Von Trier’s *Melancholia*.” American Society for Literature and the Environment (ASLE), Detroit, Michigan, June 2017.

“Freak Feminism: Queer Adolescence in the Work of Carson McCullers.” Women’s and Gender Studies Monthly Series (invited), UWM, Milwaukee, 2016.

“Global Weirding:” a Roundtable, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Emory University, Atlanta, 2016.

“Weird Life: Djuna Barnes and the Vegetative Body,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Europe (SLSAeu), University of Stockholm, Sweden, 2016.

Chair: “Weird Literature, Weird Methods: A Roundtable,” MLA, Vancouver, Canada, 2015.

“Weird Modernism: Transformative Bodies, Transformative Sexualities.” Graduate Humanities Conference: Trans\*, Tufts University, Boston, 2013.

“Weird Modernism.” The Weird Conference: Fugitive Fictions, Hybrid Genres, University of London and Birkbeck Center of Contemporary Literature, London, 2013.

“Monstrous Youth: Weird Childhood in Modernism,” MMLA, Milwaukee, 2013.

“Modernism and the Question of Attachment: Intimacy, Affect, and Time,” panel chair, Humanities Education and Research Association (HERA), Houston, 2013.

“Addiction, Queerness, and the Will: A Short Reading of James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*,” Modern Studies Association, Las Vegas, 2012.

Co-chair: “Crossing Boundaries: Knowledge Production and the Question of Democracy,” Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Sorbonne University, Paris, 2012.

“‘The Body (In)Visible’: Trans-Territorial Embodiments,” HERA, Salt Lake City, 2012.

Photographic (Pre)Mediation: Osama Bin Laden’s Death and the Evidences of

Pleasure,” Midwest Popular Culture Association, Milwaukee, 2012.

“Hemingway’s Flight from Civilization and Search for the West: For Whom the Bell Tolls,” HERA, San Francisco, 2011.

“The Orlando Case: Sex, Gender, and the Patriarchal Worlds of Woolf’s *Orlando* and Freud’s *Dora*,” HERA, El Paso, 2010.

“The Idle Detective of Noir - Confronting the Interpretive Limitations of Film Noir,” HERA, Chicago, 2009.

“T.S. Eliot’s Black Mask: Belonging, Identity and Community in the Language and Imagery of Eliot and Noir,” Peaks Conference, Northern Arizona University, 2009.

“Dave Eggers’ Humor in Memoir: Destructive or Instructive?” NEMLA, Montreal, Canada, 2009.

“The Distorted Faces of *Noir*: Measuring the Interpretative Spaces of Film and Literature *Noir*,” Grad. Literature Association Conference, San Francisco State University, 2009.

### **Other Fellowships and Awards**

Tinsley Helton Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship, UWM, Department of English, Spring 2017.

Frederick Hoffman Best Annual Essay Award, “Freak Temporality, Adolescence in the Work of Carson McCullers,” UWM, Department of English, 2015.

Annual Teaching Excellence Award, UWM, Department of English, 2014.

James Sappenfield Fellowship, UWM, Department of English, 2012.

Best Graduate Student Abstract, Northeast Modern Language Association, 2010.

### **Teaching**

Adjunct Lecturer, Santa Clara University (2017-2018)

*Department of Women’s and Gender Studies*: Advanced Writing: “Race, Gender, and Resistance,” Gender and Science and Technology: “Science, Gender, and the Nonhuman” (cross-listed in STS), Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, Introduction to LGBT Studies, LGBTQ literature in the U.S. (cross-listed in English)

Lecturer, UWM (2016)

*Center for LGBT Studies*: Introduction to LGBT Studies

Graduate Teaching Assistant, UWM, (2012-2015)

*Department of English:* Introduction to College Writing, Introduction to College Research Writing, special theme “Writing (in) the Anthropocene,” Introduction to English Studies

Lecturer, UWM (2015)

*Department of Women’s and Gender Studies:* Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies, a Sociological Perspective

Adjunct Instructor, Bryant and Stratton College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (2011)

*Department of English:* Introduction to College Writing I and College Writing II

Teaching Assistant, San Francisco State University (2009-2010)

*Department of English:* Literature and Psychology, World Literature III, Bob Dylan as Literature

### **Service and Other Academic Positions**

Deputy Director, The Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, UWM, 2016, 2017.

Organizer, Midwest Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference (MIGC), UWM, 2014, 2015.

Co-Organizer for Midwest Interdisciplinary Conference (MIGC), UWM, 2013.

Research Assistant, Jane Gallop, Distinguished Professor of English, UWM, 2015-2017.

Project Assistant, The Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies, UWM, 2015-2017.

Assistant Coordinator of Mentoring and Professional Development, First Year Writing Program, UWM, 2014-2015.

Writing Program Administration, UWM, 2014-2015.

Graduate Student Representative, Literature and Cultural Theory, 2013-2014.

Composition Advisory Committee, UWM, 2014-2015.

New Reader Committee for First Year Writing Program, UWM, 2015.

Volunteer, Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Studies Conference, UWM, 2012, 2013, 2014.

Writing Center Tutor, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2010.

Editor of *Interpretations*, San Francisco State University, 2008, 2009.

### **Professional References**

Jane Gallop, Distinguished Professor of English, UWM  
jg@uwm.edu

Richard Grusin, Professor of English, UWM  
grusin@uwm.edu

Jason Puskar, Associate Professor of English, UWM  
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Rebekah Sheldon, Assistant Professor of Feminist Theory, University of Indiana at  
Bloomington  
[RSheldon000@gmail.com](mailto:RSheldon000@gmail.com)

Gerry Canavan, Associate Professor of English, Marquette University  
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