

JOHN ACKER, PHD

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EDUCATION

The Ohio State University

Ph.D., English (Concentration: 19th-Century American Literature), August 2017

M.A., English (Concentration: 19th-Century American Literature), May 2008

- Successfully completed graduate seminars in American & British literature, rhetoric, critical theory, cultural studies, composition & literature pedagogy, and history. Overall GPA: 3.95/4.0.
- Produced and defended a 300-page dissertation, entitled “Surrogate Scriptures: American Christian Bestsellers and the Bible, 1850-1900.” Passed dissertation defense with no revisions.
- Taught undergraduate courses in composition, business writing, and literature. Maintained consistently high student & peer evaluations and developed customized curricula for diverse student populations.
- Delivered several professional conference presentations & invited talks, co-organized a conference that attracted 125 global scholars, and published a book review in a peer-reviewed journal.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

B.A., English and Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*, May 2006

- Double-majored in English and Comparative Literature, with concentrations in American Literature, Postcolonial Studies, and Russian Literature. Maintained a 3.95/4.0 GPA in major courses and a 3.87/4.0 GPA overall.
- Awarded the Delmar Cooke and Raymond Seng scholarship prizes, totaling approximately \$15,000. Both prizes were based on academic essay competitions among English, Creative Writing, and English Education majors.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ohio State University (August 2006–May 2013, August 2018–May 2019)

First-Year Composition (AU 06, AU 07, WI 07, SP 07, SP 08, SP 19)

Second-Year Composition (AU 08, WI 09, WI 10, SP 12, SP 13, SP 19)

Business Writing (WI 08, SU 10, SP 11, AU 12, AU 18)

U.S. Literature to 1865 (AU 10) & 1865–present (WI 11)

The English Bible (SP 09, FA 11)

Introduction to Fiction (WI 12)

Columbus State Community College (August 2013–December 2015)

First-Year Composition (SP 14, SP 15, FA 15 [dual-enrollment])

Second-Year Composition (FA 13, SP 14, FA 14)

Introduction to Fiction (SU 14)

Southeastern University (January 2018–May 2019)

First-Year Composition (SP 18, SU 18, AU 18, AU 20)

Second-Year Composition (SP 18, SP 19)

Introduction to Literature (AU 20)

California State University at San Bernardino (September 2019–May 2020)

First-Year Composition (AU 19, WI 20)

Second-Year Composition (AU 19, WI 20)

Writing in the Natural Sciences (WI 20, SP 20)

University of California at Riverside (September 2020–present)

Management Writing and Communication (AU 20)

PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING EXPERIENCE***Acker Editing & Consulting***

Academic and Business Editor, 2006–present

- Provide diverse proofreading, editing, tutoring, consulting, and professional writing services to meet clients' needs and help them reach their professional goals. Traditionally published projects include memoirs, academic monographs, journal articles, devotionals, and a checkers strategy handbook. See www.ackeredit.com for details.
- Actively participate in several professional editing groups and organizations, including the American Copy Editors Society, Editors' Association of Earth, and Editorial Freelancers Association.
- Developed expertise in many nonfiction genres, including specialties in dissertations, journal articles, monographs, application essays, cover letters, professional correspondence, and technical reports.
- Maintain and expand an extensive global client base, often through word-of-mouth referrals. Repeat clients include graduate students, full-time faculty, research scientists, college and graduate school applicants, authors, and business professionals.

American Checker Federation

Treasurer and Social Media Manager, 2010–2013

- Launched and managed the organization's Facebook page, reaching thousands of fans and potential members. Developed posts and graphics to share match and tournament results, update followers on checkers news, raise funds for major events, and encourage discussion of ways to improve checkers organizations.
- Pioneered a match and tournament webcasting system to connect with an increasingly global member base. Personally broadcast and relayed multiple World Championship Matches to fans all over the world, reaching roughly 100x as many viewers as the average tournament attendance. Consulted with tournament referees and organizers to improve future broadcasts.
- Wrote several professional reports for group leaders and members, including the group's first formal financial report in a decade. Spearheaded a new initiative to create and distribute PDF bulletins to members, significantly increasing efficiency while reducing production costs.
- Organized and hosted two annual National Tournaments (2010 and 2013), refereed two World Championship Matches, and served as publicity and technology assistant for several other tournaments and matches. Led a team of volunteers to scan, transcribe, and publish games from major tournaments. Co-published a new edition of *Basic Checkers*, a classic textbook that was out-of-print.

The King James Bible and Its Cultural Afterlife Conference (Ohio State University, May 2011)

Lead Conference Assistant, 2010-2011

- Collaborated with faculty organizers to co-develop conference themes, organize panels, and structure conference events that would appeal to literary scholars, historians, theologians, and local community members.
- Managed publicity and outreach for conference events. Identified likely attendees, developed calls for papers, advertised conference in professional and community settings, and liaised with campus offices and community businesses to secure conference resources.
- Processed, evaluated, and distributed applications for individual conference panels, corresponded with conference attendees to process registrations and answer questions, and prepared and assembled conference packets for each attendee.
- Provided onsite administrative and technical support to conference speakers and panelists, directed attendees to conference events and campus resources, and managed a team of volunteers to facilitate onsite registration, equipment setup, closing reception, and clean-up.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Surrogate Scriptures: American Christian Bestsellers and the Bible, 1850–1900. 2017. Ohio State University, **PhD dissertation.**

Review of David Lyle Jeffrey and Gregory Maillet, *Christianity and Literature: Philosophical Foundations and Critical Practice.* *Christianity and Literature* 62.1 (Autumn 2012), 145-148. **Book review in scholarly journal.**

“Cross-Examining the Holy Writ: Stephen Guirgis’ *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot.*” Ohio State Department of Theatre. November 2011. Columbus, OH. **Invited lecture.**

“‘Not in Hard Statutes’: Scripture and Paratext in Stowe’s *Footsteps of the Master.*” Mideast Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature. October 2011. Dayton, OH. **Conference presentation.**

“A Capital Governor: Narrative (and) Economy in *The Hidden Hand.*” Rocky Mountain MLA Convention. October 2010. Albuquerque, NM. **Conference presentation.**

“Safe Lions and Startling Figures: Representing Sin in Christian Art.” Christian Graduate Student Alliance. July 2010. Columbus, OH. **Invited lecture.**

“Ishmael’s Calling: Dialogism and Melville’s Use of Genesis.” International Conference on Narrative. April 2010. Cleveland, OH. **Conference presentation.**

“Post-Biblical Approaches to Biblical Narrative.” International Conference on Narrative. April 2010. Cleveland, OH. **Panel chair.**

“The Living Utterance: Bakhtin and Christianity.” Christian Graduate Student Alliance. October 2009. Columbus, OH. **Invited lecture.**

“The Making of Many Books: Christianity and Literary Studies.” Christian Graduate Student Alliance. May 2009. Columbus, OH. **Invited lecture.**

“The Invisible Colleague: Academic Blogging and Scholarly Evaluation.” Ohio State English Graduate Colloquium. Columbus, OH. October 31, 2007. **Conference presentation.**

“The Library as Armory.” Christian Graduate Student Alliance. July 2007. Columbus, OH. **Invited lecture.**