

JOHN ACKER, PHD

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EDUCATION

The Ohio State University

MA, English (Concentration: 19th-Century American Literature), May 2008

PhD, English (Concentration: 19th-Century American Literature), August 2017

Dissertation: *Surrogate Scriptures: American Christian Bestsellers and the Bible, 1850–1900.*

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

BA, English and Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*, May 2006

TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA)

September 2020–present

Course Director and Lecturer, School of Business

- Direct and teach Management Writing & Communication (BUS 100W), a 300–400-student lecture course, to enhance Business majors' professional writing and research skills. Won **2021-2022 Golden Apple Award (\$2500) for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.**
- Transformed course curriculum to emphasize **career-relevant writing skills, professional identity development, and relational audience engagement.** Key genres include resumes, cover letters, emails, memos, and reports.
- Establish and curate an **online archive** of sample business documents, student papers, and web resources **to model good writing and enrich students' knowledge** of business genres.
- Manage a team of **10–15 graduate teaching assistants (TAs) and undergraduate tutors**, to coordinate weekly discussion sections, co-develop writing workshops, and meet students' professional development needs.
- Develop and maintain a **quarterly TA manual**, as well as an archive of previous lesson plans and course materials, to **train TAs in pedagogy and course management.** Co-lead weekly pedagogy meetings with TAs and tutors.
- Achieve **consistently excellent peer and student feedback**, strengthening the course's reputation and increasing its value for the School of Business.

Lecturer, University Writing Program

January 2022-present

- Design and teach **in-person and hybrid courses** in Introductory Composition, Intermediate Composition, and Applied Intermediate Composition.
- Develop **timely course themes** (e.g., Belief in Crisis, Technology & Ethics) to connect course content to students' individual and collective interests and experiences.
- Adjusted course content and delivery to accommodate **online and hybrid instructional modalities**, including extensive use of Zoom and Canvas LMS.
- Secured and maintained excellent student and peer evaluations, earning a **two-year contract renewal after two quarters of employment.**

California State University, San Bernardino (Palm Desert, CA & San Bernardino, CA)

September 2019–May 2020

Lecturer, Department of English and College of Natural Sciences

- Designed and taught **in-person and online courses** in Accelerated First-Year Composition (AU 19 & WI 20), Second-Year Composition (AU 19 & WI 20), and Science Writing (WI 20 & SP 20).
- Utilized course themes and personalized research topics to **boost students' engagement** and help them produce **personally and professionally meaningful work**.
- Developed **in-person and online curricula for Science Writing** course, allowing a seamless transition to digital instruction when COVID-19 closed campus.

Southeastern University Ohio Network (Columbus, OH)

January 2018–May 2019

Lecturer, Department of English

- Taught **in-person, hybrid, and online courses** in First-Year Composition (SP 18, SU 18, AU 18, & AU 20), Second-Year Composition (SP 18 & SP 19), and Introduction to Literature (AU 20).
- Leveraged small class sizes to **provide individualized advice and feedback**, often working with advisors and administrators to **boost student success**.
- Contributed to discussions on **curriculum development and recommended revisions** to improve students' learning experience.

Columbus State Community College (Columbus, OH)

August 2013–December 2015

Lecturer, Department of English | Writing Center Tutor

- Taught **in-person courses** in First-Year Composition (SP 14, SP 15, & FA 15), Second-Year Composition (FA 13, SP 14, & FA 14), and Introduction to Fiction (SU 14).
- Developed lesson plans, readings, in-class activities, and assignments suitable for **a highly diverse student population**, including adult learners, multilingual learners, and dual-enrollment high school students.
- **Expanded Writing Center access** for branch-campus students, offering afternoon & evening tutoring hours to accommodate their schedules.

Ohio State University (Columbus, OH)

August 2006–May 2013, August 2018–May 2019

Graduate Teaching Associate, Department of English (2006–2013)

Senior Lecturer, Department of English (2018–2019)

- Taught **in-person writing courses** in 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), and Business Writing (WI 08, SU 10, SP 11, AU 12, & AU 18). **Returned as a full-time instructor** in 2018–2019 at the request of my former Business Writing supervisor.
- Taught in-person literature courses in U.S. Literature to 1865 (AU 10) & 1865–present (WI 11), The English Bible (SP 09 & FA 11), and Introduction to Fiction (WI 12). **Successfully balanced teaching duties with graduate seminars, MA and candidacy exams, and dissertation writing**.
- Completed four pedagogy training seminars, ranging from three hours to fifteen weeks, to earn **teaching credentials for new courses**. Regularly participated in **pedagogy and professional development** workshops.

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

Academic and Business Editor, 2006–present

- Provide diverse **copyediting, developmental editing, proofreading, tutoring, consulting, and copywriting services** to meet clients' writing needs and **help them reach their professional goals**. Traditionally published projects (see <http://www.ackeredit.com/portfolio>) include memoirs, academic monographs, business nonfiction, journal articles, and Christian devotionals.
- Actively participate in several **professional editing groups and organizations**, including the American Copy Editors Society, Editors' Association of Earth, and Editorial Freelancers Association.
- Leverage **expertise in many nonfiction genres**, including 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 facilitate improvement of checkers organizations.
- Pioneered a **match and tournament webcasting system** to connect with an increasingly global member base. Personally **streamed and relayed multiple World Championship Matches to fans all over the world**, reaching roughly 100x as many viewers as the average tournament. 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 PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

"Meet Your Concentration: Business Writing." UC Riverside Undergraduate Business Association. March 2023. **Invited lecture and resume workshop.**

"Superseding the Caesars: The Magi in *Ben-Hur*." Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference. November 2022. Los Angeles, CA. **Conference presentation.**

"Academic Editing Q&A." UCLA Extension Copyediting Program. November 2022. **Invited lecture.**

"Meet Your Concentration: Business Writing." UC Riverside Undergraduate Business Association. May 2022. **Invited lecture and resume workshop.**

"'Beautiful heresies': Intertextuality in *The Gates Ajar* (1868)." Conference on Christianity and Literature. April 2022. La Mirada, CA. **Conference presentation.**

"From Sinner to St. Clare: Augustine's Bible Reading in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference. November 2021. Las Vegas, NV. **Conference presentation.**

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 2007. **Conference presentation.**

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