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Professor of English

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Virginia, 2003
M.A., English, University of Virginia, 2000
B.A., *summa cum laude* in English, Rutgers University, 1992

BOOKS

On the Digital Humanities: Essays and Provocations. University of Minnesota Press, 2023.

Six Septembers: Mathematics for the Humanist (with Patrick Juola). Zea Books, 2017.

Reading Machines: Toward an Algorithmic Criticism. University of Illinois Press, 2011.

ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

“The Politics of Tools.” *Digital Humanities Quarterly*. 17.2 (2023).

“Machine.” *Further Reading*, edited by Matthew Rubery and Leah Price, Oxford University Press, 2020, pp. 363–371. Oxford Twenty-First Century Approaches to Literature

- “Can Videogames Be Humanities Scholarship?” *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, edited by Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein, University of Minnesota Press, 2019, pp. 36–45.
- “Where Semantics Lies.” *The Shape of Data in Digital Humanities: Modeling Texts and Text-Based Resources*, edited by Julia Flanders and Fotis Janidis, Routledge, 2018, pp. 197–203. Digital Research in the Arts and Humanities.
- “Humane Computation.” *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, edited by Matthew K. Gold and Lauren F. Klein, University of Minnesota Press, 2016, pp. 527–529.
- “Hard Constraints: Designing Software in the Digital Humanities.” *Blackwell Companion to Digital Humanities*, 2nd ed., edited by Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens. Blackwell, 2016, pp. 449–457. [This article was translated and published in China as 硬约束：在数字人文中设计软件 in 2020.]
- (with Leen-Kiat Soh, Duane F. Shell, Elizabeth Ingraham, and Brian Moore).
“Learning Through Computational Creativity: Improving Learning and Achievements in Introductory Computer Science by Incorporating Creative Thinking into the Curriculum.” *Communications of the ACM*. 58.8 (2015): pp. 33–35.
- “The Hermeneutics of Screwing Around; Or, What You Do with a Million Books” *Pastplay: Teaching and Learning History with Technology*, edited by Kevin Kee, University of Michigan Press, 2014, pp. 111–119. [This article was translated into Hebrew by Yael Segalovitz as “טוטיש לש הקיטיונמרה” in “סירפס ווילימ סע הקיטקרפו הירוואית: ילטיגידה ודיעב” in 2020.]
- “Who’s In and Who’s Out” in *Defining Digital Humanities: A Reader*, edited by Melissa Terras, Julianne Nyhan and Edward Vanhoutte, Ashgate, 2013, pp. 239–241. [This article was translated and published in Russian in 2017 (as “Кто внутри и кто вне”) and into Chinese in 2020.]

- “On Building” in *Defining Digital Humanities: A Reader*, edited by Melissa Terras, Julianne Nyhan and Edward Vanhoutte, Ashgate, 2013, pp. 243–245. [This article was translated into Russian (as “О конструировании,”) in 2017, and into Chinese in 2020.]
- “Programming with Humanists: Reflections on Raising an Army of Hacker-Scholars in the Digital Humanities.” *Teaching Digital Humanities: Principles, Practices, Politics*, edited by Brett D. Hirsch, OpenBook, 2013, pp. 227–239.
- (with Geoffrey Rockwell) “Developing Things: Notes Toward an Epistemology of Building.” *Debates in the Digital Humanities*, edited by Matthew K. Gold, University of Minnesota Press, 2012, pp. 75–84.
- (with Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Dan Cohen) “Open Access and Scholarly Values: A Conversation.” *Hacking the Academy: New Approaches to Scholarship and Teaching from Digital Humanities*, edited by Dan Cohen and Tom Scheinfeldt, University of Michigan Press, 2012, pp. 39–47.
- “Interdisciplinary Spaces.” *Hacking the Academy*, edited by Dan Cohen and Tom Scheinfeldt, University of Michigan Press, 2012, pp. 150–152.
- “Algorithms are Thoughts, Chainsaws Are Tools.” *Electronic Book Review*, 21-March-2012.
- (with Soh, Leen Kiat et al.) “Renaissance Computing: An Initiative for Promoting Student Participation in Computing.” *Proceedings of the 40th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE)*, 41.1 (2009): pp. 59–63.
- “Algorithmic Criticism” *A Companion to Digital Literary Study*, edited by Susan Schreibman and Ray Siemens. Blackwell, 2007, pp. 477–491.
- “In Praise of Pattern.” *TEXT Technology*. 14.2 (2005): 177–90.

“Databases.” *A Companion to Digital Humanities*, edited by Susan Schreibman, Ray Siemens, and John Unsworth, Blackwell, 2004, pp. 177–197.

“Toward an Algorithmic Criticism.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 18.2 (2003): 167–174.

“‘On Not Knowing Greek:’ Virginia Woolf and the New Ancient Greece.” *Virginia Woolf: Turning the Centuries*, edited by Ann Ardis and Bonnie Kime Scott, Pace University Press, 2000, pp. 6–10.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Moths in the Machine: Human Agency and the Origins of Software Engineering.” 38th Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, Corvallis, Oregon, August 2025.

Invited panelist. Panel Title: “The (Im)Possibility of a DH Textbook.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, January, 2025.

Invited speaker, “Resilience, Romanticism, and the ‘Techno’ in Techno-Capitalism.” Humanities Center, Brigham Young University, January, 2024.

Interview, “On the Digital Humanities.” New Books Network, September, 2023.

Invited panelist, “30 Years of Digital Humanities at the University of Virginia.” Charlottesville, November, 2022.

Invited speaker, “The Long Way Around: Art and Digital Convergence.” Vanderbilt University, January, 2020.

“Make It More DH.” Panel Title: “Digital Humanities and the Performing Arts: A Collaboration.” Digital Frontiers, University of Kansas, October, 2018.

“Scoring *Schrifftanz Zwei*” Digital Humanities, McGill University, Montreal, August, 2017.

(with Brian Pytlik-Zillig) “Picture to Score: Driving Vector Animations with Music in the XML Ecosystem” Digital Humanities, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, July, 2016.

Keynote address, “Data and Interpretation,” DH Benelux, University of Luxembourg, Belval, June, 2016.

Invited speaker, “The Art of DH.” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh, March, 2016.

Invited speaker, “An Introduction to Audio Synthesis.” University of Pittsburgh, March, 2016.

Invited speaker, “Functional Programming in JavaScript with the Ramda Library.” Digital Scholarship Workshop, University of Pittsburgh, March, 2016.

(with James Coltrain) “Narrative Video Games as Scholarly Public History” Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science. University of Chicago, November, 2015.

Invited speaker, “Code, Games, Puppets, and Kleist.” Northeastern University, April 2015.

Invited speaker, “Data and Interpretation.” Digital Scholarship Day of Ideas: Data. University of Edinburgh, May 2014.

Keynote speaker, “What is a Publisher?” Open Access Week. University of Iowa, October 2013.

Invited speaker, “Stanley and Me: Text Analysis and Literary Criticism.” Loyola University Chicago, December 2012.

“Code-Generation Techniques for Document Collections Interoperability.” Digital Humanities 2012. University of Hamburg, July 2012.

Invited speaker, “What is Data Mining?” Jane Austen and Her Contemporaries (NEH Summer Seminar). University of Missouri, July 2012.

“Centers are People.” Digital Humanities Summit (sponsored by the Committee on Institutional Cooperation). University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2012.

Invited panelist, “The Hot Thing.” *Debates in the Digital Humanities*. Book Launch and Symposium. University of Pittsburgh, April 2012.

Invited speaker, “Where Semantics Lies.” Knowledge Organization and Data Modeling in the Humanities, Brown University, March 2012.

Keynote speaker, “Found: Data, Textuality, and the Digital Humanities.” Sustainable Data from Digital Research: Humanities Perspectives on Digital Scholarship. University of Melbourne, December 2011.

“Code Generation Techniques for Document Collections Interoperability.” Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, November 2011.

Keynote speaker, “Textual Behavior in the Human Male.” Inaugural Symposium of The Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures (The Humanities in a Digital Age), University of Virginia, November, 2011.

Keynote speaker, “What You Don’t Know You Don’t Know: Librarianship and the Robot Uprising.” Joint Annual Meeting of the Mid-America and Southwestern Association of Law Librarians, University of Kansas, November, 2011.

Invited speaker, “Textual Behavior in the Human Male.” Digital Humanities Seminar (speaker series), Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, September, 2011.

Invited speaker, “Prison Art.” Response to *Mining with Criminal Intent*. Digging into Data Challenge Conference, National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC, June, 2011.

“Who’s In and Who’s Out.” Panel Title: The History and Future of Digital Humanities. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, January, 2011.

“The Meandering through Textuality Challenge: Reflections on the Humane Archive.”
Panel Title: Digging into Data: Computational Methods of Literary Research.
Modern Language Association Annual Convention, January, 2011.

Invited speaker, “Care of the Soul.” Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University, October, 2010.

Keynote speaker, “Knowing It When You See It: Humanistic Inquiry in the Age of Big Data” Mind the Gap: Bridging HPC and the Humanities, University of Alberta, May, 2010.

Invited panelist, “Centers of Attention.” Panel Title: Changing Centers of Digital Scholarship: Engaging Students and Faculty. Knowledge Futures Spring Forum, The Claus M. Halle Institute for Global Learning, Emory University, April, 2010

Invited speaker, “The Hermeneutics of Screwing Around.” Brown University, April, 2010.

Invited speaker, “The End of the World: Digital Humanities and the Transformation of the Disciplines.” The Future of Digital Scholarship: Preparation, Training, Curricula (symposium sponsored by the Council on Library and Information Resources), Emory University, April 2009.

“Interoperabiliousness: A Learned Reflection on TEI and Interoperability.” Panel Title: TEI Analytics. TEI Members’ Meeting 2008, King’s College London, November, 2008.

Invited speaker, Inaugural Symposium for the Digital Humanities Initiative at Buffalo. State University of New York at Buffalo, 2008.

Invited speaker, “Rules of the Order.” Tool Development Workshop sponsored by the AHRC-ICT Methods Network. Kings College, London, 2007.

Invited speaker, “Mining on the Fly.” e-Science for Arts and Humanities Research: An Early Adopters Forum, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Champaign, Illinois, 2007.

Published Review, “*Unit Operations: An Approach to Videogame Criticism* by Ian Bogost.” *Literary and Linguistic Computing* 22.3 (2007): 369–70.

“High Performance Computing for English Majors.” Panel Title: High-Performance Computing and Textual Studies. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, 2006.

Keynote address, “TEI: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the DOM.” Text Encoding Initiative Annual Members Meeting, October, 2006.

“Distinguished Speakers: Keyword Extraction and Critical Analysis with Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*.” Digital Humanities 2006, Université Paris-Sorbonne, July, 2006.

Invited speaker, “Computerized Criticism (with Humans).” Brown University, April, 2006; SUNY Buffalo, April, 2006.

“Lies, Damn Lies, and Literary Criticism.” Panel Title: Textual Analysis: What’s Data Got to Do with It? Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, 2006.

“Tamarind: Scholarly Text Analysis.” Panel Title: New Technologies of Literary Investigation: Digital Demonstrations. Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Washington, DC, 2006.

Invited speaker, “The Hermeneutical Project of Computing in the Humanities.” University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 2005.

Invited speaker, “Lists (And Other Low-Level Concerns).” University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE, 2005.

“Mining Shakespeare.” Joint International Conference of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Victoria, 2005.

“The Tamarind Project and D2K.” Panel Title: A Revolutionary Approach to Humanities Computing?: Tools Development and the D2K Data-Mining Framework. Joint International Conference of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Victoria, 2005.

Invited presentation, “The Hamilton Accords.” Text Analysis Summit (Text Analysis Developers Alliance), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2005.

Keynote address, “In Praise of Pattern.” The Face of Text: 3rd Conference of the Canadian Symposium on Text Analysis (CaSTA), McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2004.

“Tool-Time Architectures.” Panel Title: TAPoRware: Simple Portal Tools for Text Analysis. Joint International Conference of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, Göteborg University, 2004.

(with Geoffrey Rockwell, McMaster University), “The Rebecca Game.” Panel Title: Critical Gaming in the Arts and Humanities. Joint International Conference of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, Göteborg University, 2004.

“Cybernetic Constructivism.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Diego, 2003.

Invited presentation, “Distributed Computing in the Humanities: Simple Object Access Protocol vs. Representational State Transfer.” Mellon Digital Tools Meeting, University of Illinois, 2003.

Invited panelist, “The Age of Tools.” Panel Title: Tools Development and Research. IATH 10th Anniversary Symposium. Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia, 2003.

Invited panelist, “Some Historical Considerations Concerning Web Publishing: 1450–2003.” Panel Title: Update on the Globalization and Autonomy Compendium. 2nd Globalization and Autonomy Team Meeting, University of Toronto, 2003.

(with Geoffrey Rockwell, McMaster University), “Writing as Programming as Writing.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Georgia, 2003.

Panel session, “Peer Review of Humanities Computing Software.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers and the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, University of Georgia, 2003.

“OuLiPian Technology.” 20th-Century French Studies Colloquium, University of Illinois, 2003.

Invited speaker, “Leonhard Euler and William Shakespeare.” Department of Mathematics and Computer Science Lecture Series. Middlebury College, Vermont, 2003.

Invited speaker, “How To Do Things (To Texts) with Computers.” McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, 2003.

“Toward an Algorithmic Criticism.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers and the Humanities, University of Tübingen, 2002.

“Relational Ontologies and the New Historicism.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing and the Association for Computers in the Humanities, University of Tübingen, 2002.

Invited panelist, “Lawyers, Hackers, Professors, and Freedom.” Coalition for Networked Information Spring Task Force Meeting, Washington, DC, 2002.

Invited speaker, “The Computer and the Critics.” University of Georgia, 2002.

“Planning Obsolescence: Dynamic Architectures for Digital Scholarship.” Joint International Meeting of the Association for Computers in the Humanities and the Association for Literary and Linguistic Computing, New York University, 2001.

Invited speaker, “The Internet Jitters: Lessons from Technology Revolutions Past.” Sagan National Colloquium Series, Ohio Wesleyan University, 2000.

“The Granby Suite.” eXtreme Markup Technologies, Montreal, 2000.

“Designing Search and Delivery Architectures: The Implications of XML for Scholarship and Dissemination.” Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative, British Library, 2000.

“The Forest and the Trees: Legal Documents as Data.” Law, Business, and Society Meeting, Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University, 2000.

Invited panelist, “Why XML Is Good for Programmers (And Why You Should Care).” American Library Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 1999.

MAJOR RESEARCH GRANTS AND PROJECTS

IC2think. Co-PI on a project devoted to the development of curricular materials for cross-discipline computer science courses. Funded by the National Science Foundation's CPATH program in 2011 (\$600,000) and the iUse program (\$873,251) in 2014.

Abbot. Co-PI on a project aimed at facilitating collections interoperability for humanities materials (in particular, the TCP Collections, which include 70,000 texts from the first two-hundred years of English print culture). Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$250,000).

The MONK Project. Co-investigator (lead at UNL) on a multi-institutional effort to create an infrastructure for data mining and visualization of large literary corpora. Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation (\$900,000).

Evince. Co-PI on a project aimed at designing user interfaces for the inclusion of text-analytical information in richly-encoded humanities documents. Funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$50,000).

Renaissance Computing. Co-PI on a project to develop discipline-specific computer-science curricula (for the humanities, arts, music, engineering, and biology). Funded by the National Science Foundation (\$77,000).

ART, INSTALLATIONS, MIXED MEDIA

The Obstinacy of Ants. Fixed media EP (electronics, tape techniques, drone). June, 2026. <https://stephenramsay.bandcamp.com/album/the-obstinacy-of-ants>

Principal composer and sound designer for *MuMu: Worlds of Connections* (a virtual reality experience aimed at middle school students and focused on the future of sustainable agriculture). This project was created in partnership with UNL's Emerging

Media Arts program and funded through a Science Education Partnership Award (National Institutes for Health). A trailer is available at <https://vimeo.com/1063263127/d59da39853?ts=0&share=copy>

Principal composer for *Shriftanz zwei* (a modern dance piece inspired by early manuscripts containing the choreographic notation of Irmgard Bartenieff (1900–1981)). University of Maryland, 2017.

As Perlin Trio, with Brian Pytlik-Zillig:

Witness. Presented at Vanderbilt University, January, 2020; ACH 2023 (Association for the Computers and the Humanities,) June 2023.

Quonset. Presented at ACH 2021 (Association for Computers and the Humanities), Houston, July 2021.

Aves. Presented at Digital Frontiers, Lawrence, KS, October, 2019.

Muybridge I. Presented at ACH 2019 (Association for Computers and the Humanities), Pittsburgh, July 2019; Person of Interest Symposium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, April 2021.

Crippled Children's Clinic. Presented at Visual Media Workshop, University of Pittsburgh, March, 2016.

Video:

“Algorithms are Thoughts, Chainsaws are Tools” (23:47). *Vimeo*. Invited presentation for the Critical Code Studies Working Group, 2010.

(with Geoffrey Rockwell) “Writing as Programming as Writing” (14:19). *Vimeo*. 2003/2009.

TEACHING

I have been teaching courses—in both English and computer science departments—on programming and software engineering for students in the arts and humanities for over twenty-five years. I also regularly teach courses on drama (including both introductory surveys and upper-division courses on modern theater), game design, and theory of new media, as well as Shakespeare, Bible as Literature, and general literature surveys (pre- and post-1700).

I have been a major advisor on dissertations, Master's theses, and senior theses in English, and have served as an outside reader for advanced degrees in History, Education, Mathematics, Communications Studies, and Music at UNL and in English and Digital Humanities at other institutions in North America and Europe.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member of the editorial board for the journal *Critical Theory* (2023–). Elected member of the MLA Committee on Linguistics and Literature (2020–).

Member of the Steering Committee for the Digital Humanities section of the Big Ten Academic Alliance (2018–2019). Committee A chair for the UNL Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (2014–2018). Coordinator for the Digital Humanities Minor (2014–2015). Coordinator for the Digital Humanities Certificate Program (2012–2013). Elected member of the Executive Council of the Association for Computers and the Humanities (2004–2007), Chair of the ACH Employment Committee, and a member of ACH nominating committee (2004). Member of the Publications Committee for the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations (2005). Member of the Executive Committee for the Discussion Group on Computer Studies in Language and Literature of the MLA (2005–2009).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Susan J. Rosowski Associate University Professorship, 2013–2018.

College of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award, 2013.

Academic Freedom Award (Academic Freedom Coalition of Nebraska), 2009.

Raven Society (University of Virginia), 2000.

LANGUAGES AND TECHNICAL SKILLS

I have developed software architectures and production-level systems in Rust, C, C++, Go, Java, Ruby, Lua, and Perl, and have significant development experience with Common Lisp, Julia, Scheme, Clojure, JavaScript, and Zig. Over twenty years of experience with full-text markup technologies (XML, XSLT, and TEI), server-side UNIX programming, relational database design, web application development, UNIX system administration, and digital audio processing.

Reading knowledge of Ancient Greek, Latin, and Hebrew.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

I am a Fellow at both the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (University of Nebraska-Lincoln). I am also a member of the Association for Computers in the Humanities; the Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations; the Modern Language Association; the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts; and the American Association of University Professors.

ACADEMIC/RESEARCH POSITIONS

Professor, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (August 2025–present).

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (August 2009–present).

Faculty Fellow, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Fall 2006–present).

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (August 2006–August 2009).

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Georgia (August 2002–May 2006).

Senior Programmer, Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, University of Virginia (November 1999–May 2002).

Senior Programmer, Virginia Center for Digital History, University of Virginia (November 1999–July 2000).

Assistant Director, Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia (August 1998–November 1999).