

Curriculum Vitae

Alf Seegert
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Education

PhD, English (British and American Literature), May 2010

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

M.A., English (British and American Literature), May 2004

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

M.S., Philosophy (Environmental Philosophy), August 1998

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

B.S., Philosophy, May 1996

University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

Doctoral Dissertation

Cybercultural Ecologies: Interfacing Nature, Virtuality, and Narrative

Chair: Stephen Tatum. Committee: Vincent Cheng, Joseph Metz, Lance Olsen, Matthew Potolsky

My dissertation examines virtuality and cyberculture through an ecocritical lens, beginning with mid-eighteenth century literature and ranging through aestheticism and modernism to postmodern literature, contemporary film, and new media.

M.S. Thesis: *Ontology Recapitulates Ecology: the Relational Real in Evolution and Ecophilosophy*

B.S. Senior Project: *Heidegger and Questions Concerning Technology and the Scientific World View*

Academic Publications

- "Into the Wilde? Theatricality, Technological Media, and the Lethal Indifference of Nature in Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man*." *Eco-Trauma Cinema* (forthcoming anthology article)
- "Ewe, Robot." *Philip K. Dick and Philosophy* (Popular Culture and Philosophy Anthology, November 2011)
- "Till We Have [Inter]faces: the Cybercultural Ecologies of *Avatar*." *Western Humanities Review* (Summer 2010)
- "Harsh to the Feet of Shadows: The Wild Landscape of the Real in C.S. Lewis' *The Great Divorce* and William Faulkner's 'The Bear.'" *Doors in the Air: C.S. Lewis and the Imaginative World* (Portal Editions anthology, June 2010)
- "Technology and the Fleshly Interface in E.M. Forster's 'The Machine Stops': An Ecocritical Appraisal of a One-Hundred Year Old Future." *The Journal of Ecocriticism* 2:1 (January 2010)
- "'Steam of Consciousness': Technology and Sensation in Dickens' Railway Sketches." *Philament: The University of Sydney's Online Journal of the Arts and Culture* 14: Sense and Sensation (August 2009)
- "'Doing There vs. 'Being There': Performing Presence in Interactive Fiction." *Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds* 1:1 (January 2009)

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Research Awards

- College of Humanities Graduate Research Award (2010)
- Tanner Doctoral Research Fellowship (2009-2010)
- Steffensen Cannon Scholarship (2008-2009)
- Vice-Presidential Fellowship (2004-2006)
- Tanner Graduate Research Fellowship (1997-1998)

Teaching Awards

- Ramona W. Cannon Award for Graduate Student Teaching Excellence (2007)

Professional Activities

- “Technology and Ecology in *Wall-E*.” Faculty Presentation for Environmental Studies Eco-Movie Night, Salt Lake City, 9/2010.
- “Knotty Problems of Narrative Identity in *Tristram Shandy*.” *SCSECS Conference*, Salt Lake City, 2/2010.
- “Cybercultural Ecologies: Interfacing Nature and Virtuality.” *Tanner Humanities Center Work-in-Progress Talk*, Salt Lake City, 2/2010.
- “Virtuality, For and Against Nature in William Morris’ *News From Nowhere* and J.-K. Huysmans’ *A Rebours*,” *RMMLA Conference*, Snowbird, 10/2009.
- “Into the Wilde? Theatricality, Technological Media, and the Lethal Indifference of Nature in Werner Herzog’s *Grizzly Man*,” *ASLE Conference*, Victoria, B.C., 6/2009.
- Panel Moderator for *Confutati Graduate Conference*, Salt Lake City, 4/2009.
- “Mediating Contact with Technology and Flesh in E.M. Forster’s ‘The Machine Stops,’” *UASAL conference*, Salt Lake City, 3/2008.
- “Loving the Land without Becoming the Land: The Intimate Distance of Place-Connectedness in Six Desert Writers,” finalist, outstanding graduate student paper, *WLA Conference*, Boise, 10/2006.
- “Blood, Time and Selfhood: Reinscribing the Boundaries of Identity in Faulkner’s *Light in August*,” *Humanities Graduate Conference*, Salt Lake City, 3/2006.
- “From the Cosmic to the Comic: The Miller’s Astrological ‘Quiting’ of the Knight in *The Canterbury Tales*,” *Confutati Graduate Conference*, Salt Lake City, 2/2006.
- “The Horror of Unbounded Spaces (and Races): Colonial Anxiety and Boundary-Making in *Heart of Darkness* and *A Passage to India*,” *WHA conference*, Tucson, 10/2005.
- “The Problem of Painlessness: Why Deep Ecology Won’t Work Without a Willingness to Feel,” *Humanities Graduate Conference*, Salt Lake City, 3/2003.
- “Pain, Feedback, and the Ecological Self,” *North American Interdisciplinary Conference on Environment and Community*, Ogden, 3/2002.

Teaching Experience

University of Utah Department of English (5/2006-present)

Course Instructor

- English 2040, *Contemporary Literature: Utopia, Dystopia, and Ecotopia*
- English 2220, *Novels and Films: Nature and Virtuality*
- English 2600, 2600 **online**: *Critical Introduction to Literary Forms (both instructor and online course designer)*
- English 3080, *Studies in Environmental Literature*

- English 3600, *Introduction to Critical Theory*
- English 5010, *Studies in Fiction: Virtual Reality and Its Discontents*. My course examines varying responses to the virtual in literature and film, ranging from Platonic philosophy to aestheticism to (post-)cyberpunk.
- English 5050, *Studies in Genre: Nature and Virtuality in Film and Fiction*. My course explores the relationship between nature and virtuality through an ecocritical lens.

University of Utah Writing Program (8/2002-12/2007)

Writing Instructor

- Writing 2010, *Academic Writing and Argument*
- Writing 3200, *Writing for the Research University*

University of Utah Honors Program (8/2010-present)

Honors Course Instructor

- Honors 2102, *Honors Core in Intellectual Traditions: Flowering of the Common Era*
- Honors 2103, *Honors Core in Intellectual Traditions: The Rise of Modernity*

Published Board Game Designs

- *Bridge Troll*. Z-Man Games, 2009.
- *Trollballa*, Z-Man Games, 2011.
- *The Road to Canterbury: a Game of Pilgrims, Pardoners, and the Seven Deadly Sins*. Gryphon Games, 2011.

Bulwer-Lytton Awards

Published finalists in the Bulwer-Lytton bad fiction writing contest:

- “*The Zinfandel poured pinkly from the bottle, like a stream of urine seven hours after eating a bowl of borscht.*” (Dishonorable Mention, Purple Prose)
- “*Wet leaves stuck to the spinning wagon wheels like feathers to a freshly tarred heretic, reminding those who watched them of the endless movement of the leafy earth—or so they would have, if only those fifteenth-century onlookers had believed that the earth actually rotated, which they didn't, which is why it was heretical to say that it did—and which is the reason why the wagon held a freshly tarred heretic in the first place.*” (Dishonorable Mention, Historical Fiction)

Professional References

- Stephen Tatum, Dissertation Chair. Dept. of English, University of Utah, s.tatum@mail.hum.utah.edu
- Lance Olsen, Diss. Committee Member. Dept. of English, University of Utah, lmo@lanceolsen.com
- Scott Black, Former Director of Graduate Studies. Dept. of English, University of Utah, scott.black@utah.edu