

Shawn Gilmore, PhD

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Academic and Public Scholarship

Forthcoming

- Co-editor, with Colin Beineke, *The Comics of Karen Berger: Portrait of the Editor as an Artist* (ed. Colin Beineke), University Press of Mississippi.
- “Art Spiegelman and Modernism: Experimenter, Editor, Critic,” in *The Comics of Art Spiegelman* (eds. Georgiana Banita and Lee Konstantinou), University Press of Mississippi.
- “Comic Guides and Teaching Comics Studies: McCloud, Barry, and Sousanis,” in *Unfurling Unflattening: Tracing Possibilities within Higher Education* (ed. Janine Utell), MIT Press.
- Co-written, with Andrew Bowman, A. Kay Emmert, and Bruce Kovanen, “This is What Solidarity Looks Like: A Model of Thick Solidarity at the University of Illinois,” in *The Invisible Professor: A Blueprint for Adjunct Faculty* (ed. Natalie M. Dorfeld), WAC Clearinghouse.
- Review of Zack Kruse, *Mysterious Travelers: Mysterious Travelers: Steve Ditko and the Search for a New Liberal Identity* (2021), *Inks*.
- Review of David Kunzle, *Rebirth of the English Comic Strip: A Kaleidoscope, 1847-1870* (2021), *Journal of Graphic Novels and Comics*.

In Print and Online (selected)

- “Tower-ing Fiction #17: *The Black Tower* (1987),” *The Vault of Culture* (11 April 2022) [[link](#)].
- Podcast guest, “The History of Strange Experiments (w/ Shawn Gilmore),” *Comics School* (7 December 2021) [[link](#)].
- “On Comics: ‘A Dream of Rorschach’ in *The Question* #17 (1988),” *The Vault of Culture* (23 November 2021) [[link](#)].
- “A Spectre Haunting Stephen King’s America”: Review of *Stephen King and American Politics* (2021) by Michael J. Blouin, *Ancillary Review of Books* (1 September 2021) [[link](#)].
- “Are We Really Supporting the Inclusion of Contingent Faculty in Shared Governance?” *Academe* (Fall 2021) [[link](#)].
- Editor, “On Comics: a U-C Comics Colloquium introduction to *COVID Chronicles* (2021),” *The Vault of Culture* (24 May 2021) [[link](#)].
- Podcast guest, “*Excalibur* #5: Send in the Clowns,” *Oh Gosh, Oh Golby, Oh Wow* (26 March 2021) [[link](#)].
- “State of the Profession: How We (Should) Govern How,” *Academe* (Winter 2021) [[link](#)].
- “Scale and Formal Presentation of *Little Nemo’s* Walking Bed,” *The Vault of Culture* (6 November 2020) [[link](#)].

Review of Paul Williams, *Dreaming the Graphic Novel: The Novelization of Comics* (2020), *Inks* 4.3 (Fall 2020): 357-360 [[Project Muse link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #16: *High Rise* (2015),” *The Vault of Culture* (11 August 2020) [[link](#)].

“Otto Nüchel, *Destiny: A Novel in Pictures* (1926, 1930),” *The Vault of Culture* (6 May 2020) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Chris Ware, ‘Rusty Brown’ in *The ACME Novelty Library* #19 (Fall/Winter 2008, collected 2019),” *The Vault of Culture* (28 January 2020) [[link](#)].

“Mike Butterworth and Don Lawrence, *The Trigan Empire* (1978),” *The Vault of Culture* (20 April 2020) [[link](#)].

“Jules Feiffer, *The Great Comic Book Heroes* (1965),” *The Vault of Culture* (25 June 2020) [[link](#)].

“‘Drake Waller’ (Arnold Drake & Leslie Waller), Matt Baker, and Ray Osrin, *It Rhymes with Lust* (1950),” *The Vault of Culture* (8 May 2020): [[link](#)].

“Don Freeman, *It Shouldn’t Happen— (To a Dog)* (1945),” *The Vault of Culture* (24 April 2020) [[link](#)].

Roundtable review of Chris Ware, *Rusty Brown* (2019), *The Comics Journal* (23 March 2020) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #15: The Shard, *Spider-Man: Far From Home* (2019), *Doctor Who* s07e07 (2013), *The Wicked + The Divine* (2014-19),” *The Vault of Culture* (6 January 2020) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #14: CIA London Black Site, *Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw* (2019),” *The Vault of Culture* (13 November 2019) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Cole Pauls, *Dakwākāda Warriors* (2016-19),” *The Vault of Culture* (11 November 2019) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #13: Osaka Tower, *Glass* (2019) and Sivana Tower, *Shazam!* (2019),” *The Vault of Culture* (28 October 2019) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Jillian Tamaki, ‘SexCoven,’ in *Frontier* #7 (2015),” *The Vault of Culture* (4 October 2019) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #12: The Continental, *John Wick* franchise (2014-),” *The Vault of Culture* (23 September 2019) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Emil Ferris, *My Favorite Thing is Monsters* (2017),” *The Vault of Culture* (16 September 2019) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #11: The Aerium, *Altered Carbon* (2018-),” *The Vault of Culture* (9 September 2019) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas, *Red: A Haida Manga* (2009) and Alan Moore & JH Williams III, *Promethea* #32 (2005),” *The Vault of Culture* (26 August 2019) [[link](#)].

“Tower-ing Fiction #10: The Seven/Vought Tower, *The Boys* (2019-),” *The Vault of Culture* (16 August 2019) [[link](#)].

“On Comics: Fiona Smyth, ‘Skin of Fate,’ in *Nocturnal Emissions* #3 (1991) & #4 (1992),” *The Vault of Culture* (9 August 2019) [[link](#)].

Review of David Kunzle, *Cham: The Best Comic Strips and Graphic Novelettes, 1839-1862* (2019), *International Journal of Comic Art* 21.1 (Spring/Summer 2019): 790-804.

“Tower-ing Fiction #9: Glass Tower, *The Towering Inferno* (1974),” *The Vault of Culture* (12 June 2019) [[link](#)].

- “Academics on *Avengers: Endgame*,” *Sequart* (8 June 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #8: ‘Monster Building,’ *Transformers: Age of Extinction* (2014), *Ghost in the Shell* (2017), *White Dragon/Strangers* (2018),” *The Vault of Culture* (21 May 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #7: LexCorp Tower and Wayne Financial, *Man of Steel* (2013), *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice* (2016),” *The Vault of Culture* (10 May 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #6: The Pearl, *Skyscraper* (2018),” *The Vault of Culture* (1 May 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #5: Petronas Towers, *Entrapment* (1999),” *The Vault of Culture* (16 April 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #4: 101 Park Avenue, *Entrapment* (1999), *Marvel’s The Avengers* (2012), *Gremlins 2* (1990),” *The Vault of Culture* (2 April 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #3: Triskelion, *Captain America: Winter Soldier* (2014),” *The Vault of Culture* (3 March 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #2: CNS Building, *Spectre* (2015),” *The Vault of Culture* (1 January 2019) [[link](#)].
- “Tower-ing Fiction #1: Beverly Heights apartment building, *Volcano* (1997),” *The Vault of Culture* (14 December 2018) [[link](#)].
- “Forming a Union: The Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition, Local 6546 at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign,” *Professors in the Gig Economy: Unionizing Adjunct Faculty in America* (ed. Kim Tolley), Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018.
- Review of Andrew Hoberek, *Considering Watchmen: Poetics, Property, Politics* (2014), *American Literary History* Online Review series [[link](#)].
- Roundtable review of Chris Ware, *Building Stories* (2012), *The Comics Journal* [[link](#)].
- “Public and Private Histories in Chris Ware’s *Jimmy Corrigan*,” *The Comics of Chris Ware: Drawing is a Way of Thinking* (eds. David M. Ball and Martha B. Kuhlman), University Press of Mississippi, 2010.
- “The ‘Double Exposure’ of History in Evan S. Connell’s *Mrs. Bridge and Mr. Bridge*,” *Journal of American Studies* 42.1 (2008): 67-87.

Public Scholarship

I am the founder and editor of a website devoted to publishing public scholarship, *The Vault of Culture*, which features the work of a range of scholars and lay writers, including some of my own work. *The Vault of Culture* operates with the following description: “an edited, semi-scholarly space devoted to publishing a wide range of approaches to a variety of cultural objects, from comics to film to novels to video games and everything in between.”

Conferences and Talks

- “The *other* history of comics”: The Counterarchival Impulse in Comics,” *Comics Studies Society*, Michigan State University (July 2022).
- Expert presenter, “Creating Minimum Standards for Employing Contingent Faculty in the Profession,” *American Political Science Association* (September 2021).
- Moderator, “The Works of Dennis O’Neil” panel, *Comics Studies Society*, online (August 2021).

- “Goethe’s *Theory of Color* as Early Abstract Comic?” *Caricature, Cartooning, & Comics*, The Ohio State University, online (June 2021).
- Moderator, “Shared Governance and Contingency,” *AAUP Shared Governance Conference*, online (June 2021).
- “Containing the Canon: The Impact of Disney’s Acquisition on Canonicity in the *Star Wars* Franchise,” *Realizing Resistance II*, online, (May 2021). [[watch](#)]
- Moderator, “These are the Para-Texts You’re Looking For!” *Realizing Resistance II*, online (May 2021). [[watch](#)]
- “Shared Governance and Contingent Faculty,” with Mark Criley, *AAUP Webinar* (February 2021). [[watch](#)]
- “From Cosmic Treadmills to Quantum Owlships: Jumping Realities in Superhero Comics,” *Flyover Comics Symposium*, online (September 2020).
- Moderator, “Approaches to Graphic Medicine,” *Flyover Comics Symposium*, online (September 2020).
- Moderator, “The Means of Production,” *Flyover Comics Symposium*, online (September 2020).
- “Falling Into Art: The Uses of Fine Art in Comics,” *MSU Comics Forum*, Michigan State University (February 2020).
- “War!!! What is it Good For (in Comics)?” *Comics Studies Society*, Ryerson University, Toronto (July 2019).
- “What to do with Franchise Comics,” *Comics Studies Society*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (August 2018).
- “Getting into Popular Culture,” Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (April 2015).
- Response to Thomas A. Bredehoft’s “The Visible Text: Textual Production and Reproduction from Beowulf to *Maus*,” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (October 2013) ([link](#)).
- Moderator, “Gaming/Game Culture” panel, *Imagining Alternatives: A Graduate Symposium on Speculative Fictions*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (October 2013).
- “*Jimmy Corrigan*: The Presentation of History in Sequential Art,” *Midwest Modern Language Association*, Cleveland, Ohio (November 2007).
- “Building a New Narrative Universe, London 1898: The Re-Opening of Victorian Fiction Under the Guise of the Graphic in Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill’s *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*,” *Visual Culture: Image, Icon, Ideology*, Kansas State University (March 2005).
- “From the Victorian Novel to 21st Century Film: Alan Moore’s *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen* as a Graphic Mediation of the ‘Heroes’ of Victorian Literature,” *Negotiating the Intersections of Art and Text*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (September 2004).

Education

Degrees earned

2013 PhD, English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“The Invention of the Graphic Novel: Underground Comix and Corporate Aesthetics”

My dissertation established a new history and genealogy of the *graphic novel* as a publication format, showing its emergence from the mid-twentieth-century collision of underground comix and corporate comic books. In so doing, I argue that the codification of the graphic novel allows for new visual narratives that fulfilled the formal promises of Modernist aesthetics, presented in a medium once derided as the nadir of the Culture Industry: comics. [[link](#)]

Director: Michael Rothberg

Committee: James Hansen, Stephanie Foote, Cary Nelson

Degrees earned

2004 MA, English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2002 BA, English, Truman State University

2002 BS, Physics, Truman State University

Research and Teaching Interests

Comics Studies; American Literature and Culture of the 20th and 21st Centuries; Popular Culture; Modernisms and Postmodernisms; Media Franchises; Narratology; Fiction Across Media; Labor and Union Organizing; Shared Governance

Awards and Honors

Department of English Award for Outstanding Teaching by Instructional Staff: Spring 2014; finalist for College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching: Spring 2014 (nominated again Spring 2015)

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent: 25 courses, Fall 2003 – Spring 2022 (14 literature courses, 11 professional writing courses) [[source](#)]

University of Illinois competitive fellowships: Spring 2008, Summer 2008.

Teaching Experience

* UIUC List of Teachers Ranked Excellent by Their Students

Literary Studies and Comics Studies Instruction

Introduction to Comics Studies: Spring 2022, Spring 2021, Fall 2019

A course primarily for non-English majors, designed to introduce key examples of graphic narrative from a variety of genres, creators, and origins, as well as methods for studying these comics.

Campus Honors – Introduction to Fiction: *Weird Bodies, Spaces, Times*: Fall 2020

A campus honors version of an advanced composition course for non-English majors, focusing themes of weird bodies, spaces, and times, in fiction across media—prose, film, graphic narrative—and the craft of analytic prose writing.

Critical Approaches to the Literature and Texts: Spring 2019*, Spring 2014*

An upper-level course for English majors, focusing on a range of theoretical approaches to literary studies, ranging from the nineteenth century to the present, with special emphasis on the genealogies of various schools of thought and their interrelations.

Introduction to Fiction: Fall 2018, Spring 2018, Spring 2015*, Fall 2013*, Spring 2010*, Fall 2009, Summer 2009*, Fall 2005*

An advanced composition course for non-English majors, focusing on fiction across media—prose, film, comics—and the craft of analytic prose writing.

Writing About Literature: The Haunted, Weird Story: Fall 2016

An upper-level course for English majors, focusing on the methods of and motives for writing about literature; special topic on haunted and weird fiction, focusing on the evolution of standard tropes and the generic intersections found in fiction with haunted and weird themes.

The American Novel to 1914: Fall 2015

A course primarily for English majors, tracing the development of the American novel from the 1700s to the start of World War I, emphasizing a range of authors, genres, and forms.

Writing About Literature: The Rise of the Graphic Novel: Spring 2013*

An upper-level course for English majors, focusing on the methods of and motives for writing about literature; special topic on the origins and evolution of long-form graphic narratives, culminating in the late-twentieth-century emergence of the graphic novel.

Independent Study: Comics of Grant Morrison, Warren Ellis, Brian K. Vaughan: Summer 2013

An upper-level study of three contemporary comics creators, generated from student interest, including multiple comics series, with a focus on the specific methodological practices of contemporary comics studies.

Major Authors: Alan Moore: Spring 2012*

An upper-level course for English majors, focusing on the works of comics writer Alan Moore, with an emphasis on his manipulation of comics' formal properties; the first course dedicated to a single comics artist in UIUC's English department.

Writing About Literature: Literary Graphic Narratives: Fall 2010*

An upper-level course for English majors, focusing on the methods of and motives for writing about literature; special topic on formally and stylistically experimental prose and visual fiction of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

The Short Story: Fall 2008

A humanities core course for non-English majors, focusing exclusively on the short story, its formal properties, and wide variety.

Introduction to American Literature: Spring 2007

A humanities introductory course for non-English majors, surveying the entirety of American literary history, from the colonial era to the present.

Introduction to Literary Studies: Fall 2006*

The initial course in the English-major sequence, focusing on literary methods and the practice of constructing analytic and critical literary arguments.

Professional Writing Instruction

Principles of Business Composition: Fall 2002 – Spring 2022*

An advanced composition course serving a diverse range of majors, focusing on professional composition and the relationship between academic and business prose.

Principles of Technical Composition: Spring 2018*, Spring 2015*

An advanced composition course serving a range of technical majors, focusing on technical composition and practical aspects for longer-form composition.

Professional Writing, Special Topic: Visual & Verbal Rhetoric: Fall 2004

An advanced composition course for non-English majors, focusing on the analysis of visual

and verbal rhetoric across a variety of fields.

Teaching Assistance and Grading

Early American Literature, to 1870: Spring 2009, TA for Bruce Michelson*; Fall 2007, TA for Christopher Freeburg*; Fall 2004, TA for Leon Chai

Early British Literature, to 1798: Spring 2006, TA for Lori Newcomb*

Introduction to Short Fiction: Fall 2003, grader for Robert Markley

Academic Employment

Employment

Senior Lecturer, University of Illinois, Department of English: Fall 2016 – present

- Director of Specialized Faculty: Fall 2021 – present

Lecturer, University of Illinois, Department of English: Fall 2013 – Spring 2016

- Assistant Director, Programs in Professional Writing: Fall 2014

Instructor, University of Illinois, Department of English: Fall 2010 – Spring 2013

Graduate Student, University of Illinois, Department of English: Fall 2002 – Spring 2010

- Teaching Assistant, Department of English: Fall 2002 – Spring 2010
- Research Assistant for Gordon Hutner: Fall 2008 – Spring 2010
- Assistant Director, Programs in Professional Writing: Fall 2006 – Spring 2007
- Research Assistant for Michael Rothberg: Summer 2006
- Program Coordinator, Programs in Professional Writing: Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition, Local #6564 (AFT/IFT, AAUP)

Secretary: May 2017 – present

President: December 2014 – May 2017

Charter member: July 2014

Service and Other Projects

UIUC Academic Senate Service

Chair, Committee on University *Statutes* and Senate Procedures: Fall 2017 – present; member, Fall 2016 – Spring 2017

Senate Executive Committee member: Fall 2017 – present

English Department senator: Fall 2014 – Spring 2020

UIUC English Department

Chair, Committee on Specialized Faculty: Fall 2021 – present

Specialized Faculty Hiring Committee diversity advocate: Spring 2022

Specialized Faculty Hiring Committee member: Summer 2021

Committee on Specialized Faculty: Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

ad hoc Bylaws Committee member: Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

Non-Tenure-Track Faculty Advisory Committee representative: Fall 2013 – Spring 2014, Fall 2015 – Spring 2016

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee: Fall 2014 – Spring 2016

Non-Tenure-Track *ad hoc* committee: Fall 2014 – Spring 2015

Chair, Critical Aesthetics Reading Group (Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities): Fall 2006 – Spring 2007; Bartholomew Brinkman, co-chair

Programs in Professional Writing Curriculum Committee: Spring 2005

Programs in Professional Writing Textbook Committee: Spring 2004

American Association of University Professors

Committee on College and University Governance member: Fall 2020 – present

Chair, investigatory committee, looking at potential shared governance and academic freedom violations at an undisclosed Southern college: 2022

Chair, censure recommendation committee, offering a recommendation on the lifting of censure from an undisclosed major state university: 2021

Conference co-organizer, AAUP Shared Governance Conference, online: June 2021

Comics Studies Society

Chair, Comics Studies Society Article Prize subcommittee: 2022

Chair, Comics Studies Society Gilbert Seldes Prize for Public Scholarship subcommittee: 2021

Founding Member: 2017

Conference Organizing

Realizing Resistance II, online: May 2021

Flyover Comics Symposium, online: September 2020

Editorial Projects

Editorial work: various articles and book projects for Mary Pat McGuire, landscape architect

Endnotes and editorial work: *The Selected Speeches and Writings of Theodore Roosevelt*. Edited by Gordon Hutner. Vintage, 2014.

Endnotes and bibliography: Sinclair Lewis' *Babbitt*. Edited by Gordon Hutner. Oxford World's Classics, 2010.

Index and proofreading: *Cary Nelson and the Struggle for the University*. Edited by Michael Rothberg and Peter Garrett. State University of New York Press, 2009.

References

Michael Rothberg

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Literature, 1939 Society Goetz Chair in
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