

Steven A. Nathaniel, PhD

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor—Interdisciplinary Studies, Grand Valley State University, 2022-

Visiting Lecturer—Department of English, Indiana University, 2021-2022

EDUCATION

Indiana University

Ph.D. English Language and Literature, February 2021
Minor, Science and Literature

Eastern Illinois University

M.A. English Literature, May 2015
Thesis: “The Lyric and the Lathe: Dreams of Perfect Poetic Efficiency, 1800-1917”

University of Dayton

B.A. Mechanical Engineering, cum laude, 2010
Double Major: English Literature

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Twentieth-Century Transatlantic Literature, Science and Technology Studies, African American Literature and Culture, Sound Studies, Digital Humanities, Film Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Muting Modernism: Sonic Technique and the Culture of Silence. Book manuscript, Cambridge University Press, out for reader reports

“Hearing Things: Gloria Naylor’s *1996*, Havana Syndrome, and the Acousmatic Fantasy,” *Surveillance & Society* (in press)

“T.S. Eliot, Black Musicality, and the Inaudible Past,” *The Sound of the Past: Modernist Echoes and Incantation*, Vernon Press (in press)

“Telegraphic Surveillance, Psychic Dislocation, and the Data of Black Biography,” *Arizona Quarterly* 80.1, Spring 2024

“Zora Neale Hurston, Anthropometrist,” *Modern Fiction Studies* 64.4, Winter 2023

“‘Wire with something in it from men to men’: Robert Frost, the Rural Telephone Network, and the Poetics of Eavesdropping” *Modernism/Modernity* 30.3, November 2023

- Winner of the Lesley Lee Francis Award for best essay in Frost studies, Robert Frost Society, 2024

“Rhythmic Impersonality: The Legacy of Modernist Racialism in Zadie Smith’s *Swing Time*,” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction* 63.3, 2022

“Virginia Woolf, Anechoic Architecture, and the Acoustic Hermeneutic,” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 54.1, June 2021

“Engineering the Ideal: Applied Modern Poetics as Applied Modern Science,” *European Journal of English Studies* 22, Summer 2018

REVIEWS

Nicoletta Ascianto, *Brilliant Modernism: Cultures of Light and Modernist Poetry* (Johns Hopkins 2025), *The Review of English Studies* (forthcoming)

Julie Beth Napolin, *The Fact of Resonance: Modernist Acoustics and Narrative Form* (Fordham 2020), *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 54:3

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University

- War, Trauma, and Technology, HNR 152, Fall 2025
- Interdisciplinary Research Methods, INT301 LEADS, Winter 2025
- Social Media in Culture, DS350 (OL), Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- Climate Change in Popular Culture, ENS 242, Winter 2024
- Introduction to African American Studies, AAA201, Winter 2024
- Social Media in Culture, DS350, Fall 2022 – Fall 2024
- Diversity in the United States, INT 201, Fall 2023
- Introduction to African American Studies, AAA201 (OL), Fall 2023
- Digital Identities and Communities, DS201, Spring 2023
- Interdisciplinary Research Methods, INT301 (Hybrid) Fall 2022
- Interdisciplinary Research Methods, INT301, Fall 2022 – Fall 2024
- Interdisciplinary Research Methods, INT301 (OL), Fall 2022, Fall 2024

Visiting Lecturer, Indiana University, Bloomington

- “Narrating Sonic Subculture,” Introduction to Fiction, L204, Fall 2021
- “From Dialect to Data,” Introduction to Poetry, L205, Fall 2021

Guest Lecturer, Indiana University, Bloomington

- “Feminism and Experimental Form,” Twentieth-Century American Poetry, L357, Spring 2020
- “Tropes,” Introduction to Poetry, L205, Spring 2020

Co-teacher, Indiana University, Bloomington

- “Modernism and Metropolis,” Literary History 3: Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries: L316, Spring 2018

Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington

- “Rhythm, Race, and Recording,” Introduction to Poetry, L205, Fall 2020
- Introduction to Fiction, L204, Spring 2019
- Professional Writing Skills, W231, Fall 2018
- “Race and Media,” Introduction to Composition, W131, Spring 2017- Fall 2017
- “Human Efficiency,” Introduction to Composition, W131, Fall 2016

Teaching Assistant, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston

- Introduction to Composition, ENG 1001, Spring 2015
- Professional Writing, ENG 3001, Fall 2014
- Writing Center Tutor, 2013-14

CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

Organizer and Web Developer, *Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference*, July 2026, Loughborough, UK

Seminar Leader, “Media Infrastructures,” *Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference*, October 9-12, 2025, Boston

Panel Chair, “Modernist Materials, Modernist Mechanics: The Infrastructures and Ecologies of the American City and its Literature,” *Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference*, October 9-12, 2025, Boston

Organizer and Web Developer, *Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference*, October 9-12, 2025, Boston

Organizer and Web Developer, *Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference*, November 7-10, 2024, Chicago

Program Chair, *Granfalloon: A Kurt Vonnegut Convergence*, academic conference and arts festival, 2019, Bloomington, IN

Program Chair, *Granfalloon: A Kurt Vonnegut Convergence*, academic conference and arts festival, 2018, Bloomington, IN

PAPERS PRESENTED (SELECTED)

“Fluid Encounters: Hydrological Psyche of the Midwestern Underground Railroad,” Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Valley State University, October, 2025

“wires / Whisper?: WWI and the Encoded Atlantic,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, February, 2025

“Gertrude Stein, Personality Type, and the Facial-Recognition Algorithm,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, October 7-10, 2024

“Modernist Academia and the Intractable Zora Neale Hurston,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, October, 2023

“‘Apparatus Rampant’: Oscar Micheaux and the Cinema’s Ellipsis,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, February, 2023

“Dorothy West’s ‘The Typewriter’ and the Racialized Labor of Speech Recognition,” SLSA 2022 Annual Meeting, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Purdue University, October, 2022

“Migration Re(-)wound: The Elliptical Narration of Trauma in the films of Oscar Micheaux,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2021, (deferred)

“Havana Syndrome and the Poetics of Auditory Hallucination,” Society for Literature Science and the Arts, Ann Arbor, MI, September 2021

“‘Permeated by their creative force’: Virginia Woolf and the Acoustics of Feminist Professionalism,” 30th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf, Vermillion, SD, June 2021

“‘Hushed as when they were a thought’: Amy Lowell and Robert Frost Imagining Listening,” Louisville Conference on Literature & Culture Since 1900, Louisville, KY, February 2019

“Geophonic Listening and the (Occulted) First World War,” Tuning Speculations VI: Auscultations | Occultations, Listening to the Occult, Bloomington, IN, November 2018

“‘An Eerie Hubbub’: Exclamation and Enervation in Post-War Absurdism,” Catastrophe! Living and Thinking Through the End Times, Indiana University English Graduate Conference, Bloomington, IN, March 2018

“What’s your Problem (of Modern Aesthetics)?: Stanley Cavell Creates a Paratactic Poetics,” Creativity: SLSA, 30th National Conference, Atlanta, GA, November 2016

“Gertrude Stein Eats the Ordinary,” Digesting Discourses: Taste, Appetite, and Consumption, Indiana University English Graduate Conference, Bloomington, IN, March 2016

“Flirting with the War Machine: Technology and Scientific Abstraction in *Blast*,” Fluid: SLSA, 28th National Conference Society for Science, Literature and the Arts, Dallas, TX, November 2015

“The Subjugated Secret: Opening Ishiguro to Inaction,” Eastern Illinois University Graduate Symposium, Charleston, IL, November 2013

SELECTED AWARDS

Lesley Lee Francis Award in Frost Scholarship, 2024

J.A. Robbins Memorial Prize, 2020

- For the best student in American literature and culture, Indiana University

Nomination, Award for Outstanding Teaching, Dept. of English, Indiana University, 2015-16

Master’s Thesis Award of Excellence, Eastern Illinois University, 2014

- College’s highest graduate thesis award

Graham R. Lewis Memorial Slam Competition Finalist, Eastern Illinois University, 2014

King Mertz Research Award of Excellence, Eastern Illinois University, 2013

- College's highest award for non-thesis graduate research

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dean's Innovation Grant, 2025

- \$7000

School of Interdisciplinary Studies Collaboration Grant, 2024

- \$2000

Summer URA Grant, Grand Valley State University, 2023

- \$9000

Brooks College Collaboration Grant, 2023-23

- \$2500

Pew FTLC Teaching Innovation Grant, Grand Valley State University, 2023-24

- \$6000

Pew FTLC Faculty Conference Grant, Grand Valley State University, 2022, 2023

Visiting Lectureship, Indiana University, 2021-22

Susan D. Gubar Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2020

Louise McNutt Dissertation Fellowship, Indiana University, 2019-20

- \$18,000 stipend, tuition remission

T.S. Eliot International Summer School Fellowship, 2019

International Travel Award, Department of English, Indiana University, 2019

Research Assistantship, Arts and Humanities Council, Indiana University, 2018-19

Clifford Flanigan Memorial Travel Award, Indiana University, 2016

McNutt Recruitment Fellowship, Indiana University, 2014-15

- \$18,000 stipend, tuition remission

Indiana University Assistant Instructorship and Fellowship, 2014-20

Williams Travel Grant, Eastern Illinois University, 2014

DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Webmaster, Modernist Studies Association (2023-2026)

- I have begun a complete redesign of the organization's website, with an eye toward accessibility and inclusivity. My work has also included overhauling digital communications, designing a CFP website, managing website content, surveying conference participants, and analyzing survey data.

Designer, Analyst, *Bound for Glory: Transit Technologies of the Underground Railroad* digital project (2022-present)

- The *Bound for Glory* project enables students and scholars to study the narratives of freedom seekers journeying through the Midwest enroute to the hope of home in Canada. By visualizing these stories' geographic movements through its web platform, the project encourages students to remember the crucial role that environment and infrastructure played in this local history. Through the website, this history lives and grows, as young scholars and experienced researchers collaborate to explore Michigan's role in abolition, emancipation, and the work yet to be done.

Computational Linguistics

- I studied in the linguistics department at IU, developing software for the analysis of sound patterns in poetry. I worked with a team of computer scientists to design an innovative algorithm for assessing phonetic clustering. I crafted modules that parsed syntax, syllabified text strings, applied time signatures, and measured the relative consonance of phonemes.

Sonic Modelling

- I conducted an independent study through IU's cognitive science department, assessing the applicability of Dynamical Systems Theory to models of phonetic analysis. I trained in computational software, including *Mathematica* and *Dynamica*. Presently, I am integrating this research in an article on LANGUAGE poetry and Dynamical Systems Theory.

Engineering/Programming

- I have worked as a mechanical engineer in aerospace and defense industries. My primary responsibilities included data analysis and the use of computational software. I am proficient in a variety of programming languages, including Python, VBA, Matlab, Wolfram, and numerous natural language processing applications.

Science and Literature

- My Ph.D. includes an official minor in science and literature, which I fulfilled through a self-guided research inquiry into the relationship between traditional literary methods and digital methods of phonetic analysis.

Digital Humanities Reading Group

- I participated in IU's wonderfully interdisciplinary digital humanities group from 2015-2016. Special topics included network mapping and analysis, digital feminism, and cartography.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTION

Internship Coordinator Bylaws Review

- Committee Chair, approximate 15 hours spent for the year (August 2025 – November 2025)

Academic Technology Advisory Committee

- Committee Member, approximately 6 hours spent for the year (February 2023 - Present).

OSCCR Conduct Pool

- Committee Member, approximately 6 hours spent for the year (August 2023 - Present).

INT/WGS Tenure-track Search Committee

- Committee Member, approximately 35 hours spent for the year (August 2024 - May 2025).

SIS Faculty Mentoring Task Force

- Committee Member, approximately 6 hours spent for the year (September 2024 - present).

Gen Ed Assessment - DS350

- Assessment Coordinator, approximately 6 hours spent for the year (August 2024 - January 2025).

INT 495 LEADS Breakout Session

- Faculty Mentor, approximately 4 hours spent for the year (November 23, 2024).

INT301 LEADS Synchronous Meeting

- Workshop Organizer, approximately 3 hours spent for the year (August 2024 - October 2024).

Gen Ed Assessment - AAA201

- Sustainability Working Group

English Dept. Community Service and Public Outreach Coordinator, Indiana University, 2017-18

Incoming Graduate Student Mentor, Dept. of English, Indiana University, 2017-2018

Poetry Editor, *The Vehicle*, Eastern Illinois University, 2014, 2015

Professional Development Panelist, Eastern Illinois University Graduate Conference, April 2016

Writing Center Statistician, Eastern Illinois University, 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society for Literature, Science and the Arts

Modernist Studies Association

Surveillance Studies Network

LANGUAGES

Native Fluency: English

Reading Proficiency: German

Reading/Elementary Knowledge: Italian

ALT-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

Goodrich Wheels and Brakes, 2010-2011

Mechanical Engineer

- Technical Writing- published regular reports and proposals, edited technical and business documentation
- Analysis- conducted empirical studies, analyzed data, utilized computational software
- Design- designed aircraft wheels and brakes for aircraft
- Project management- worked with engineers and technicians, organized materials and resources, maintained budgets and supply chain
- Communication- presented research findings, coordinated technical and production staff, led regular meetings