

# Dwight Tanner

## EDUCATION

**Ph.D.**, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of English and Comparative Literature

May 2020

Dissertation: “In the End: Apocalypse, Minoritarian Identity, and Hopeless Futurity”  
Committee: Jennifer Ho (dir.), GerShun Avilez, Aimee Bahng, Heidi Kim, and John McGowan

**B.A.**, Utah Valley University  
Department of English Literature

April 2011  
Summa Cum Laude

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2021-2024     **Department of English**  
Appalachian State University  
*Adjunct Instructor, 2023-2024*  
*Visiting Assistant Professor, 2021-2023*
- 2020-2021     **Department of English**  
Winston-Salem State University  
*Adjunct Instructor*
- 2013-2020     **Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*Teaching Fellow, 2013-2020*  
*Graduate Research Assistant, 2013-2014*
- 2017-2019     **Department of American Studies**  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
*Teaching Fellow*

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Refereed Journal Article*

- 2019 “‘She Forgot’: Obscuring White Privilege and Colorblindness in Harper Lee’s Novels” *South Atlantic Review*. 84.1 (March 2019): 54-71.

### *Edited Journal Issues*

- 2025 Guest editor of a special feature and issue on “NC LGBTQ+ Literature” in *North Carolina Literary Review*, three online issues and one print edition: June 2025.

### *Book Chapters*

- 2021 “The Limitations of Realist Speculation to Represent and Confront the Anthropocene.” *Images of the Anthropocene in Speculative Fiction: Narrating the Future of the World*, edited by Tereza Dědinová, Weronika Laszkiewics, and Sylwia Borowska-Szerszun, Lexington Books, March 2021.
- 2020 “Familiar Zombies: Ling Ma’s *Severance* and COVID-19 protests.” *Severance: Right Time, Right Place*, edited by Jane Hu and Anjuli Raza Kolb. *A Post-45 Collection*, October 2020, [post45.org/2020/10/familiar-zombies/](https://post45.org/2020/10/familiar-zombies/).

### *Book Review*

- 2020 Review of Beth Lew Williams. *The Chinese Must Go: Violence, Exclusion, and the Making of the Alien in America*. Harvard University Press, 2018. In *Journal of Asian American Studies* vol. 23, no.1, 2020, pp. 156-158.

## SELECT HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2022 **CITI Professional Development Grant**, Center for Innovative and Transformative Instruction, Winston-Salem State University
- 2019-20 **Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship**, The Institute for Citizens and Scholars
- 2019 **Graduate Tuition Incentive Scholarship**, The Graduate School, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- 2019 **Evan Frankel Dissertation Fellowship**, Department of English and Comparative Literature, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Declined)
- 2019 **Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship**, Department of English and Comparative Literature, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2019 **Graduate Student International Travel Grant**, The Graduate School, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2018 **Kenan Graduate Fellowship**, College of Arts and Sciences, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2018 **Baxter Grant**, American Studies Association
- 2017 **Institute for the Arts and Humanities Collaboration Grant**, UNC Institute for the Arts and Humanities
- 2016 **Graduate Research Consultant Grant**, Office for Undergraduate Research, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2015 **James R. Gaskin Award for Excellence in Teaching**, UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature
- 2014 **Graduate Research Consultant Grant**, Office for Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2013 **Booker Fellowship**, UNC Department of English and Comparative Literature

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “Apocalyptic Paradoxes: The End as Replication” SAMLA: Atlanta, GA (November 2021).
- 2020 “Flânerie and Precarity: Urban Walking during the COVID-19 Pandemic and BLM Protests.” SAMLA: Jacksonville, FL/Virtual (November 2020).
- 2020 “Teaching Difficult Subjects Through Genre Awareness and Analysis.” MLA Annual Convention: Seattle, WA (January 2020).
- 2019 “Realist Speculative Narratives and the Anthropocene.” International Conference on Narrative: Pamplona, Spain (June 2019) *Panel Chair*.

- 2018 “Conflicting Archives and Confederate Memorials.” American Studies Association Conference: Atlanta, GA (November 2018).
- 2018 “Bolstering and Undermining Community in Butler’s *Parable* series and Whitehead’s *Zone One*.” NEMLA Conference: Pittsburg, PA (April 2018).
- 2017 “‘And Thinking Seemed to make it so’: Human-centric thinking in Ian McEwan’s *Solar*,” King’s College/UNC Contemporary Colloquium Conference: London, UK (August 2017).
- 2015 “Reopening the Door: Revision and Racial Stereotypes in *An Octoroon*.” SAMLA: Durham, NC (November 2015).
- 2015 “Plague in Shakespeare’s London and Plays.” Blackfriars Conference—American Shakespeare Center: Staunton, VA (October 2015).
- 2015 “Facing the Unknown: Hope and Melioration in Post-Apocalyptic Narratives.” PCA/ACA Annual Conference: New Orleans, LA (March 2015) *Panel Chair*.
- 2014 “An Unnatural Institution: Exploring Slavery and Ecology in *Drums at Dusk*.” Society for the Study of Southern Literature: Washington, DC (March 2014).

## CONFERENCES CONVENED

- 2018 “Cultural Criticisms and Contemporary Literature.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 2018. Collaborative UNC-KCL Graduate Conference—applied for and granted \$5,500 in funding. Co-organized with Rafael Lubner (King’s College London).
- 2017 “Configurations of Contemporary Empire.” King’s College London, August 2017. Collaborative UNC-KCL Graduate Conference—applied for and granted \$8,000 in funding. Co-organized with Christine Okoth (King’s College London).

## INVITED TALKS

- 2022 “Rhetorical Analysis and Anti-Racism Pedagogy” Presenter, Rhetoric and Composition Institute, Appalachian State University.
- 2021 “Professional/Technical Communication and Intersectional Identities” Guest-lecture in *Graduate Methods of Literary Study*, Arkansas State University.

- 2021 “The Legal Construction of Whiteness” Guest-lecture in *Advanced Critical Race Theory*, University of Colorado Boulder.
- 2020 “Frankenstein and Rhetorics of Dehumanization” Guest-lecture in *Graduate Methods of Literary Study*, Arkansas State University.
- 2020 “Limitations of Afrofuturism and Futurity in *Cosmic Slop*.” Carolina Afrofuturism Seminar, UNC-Chapel Hill.
- 2018 “Racial Formation in the U.S.” Co-led community symposium, sponsored by Carolina Public Humanities, Carteret Community College.
- 2017 “Xenophobia, Racism, and Campus Culture.” Guest-lecture in *Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice*, UNC-Chapel Hill.

## COURSES TAUGHT

### ***Visiting Assistant Professor***

Appalachian State University

- 2021-23 *Professional Writing* (7 sections)  
*Environmental Humanities Independent Study*  
*Great Books: Multiethnic Speculative Fiction* (2 sections)  
*Intro to Literature and Literary Analysis*  
*Rhetoric and Writing* (honors sections)  
*Expository Writing* (2 sections)  
*Expository Writing*—online hybrid (6 sections)

### ***Adjunct Professor***

Winston-Salem State University

- 2020-21 *Black Speculative Fiction of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries* (4 sections)  
*World Literatures II: Dystopias and Utopias*

### ***Teaching Fellow—Instructor of Record***

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- 2019 *Intersectionality and Conceptions of the Human/Nonhuman*  
2017 *Apocalyptic Literature as Social Criticism*  
2013-18 *Rhetoric and Composition* (8 varied sections)

***Teaching Assistant***

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- 2018        *Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice* (Lead TA)  
2017        *Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social Justice* (2 sections)  
2016        *Medicine, Literature, and Culture* (2 honors recitation sections)

UNIVERSITY AND PUBLIC SERVICE

- 2021-2023    Writing, Rhetoric, and Professional Communication Committee Member,  
Department of English, Appalachian State University.
- 2021-2022    Rhetoric and Composition Climate Morale Task Force, Department of English,  
Appalachian State University.
- 2021-2022    M.A. Thesis Committee Member, Kate Rutherford, “Assessing Informatics in  
William Gibson’s *Neuromancer* and Samuel R. Delany’s *Babel-17*,” Appalachian  
State University.
- 2021-2022    Honors Thesis Committee Member, Gabby Brown, “Technology Accessibility in  
Rural Appalachia: A Usability Study of the Hunger and Health Coalition’s  
Website for Female Rural Populations,” Appalachian State University.
- 2021-2022    Senior Thesis Committee Member, Shelby Pearsall, “Smartphone Navigation on  
the Appalachian Trail: A Usability Test on FarOut,” Appalachian State  
University.
- 2021-2022    Rhetoric and Composition Institute Committee Member, Department of English,  
Appalachian State University.
- 2018-2020    Assistant Instructor/Coordinator, UNC Men of Color Engagement—Start Strong,  
UNC Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling.
- 2018-2019    Teaching Institute Committee Member, Department of English and Comparative  
Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2018-2019    Instructional Consultant for *Intersectionality: Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Social  
Justice*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- 2017-2024 Volunteer Reading and Writing Instructor, The Durham Literacy Center.
- 2017-2019 Graduate Assistant for *Racial Literacies*, Carolina Seminars, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2016-2018 Co-convener, UNC/KCL Contemporary Empire Colloquium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and King's College, London.
- 2016-2017 Committee Member, Re-envisioning the Humanities Ph.D.—NEH Grant Collaboration committee, Institute for the Arts and Humanities.
- 2016-2018 Submission Reader for *The Carolina Quarterly*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2015-2016 Vice President of COLEAGS (Graduate Student Association), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2015-2016 Co-convener, Literature of the Americas Working Group, Center for the Study of the American South, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2010-2014 Spanish Translator at Community Law Street Clinic, SJ Quinney College of Law, University of Utah.

## LANGUAGES

Spanish: Fluent reading, speaking, writing

French: Proficient reading and writing, conversational speaking

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association

American Studies Association

The International Society for the Study of Narrative

South Atlantic Modern Language Association

Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States