

# MARIA SEGER

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## EDUCATION

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PhD, English, University of Connecticut, 2016  
MA, English, University of Connecticut, 2012  
BA, *summa cum laude*, English, University of Pittsburgh, 2010

## PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

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Assistant Professor of English, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2017–  
Visiting Assistant Professor of English, United States Military Academy at West Point, 2016–17

## PUBLICATIONS

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### MONOGRAPH PROJECTS

*At All Costs: Extralegal Violence and Liberal Democracy in US Culture*. Manuscript in preparation.

*Killing Them Softly: Motherhood, Violence, and the State in the US Cultural Imaginary*. Manuscript in preparation.

### EDITED COLLECTIONS

*Reading Confederate Monuments*. Under contract with UP of Mississippi.

### ARTICLES

“Deferred Lynching and the Moral High Ground in Charles W. Chesnutt’s *The Marrow of Tradition*.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 73.1 (2018): 94–118.

“Ekphrasis and the Postmodern Slave Narrative: Reading the Maps of Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World*.” *Callaloo* 37.5 (2014): 1181–95.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

“Reading Confederate Monuments: An Introduction.” Introduction. *Reading Confederate Monuments*. Ed. Maria Seger. Under contract with UP of Mississippi.

“Redeeming White Women in/through Lost Cause Films.” *Reading Confederate Monuments*. Ed. Maria Seger. Under contract with UP of Mississippi.

### BOOK REVIEWS

Rev. of *American Literature, Lynching, and the Spectator in the Crowd: Spectacular Violence*, by Debbie

Lelekis. *Studies in American Naturalism* 11.1 (2016): 102–04.

## PRESENTATIONS

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### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Confronting the Ghosts of Our Past, Present, and Future: Building Names and Their Meanings at Two Deep South Campuses.” American Historical Association, New Orleans, LA, January 2022 (chaired).

“Building Renaming on a University Campus: Motivations, Justifications, and Observations.” Louisiana Historical Association, Alexandria, LA, March 2021 (virtual).

“Redeeming White Women in/through Early Lost Cause Films.” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2020.

“Extralegal Violence and Economies of Dispossession in the Nineteenth-Century United States.” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2020.

“The Poetics of Economies of Dispossession.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, November 2019 (co-organized and chaired).

“Maternal Filicide and the State in Women’s Progressive Era Short Fiction.” American Comparative Literature Association, Washington, DC, March 2019.

“Maternal Filicide and the State in the Interwar Cultural Imaginary.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018 (co-organized).

“Redeeming White Women as Property in *The Birth of a Nation*.” American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2018.

“Tolerating and Coopting Dissent: Examining the State’s Role in (Anti-)Lynching.” American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Deferred Lynching and the Moral High Ground.” Futures of American Studies Institute, Hanover, NH, June 2017.

“Extralegal Violence and Liberal-Democratic Governance in Frank J. Webb’s *The Garies and Their Friends*.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2017.

“Convict Labor and the Moral Calculus of the Nineteenth-Century Carceral Economy.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.

“Theft and Self-Protection in the Wild West.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Pasadena, CA, November 2016.

“Being or Owning Property? Rethinking White Women’s Role in Multiethnic Lynching Narratives.”

Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Lincoln, NE, April 2016.

“Preserving Capitalism in Crisis: Recalling Extralegal Violence in the Post-Reconstruction Era.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Hartford, CT, March 2016.

“Extralegal Rhetoric and the State of Exception in Charles W. Chesnutt’s *The Marrow of Tradition*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Harrisburg, PA, April 2014.

“‘No Trespassin’”: The Property-Based Logic of Racial Violence in Richard Wright’s *Uncle Tom’s Children*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Oklahoma City, OK, March 2014.

“Detecting Capital Criminals: The Case of Mistaken Identity in Lynching Narratives.” American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY, March 2014.

“‘I’ve Been Seeing It Ever Since’: Grievability, Affective Frames, and Lynching as Spectacle in the Post-Reconstruction American Novel.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2013.

“The Ethics of Child Murder: Maternal Filicide and American Exceptionalism in Women’s Progressive Era Short Fiction.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2013.

“Reading the Two Maps of ‘The Known World’ in Edward P. Jones.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Rochester, NY, March 2012.

“Abandoning the ‘Maternal Instinct’: A Study of Four Canonical Feminist Texts.” College English Association, San Antonio, TX, March 2010.

#### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Reimagining Graduate Education after COVID.” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, PA, March 2021 (virtual).

“Extralegal Violence and Liberal Democracy in US Culture.” University of Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, IN, November 2020 (virtual).

“Extralegal Violence and Economies of Dispossession in Antebellum Philadelphia.” Global Souths Conference, Lafayette, LA, March 2020 (canceled).

“Roundtable on AP and Higher Education.” A Dream Deferred: The Future of African American Education Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2020 (canceled).

“Program Innovation/Pedagogical Innovation.” Association of Departments of English–Association of Departments of Foreign Languages Summer Seminar, Atlanta, GA, June 2018.

“Race, Resources, and Real Estate.” Modern Language Association Convention, New York, NY, January 2018 (respondent).

“Lessons of the Connected Academics Proseminar on Careers.” Modern Language Association Convention, New York, NY, January 2018.

## **COURSES**

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English 205: American Literature to 1865

English 206: American Literature since 1865

English 210: Literary Genres: Black Poetry Now!

English 211: Thematic Approaches to Literature: The Women of the Harlem Renaissance (cross-listed)

English 212: Literature and Other Media: Slavery on Film (cross-listed)

English 371: Introduction to Ethnic Literatures: Nineteenth-Century Black Radical Thought (cross-listed)

English 371: Introduction to Ethnic Literatures: Policing Blackness on Film (cross-listed)

English 430G: Southern Literature: Reading Confederate Monuments and Counter-Monuments (partial graduate)

English 433G: Approaches to African American Literature: African American Novels of the “Nadir” (partial graduate)

English 433G: Approaches to African American Literature: The Theories and Poetics of Black Studies (partial graduate; cross-listed)

English 435G: American Realism and Naturalism: Justice and Violence in the Gilded Age (partial graduate)

English 490: Senior Seminar

English 496G: Major Literary Figures: Toni Morrison (partial graduate)

English 550: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Citizenship and Sovereignty in the Long Nineteenth Century (graduate)

English 550: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Racial Capitalism and Democracy from Reconstruction to the Second World War (graduate)

English 596: Research Methods (graduate)

Humanities 200: Ideas and Issues: Introduction to Black and African Diaspora Studies

## SERVICE

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UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT LAFAYETTE

### *Leadership*

Co-Organizer, Black Study within and beyond Crisis: A Critical Black Studies Working Group and Speaker Series, 2021

Co-Chair, Equity Caucus, 2020–

Co-Chair, Diversity Committee, Department of English, 2019–21

### *Committee Memberships*

American Literature since 1945 Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2021–

Gender and Sexuality Studies Minor Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2020–

Task Force on Building Names, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2020–

Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Program Mission, Department of English, 2020–

Feminist Theory and Criticism Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2020–

Black Literature and Culture Search Committee, Department of English, 2020

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Committee, Department of English, 2019–

Southern Literary Studies Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2019–

Ad Hoc Committee on Admissions Workload and Diversity, Department of English, 2019

American Literature Search Committee, Department of English, 2019

Books from the Bayou Committee, Ernest J. Gaines Center, 2018–

Master of Arts Committee, Department of English, 2018–

Graduate Recruitment Committee, Department of English, 2018–

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of English, 2017–

Black and African Diaspora Studies Minor Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2017–

American Literature to 1865 Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2017–

American Literature 1865 to 1945 Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2017–

Africana Studies Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of English, 2017–

Graduate Placement Committee, Department of English, 2017–20

Diversity Committee, Department of English, 2017–19

Symposium Committee, Department of English, 2017–18

### *Academic Advising*

Graduate Advisor, Department of English, 2019–

Undergraduate Advisor, Department of English, 2017–19

### *Dissertation, Thesis, and Exam Advising*

Khirsten Doolan, “The Blood of the Covenant: A Queer Southern Literary Genealogy,” 2021, dissertation committee member.

J Catt Evans, in progress, dissertation committee member.

Francisco J. Farrera, "The Celebration of Cultural Diversity: An Architectural Proposal Inspired in Music," 2019, thesis committee member (architecture).

Wandeka Gayle, "Desire, Displacement, Disillusionment: The Afro Caribbean Immigrant Experience in America and *Motherland and Other Stories*," 2018, dissertation committee member.

Steven Jaindl, 2020, MA exam committee chair.

Wes Jamison, 2020, special topics PhD comprehensive exam committee member (identity poetics).

Patrick Lewis, "Ambivalence à la Carte: Masculinity in the Contemporary Ethnic American Bildungsroman," 2020, dissertation committee member.

Jude Marr, "*Bird on Barbed Wire* and Translation as Loss: Liminality, Symbiosis, and the Afro-Creole Poets of Civil War Era New Orleans," 2019, dissertation committee member.

Jeanna Mason, "Navigating the Spaces: The Influences of Place and Space in Twentieth-Century Post-Plantation Novels," 2021, dissertation committee member.

Jordan McClements, 2020, MA exam committee chair.

Jennifer Morrison, "Long Revision: Contemporary African American Fiction of the Gulf South," 2020, dissertation committee chair.

Iesha Newton, in progress, thesis committee member (communications).

Matthew M. Pincus, "Talented and Expendable: American Women Crime Writers of the 1940s and 50s," 2019, dissertation committee member.

Francisco Rodriguez, in progress, thesis committee member.

Jade Rouchon, 2020, MA exam committee member.

Zachary Schleter, in progress, thesis committee member (undergraduate honors).

Raquel Thorne, in progress, dissertation committee chair.

Gina Warren, "Affective Representations of 'Chicken(s)' in American Literature in the 20th and 21st Centuries and *The Chicken Underground: Adventures in Food Politics*," 2020, dissertation committee member.

Aleya Washington, "Sport H(a)unting Blackness in (Neo) Slave Narratives and Contemporary Works," 2020, thesis committee chair.

PROFESSIONAL

Peer Reviewer, *Studies in the Novel*, 2019–  
Founding Organizer, Graduate Employee Union–United Auto Workers Local 6950, 2014–15  
Assistant Editor, *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, 2012–14

## **PUBLIC-FACING WORK**

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### WRITING

“Information Exchange: Thinking of Networking as Learning.” *Connected Academics*. Modern Language Association, 21 Dec. 2015.

With Todd Vachon and Gayatri Phadke. “In First Contract, UConn Grad Assistants Win Raises and Much More.” *Labor Notes*, 31 July 2015.

“Six-Month Anniversary of the Formation of the Graduate Employee Union–UAW at UConn.” Op-ed. *Connecticut AFL–CIO*, 17 Oct. 2014.

### INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Lynching and Policing in Lafayette, Louisiana.” University of Louisiana at Lafayette College of Liberal Arts Public Symposium on Racial Justice, Lafayette, LA, September 2020 (virtual).

“Dismantling Structural Racism.” Perspectives 360: Reimagining Civil Society, Lafayette, LA, March 2018.

“The Jim Crow Monuments Controversy.” University of Louisiana at Lafayette Constitution Day, Lafayette, LA, September 2017.

### MEDIA APPEARANCES

Bayou to Beltway, KRVS 88.7 FM Radio Acadie, March 2021.

“The Bones of Texas History,” TwoStonians Podcast, May 2019.

### SERVICE

Equal Justice Initiative Coalition, Lafayette Parish, 2018–

## **AWARDS**

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Founders’ Award for Humanities Teaching and Research, Friends of the Humanities, 2020

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Department of the Army, 2017

Predocctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2016

Connected Academics Proseminar Fellowship, Modern Language Association, 2015–16

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut Graduate School, 2015

Predocctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2015

Aetna Graduate Critical Essay Second Prize, University of Connecticut, 2014

Travel Grant, American Comparative Literature Association, 2014

Aetna Graduate Critical Essay First Prize, University of Connecticut, 2012  
Graduate Student Travel Award, Northeast Modern Language Association, 2012  
Travel Grant, New-York Historical Society Institute for Constitutional History, 2011

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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American Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
Critical Ethnic Studies Association  
Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States  
American Comparative Literature Association