

Alex Ullman
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CURRENT POSITION

2024-2026 Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry
The Center for the Humanities, Washington University in St. Louis

EDUCATION

2017-2024 Ph.D., English, University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: “This Feeling Tone: The Sound of Black and Jewish
Collaboration Since 1981”
Advisors: Scott Saul and Tom McEnaney (co-chairs)
Namwali Serpell, Nadia Ellis, and Chana Kronfeld (readers)

2014 M.A., Teaching, Relay Graduate School of Education, New York, New York

2009 B.A., English, University of Pennsylvania
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa
High honors thesis: “James Joyce and Jazz Modernism”
Advisor: Prof. James F. English

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Twentieth and Twenty-First Century American Literature and Culture;
Black Studies; Jewish Studies; Sound Studies; Performance Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2023 “Audre Lorde, Sound Theorist: Register, Silence, Vibrato, Timbre.” *PMLA*.
Forthcoming September 2024.

2018 “[A Tradition of Free and Odious Utterance](#): Free Speech and Sacred Utterance in
Steve Waters’ *Temple*.” Co-written with Gabriel Mindel, *Sounding Out!*, April
2018.

“[The Sound of Translation: Joyce, the Zukofskys, and Liturgical piyutim](#).” *Partial
Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 16.1 (January 2018): 43-64.

Book Chapters

2023 “The Poetics of Conversation: Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde’s Uses of Voice.”
Matrilineal Dissent: Women Writers and Jewish American Literary History, ed. by
Annie Atura Bushnell, Lori Harrison-Kahan, Ashley Walters (Wayne State).
Forthcoming May 2024.

2021 ["The Ontogenesis of Fear in Héctor Tobar's *The Barbarian Nurseries*."](#) *Human Rights in the Americas*, ed. by María Herrera-Sobek, Francisco A. Lomelí, Luz Angélica Kirschner (London: Routledge, 2021): 196-208.

Reviews

2023 ["In Mills College Art Museum Show, Technology Becomes an Active Collaborator,"](#) *KQED*, November 7, 2023.

["Notes on Sculpting A Friendship: Fugard's *The Road to Mecca* at Z Space,"](#) *SF/ARTS*, June 18, 2023.

2022 ["The Haunting Ventriloquism of *Dana H. Asks Us to Listen Differently*,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, June 14, 2022.

["Bobby McFerrin's 'Circlesongs' and the Politics of Play,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, May 11, 2022.

["In *Otto Frank*, Roger Guenveur Smith Compares the Incomparable,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, Mar. 16, 2022.

2020 ["Review of Gerald Shea, *The Language of Light: A History of Silent Voices*,"](#) *MAKE Literary Magazine*, March 30, 2020.

2019 ["Review of Alain Corbin, *A History of Silence: From the Renaissance to the Present Day*,"](#) *MAKE Literary Magazine*, August 18, 2019.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conferences Organized

2024 "Why 'Jewish American Literature' Matters: A Conference for Graduate Students, Independent scholars, and Untenured Faculty," co-organized with Josh Lambert and Allison Schachter, February 25-26th, Vanderbilt University

2020 Semester Long Colloquium "Conversations in Sound," at UC Berkeley, featuring virtual workshops with Christopher Grobe, Julie Beth Napolin, Ragini Srinivasan, Fumi Okiji, Nadia Shihab, and Robin James

2019 Music Colloquium at UC Berkeley with Nina Eidsheim to discuss her book *The Race of Sound* (2018)

"Homophonic Translation, Performance, and the Pataquerical Imagination," UC Berkeley lecture and workshop with Charles Bernstein

- 2017-2018 Co-organizer, "Counter-Production: Noise as Critical Research," UC Humanities Research Institute Multi-Campus Sound Studies Working Group Conferences
As co-organizer, I organized and moderated the following sessions:
"Disruptive: Noise as Material," with Eric Porter and Steven Feld, UC Berkeley, October 2017
"Illegible: Literary Audiation," UCLA, with Nina Eidsheim, Jessica Holmes, John Jordan, and Roshanak Kheshti, January 2018
"Unintelligible: Noise as Critical Research," UC Santa Cruz, with Jemma DeCristo and 15 UC graduate students, April 2018

Panels Organized

- 2023 "The Sounds of Solidarity Audio Potluck," with Gabriel Mindel, Jonathan Sterne, Julie Napolin, Eric Porter, and Pablo Herrera Veitia, American Studies Association Annual Conference: Montreal, November 2024.

"Can American Studies and Jewish Studies Love Each Other?" with Ben Schreier, Samira Mehta, Keith Feldman, Maxwell Greenberg, Jessie Stoolman, Sarah Imhoff, and Dean Franco, American Studies Association Annual Conference: Montreal, November 2024.

Papers Given

- 2022 "The Four Questions: The State of Jewish American Literature Today," Tulane Center for the Jewish Experience, New Orleans, LA, October 2022.

"Audre Lorde's Prophetic Voice: A Performance History," Black Studies Collaboratory Small Grant Symposium, Berkeley, CA, September 2022.
- 2021 "Adrienne Rich's Jewish Voice." American Jewish Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, December 2021.

"The Poetics of Conversation: Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde's Uses of Voice." American Studies Association Annual Conference: Creativity within Revolt, Puerto Rico/Zoom, October 2021.

"On Listening to Adrienne Rich." Center for Jewish Studies Graduate Colloquium, with Chana Kronfeld, Berkeley, CA, April 2021.
- 2019 "Hearing 'Jewish Voice' in Grace Paley's Readings." Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium, Miami, FL, November 2019.

"'Could one not get the waves to be heard all the way through?': Close Listening to Virginia Woolf's *The Waves*." Sound Waves: Resonances of Virginia Woolf, Berkeley, California, October 2019.

“‘Ithaca’ as Diasporic Narrative Ethics.” North American James Joyce Symposium: “Joyce Without Borders,” Mexico City, Mexico, June 2019.

2018 “(Against) Encyclopedic Failure: Polyvocality, Futurity, and Empathy in David Grossman’s *See Under: Love*.” Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium, Miami, FL, November 2018.

“I Live in America, I Don’t Have to Love It: Belize’s Ambivalence to Impossibility in *Angels in America*.” Princeton Graduate Conference: “Contemporary Cultures of Black Impossibility,” Princeton, NJ, October 2018.

“A Tradition of Free and Odious Utterance: Free Speech and Sacred Utterance in Steve Waters’ *Temple*.” CUNY English Student Association Graduate Conference: “Breaking Through: Textures and Aesthetics of Rupture,” New York, NY, March, 2018.

2017 “The Sense of Dialogue in Heidegger and Plato.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, March, 2017.

2016 “Neo-liberalism, The Media, and the Ontogenesis of Fear in Héctor Tobar’s *The Barbarian Nurseries*.” International Association of Inter-American Studies Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, October, 2016.

2016 “The Sound of (non-sensical) Translation in Late Joyce and Zukofsky.” Berkeley-Stanford Annual Graduate Student Conference, Berkeley, CA, April 2016.

Papers Delivered in Workshop (Invited)

2019 “Between Text and Audiobook: Translating Silence in Jonathan Safran-Foer’s *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*.” Digital Humanities Summer Institute, Sound and the Digital Humanities Workshop with John Barber, Victoria, BC, June 2019.

2018 “Encyclopedic Failure: Polyvocality and Futurity in David Grossman’s *See Under: Love*.” Novel Theory: Society for Novel Studies Conference, Graduate Workshop with Rebecca Walkowitz, Ithaca, NY, May 2018.

2016 “The Remembering of Air in Modernist Poetics: Khlebnikov’s ‘A Cliff out of the Future.’” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Poetics of Information Exchange Seminar with Marjorie Perloff, Pasadena, CA, November 2016.

INVITED TALKS

2024 “Stanislavski, Brecht, and Smith: Acting Techniques of the Self.” University of Utah. Invited Lecture for Maeera Shreiber’s class on “Theories of Race and Ethnicity: The ‘Self’ and the ‘Other.’” March 28, 2024.

- 2023 "Listening to *The Office*." Stanford Humanities Center. Respondent to Gabriella Safran's book talk on *Recording Russia*, as part of The Matters of Voice working group. May 2023
- 2020 "Trust." Synagogue Etz Chayim. Moderated a discussion on racial justice with activist Shekhiynah Larks of Be'chol Lashon and artist Charlie Levin of "The One Truthiness," Palo Alto, October 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

- Washington University in St. Louis
 "Jewish and *black-ish*: US Diasporic Cultures" (Fall 2024)
- UC Berkeley (2020-2021)
 "Audiotexts: Listening and/as Reading since 1935" (Spring 2021)
 "Jewish and *Black-ish*: 'Race Relations' in American Literature" (Fall 2020)

Teaching Assistantships

- UC Berkeley (2017-2020)
 "Contemporary Literature" (Spring 2020)
 "Early American Literature" (Fall 2019)
 "Modernist Poetry: Yeats, Pound, Eliot, Stevens" (Fall 2018)
- UC Santa Cruz (2015-2017)
 "The Intellectual History of Zionism" (Spring 2017)
 "Translation Theory" (Winter 2017)
 "Introduction to the British Canon" (Fall 2016)

Public Teaching

- Book Passage Marin
 Lead a semester long book club on "[Contemporary Jewish American Fiction](#)"
- Contra Costa County Juvenile Detention Center
 Taught creative writing and "The Poetics of Hip-Hop" to 12 students as part of the New Literary Project Fellowship (Spring 2022)
- "Read Along with Berkeley English" Public Fellow (2020-2023)
 Organized and maintained communication between professors and 350+ online group members; lead discussions across nine undergraduate courses
- Achievement First Bushwick Public Middle School, Brooklyn, NY (2012-2015)
 Sixth Grade English Teacher

Awards

- Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2021

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Dissertation Research Grants

- 2023 Townsend Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship
 Berkeley Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry Summer Fellowship
- 2022 Black Studies Collaboratory Grant, UCB African American Studies
 Tulane Center for the Jewish Experience Summer Research Stipend

- 2021 Radio and Decolonization Summer Seminar, National Endowment for the Humanities
2021 LGBTQ Cluster Dissertation Grant, UCB Othering and Belonging Institute
2019 Digital Humanities Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship, University of Victoria
2018 Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion New Directions in Theology Fellowship
2017 Campus Wide Mellon Fellowship for Graduate Study

Teaching Fellowships

- 2022 Berkeley Connect Year-Long Mentoring Fellowship, UCB English
2022 New Literary Project Teaching Fellowship, Contra Costa County Jail
2021 Daniel E. Koshland Junior Course Development Grant
2020 Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellows Program, 2020.

Working Group Grants

- 2018-2023 Townsend Center for the Arts Working Group Grant, Co-organizer, Sound Studies Working Group
2017 University of California Humanities Research Institute Multi-Campus Working Group Grant

LANGUAGES

Spanish (Intermediate), German (Intermediate, Goethe Institut B2 Level),
Hebrew (Middlebury: Advanced Beginner), Yiddish (YIVO: Advanced Beginner)