

Jessica Elizabeth Somers
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Ph.D. Candidate
Department of English
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

EDUCATION

University of Southern California, Ph.D. English, 2025 (anticipated)

Dissertation: "Keeping House in the British Empire: The Colonial Home in Global Anglophone Literature, 1800-1930"

Committee: Ashley Cohen (Chair), Devin Griffiths, Kate Flint, Vittoria di Palma
Graduate certificate student in Gender and Sexuality Studies
M.A. in English (2022)

California State University Los Angeles, M.A. English, 2018

Thesis: "Queer Colonial Ambivalence in E. M. Forster's 'The Life to Come' and 'The Other Boat'"
Committee: Benjamin Bateman (Chair), Maria Karafilis, Hema Chari

California State University Long Beach, B.A. English, 2014

President's List

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, 2022-2023

English Department, USC
Course: ENGL 176 – Los Angeles: The City, the Novel, the Movie

Assistant Lecturer (Instructor of Record), 2021-2022

Writing Department, USC
Course: WRIT 150 – Writing and Critical Reasoning: Identity and Diversity

Teaching Associate (Instructor of Record), 2017-2018

English Department, Cal State LA
Courses: ENGL 1005A – College Writing I; ENGL 1005B – College Writing II

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2024-2025	Mellon Humanities in a Digital World Fellowship , Dornsife, USC
2024	Travel Grant , North American Victorian Studies Association
	Salz Pollak Graduate Research and Travel Fellowship , English Department, USC
	Fletcher Jones Foundation Short-Term Fellowship , the Huntington Library
	Professional Development Fund Award , Graduate Student Government, USC
	Vanden Bossche Award , Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Association
2022-2024	Multimodal Writing Collective Funding (shared) , Center for Feminist Research, USC
2019-2024	Diversity, Inclusion and Access Fellowship , Graduate School, USC
2023	Travel and Research Award , Graduate School, USC
	Summer Research and Writing Grant , Graduate School, USC
2021	Research Award , English Department, USC
2017	Travel and Professional Development Grant , Office of Graduate Studies, Cal State LA
	Graduate Student Scholarship , Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association
2012	John Q. Copeland Award for Excellence in Literary Study , Pasadena City College

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “**Jalousie Windows and Questions of Empire in Mayne Reid’s *The Maroon*.**” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Davis, CA. September 2024 (anticipated).
- “**Women Out of Time in *Anna Lombard* and *The White Witch of Rosehall*.**” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Cincinnati, OH. March 2024.
- “**West Indian Jalopies, Gender, and Colonial Domesticity in Anglophone Literature.**” Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference, Louisville, KY. March 2024 (invited; declined).
- “**The Quotidian Colonial Horror of the Punkah.**” Spectacles of Decline Symposium, University of Chicago (virtual). March 2021.
- “**Affirming Heteronormativity in *Baby Be-Bop*.**” Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities Conference, Cal State LA, Los Angeles, CA. April 2018.
- “**The Writing Center as Virtual Space**” (co-presenter). Southern California Writing Center Association Conference, Thousand Oaks, CA. March 2018.
- “**Gendered Silence and Invisibility in Christopher Isherwood’s *A Meeting by the River*.**” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, Honolulu, HI. November 2017.
- “**Queered Imperial Power in E. M. Forster’s ‘The Life to Come.’**” Significations English Graduate Conference, Cal State LA, Los Angeles, CA. May 2017.

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

- SAT Writing Evaluator**, Elite Prep Arcadia, 2018
- Substitute Teacher**, Temple City and Arcadia Unified School Districts, 2016-2018
- Graduate Assistant** for: “Gender and Sexuality in Popular Culture”; “Literary Theory”; “Queer Theory”, English Department, Humanities Department, Cal State LA, 2016-2017
- Writing Consultant**, University Writing Center, Cal State LA, 2016-2017
- Writing Tutor**, University Writing Center, Cal State LA, 2015-2016
- English Tutor**, Pasadena City College, 2010

INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS, AND GUEST LECTURES

- “**Culminating Activities.**” Writing Conversations, Cal State LA, April 2018
- “**Email Etiquette.**” University Writing Center, Cal State LA, September 2017
- “**The Writing Proficiency Exam.**” University Writing Center, CSULA, July 2016-July 2017 (several)
- “**Writing the Personal Statement.**” Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, Cal State LA, July 2017
- “**Queer Theory and Willa Cather’s ‘Paul’s Case.’**” Humanities course, Cal State LA, April 2016
- “**Feminist Theory.**” Literary Theory course, Cal State LA, April 2016

SERVICE

- Graduate Student Volunteer, Petrocultures Conference, 2024
- Inaugural Co-Convener, Multimodal Writing Collective, 2022-2024
- Co-President, Association of English Graduate Students, 2020-2021
- Graduate Student Volunteer, the Green Conference, 2020
- Inaugural Co-Organizer, Writing Conversations, 2016-2018
- Graduate Student Volunteer, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association Conference, 2016
- Night Tutor, 826LA, 2015

PUBLICATIONS

“*The Story of an African Farm.*” *The Literary Encyclopedia*. Published 23 May 2024.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Digital Tools Tutorial (GIS, data visualization, Scalar), Mellon Humanities in a Digital World, USC, 2024

Practicum in Teaching English and Narrative Studies, USC, 2022

Theory and Practice in Teaching Expository Writing, Writing Department, USC, 2021

Topics in Composition, Rhetoric, and Language, Cal State LA, 2018

Principles and Strategies in Teaching Writing, English Department, Cal State LA, 2017

Personal Statement Training Workshop, 826LA, 2016

Practicum in Tutoring English, University Writing Center, Cal State LA, 2015

Theories of Composition and Rhetoric, English Department, Cal State LA, 2015

Learning Assistance Center Tutor Seminar, PCC, 2010

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North American Victorian Studies Association

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association

Nineteenth-Century Studies Association

Modern Language Association

Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association

LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading, writing, and speaking; full proficiency)

Italian (reading; intermediate proficiency)

French: (reading; limited proficiency)