

## David M. Alff

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### Professional History

Associate Professor, Department of English, SUNY-Buffalo (2018 - )  
Assistant Professor, Department of English, SUNY-Buffalo (2012 - 2018)

### Education

Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, English Literature, 2012; awarded the Diane Hunter Dissertation Prize for "British Writing and the Culture of Projection"

B.A. Haverford College, English Literature, 2005; Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

### Book

*The Wreckage of Intentions: Projects in British Culture, 1660-1730*  
(University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017)  
Reviewed in *Times Literary Supplement*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Studies in English Literature*, *Modern Language Review*, *Modern Philology*, *The Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory*, *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *The British Journal for the History of Science*, *The Scriblerian* and the *Kit-Cats*, and *Digital Defoe*.

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"Make Way for Infrastructure," in *Critical Inquiry* (forthcoming Summer 2021)

"Samuel Johnson: Infrastructuralist," in *Philological Quarterly* (forthcoming)

"Richard Savage and the Poetry of Public Works," in *ELH* 86.1 (Spring 2019)

"Before Infrastructure: The Poetics of Paving in John Gay's *Trivia*," in *PMLA* 132.5 (Fall 2017), 1134-1148.

"Swift's Solar Gourds and the Rhetoric of Projection," in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 47.3 (Spring 2014), 245-260.

"Why No One Can Mend the Slough of Despond," in *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 54.3 (Fall 2013), 375-392.

“*Annus Mirabilis* at the End of Stuart Monarchy: Repackaging a Year of Wonders in 1688,” in *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture, 1660-1700* 35.2 (Winter 2012), 21-36.

### **Critical Essays in Collections**

“Environment,” *Daniel Defoe in Context*, eds. Albert Rivero and George Justice (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)

“Satirical Drama in History,” *Options for Teaching Modern British and American Satire*, ed. Evan Davis and Nicholas D. Nace (MLA, 2019)

“Swift's World of Gulliver's Travels,” in *The Routledge Companion to Imaginary Worlds*, ed. Mark Wolf (Routledge, 2017).

“Unearthing a ‘Universal Correspondence’: Defoe’s Roman Roads Project,” in *Topographies of the Imagination: New Approaches to Daniel Defoe*, ed. Katherine Ellison, Kit Kincade, and Holly Faith Nelson (AMS Press, February 2014), 167-183.

“Yesterday’s Tomorrow Today: Baltimore and the Promise of Reform,” in *Down to The Wire: Urban Decay and American Television*, eds. Tiffany Potter and C.W. Marshall (Continuum Press, November 2009), 23-37.

### **Work in Progress**

“Riot Control is a Project,” invited by *Romantic Circles Praxis* (under consideration)

“Perpendicular Publics: The Law and Literature of Level Crossings,” (essay for proposed collection)

### **Book Reviews**

Cynthia Wall, *Grammars of Approach* for *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 53.2 (2020).

Michael Gavin, *The Invention of English Criticism: 1650-1760* for *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 51.2 (2018), 62-64.

Stephen Bernard, ed. *The Literary Correspondences of the Tonsons* for *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 50.1 (2017), 88-90.

Jayne Lewis and Lisa Zunshine, eds. *Approaches to Teaching the Works of John Dryden* for *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 48.1 (2015), 87-89.

Max Novak, ed. *The Age of Projects* for *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 43.4 (July 2010), 542-544.

Peter Mancall, *Hakluyt's Promise: An Elizabethan Obsession for English America* and Karen Ordahl Kupperman, *The Jamestown Project*, for *Renaissance Studies* 22.5 (October 2008), 740-743.

### **Awards and Honors**

Folger Institute Seminar Travel Grant (2019)

OVPRED/Humanities Institute Seed Grant (2017)

Bloomington Eighteenth-Century-Studies Workshop Stipend (2016)

NEH Summer Stipend (2015)

Huntington Library Mayers Fellowship (2014)

SUNY-Buffalo Humanities Institute Faculty Research Fellowship (2014 - 2015)

Diane Hunter Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in English (2013)

University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Scholar (2012)

Jacob Javits Fellowship (2007 - 2011)

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship (2007 - 2012)

Mellon Graduate Humanities Forum Research Fellowship (2010 - 2011)

Folger Institute Seminar Travel Grant (2008)

### **Conference Presentations and Lectures (\* by invitation)**

\* "The Ocean's Infrastructure," Columbia Seminar in Eighteenth-Century European Culture (New York, March 2021)

\* "Machine Ways: Easements and Infrastructure in Eighteenth-Century Tyneside " George Washington University (Washington DC, November 2020)

"Caribbean Infrastructure," Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (St, Louis, March 2020 – cancelled due to COVID-19)

\* "Yarmouth Roads and the Passenger of York," Robinson Crusoe at 300, Yale University (New Haven, November 2019)

- \* “Savage, Johnson, and All the Public Works,” Johnson Society of the Central Region (Iowa City, April 2019)
- “Proving a Way through Richmond Park,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Denver, March 2019)
- Respondent, *Afterlives of the Enlightenment: Speculation*, Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association (Chicago, January 2019)
- \* “Way or No Way: *Journal of the Plague Year* and the Infrastructural Turn,” Harvard University (Cambridge, November 2018)
- “Before Trains: Literary Evidence of Wagonways” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Orlando, March 2018)
- Organizer, *Water*, Annual Meeting for the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Orlando, March 2018)
- \* “Lagado and the Hyperloop” Jonathan Swift in the 21st Century (Philadelphia, February 2018)
- “Imagining Sanctuary: Defoe and the Palatine Refugee Crisis” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Toronto, October 2017)
- “Improvement's Genre: Andrew Yarranton and the Failure of Betterment” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Minneapolis, March 2017)
- Organizer, *Reading the (Anti-)Aesthetic Eighteenth-Century Text*, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Minneapolis, March 2017)
- “Performance beyond Drama” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (Pittsburgh, March 2016)
- “The Story of Nothing: Defoe’s Palatine Project” Annual Meeting of the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies (Los Angeles, March 2015 -- read in absentia)
- “Undertaking Drainage, Remembering Fen” Annual Meeting of the Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Syracuse, September 2014)
- “Imaginary Debris: Defoe in the New Forest” Huntington Library (San Marino, California, August 2014)
- \* “What is a Project?” McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario, April 2014)
- “Paper Projections: Aaron Hill’s Beech Oil Bust,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Williamsburg, March 2014)

Organizer, *Eighteenth-Century Infrastructure*, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Williamsburg, March 2014)

“Walkable Futures: John Gay’s London and the Itinerary of Intention,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (Toronto, April 2013)

“Writing Mitigation: Projection Cultures of Restoration England,” UCSB Early Modern Center Winter Conference: Risk, Crisis, Speculation: 1500-1800 (Santa Barbara, February 2013)

Organizer, *Projecting in the Eighteenth Century*, Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (San Antonio, March 2012)

\* “British Writing and the Culture of Projection,” Penn English Departmental Research Colloquium (Philadelphia, March 2012)

“Unsanctioned Science: Projecting in Sprat’s *History of the Royal Society*,” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (Vancouver, March 2011)

“Towards a Universal Correspondence: Defoe’s Roman Highway Repair Scheme,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Los Angeles, January 2011)

\* “[Fwd: re: Clarissa.html],” The Clarissa Project: Editing, Publishing, and Faculty/Student Collaboration in the Humanities (Philadelphia, January 2011)

“Local Legends of a Global War: Washington Irving’s Spuyten Duyvil,” Annual Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (Vancouver, August 2010)

## **Teaching**

Assistant/Associate Professor, SUNY-Buffalo

### Graduate

“Enlightenment and Shadow”

“Knowledge Projects of Enlightenment”

“Trespassing in Eighteenth-Century Britain”

“The Publique Eighteenth Century”

“Improvement in Eighteenth-Century British Culture”

### Undergraduate

“The Eighteenth Century Now”

“Eighteenth-Century Literature: Poetry”

“Eighteenth-Century Literature: Fiction”

“Eighteenth-Century Literature: Restoration Drama”

“Highways, Sewers, Ports: Building Modern Britain 1660-1820”

“Literature and Technology”

Instructor, Georgetown University  
“Humanities and Writing I”

Instructor, Community College of Philadelphia  
“Fundamentals of Writing”  
“Learning Across the Disciplines”

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania College of Liberal and Professional Studies  
“Seminar in Business Writing: Mastering the Proposal”

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania Critical Writing Program  
“In Transit: A Seminar in Critical Writing”

## **Graduate Mentorship**

### Dissertation Committee Reader

David Hadbawnik (2013 - 2015)  
John Wood (2014 - 2016)  
Joseph Hall (2015 - 2017)  
Kyungran Park (2013 - 2019)  
Ryan Sheldon (2016 - 2020)  
Shao-wei Huang (2015 - 2020)  
Amanda McLaughlin (2016 - 2020)  
Leslie Nickerson (2014 - )  
Charles Pawluk (2018 - )

### MA Advisor

Martha Sawicki (2013 - 2014)  
Nicole Roberts (2013 - 2014)  
Jeremy Lorch (2018 - 2019)  
Emerson Wright (2018 - 2020)

## **Service**

### Professional

Manuscript Referee: University of Virginia Press, Routledge, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*,  
*Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*,  
*Early Modern Culture Studies*  
Executive Committee, CLCS 18th-Century (2020-2022)  
Delegate to the MLA Assembly for CLCS 18th-Century (2018 - 2020)  
Co-Chair of the ASECS Science Caucus (2018-2020)  
Reviewer, Travelling Jam-Pot Fund for Graduate Students (2019)

### University

Institutional Representative to the Folger Library (2020 - )  
Review Committee, Humanities Institute Research Grants (2019)

History Department African-Americanist Search Committee (2018 - 2019)

Departmental

Chair of Renaissance Studies Search Committee (2020, cancelled due to COVID-19)

Director of Undergraduate Studies (2019 -)

Director of Graduate Placement (2013, 2015 - 2018)

Sponsor of Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society

Executive Committee (2012 - 2014, 2015 - 2016)

Fellowship Committee (2012 - 2013)

Graduate Admissions Committee (2016 - 2017)

Clinical Faculty in Composition Search Committee (2017)