

Maria K. Alberto

Department of English, University of Utah | Salt Lake City, UT
maria.alberto@utah.edu | mariaalberto.com

EDUCATION

- 2024 **Ph.D.** in English – literature & cultural studies, University of Utah
Dissertation: “Sounds Like It’s Canon Now: Texts and/as Truths in Transmedia Franchise
Dungeons & Dragons”
Committee: Anne Jamison, Scott Black, Lisa Swanstrom, Chris Jones, & Sarah Sinwell
- 2016 **M.A.** in English, Cleveland State University
- 2014 **B.A.** in English & **certificate** in professional writing, Cleveland State University

TEACHING & RESEARCH AREAS

Digital Humanities; Genre Literature – Fantasy; British Literature (19th & 20th century); Popular Culture; LGBT+ & Queer Studies; Audience & Reception Studies; Digital Narrative & New Media

PUBLICATIONS

i. EDITED MANUSCRIPTS & SPECIAL ISSUES

Co-editor, special issue “Platforms & Fandom” of *Transformative Works and Cultures*, with Effie Sapuridis & Lesley Willard. 2024. <https://journal.transformativeworks.org/index.php/twc/issue/view/81>

Co-editor, *Catching Chen Qing Ling: The Untamed and Adaptation, Production, & Reception in Transcultural Contexts*, with Yue (Cathy) Wang. Forthcoming with Peter Lang, Summer 2024.

Co-editor, *In Focus* dossier on TRPG actual play shows at *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* (JCMS), with Emily Friedman. Accepted & under editorial review. Forthcoming Winter 2025.

Co-author, *Dimension 20: A Critical Companion* (multigraph). Under review at University of Iowa Press.

ii. JOURNAL ARTICLES

[under review at *Convergence*, May 2024] [Maria K. Alberto](#) and Paul Booth. “So Much for the Prattling of Sages’: D&D Paratexts, Fan(nish) Distribution of Knowledge, and Drow.”

Sapuridis, Effie, and [Maria K. Alberto](#). “Self-Insert Fanfiction as Digital Technology of the Self.” *Humanities* 11: 3 (2022): n.p. <https://doi.org/10.3390/h11030068>

“The Prosthetic Impulse Revisited in *A.I. Artificial Intelligence*.” *M/C Journal* 22:5 (2019).

“Seduction as Mythopoeic Accounting for Evil in Tolkien’s Work.” *Mythlore* 35:2 (2017): 63-79.

“Fan Film Culture & the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien.” *Journal of Tolkien Research* 3:3 (2016).

iii. BOOK CHAPTERS

[accepted] “Drag and Crossplay,” in *The Routledge Companion to Drag*, co-authored with Billy Tringali.

[accepted] "Stars & Wishes: A Disaster Queer Collaborative Autoethnography of Playing *Thirsty Sword Lesbians*," in *Essays on Indie Tabletop Roleplaying Games*, ed. Stephanie Hedge & under contract at McFarland, co-authored with PS Berge, Adrianna Burton, Hibby Thach, & Brandon Blackwell.

"Original Slash, Romance, and C.S. Pacat's *Captive Prince*." In *New Frontiers in Popular Romance: Essays on the Genre in the 21st Century*. Ed. Susan Fanetti. McFarland, 2022. 216-232.

Alberto, Maria K. and Dawn Walls-Thumma. "Exploring the Longevity of Tolkien Fandom." In *Fandom, The Next Generation*. Eds. Bridget Kies & Megan Connor. University of Iowa Press, 2022. 196-208.

"A platform studies approach to fan studies projects." In *A Fan Studies Primer: Methods, Ethics, Research*. Eds. Paul Booth & Rebecca Williams. University of Iowa Press, 2021. 239-254.

"Creating Canons in Tabletop Roleplaying Games Played Online." In *Roleplaying Games in the Digital Age: Essays on Transmedia Storytelling, Tabletop RPGs and Fandom*. Eds. Jennifer Cover & Stephanie Hedge. McFarland, 2021. 113-125.

"Forging Posthuman Identity in Dominic Mitchell's *In The Flesh*." In *The Posthuman Gothic*. Ed. Anya Heise-von der Lippe. University of Wales Press, 2017. 109-124.

"Gender & Canon: Creating *Sherlock's* Postfeminist Femme Fatale." In *Gender & the Modern Sherlock Holmes: Essays on Film & Television Adaptations*. Ed. Nadine Farghaly. McFarland, 2015. 66-84.

iv. EDITOR-REVIEWED ESSAYS

Alberto, Maria K., and Billy Tringali. "Working with Fannish Intermediaries." In *Transformative Works and Cultures* 37 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2022.2227>

Alberto, Maria K., and Billy Tringali. "Anime Convention Attendance in Response to Covid-19." In *The Journal of Anime and Manga Studies* 3 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.21900/j.jams.v3.986>

"Fan-users and platform studies." In special issue "Fan Studies Methodologies," *Transformative Works and Cultures* 33 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2020.1841>

v. BOOK REVIEWS – selected from recent

Of Sara K. Howe and Susan E. Cook's (eds.) *Representing kink: Fringe sexuality and textuality in literature, digital narrative, and popular culture*. In *Transformative Works and Cultures* 39 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2023.2289>

Of Jaime Banks's (ed.) *Avatar, Assembled: The Social and Technical Anatomy of Digital Bodies*. In *The Journal of Gaming and Virtual Worlds* 12.3 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1386/jgvw_00022_5

Of Jean Bessette's *Retroactivism in the lesbian archives*. In *Kairos* 24:1 (2020). Wrote & coded webtext: <http://kairos.technorhetoric.net/24.2/reviews/alberto/index.html>

CONFERENCE TALKS

i. LEADERSHIP & ORGANIZATION

Organizing committee member, Fan Studies Network-North America (FSN-NA), Jul. 2021-present

Organizing committee member, Digital Humanities for Utah 6 (Provo, UT), Sept. 2021-Feb. 2022
Panel organizer & co-chair, "Fans, Fandoms, & Fan Contexts of *The Untamed*," FSN-NA (virtual), Oct. 2021
Panel organizer & chair, "Popular Culture & Intertextuality," FWPCA (Las Vegas, NV), Feb. 2019

ii. NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL

"Fan(nish) Texts, Transmedia Storyworlds, and D&D's *Grand History*," Society of Cinema & Media Studies/SCMS (Boston, MA), Mar. 2024
"D&D Canon: Re-Encoding Monstrosity," SCMS (Denver, CO), Apr. 2023
"The *Letters* of Tolkien as Epistolary Appendage," The Epistolary Network conference (virtual), Sept. 2022
(with *Adrianna Burton*) "The Critical Role Foundation & TRPG Giving," Gen Analog (virtual), Jul. 2022
Roundtable talk on canon(s), Modern Language Association/MLA (virtual), Jan. 2022
"Mathom Economies? Fan Gift Culture & A Tolkien Fic Exchange Event," PCA (virtual), Jun. 2021
"Platform Studies and Fandom Histories," SCMS (virtual), Mar. 2021
"'Telling Trauma' in English-language fic of the Yi City arc (*The Untamed*)," FSN-NA (virtual), Oct. 2020
"Creating Canons in D&D: A Conversation w/ Fan Studies Terminology," FSN-NA (Chicago, IL), Oct. 2019
"Fan Interpellation and Blockbuster Films," FSN-NA (Chicago, IL), Oct. 2018
"Architextuality and Queer Fandom Spaces," PCA (Indianapolis, IA,) Apr. 2018
"A Baudrillardian Reading of Tolkien's *Legendarium*," Oxonmoot/Tolkien Society (Oxford, UK), Sept. 2015

iii. REGIONAL

"'Dead Dove Do Not Eat' Fanfiction & The Writer-Reader Contract," SWPACA (virtual), Feb. 2021
"*Good Omens* (2019) & Adaptation as Ergodic Enterprise," SWPACA (Albuquerque, NM), Feb. 2020
"Re-membering & the Digital Screen in *There There*," Western Literature Assoc. (Estes Park, CO), Sept. 2019
"Bots and the Expansion of Storytelling," FWPCA (Las Vegas, NV), Feb. 2019
"The Posthuman Body in Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*," MMLA (Columbus, OH), Nov. 2015

iv. LOCAL

"Bots at Play: Interventions in Digital Narratives," Digital Humanities for Utah 5 (St. George, UT), Feb. 2020
"Bots! Co-Creating Digital Narratives," DHU4 (Weber, UT), Feb. 2019
"Fan Service in 'The Empty Hearse,'" Fandom & Neomedia Studies III (Dallas, TX), Jun. 2015
"Tolkien's Meta-Narratives," Popular Culture & the Deep Past II (Columbus, OH), Feb. 2015

FELLOWSHIPS & RESEARCH AWARDS

Research Assistantship, Utah Center for Promotion of Work Equity Research, University of Utah, 2023-24
Cosgriff-Dahl Writing Fellowship, University of Utah, 2022-23
Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF), University of Utah, 2021-22
Digital Matters Graduate Research Fellowship, University of Utah, fall 2019

Clarence Snow Graduate Fellowship, University of Utah, 2017-19

TEACHING

University of Utah

2018-present

Instructor of Record, Department of English

- Fantasy – Dungeons & Dragons
- Fantasy – Genre
- Diversity in American Literature [*queer literature & BIPOC authors*]
- Literature by The Numbers [*digital humanities & digital media*]
- Fanfiction & Adaptation [*advanced undergrad. course, co-designed & co-taught w/ Anne Jamison*]
- Introduction to Literary Forms

Instructor of Record, Department of Writing & Rhetoric Studies

- College Writing I & College Writing II
- Multicultural Writing I & Multicultural Writing II

Salt Lake Community College

Instructor of Record, Department of English, Linguistics & Writing Studies

2023-present

- Queer Studies
- Introduction to Writing II

Instructor of Record, Prison Education Program

2018

- Introduction to Writing I

Cleveland State University

2014-2017

Instructor of Record, Department of English

- College Writing I & College Writing II
- Intensive College Writing I & Intensive College Writing II [*developmental writing*]

Course Designer & Instructor of Record, Honors College

- Open Access Publishing I & Open Access Publishing II

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Peer reviewer for multiple journals, including:

- *International Journal of Communication* 2024-present
- *The Journal of Fandom Studies* 2022-present
- *Aeternum: The Journal of Contemporary Gothic Studies* 2021-present
- *Transformative Works and Cultures* 2019-present
- *Dialogue: The Interdisciplinary Journal of Pedagogy & Popular Culture* 2019-present
- *The Journal of Anime and Manga Studies (JAMS)* 2019-present

Social media committee member, Western Literature Association (WLA)

2019-2022

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY

University of Utah

Representative, Graduate Student Tenure Review Board

2017-2023

Admissions Team, University of Utah Prison Education Program (UPEP)

2018-2021

Event Coordinator, English Graduate Student Association (EGSA)

2018-2021