

## ALEX ZWEBER LESLIE

Rutgers University English Department  
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### EDUCATION

<b>Ph.D. – Rutgers University</b>	<b>2017 – May 2021</b>
<b>M.A. – Rutgers University</b>	<b>2014 – 2017</b>
<b>B.A. – University of Notre Dame</b>	<b>2010 – 2014</b>

Majors in English and Philosophy, *magna cum laude*

### PUBLICATIONS

**“Race, Region, and the Black Midwest in the Dunbar Decades,”** forthcoming in *American Literary History* (2022).  
Winner of the Spencer Eddy Prize for Best Essay Accepted for Publication, Rutgers English Department, 2021

**“Dixon, Tourgée, and the Fair-and-Balanced Civil War,”** forthcoming in *Race, Citizenship, and Nation in the Literary Work of Albion Tourgée*, ed. Sandra M. Gustafson and Robert S. Levine (Fordham University Press, 2022).

**“Regional Nationalism and the Ends of the *Literary World*,”** *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 7.2 (Fall 2019): 249-275.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

Article manuscript, **“The Uneven Adoption of America’s First Media Oligarchy”**  
Article manuscript, **“Modeling Genre Mixing in Periodicals”**  
Book project, **“Reading Regions: Cultural Geography and American Literature, 1852-1925”** (defended March 2021)  
Director: Brad Evans; Committee: Meredith McGill, Andrew Goldstone, Nicholas Gaskill, Nancy Bentley

### AWARDS AND GRANTS

<b>Spencer Eddy Prize for Best Published Essay, Rutgers University English Department</b>	<b>2021</b>
<b>Louis Bevier Completion Fellowship, Rutgers University</b>	<b>2020 – 2021</b>
<b>Library Company of Philadelphia &amp; Historical Society of Pennsylvania Joint Research Fellowship</b>	<b>2020 – 2021</b>
<b>Houghton Library Houghton Mifflin Visiting Fellowship in Publishing History</b>	<b>2020 – 2021</b>
<b>Raritan Dissertation Fellowship, Rutgers University</b>	<b>2019 – 2020</b>
<b>American Antiquarian Society Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Short-Term Fellowship</b>	<b>2019</b>
<b>Rutgers Center for Cultural Analysis Graduate Fellowship</b>	<b>2018 – 2019</b>
<b>Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund Grant</b>	<b>Summer 2018</b>
<b>“Data and Culture” Digital Humanities Curriculum Development Fellowship</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Mellon Research Grant</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Rutgers Digital Humanities Initiative Seed Grant</b>	<b>2016 – 2017</b>
<b>Rutgers TA/GA Professional Development Fund Grant</b>	<b>Summer 2016</b>
<b>Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences Mellon Summer Research Stipend</b>	<b>Summer 2015</b>
<b>Runner-up, Catherine Moynahan Prize for Best Essay, Rutgers English Department</b>	<b>2015</b>

### TEACHING

<b>Re-Writing and Re-Fighting the Civil War</b> (358:442)	<b>Summer 2018</b>
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 5.00/5.00 (department term average: 4.75)	
Co-Taught w/ Brad Evans, <b>The Cultural History of Now: Inequality–The New Gilded Age?</b> (358:275)	<b>Spring 2018</b>
<b>Principles of Literature: Poetry</b> (359:201:25)	<b>Fall 2017</b>
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 4.63/5.00 (department term average: 4.57)	
<b>Principles of Literature: Poetry</b> (359:201:10)	<b>Spring 2017</b>
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 4.65/5.00 (department term average: 4.55)	
TA w/ Colin Jager, <b>Principles of Literature: Poetry</b> (359:201:07 & 08)	<b>Fall 2016</b>
“Teaching effectiveness of instructor” student evaluation: 4.70/5.00 (department term average: 4.53)	
<b>Expository Writing</b> (355:101:EG)	<b>Spring 2016</b>
<b>Expository Writing</b> (355:101:BA)	<b>Fall 2015</b>

### ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

**Rutgers Libraries Graduate Digital Humanities Specialist** **Spring 2018 – Summer 2020**  
Provided project consultations, worked with library data services, and taught workshops on digital methods.  
See selected workshops below or [complete workshop portfolio](#); 90% of attendees “Extremely satisfied”

### CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

**Library Circulation Histories Workshop** (virtual due to COVID-19) **April 19-30, 2021**  
[“Patterns and Predictability in Borrower Behavior”](#)

**C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference** (virtual due to COVID-19) **October 16-25, 2020**  
Panel chair, “Quantifying Consensus and Dissent”: “What was National or Popular about National Popularity?”

**Literary Tourgée Conference** (Chautauqua, NY) **September 27-9, 2019**  
“Dixon, Tourgée, and the Fair-and-Balanced Civil War.”

**Society of Early Americanists Conference** (Eugene, OR) **February 28-March 2, 2019**  
“Timothy Flint and the New Region”

Invited Presentation: **HathiTrust Research Center “Digging Deeper, Reaching Further” Series** **July 17, 2018**  
“Mining and Analyzing Text from Chronicling America Newspapers”

Invited Presentation: **Seton Hall Digital Humanities Symposium** (South Orange, NJ) **June 5-6, 2018**  
“Analyzing and Teaching Historical Newspaper Databases”

**C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference** (Albuquerque, NM) **March 22-5, 2018**  
“Dis-Placing Race and Re-Placing Region in Paul Laurence Dunbar”

**American Literature Association Regionalism Symposium** (New Orleans, LA) **September 7-9, 2017**  
“More than Color, Less than an -ism: the Postbellum Regional Novel”

**American Literature Association Conference** (Boston, MA) **May 25-8, 2017**  
“How the Leopard Changed its Spots: Tourgée, Dixon, and the Novel Reconstruction of Reconstruction”

**Transatlantic Newspaper Symposium** (London, England) **April 27, 2017**

**Rutgers Digital Humanities Showcase** (New Brunswick, NJ) **March 23, 2017**  
“Reputations in the Regions: American Newspapers and Literary Geography, 1865-1915”

**C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists Conference** (State College, PA) **March 17-20, 2016**  
“It’s A Small *Literary World* after All: Nation, Region, and Antebellum Magazines”

### PORTFOLIO OF DIGITAL WORK

**DH Workshop: [Approaches to Web Scraping](#)** **Spring 2019, Spring 2020**  
Techniques for collecting and organizing content from websites, including introductions to R, HTML, and CSS

**DH Workshop: [Humanities Data 101](#)** **Fall 2018, Fall 2019**  
Introduction to data organization, manipulation, and analysis in R, plus basic visualization

**DH Workshop: [Introduction to Quantitative Textual Analysis](#)** **Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020**  
Introduction to R and the basics of quantifying text, such as word usage, linguistic time, and sentiment analysis

**DH Workshop: [Text Mining Approaches with Historical Newspapers](#)** **Spring 2018, Fall 2019**  
Intermediate two-part workshop on mining and analyzing Chronicling America newspapers or messy OCR in R

**Digital Edition: [A Fable for Critics \(1848\)](#) by James Russell Lowell**  
Built website and edited this famous satire of American literature to explain references and emphasize reception

**Curated Dataset: [Newspaper Syndicates, 1875-1894](#)**  
Discovered, transcribed, regularized, and supplemented directories of the most pervasive suppliers of newsprint

### SERVICE

**Grant Application Reviewer, NEH National Digital Newspaper Program** **2021**

**Member, Black Bibliography Project** **2017 – Present**  
Contributes to strategies for content management and open access; <https://blackbibliog.org/>

**Member, New Jersey Committee for the NEH Digital Newspaper Program** **2015 – Present**  
Evaluates historical significance, logistics, and user needs for newspaper digitization in [Chronicling America](#)

**Dissertating Students Representative, English Department Executive Committee** **2018 – 2019**

**Co-Director, Rutgers Graduate Americanist Colloquium** **2015 – 2017**  
Organized visiting speaker events, graduate student workshops, and discussion groups.