J. Laurence Cohen, PhD

**Current Position**

Lecturer, Department of English, University of Georgia

**Education**

**Emory University**

PhD, Department of English, 2019

**Wheaton College**

B.A. English and Biblical/Theological Studies, 2010

*Summa cum laude*

**Book**

*Excavating Exodus: Biblical Typology and Racial Solidarity in African American Literature*, Clemson University Press, 2021.

**Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

“Exodus and Typological Plasticity in Delany, Melville, and Stowe.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*.64.4 2018. 604-643.

“Shining Inward: The Blind Seer, Fanny Crosby, and Education for the Blind.” *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*.11.1 2017. 53-68.

**Invited Talks**

“Martin Delany’s Liberation Theology”

Wheaton College Philosophy Department, February 2022

**Other Publications**

“[A Fully WOVEN Artifact: Promo Video](https://sites.gatech.edu/woventextextras/a-fully-woven-artifact-promo-video/)” in *WOVENText* 2021. 220-221.

Contributor to “The Year in Conferences—2019.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*. 66.1 2020. 133-213.

**Teaching Experience**

**University of Georgia**

English 1102, Fall 2022

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

English 1102, “Compelling Comics,” Spring 2022

* Structured projects around design for medium, critical thinking, and creative analysis.
* Guided students in creating screencasts, websites, and illustrations about original comics.

English 1102, “Science Fact and Fiction,” Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021

* Implemented hybrid instruction by recording lectures and using Perusall for asynchronous class discussions.
* Taught rhetoric, process, and multimodality through individual film pitches and collaborative film trailer projects.

English 1102, “Race and Religion from Abolition to the Civil Rights Movement,” Spring 2020

* Scaffolded multimodal research projects on systemic racism.
* Demonstrated basic archival research skills using the Ivan Allen Digital Archive.

English 1101, “Serious Satire,” Fall 2019

* Conveyed genre conventions through satirical journalistic, lifestyle, and political writing.
* Collaborated with colleagues to offer storyboarding and video editing workshops.

**Morehouse College**

English 102, “The Art of Commentary,” Spring 2019

* Established research and argumentation fundamentals.
* Built lessons around material relevant to students, including hip hop and basketball.

English 102, “Black Critics, Black Culture,” Fall 2018

* Taught artistic manifestos, literary analysis, and researched argument.
* Implemented the “Black Ink Project” QEP, teaching texts by African American writers.

**Emory University**

English 213W Fictions of Human Desire, “Art and Immortality,” Spring 2018

* Built course around various genres, including elegy, gothic, revenge tragedy, theater of the absurd, freedom narrative, historical fiction, and science fiction.
* Scaffolded assignments to give students practice with close reading and research.

English 181 Writing about Literature, “Time Travel,” Spring 2016

* Taught writing as process through personal narrative, film analysis, and close reading.
* Helped students translate course success into reflective introductions to their portfolios.

English 101 Expository Writing, “Writing through Parody,” Fall 2015

* Aided students in creating satirical dramatic monologues, news articles, and speeches.
* Employed revision and peer review to help students curate their final portfolios.

**Selected Conference Presentations**

“Excavating Exodus”

British Association of Nineteenth Century Americanists, May 2022

“New Black Gods in HBO’s *Watchmen*”

Conference on Christianity and Literature Midwest Regional Meeting, June 2021

**“‘The badge of servitude and toil’: Maternal Bonds and Mosaic Subjectivity in Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s ‘Moses: A Story of the Nile’”**

**Northeast Modern Language Association, March 2020**

“‘No religion but that which brings us liberty’: Mosaic Authority in Martin Delany’s *Blake*”

Rhetoric and Religion in the 21st Century, October 2018

“That ‘tremendous indictment of slavery’: W.E.B. Du Bois’s Reading of David Walker’s *Appeal*”

Modern Language Association, January 2018

“Sacred Poetry and Aesthetic Uplift in James Weldon Johnson’s *God’s Trombones*”

Midwest Modern Language Association, November 2016

“‘Vegetable monsters’: (Un)Natural Militancy in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *Dred*”

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2016

“‘An echo of the weird orgy’: Nervous Sensitivity, Sexuality, and Religious Conversion in Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*”

Critical Juncture, Emory University, April 2016

“‘Holy Women Dancing in Hot Sweet Rain’: Patriarchal Violence, Africana Religions, and Embodied Spirituality in Toni Morrison’s *Paradise*”

LeMoyne College Religion and Literature Forum, October 2015

“The ‘angel is not’ing more dan de shark well goberned’: Dialect and Dialogism in Fleece’s Sermon to the Sharks in *Moby-Dick*”

American Literature Association Symposium, February 2015

“‘Chanting Measures’: Dialect, (In)Coherence, and Rev. Shegog’s Easter Sermon in *The Sound and the Fury*”

Auburn University at Montgomery Liberal Arts Conference, February 2015

**Awards and Fellowships**

Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship 2019-2022

Mellon Graduate Teaching Fellowship 2018-2019

James Richardson Prize, Emory English Department 2018

Graduate Essay Prize, Emory English Department 2018, 2019

Lilly Graduate Fellows Program 2013-2016

**Programmatic Awards—Writing and Communication Program, Georgia Tech**

Conference on College Composition and Communication Writing Program Certificate of Excellence 2021

University of Georgia Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award 2021

Georgia Institute of Technology Unit Diversity Champion Award 2020

**Institutional Service**

**Georgia Institute of Technology**

Book Proposal Workshop facilitator, October 2021

*WOVENText* Committee Member, 2019-2021

Brittain Fellows Hiring Committee Member, 2019-2021

Innovative Pedagogy Committee Member, 2019-2021

Tutor for inmates at Metro Reentry Facility with Common Good Atlanta, 2019-2021