

# **BRENDEN O'DONNELL**

## **EDUCATION**

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Ph.D., Brandeis University, English, 2019

Working Dissertation Title: Queer Temperance: Recovery as Critical Mourning

Director: David Sherman

M.A., Brandeis University, English and Women's and Gender Studies Joint Degree, 2012

M.A. Thesis: Queer Negativity: Anti-Humanism in *The Living End*

Advisors: Thomas A. King, Paul Morrison

B.A., Duquesne University, Magna Cum Laude, 2010

Majors: English and Women's and Gender Studies

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Lecturer, Literary Arts + Studies, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD):**

Let's Have a Kiki: Stories of Queer Bars and Drag Balls

Writing, Addiction and Recovery: First-Year Literature Seminar

**Lecturer, English Department, Brandeis University:**

Rethinking the Gay Bar: Queer Utopias from Stonewall to Pulse, Spring 2019

Literature Between Habit and Addiction, Spring 2018

**Instructor, Writing Program, Brandeis University:**

University Writing Seminar: Bad Habits in Literature, Spring 2017

University Writing Seminar: Queer Pulp Fiction, Spring 2016

University Writing Seminar: Queer Pulp Fiction, Fall 2015

## **PUBLICATION**

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### **Peer-Reviewed**

"Gore Vidal's Moral Program: Homophile Spirituality in ONE Magazine and *The City and the Pillar*," Forthcoming in *Texas Studies in Literature and Language*. Vol. 61, No. 1. Spring 2019.

"Modeling Addiction: Teaching *The House of Mirth* in the Context of Critical Addiction Studies," Forthcoming Summer 2019 in *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction*. Ed. Ferda Asya. Palgrave MacMillan, Summer 2019.

"Surveilling Lesbians: Hitchcock, Narrative Cinema, and the Criminalization of Sexuality," Under Review at *Camera Obscura*

### **Other**

"Writers Beat Addiction in *Out of the Wreck*." *Chicago Review of Books*. 12 January 2017. Web.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

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Co-Director, Brandeis University Writing Center, Fall 2017 – current

*The Writing Center is a one-on-one tutoring service staffed by graduate student tutors.*

- recruit, interview, hire, train, and supervise tutors
  - plan, manage, and process payroll according to a \$101,000 wage budget
  - program and maintain the Writing Center website and the daily tutoring schedule on Writing Center Online  
(<http://www.brandeis.edu/writingprogram/writingcenter/index.html>)
  - organize and publicize open-invitation workshops to all undergraduate students
  - design and conduct training sessions geared toward tutors' pedagogical development
- Co-Creator and Facilitator of Three-Part University-Wide Workshop for First Year Writing Students:
- "The Research Essay: Some Assembly Required," April 2017
  - "Making a Lens Text Useful," March 2017
  - "Close Reading: Specific But Not Peripheral," February 2017
- Graduate Student Representative, Brandeis English Department, 2015-2017
- Creator and Facilitator of Workshop, "Teaching Your First Session, Planning Your First Week," for first-time graduate writing instructors, Summer 2016
- Organizer, NEMLA Panel "Use, Abuse, Abstinence: Reading Alcohol in Literature," Mar 18, 2016
- Co-Organizer, Brandeis English Graduate Student Conference: "Melodrama," 13 Feb 2015
- Judge, Queer Foundation Scholarship Essay Contest, 2015 – current
- Resume Advisor, Brandeis University International Business School, 2013-2015
- Writing Consultant, Brandeis University Writing Center, 2010 – current
- ELL Tutor, Brandeis University ELL Program, 2010-2012
- Writing Consultant, Duquesne University Writing Center, 2009-2010
- Leaders for Literacy Committee Member, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, 2010
- Adult Basic Education Tutor, Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, 2008-2010

## PRESENTATIONS

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- "Audre Lorde's Inheritors: Alcoholics Anonymous and the Work of Integrity." GCWS Graduate Conference "Interrogating Self-Care: Bodies, Personhood, and Movement in Tumultuous Times." Cambridge, MA, 29 March 2019.
- "Why *Boyhood* Never Grew Up: Substance and Free Will in American Independent Film." Presented as guest lecturer to Professor Caren Irr's American Independent Film class. Waltham, MA, 16 November 2016.
- "Rereading the Lush: a Queer Ecology of Midcentury Gay Pulp." Presented at "Rethinking Posthumanism" graduate conference at Brandeis University, Waltham, MA. 1 April 2016
- "The Icy Blonde and Lesbian Desire in *The Birds*." Presented as guest lecturer to Professor Paul Morrison's Hitchcock class. Waltham, MA, 13 April 2015.
- "Laughing at the Apocalypse: Conflicted Comedy and 90s Queer Cinema." Presented at NEMLA 2014. Harrisburg, PA, 3 April 2014.
- "Ethically Queer: Resolving the Vengeance of Queer Identity." Presented at NEMLA 2012. Rochester, NY, 17 March 2012.
- "Nature as Colleague: A Feminist Critique of 'Mont Blanc.'" Presented at Sigma Tau Delta International Convention. St. Louis, MO, 18 March 2010.
- "The Rebel and the Traditionalist: Writing Center Consultant as Reconciler." Presented at Duquesne University's Pittsburgh Area Writing Center Conference. Pittsburgh, PA, 10 November 2009

## AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Brandeis University English Department Prize Instructorship, Spring 2019  
Brandeis University Prize Instructorship, 2017-2018  
Mellon Dissertation Research Grant, Summer 2017  
Frankel Foundation Award, Fall 2016  
Two advisees published in Write Now! (Brandeis's student essay anthology): Leigh Meyer-Beyer, "When Words Fail Us" (2017) and Hannah Sussman, "In Search of the New Western: Bringing Brokeback Mountain to the Mainstream" (2016)  
Outstanding Teaching Fellow, Brandeis University Writing Program, 2015-2016  
PhD Research Grant, Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2014, Spring 2016  
MA Research Grant, Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Spring 2012  
Rapaport Graduate Fellowship, Brandeis University's Women's and Gender Studies Department, September 2010 – May 2011  
O'Donnell Excellence Award for Service, Duquesne University English Department, Spring 2010

## **LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES**

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Latin, French, and Spanish