

Aaron Bartels-Swindells

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EMPLOYMENT

McGill University, Faculty Lecturer, McGill Writing Centre Course Lecturer, Department of English	Fall 2023-
Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Assistant Teaching Professor in English	Spring 2023
Lecturer in English	Fall 2022

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Ph.D. in English Graduate Certificate in Africana Studies Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning	2022
Yale University, Fox International Fellow	2013-14
University of Cambridge, Sidney Sussex College, M.Phil. in English Studies: Criticism and Culture	2013
University of Edinburgh, 1 st Class M.A. (Hons) in English Literature McGill University, Partner Exchange Student	2012 2010-11

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

African Literature; Critical and Literary Theory; Global Anglophone Literature; Global Black Studies
Postcolonial Studies; Sociology of Literature; Theory and History of the Novel

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- “Unmasking Communism: Ayi Kwei Armah, Black Marxism, and the Cultural Turn, 1967-1984.”
African Identities 18, no. 1-2 (2020): 162-181. doi: 10.1080/14725843.2020.1773245
- “The Metapragmatics of the ‘Minor Writer’: Zoë Wicomb, Literary Value, and the Windham-
Campbell Prize Festival.” *Representations* 137, no. 1 (Winter 2017): 88-111. doi:
10.1525/rep.2017.137.1.88

Public Writing

- “Genre Fever” (with Jane Hu). *Severance* Cluster. *Post45: Contemporaries*, October 13, 2020.
<http://post45.org/2020/10/genre-fever/>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SAS Graduate Division Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> .	2021-22
Andrew W. Mellon Doctoral Dissertation Fellow in the Humanities, Urbanism and Design (H+U+D) Initiative, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2020-21
English Department Library Fund, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2019
Dissertation Research Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2018-19
GAPSA Travel Award, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2018
SASGov Travel Award, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2018
Foreign Language Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship (Advanced isiZulu)	2017-18
Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad Grant (South Africa: isiZulu)	2017
Foreign Language Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship (Basic isiZulu)	2016-17
Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship (Stellenbosch, South Africa: Afrikaans)	2017
Stuart Curran Fund Grant, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2016, '17, '18, '20
SAS Dean's Travel Subvention, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2015, '16, '18
Dalglish Chew Fund Grant, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2015, '16, '17
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2015-20
Judith Rosenberg Fellowship, <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2014-15
Fox International Fellowship, <i>Yale University</i>	2013-14
Language Program Grant (Basic & Intermediate German), <i>Sidney Sussex College</i>	2012-13
Cowen Bequest (Undergraduate Inclusivity Grant), <i>University of Edinburgh</i>	2008-12
Leonardo da Vinci Program (Language: Italian), <i>European Commission</i>	2007

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

"Theorizing Totality in the South." <i>Modern Language Association Annual Convention</i> . Philadelphia. January 4-7.	2024
"Narrating <i>Native Life in South Africa</i> : Sol Plaatje and the History of South African Realism." <i>African Literature Association Annual Conference</i> . University of Tennessee—Knoxville. May 26.	2023
"Genre Trouble: Form, Totality, and Urban Life in Nadine Gordimer's <i>A World of Strangers</i> and <i>Drum Magazine</i> ." <i>H+U+D Initiative Seminar Series</i> . Online. April 9.	2021
"Alternative Realisms and the Everyday in Es'kia Mphahlele's 'Lesane' Stories and Nadine Gordimer's <i>World of Strangers</i> ." <i>American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference</i> . Online. April 11.	2021
"Remaking the Periphery: Sol Plaatje's Realism and the Crisis of the British Imperial State." <i>American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference</i> . Chicago. March 21. (Cancelled due to COVID-19.)	2020
"Critical Maoism? Culture and Fanon in the Theory of Ayi Kwei Armah, 1967-1984." <i>Modern Language Association Annual Convention</i> . Seattle. January 12.	2020
"Fragments of Fanon: Ayi Kwei Armah Revisited." <i>American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference</i> . UCLA. April 1.	2018

- “Rethorizing Gordimer and Rereading Lukacs before the Interregnum.” *South Africa and Global Modernism Seminar. American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference*. Harvard University. March 19. 2016
- “Zoë Wicomb at the Windham Campbell Prize Festival: Autotelic Publics and the Rescaling of Literary Prestige.” *Annual Conference on Semiotic Anthropology*. University of Pennsylvania. May 6. 2015
- “Towards an Understanding of the ‘Minor Writer’: Zoë Wicomb, Literary Value and the Windham Campbell Prize Reading.” *Language-in-use Seminar. American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference*. Seattle, WA. March 28. 2015
- “Three Thinkers on the Intersection of Legal Discourses of Human Rights and Postcolonial Theory.” *Fox Fellowship Seminar Series*. Yale University. April 14. 2014
- “Human Rights and Postcolonial Studies: Intersections around Self-Determination.” *Fox Fellowship Seminar Series*. Yale University. September 3. 2013
- “Colonial Modernity and Contemporary Politics: Sources of Dissatisfaction and Response in the Novels of Ayi Kwei Armah.” *Works in Progress: A Graduate Symposium*. University of Cambridge. May 10. 2013

Departmental Talks

- “Of ‘Masks and Marx’: Ayi Kwei Armah's Afrocentrism and Decolonial Aesthetics, 1967-1984.” *Latitudes Working Group*. University of Pennsylvania. January 23. 2019
- “Beyond Postcolonial Studies?” *Special Roundtable with the Latitudes Working Group*. University of Pennsylvania. September 20. 2016

Pedagogy Workshops

- “Invention and Research in Reverse: From Thesis-Statement to Topic.” *Program in Writing and Rhetoric College Teaching Course*. Pennsylvania State University, University Park. February 23. 2023

Invited Participation

- “Memory’s Pasts Presents and Future.” *Aesthetic Afterlives: Memory Transfiguration and the Arts*. Princeton University. September 10. 2016
- The Cultural Politics of Dirt in Africa Workshop*. Yale University. November 3-4. 2016

Conferences Organized

- “Environments of Modernity.” University of Pennsylvania. March 22. 2018

Panels Organized

- 2021
- “Genres of Realism; Genres of Criticism.” *American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference*. Online. April 8-11.
- “Comparative Realisms.” *American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference*. 2020
Chicago, IL. March 19-21. (Cancelled due to COVID-19.)

TEACHING

McGill University

Instructor of Record

- “African Literature: South African Fiction and Histories of the Novel.” 400-Level Seminar. Spring 2024.
- “Postcolonial Literature: What is Decolonization?” 300-Level Lecture Course. Fall 2023.
- “Research Essay and Rhetoric.” 200-Level Rhetoric and Composition Course. Fall 2023; Spring 2024.

Pennsylvania State University, University Park

Instructor of Record

- “Rhetoric and Composition.” Writing and Rhetoric Program Core Course. Fall 2022; Spring 2023.

University of Pennsylvania

Instructor of Record

- “Place and Belonging.” Writing Seminar, Pre-Freshman Program. Summer 2020; Summer 2019; Summer 2018.
- “The Great African Novel.” Junior Research Seminar. Fall 2017.

Teaching Assistant

- “The Vietnam War in Literature and Film.” Spring 2016.

Grader

- “Television and New Media.” Spring 2022; Fall 2021; Spring 2021; Fall 2020; Spring 2020; Fall 2019.
- “Hollywood.” Fall 2015.

Guest Lectures

- “Views of Johannesburg in *The Exploded View*,” for “Intro to Postcolonial Lit: South African Literature and Film” with Rita Barnard. Spring 2018.
- “Modernity and Community in *Inxeba*,” for “Intro to Postcolonial Lit: South African Literature and Film” with Rita Barnard. Spring 2018.
- “On Zygmunt Bauman’s *Globalization*” for “Cinema and Politics” with Rita Barnard. Fall 2014.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**University of Pennsylvania**

Treasurer, Graduate English Association	2016-17
Co-Convener, Latitudes Working Group	2015-18
Co-Founder and Convener, African Visual Media Group	2015-17
Resident Graduate Associate, Harrison College House	2015-17
Vice-President of Communications and Operations, Graduate Student Government of the School of Arts and Sciences	2015-16
English Department Representative to Graduate Student Government of the School of Arts and Sciences	2015-16
Graduate Mentor, Graduate English Association	2015-16
First-Year Representative, Graduate English Association	2014-15

Yale University

Research Assistant to Owen Fiss and Daniel Markovits, Yale Law School	2014
Editorial Assistant to Henrik Jensen, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies	2014

University of Cambridge

Convener, Graduate Research Seminar in Literary Theory	2013
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LANGUAGES

IsiZulu (reading w/ dictionary)
Afrikaans (reading w/ dictionary)
Italian (reading w/ dictionary)
French (reading w/ dictionary)

MEMBERSHIPS

African Literature Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association