

ALEC POLLAK  
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## EDUCATION

2024 (expected)	<b>Ph.D.</b>	Literatures in English, Cornell University
2021–2022	<b>Visiting Scholar</b>	English, University of Pennsylvania
2021	<b>M.A.</b>	Literatures in English, Cornell University
2015	<b>B.A.</b>	English Language and Literature, Yale University

## ARTICLES AND PUBLICATIONS

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. “Toni Morrison’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*,” *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, 47.1 (2022): 107–129. <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlac020>.
  - Winner of the 2022 *MELUS* Katharine Newman Best Essay Award
2. “Fantasizing Gender in the J. Peterman *Owner’s Manual*,” *Feminist Theory*, 23.3 (2022): 327–350. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14647001221085920>.
3. “Rereading the Black Naturalist Novel: Ann Petry’s *The Street* and the Black Women Writers Series.” Revised and resubmitted, *African American Review*.
4. “The Making of Virginia Woolf.” Under review.

### INTERVIEWS, PODCASTS, AND OTHER PUBLIC WRITINGS

1. “Introduction” to *Fanning the Flames: The Making of Firebrand* by Nancy K. Bereano, forthcoming 2024.
2. *Virginia Woolf Miscellany*, Special 100<sup>th</sup> Issue, Co-Editor with J.J. Wilson and Vara Neverow, forthcoming 2023.
3. “Private Domain: On Ada Calhoun’s *Also A Poet*.” Book review, *LA Review of Books*, November 2022. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/private-domain-on-ada-calhouns-also-a-poet/>
4. “Rural Poetics: Part 2 with Nancy Bereano.” Interview with Nancy Bereano. *Society for the Humanities Podcast*, July 2021. <https://societyhumanities.as.cornell.edu/news/rural-poetics-part-2-nancy-bereano>
5. “Visual Tellings to Confront ‘The Legacy of Rape,’” *Broad Recognition: A Feminist Publication at Yale*, 2014.
6. “Writing at War: Cherríe Moraga’s Relationship to Language as Lucha,” *Broad Recognition: A Feminist Publication at Yale*, 2013.

## BOOK PROJECTS

*Samuel R. Delany and Joanna Russ: Selected Correspondence, 1968-1998*  
(in preparation, solicited by Columbia University Press, co-edited with Joan Lubin with co-authored critical introduction, foreword by Samuel R. Delany)

This collection, featuring an original foreword by Samuel R. Delany, will put the correspondence between Delany (1942-) and Joanna Russ (1937-2011) into print for the first time. Their letters chronicle the decades long camaraderie, critical commentary, and prodigious writing practices of two of the most influential queer science fiction authors of

the twentieth century. Writing one another nearly every day, their correspondence is a rich archive of the working life of the science fiction writer in the heady days of the emergent New Wave and the movements for Black, gay, and women’s liberation, as well as a chastening chronicle of the immiserating working conditions of adjunct faculty attempting to make a living teaching the topics that matter. They discuss their own works in progress and reflect on the writing of their many notable peers—Philip K. Dick, Ursula Le Guin, Marilyn Hacker, Octavia Butler, and others. The volume is necessarily a selection of letters, as the total page count for their correspondence numbers in the many thousands. Totalling approximately 350 pages, the volume will include a photographic insert of a selection of Delany’s letters featuring his signature compositional style, typed on found paper products making creative use of margins, and signed affectionately, as ever, “Love and stuff.”

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

### **COMPETITIVE WRITING AWARDS**

- 2023 Hazel Rowley Prize, Biographers International Organization
- Awarded to a first-time biographer whose book proposal shows exceptional merit
- 2023 Katharine Newman Best Essay Award, Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States
- Awarded to the article representing the most outstanding scholarship of the year in both innovation and excellence
- 2022 Biddy Martin Graduate Prize, LGBT Studies, Cornell University
- Awarded to the best graduate student essay in LGBT Studies
- 2021 Moses Coit Tyler Essay Prize, Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University
- Awarded to the best essay by a graduate or undergraduate student in the fields of American history, literature, or folklore
- 2020 Truman Capote Ph.D. Writer’s Award, Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University
- Awarded to a PhD student who is also a creative writer
- 2020 Biddy Martin Graduate Prize Honorable Mention, LGBT Studies, Cornell University
- 2015 John Hubbard Curtis Prize, Department of English, Yale University
- Awarded for excellence in English courses and in a senior essay

### **COMPETITIVE TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND ACADEMIC AWARDS**

- 2023 Junior Fellow, Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography, Rare Books School
- 2023 Harry Ransom Center Research Fellowship in the Humanities, Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas–Austin
- 2022 Grant for Digital Program Development, Grants Program for Digital Collections, Cornell University Library
- 2022 Short-Term Research Fellowship, New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture
- 2022 Library Research Grant, Princeton University
- 2022 Houghton Mifflin Fellowship in Publishing History, Harvard University
- 2022 Beinecke Library Research Fellowships for Graduate Students, Yale University
- 2022 Spencer Research Library Travel Awards, University of Kansas

- 2021 Nebraska Cather Collaborative Grant, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- 2021 American Studies Program Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University
- 2021 Pearl & Otto Delikat Memorial Grant, Jewish Studies, Cornell University
- 2021 Sage Summer Fellowship, Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University
- 2021 Rosenthal Advancement of College of Arts and Sciences Women Graduate Research Award, Cornell University
- 2020 HASTAC Scholars Fellowship, Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory
- 2020 Shortlisted for Mellon Graduate Fellowship, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2020 Rural Poetics Podcast Grant, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2020 Early Career Research Grant, Research Society for American Periodicals
- 2020 Rural Humanities Summer Practicum Grant, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2020 Bibliographical Society of the University of Virginia Scholarship, Rare Books School
- 2018 American Studies Program Graduate Research Grant, Cornell University
- 2018 Sage Fellowship, Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University
- 2018 Le Guin Feminist Science Fiction Research Fellowship, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon
- 2015 Bruce L. Cohen Research Award, LGBT Studies Program, Yale University
- 2015 Mellon Senior Research Award, Hopper College, Yale University
- 2014 Courture Fellowship, Dwight Hall, Yale University
- 2013 Paul Mellon Scholarship for International Study, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, Yale University

#### TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2021 Einaudi Center International Research Travel Award, Cornell University
- 2021 Timothy Murray Travel Grant, Society for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2021 Research Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2021 Dissertation Field Research Award, Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University
- 2021 Graduate School Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University
- 2019 MSA Toronto 2019 Travel Grant, Modernist Studies Association
- 2019 President’s Travel Fund for the Humanities, Cornell University
- 2019 Graduate School Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University

#### CONFERENCES, TALKS, AND WORKSHOPS

##### PAPERS PRESENTED

- 2022 “Closeting Lorraine: Queer Silence in the Archives of the Hansberry Estate,” Mod/Con, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), April 14 (invited)
- 2022 “The Posterity Circuit,” Modern Language Association Annual Conference (Washington, DC), January 6–9
- 2021 “*Virginia Woolf Miscellany* and the Practice of Grassroots Bibliography,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL), November 4–7 [cancelled due to COVID-19]

- 2021 “Literary Estates and Textual Transmission,” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Annual Meeting, online, July 26–30
- 2021 “Spreading the Word: The Rise of LGBTQ Print Culture, 1970-1984,” Research Society for American Periodicals Symposium, online, May 27 (invited)
- 2021 “Reprints and the Problem of Time,” Society for Textual Scholarship 2021 Conference, online, May 19–22
- 2021 “Literary Estates, Recovery Work, and the Future of Scholarly Agency,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, online, April 8–11
- 2020 “Biographical Criticism and Receptions of Classical Myth,” co-authored with Malina Buturović (Princeton University), Feminism & Classics 2020: body/language (Winston-Salem, NC), May 21–24 [cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2020 “Women at the End of Theory,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL), March 19–22 [cancelled due to COVID-19]
- 2019 “The Virginia Woolf Estate and the Making of a Literary Legacy,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Meeting (Toronto, ON, CA), October 17–20
- 2019 “The Universal Use of They/Them/Theirs: An Exploration of the Potentials and Pitfalls of Gender Neutrality,” Cornell German Studies Graduate Student Conference: Pragmatics and Poetics of Pronouns (Ithaca, NY), March 22–23
- 2019 “Reconstituting the Woman Reader: Satire, Alienation, and Formal Device in Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*,” International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (Orlando, FL), March 13–16
- 2019 “Critical Embodiment: Reading Rape in Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby*,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting (Washington, DC), March 7–10
- 2016 “Epistemologies of Embodied Voice: The Autobiographical Authority of the Critical ‘I,’” Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (Hartford, CT), March 17–20
- 2015 “‘For there she was’: Character, Reality, and the Present Moment in *Mrs. Dalloway*,” Annual Convention of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association (Portland, OR), November 6–8

#### PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2022 “Circuitous Channels: The Communications Circuit at 40,” Modern Language Association Annual Conference (Washington, D.C.), January 6–9
- 2021 “House Styles: Pulp, Periodicals, Publishing,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL), November 4–7 [cancelled due to COVID-19]

2019 “Modernist Afterlives and the Politics of Literary Transmission,” Modernist Studies Association Annual Meeting (Toronto, ON, CA), October 17–20

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

2021–2022 Mentor, Multicultural Academic Council Mentoring Program, Cornell University  
2021–2022 “Feminist Generations” Reading Group Co-Organizer, Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities, Princeton University  
2019–2022 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Library Board, Cornell University  
2018–2021 PhD Student Representative, Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee, Cornell University  
2019–2020 Advocacy Liaison, English Graduate Student Organization, Cornell University  
2014–2015 Student Representative, English Student Advisory Committee, Yale University  
2013–2014 Research Assistant, African American Studies Department, Yale University

### **UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

2021 Instructor of Record, “Feminism in Print,” Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University (Spring)  
2020 Teaching Assistant, “Feminist Theory,” Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Cornell University (Fall)  
2019–2020 Instructor of Record, “Great New Books,” Department of Literatures in English, Cornell University (Fall & Spring)  
2019 Writing Tutor, Knight Writing Institute, Cornell University (Summer)

### **CERTIFICATIONS AND SPECIAL TRAINING**

2022 Why Black Bibliography Matters, Rare Books School, June 27–July 1  
2021 NextGen Professors Program, Cornell University  
2021 Oral History Summer School, June 4–14  
2020 Center for Teaching Innovation, Graduate Fellow, Cornell University  
2020 Developing and Interpreting African American Special Collections, Rare Books School, July 20–24 [cancelled due to COVID-19]  
2020 Peer Mentorship Program, Knight Writing Institute, Cornell University  
2020 Race, Gender, & Pedagogy Working Group, Knight Writing Institute, Cornell University  
2019 Feminist Summer Reading School: Philosophy and Bodies, June 17–22  
2019 Humanities and Social Sciences Doctoral Student Library Immersion Program, Cornell  
2019 Intergroup Dialogue Project, Cornell University

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Modernist Studies Association (MSA)  
Biographers International Organization (BIO)

### **LANGUAGES**

Spanish: Reading proficient | Hebrew: Intermediate | Yiddish: Beginner