

**Curriculum Vitae 1-17-24**  
**OLIVIA STOWELL**

stowell@umich.edu

(970) 310-6583

**EDUCATION**

---

**Ph.D., Communication & Media**

**Expected Graduation: May 2026**

*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

- Digital Studies Graduate Certificate from the Digital Studies Institute
- Graduate Teaching Certificate from the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching
- Dissertation Chair: Dr. Hollis Griffin; Committee Members: Dr. Apryl Williams, Dr. Devon Powers, Dr. Daniel Herbert

**M.A., English Literature**

**Degree Conferred: May 2021**

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- GPA: 4.00, summa cum laude, thesis passed with distinction
- Thesis: “We Want to See You on the Plate: Power, Race, and History in *Top Chef*”
  - Advisor: Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh; second reader: Dr. Lauren Shoheit

**B.A., English Literature / Theatre Arts**

**Degree Conferred: May 2019**

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- GPA: 3.99, summa cum laude
- Senior Thesis: “A Good Soul and Handsome Too: *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, and the Reproduction of Cultural Power”
  - Advisor: Dr. Cheri Larsen Hoeckley

**FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS**

---

**September 2023**

Rackham International Travel Grant - *University of Michigan*

**July 2023**

Rackham Research Grant - *University of Michigan*

**September 2022**

Amy J. Elias Founders Award - *Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present*

**August 2022**

Rackham Travel Grant - *University of Michigan*

**June–July 2022**

School of Criticism & Theory Participant - *Cornell University*

**April 2022**

William R. and Flora Hewlett Foundation Award - *University of Michigan*

**March 2022**

SCMS Television Studies Scholarly Interest Group Graduate Student Essay Contest Winner - *Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Television Studies SIG*

**April 2021–August 2024**

Lilly Graduate Fellowship, Twelfth Cohort - *Lilly Graduate Fellows Program*

<b>April 2021</b>	Graduate Studies Service Award - <i>Villanova University</i>
<b>October 2020</b>	Nominee for Lilly Graduate Fellowship - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>May 2020</b>	Daniel Walden Prize for Best Graduate Student Conference Paper - <i>Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association</i>
<b>April 2020</b>	Margaret Powell Esmonde Award for Most Distinguished Graduate Essay in English - <i>Villanova University</i>
<b>November 2019</b>	Nomination for the Pushcart Prize XLV for poem “Sylvian Seizure” - <i>Madcap Review</i>
<b>May 2019</b>	Kenneth Monroe Outstanding Female Graduate Award - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>May 2019</b>	English Department Outstanding Senior Award - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>August 2015–May 2019</b>	Dean’s List - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>April 2019</b>	Arthur W. Lynip English Department Scholarship - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>March 2019</b>	Lilly Graduate Fellowship Alternate - <i>Lilly Fellows Program</i>
<b>November 2018</b>	Nominee for Lilly Graduate Fellowship - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>May 2018</b>	Phi Kappa Phi Chapter Officer - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>April 2018</b>	Arthur W. Lynip English Department Scholarship - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>March 2018</b>	Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society Member - <i>Westmont College</i>
<b>March 2015</b>	Monroe Full Tuition Scholarship - <i>Westmont College</i>

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

[under review] **Stowell, Olivia.** “Re-heating the “First” Thanksgiving: The Thanksgiving Episode as Settler Colonial Narrative.” *Critical Studies in Television*.

[under review] **Stowell, Olivia.** ““You’re Like the Cute Harmless Version of QAnon’: Taylor Swift “Gaylor” Subreddits and Microconspiracy Archives, Affects, and Aesthetics.” *Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*.

**Stowell, Olivia.** ““It’s *Top Chef*, Not a Personality Contest’: Grammars of Stereotype, Neoliberal Logics of Personhood, and the Performance of the Racialized Self in *Top Chef*.” *New Review of Film & Television*, vol. 20, no. 4, 2 November 2022, doi.org/10.1080/17400309.2022.2133920.

**Stowell, Olivia.** “There’s Certainly a Lot of History Here, but We’re Here to Roast Oysters: Afterlives of Transatlantic Exchange in *Top Chef: Charleston*.” *Television & New Media*, January 2022, doi:10.1177/15274764211067735.

## BOOK CHAPTERS AND ARTICLES IN CONFERENCE & GRADUATE JOURNALS

---

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Ascendance to Trans-Corporeality or Assimilation to Whiteness?: The Posthuman Ecofeminist Imaginaries of *Annihilation* and *Midsommar*.” In *Feminist Posthumanism in Contemporary Science Fiction Film and Media*, edited by Russell Kilbourn and Julia Empey, Bloomsbury Academic, September 2023.

**Stowell, Olivia.** “A Good Soul and Handsome Too: *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, and the Reproduction of Cultural Power.” *Response: The Journal of Popular and American Culture*, vol. 7, no. 1, June 2022, <https://responsejournal.net/issue/2022-06/feature/good-soul-and-handsome-too-aladdin-pocahontas-and-reproduction-cultural-power>.

**Stowell, Olivia.** “A Form of Work We’d Rather Not Do Alone: Chen Chen, Poetics of Relationality, and the Intersubjective Lyric I.” *CONCEPT: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, vol. 43, April 2020, [concept.journals.villanova.edu/article/view/2497/2460](http://concept.journals.villanova.edu/article/view/2497/2460).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Re-Inscribing Racial Hierarchy: White Racial Anxiety, Interracial Sexuality, and Ambiguously Raced Bodies in Kate Chopin’s “*Désirée’s* Baby.” *Liberated Arts: A Journal for Undergraduate Research*, vol. 6, no. 1, April 2019, [ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/lajur/article/view/7588/6215](http://ojs.lib.uwo.ca/index.php/lajur/article/view/7588/6215).

## PUBLIC WRITING

---

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Suspicious Vibes.” *Post45 Contemporaries*, forthcoming 2024.

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Now Get to Work, Ben!” *ASAP/J*, forthcoming 2024.

**Stowell, Olivia,** Hannah Krieshok, & Cecilia Reynolds. “Carrots & Little Sweet Peas.” *Post45 Contemporaries*, forthcoming 2024.

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Pilgrimage to Pumptinis.” *Avidly*, Los Angeles Review of Books, in “Vanderpump Rules Now,” 30 January 2024, [avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2024/01/30/pilgrimage-to-pumptinis/](http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2024/01/30/pilgrimage-to-pumptinis/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Family No Longer Sustains: On Michael Szalay’s *Second Lives*.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 29 July 2023, [lareviewofbooks.org/article/family-no-longer-sustains-on-michael-szalays-second-lives/](http://lareviewofbooks.org/article/family-no-longer-sustains-on-michael-szalays-second-lives/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “The Confessional Edge.” *ASAP/J*, 22 May 2023, [asapjournal.com/hard-soft-lost-the-edges-of-contemporary-culture-the-confessional-edge-olivia-stowell/](http://asapjournal.com/hard-soft-lost-the-edges-of-contemporary-culture-the-confessional-edge-olivia-stowell/).

**Stowell, Olivia,** Jasmine Banks, & Mel Monier. “Time to Be Real?: Nostalgia, Authenticity, and the Digital Return to the Everyday.” *FLOW Journal*, 14 February 2023, [www.flowjournal.org/2023/02/be-real-nostalgia-authenticity-digital/](http://www.flowjournal.org/2023/02/be-real-nostalgia-authenticity-digital/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Our Bodies, Our Time Machines.” *Novel Dialogue*, 24 March 2022, [noveldialogue.org/2022/03/24/12-our-bodies-our-time-machines/](http://noveldialogue.org/2022/03/24/12-our-bodies-our-time-machines/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “The Time Warp, Again?” *Post45 Contemporaries*, in “The Dark Academia Cluster,” *Post45*, 15 March 2022, [post45.org/2022/03/the-time-warp-again/](http://post45.org/2022/03/the-time-warp-again/).

**Stowell, Olivia** and Mitch Therieau. “Introduction: Dark Academia.” *Post45 Contemporaries*, in “The Dark Academia Cluster,” *Post45*, 15 March 2022, [post45.org/2022/03/introduction-3/](http://post45.org/2022/03/introduction-3/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “Adriana’s Abs and the Return of Low-Rise Jeans.” *Avidly*, Los Angeles Review of Books, 8 July 2021, [avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/07/08/adrianas-abs-and-the-return-of-low-rise-jeans/](http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/07/08/adrianas-abs-and-the-return-of-low-rise-jeans/).

**Stowell, Olivia.** “History as Metaphor” (published in the cluster “’Tis the Damn Season: Taylor Swift’s *evermore*”). *Post45 Contemporaries*, *Post45*, 23 December 2020, [post45.org/2020/12/history-as-metaphor/](http://post45.org/2020/12/history-as-metaphor/).

**Stowell, Olivia,** Emily Mata, & Caitlyn Wells. “Racial Injustice at Westmont College.” *Santa Barbara Independent*, 15 July 2020, [www.independent.com/2020/07/15/racial-injustice-at-westmont-college/](http://www.independent.com/2020/07/15/racial-injustice-at-westmont-college/).

## BOOK REVIEWS

---

Review of *Digital Femininities: The Gendered Construction of Cultural and Political Identities Online*, Frankie Rogan (Taylor and Francis, 2022). *Global Storytelling*, forthcoming 2024.

Review of *The Generic Closet: Black Gayness and the Black-Cast Sitcom*, Alfred L. Martin (Indiana University Press, 2021). *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*, forthcoming 2024.

Review of *Everybody Eats: Communication and the Paths to Food Justice*, Marianne LeGreco and Niesha Douglas (University of California Press, 2021). *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, forthcoming 2024.

## EDITORIAL WORK

---

“*Vanderpump Rules!* An Avidly Cluster.” Co-edited with Jay Shelat, *Avidly*, Los Angeles Review of Books, 30 January 2024, [avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2024/01/30/vanderpump-rules-an-avidly-cluster/](https://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2024/01/30/vanderpump-rules-an-avidly-cluster/).

“The Dark Academia Cluster.” Co-edited with Mitch Therieau, *Post45 Contemporaries*, Post45, 15 March 2022, [post45.org/sections/contemporaries-essays/dark-academia/](https://post45.org/sections/contemporaries-essays/dark-academia/).

Graduate Student Editor. *CONCEPT: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, vol. 44, April 2021, [concept.journals.villanova.edu/index.php/concept/issue/view/190](https://concept.journals.villanova.edu/index.php/concept/issue/view/190).

## INVITED TALKS

---

University of Southern California, “Writing about Reality TV,” with Jay Shelat, January 2024

The Master’s School, “Reality TV Now,” January 2024

New York University, “Writing and Editing for the Public,” with Jay Shelat, October 2023

University of Chicago, “Beverly Hill,” May 2023

The Master’s School, “What Is Reality Television?” January 2023

## PANELS, SEMINARS, & ROUNDTABLES ORGANIZED

---

“Love in Digital Public(s): Platform Aesthetics, Platform Rhetorics”

*American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada*

- Roundtable co-organizer alongside Stephanie Perez and Jess Rauchberg for the conference of the American Studies Association in November 2023.

“Mid Theory”

*Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Seattle, WA*

- Seminar organizer for the conference of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present in October 2023.

“Genres of Precarity: ‘Dark Academia’ and the Immiseration of the University”

*Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Virtual Conference*

- Seminar co-organizer alongside Dylan Davidson, Rachel Tay, Gunner Taylor, and Mitch Therieau for the conference of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present in October 2021.

“What’s to Hate about Skyler White?: A Roundtable on Fan Response to Anti-Heroes and their Female Partners”\*

*Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Princeton, NJ*

- Roundtable co-organizer with Kacey Doran for the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association conference in November 2020.
- \*This conference was not held due to the global health crisis resulting from COVID-19.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

---

**2024**      Being Well on Television: Discourses of Mental Health on Netflix’s *Love Is Blind*  
*International Communication Association, Gold Coast, Australia*

**2023**      “Reality Television, Communicative Capitalism, and Digital Subjectivity”  
*American Studies Association, Montreal, Canada*

“The Departure Episode as a Claim to Prestige”  
*Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Seattle, WA*

“I Got Pink Sauce in My Bag, Swag!: The Construction of Black Women’s Food  
Voices on TikTok”  
*Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Denver, CO*

**2022**      “Re-heating the ‘First’ Thanksgiving: The Thanksgiving Episode as Settler  
Colonial Narrative”  
*National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA*

“‘You Learn to Create a Different Version of Yourself’: Representations of Weight  
Loss, Diet Behavior, and Fatness in Reality Food Television”  
*National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA*

“On the Hard Edges of Reality Television Confessionals”  
*Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Los Angeles, CA*

“*Worst Cooks in America*’s Reality Hunger: Visible Production and Reality  
Television’s Claims to the Real”  
*International Communication Association, Paris, France*

“Ascendance to Trans-Corporeality or Assimilation to Whiteness?: The  
Posthuman Ecofeminist Imaginaries of *Annihilation* and *Midsommar*”  
*Society for Cinema & Media Studies, Chicago, IL*

- 2021**      “‘It’s Top Chef, Not a Personality Contest’: Grammars of Stereotype, Neoliberal Logics of Personhood, and the Performance of the Racialized Self in *Top Chef: New York*”  
*Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Virtual Conference*
- “‘Loops through the Future: Nostalgia and Futility in Dark Academia Fictions”  
*Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, Virtual Conference*
- 2020**      “‘What’s to Hate About Skyler White?: A Roundtable on Fan Response to Television’s Anti-Heroes and their Female Partners”\*  
*Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Princeton, NJ*  
\*Conference canceled due to the global health crisis resulting from COVID-19.
- “‘We’re Americans’: Specters of Indigeneity and Settler Colonialism in *Us* and *The Witch*”\*  
*Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Philadelphia, PA*  
\*Conference canceled due to the global health crisis resulting from COVID-19.
- 2019**      “‘A Good Soul and Handsome Too: *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, and the Reproduction of Cultural Power”\*  
*Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association, Pittsburgh, PA*  
\*Winner of the Daniel Walden Graduate Prize for best graduate student presentation.
- “‘Mater Dolorosa, Mother Beyond Discourse: Suffering, Maternity, and Discourse in *My Name Is Asher Lev*”  
*South Central Modern Language Association, Little Rock, AR*
- “‘Performing Father-Motherhood: *Frankenstein* and the Gendered Horror of the Birth Myth”  
*International Gothic Association, Lewis University, Romeoville, IL*
- “‘Not a Luxury: Identity Studies and Co-Curricular Opportunities as Steps to Success”  
*Conversation on the Liberal Arts, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

**Graduate Student Instructor** **August 2022 – present**

*University of Michigan*

- Worked as a graduate student instructor for various Communication classes, including “Critical Perspectives on Reality TV,” “Media: Past and Present,” “The Rise and Demise of Mass Culture,” and “Television & Social Change.”

**Teaching Assistant** **May 2022 – present**

*ScholarLaunch*

- Worked with ScholarLaunch students through remote video calls and written feedback to guide high school & undergraduate students on research projects and help to deepen students’ knowledge in various academic fields.

**Private Writing Tutor** **January 2021 – present**

*Ann Arbor, MI*

- Provided private writing tutoring to high school and college students, teaching essay-writing across the humanities and social sciences.

**Writing Center Tutor** **August 2019 – May 2021**

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Worked as an employee of Villanova’s Writing Center, providing revision feedback, tutoring, and copyediting assistance to students.

**English Teaching Assistant** **August – December 2020**

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Worked as a teaching assistant for Dr. Kamran Javadizadeh’s Letters, Texts, and Twitter course, conferring with students on their work and leading several class sessions.

**Writing Workshop Teacher** **September 2019 – May 2020**

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Taught workshops for undergraduates on various topics, including passive voice, MLA format, and word choice out of the Villanova Writing Center.

**Economics and Business Teaching Assistant** **January – May 2019**

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Worked as a teaching assistant for John Tynan’s Management course, grading and proofreading student papers.

**ESL Teacher** **June – August 2014, June – August 2016**

*English Language Institute, Hong Kong*

- Taught English as a Second Language to middle schoolers in Hong Kong, constructing curriculum on vocabulary, grammar, and speaking and listening skills.



## RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

---

### Graduate Coach

May 2022 – January 2024

*InGenius Prep*

- Provided private writing tutoring to high school and college students, teaching essay-writing across the humanities and social sciences.

### CONCEPT Graduate Student Editor

October 2020 – May 2021

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Read and provided feedback on submissions to *CONCEPT: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies*, making acceptance and rejection decisions.

### Marketing Assistant for Villanova's MA in English

August 2019 – May 2021

*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Served as a research assistant for Dr. Evan Radcliffe, managing Villanova English's social media accounts, meeting prospective students, and maintaining web presence.

### Martin Institute Special Collections Assistant

January 2017 – May 2019

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Developed a new electronic cataloging system for Westmont's Dallas Willard Special Collection; handled and preserved archival documents.

### Marketing/Communications Intern

June – August 2017, May – August 2018

*Biblica, Colorado Springs, CO*

- Provided copywriting, copyediting, and proofreading; drafted executive statements and presentations, and created budget sheets.

### Arts & Entertainment Writer

August 2017 – May 2018

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Wrote weekly pop culture and entertainment analysis for Westmont's student newspaper, emphasizing issues of representation, race, sexuality, and gender.

### Admissions Assistant

January – May 2017

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Carried out data entry and organization for Westmont's admissions department.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

---

### Communication Department Steward

May 2022 – present

*Graduate Employee's Organization, Ann Arbor, MI*

- Served as the Communication & Media Department Steward for the University of Michigan's graduate student worker's union.

**Media Studies Research Workshop Co-Coordinator** **June 2022 – June 2023**  
*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

- Coordinated research workshops, mini-conferences, and visiting speaker sessions for the Communication & Media humanities-oriented research workshop.

**Communications Committee Member** **January 2022 – May 2022**  
*Graduate Employee's Organization, Ann Arbor, MI*

- Served on the communications committee for the University of Michigan's graduate student worker's union.

**Alumni Alliance for Racial Justice Secretary** **March 2020 – August 2022**  
*Alumni Alliance for Racial Justice, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Co-founded and served as secretary for the Board of Directors of Alumni Alliance for Racial Justice, a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) that advocates for innovative policies and education around racial justice at predominantly white colleges and universities.

**English Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member** **March 2021 – August 2021**  
*Villanova University, Villanova, PA*

- Served as a graduate student member of Villanova English's DEI Committee, working to further diversity, equity, and inclusion within the department.

**ACT 929: Theatre for Global Art and Activism Member** **September 2020 – August 2021**  
*ACT 929: Theatre for Global Art and Activism*

- Worked within a new global collective of visual artists, writers, journalists, composers, and performers to develop creative, equitable, and global theatre projects.

**MAPACA Committee Member** **February 2020 – August 2021**  
*Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Cultures Association*

- Served as an assistant committee member for the board of the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Cultures Association, assisting the Vice President of Awards.

**White Students for Racial Justice Co-Leader** **August 2017 – May 2019**  
*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Served as a student leader for Intercultural Programs, developing on-campus programming to further education on racial issues and social justice.

**Feminist Society Board Member** **August 2017 – May 2019**  
*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Organized events and activism on campus related to feminism and gender, including film screenings, panels, and community engagement.

**Prism Gender and Sexualities Alliance Member**

**March 2017 – May 2019**

*Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA*

- Worked alongside peers to attempt to create an endorsed Gender and Sexualities Alliance, with a goal of creating safe space on campus for LGBTQ+ students.

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

---

International Communication Association

Society for Cinema & Media Studies

National Communication Association

Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present

**PODCAST APPEARANCES**

---

**“The Rehearsal, Reality TV, & Warner Bros Discovery”**

**September 2022**

*The American Vandal Podcast*

**“Reality TV”**

**August 2022**

*High Theory*

**“Dark Academia”**

**March 2022**

*Post45 Contemporaries*

**“Grad School”**

**April 2021**

*Help! I’m in my 20’s!*

**“Feminist Ratatouille”**

**January 2021**

*Help! I’m in my 20’s!*