

Department of English
Writing Center
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue, LEML 253
Seattle, WA 98122
Smithalexan1@seattleu.edu
(206) 296-5309

University of Washington, 2019
Dissertation: “Writing the Street: Discourses of Choice, Agency, and Mobility in Twentieth Century Street Lit”

Committee: Louis Chude-Sokei, Sonnet Retman, Monika Kaup
University of Washington, 2015

Thesis: “Undoing Critical Genre Conventions: The Case for Street Lit as an Object of Study”

Advisor: Juliet Shields and Louis Chude-Sokei

University of California Davis, June 2011
Highest Honors University of California Davis, June 2010

20th/21st Century Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States, Urban Studies, 20th/21st Century African American Literature, Pedagogical Theory and Practice, Writing Center Studies, Public Scholarship

“(Re)envisioning the Writing Center: Pragmatic Steps for Dismantling White Language Supremacy”
. Spring 2022. Forthcoming

“Reclaiming the Street in Toni Morrison’s ”
. 46.4, Winter 2022.

“Strategies for Active Reading” and “Strategies for Reading and Analyzing Literature Rhetorically”,
, ed.
Stephanie Hankinson, AJ Burgin, Candice Rai, Bedford/St. Martin 2017.

BOOK REVIEWS

Justin Gifford. , , 47.2 (2017)

UCOR 3400. []. Seattle University, Humanities and Global Challenges, “Global Contact Zone: Imagining the Street in 21st Century Urban Literatures”

UCOR 1400. []. Seattle University, Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities, “The Street and US Literature”

UCOR 1100. []. Seattle University, Academic Writing Seminar, “The City and Spatial Justice,”

English 242. []. University of Washington, Reading Prose Fiction, “Violence, Temptation, Rebellion: Explorations of the 20th and 21st Century Street in Multi-Ethnic United States Literature”

English 281. []. University of Washington, Intermediate Expository Writing, “The Politics and Rhetorics of Urban Space”

English 109. []. University of Washington, Introductory Composition, “Identity, Voice, And Writing”

English 111. []. University of Washington, Expository Composition through Literature, “Banned and Contested Literature: Engaging the Taboo”

English 108. []. University of Washington, “Writing Ready: Preparing for College Writing,”

English 101. []. University of Washington, “Writing Ready: Preparing for College Writing,”

Andrew Hilen Graduate Fellowship Award, University of Washington, 2017

Co-Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Non-Tenure-Track Committee, Seattle University, 2021-

Committee Member, Teaching Inclusively Committee, English Department, Seattle University
2019-present

Assistant Director, Seattle University Writing Center, 2018-present

Assistant Editor, 2019-2021

Committee Member, Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature, Seattle University, 2018-2019

Editor-in-Chief, 2017 2018

Index and Bibliography Editor,
, with Justina Rompogren and Candice Rai, Bedford/St.
Martin 2017.

Editorial Board,
, Bedford/St. Martin 2017

Race and Equity Committee Member, Department of English, University of Washington, 2016—2017.

Assistant Editor, 2016-2017

Assistant Director, UW in the High School Liaison, University of Washington, Expository Writing
Program, 2015—2017

Expository Writing Program, UWHS Website Manager, Department of English
University of Washington, 2016—2017

EWP Outcome Development Committee, for , and
University of Washington Expository Writing Program Courses, 2015.

Student Athlete Tutor, Student Athlete Academic Services Center, University of Washington 2013—2014

“Trauma Informed Approaches to Exploring Safety and Wellness in the Writing Center: When Values Meet Everyday Practice”, Reckoning with Space and Safety in the COVID Turn, Canadian Writing Center Association., Virtual Conference. May 2022.

“The Politics of the Absurd in Chester Himes’s [The Absurdity of Racism: An International Chester Himes Conference, American University Paris. June 2020 \(postponed due to COVID\).](#)

“Sidewalks, Alleys, and Streets: Disrupting Urban Containment Practices in Chester Himes’s [Architecture, Space, and Literature Panel, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association \(PAMLA\), Chaminade University of Honolulu, Honolulu, HI. November 2017](#)

“The City Street as Safe Harbor in [The Urban Harbor Panel, The Society for the Study of the Literatures of the United States \(MELUS\), Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, MA. April 2017](#)

“Urban Literature: A Roundtable”, Graduate Student Organization Colloquium, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. April 2017

[Wedding Lights of Agon and Freedom in Chester Himes’s “To W](#)