

Thomas Dichter
Curriculum vitae

Committee on Degrees in History and Literature
Harvard University
Barker Center 122
12 Quincy Street Cambridge, MA 02138
thomasdichter@gmail.com
(617) 447-4519

EMPLOYMENT

Harvard University, Lecturer on History and Literature, 2015-present

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, 2015
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Dissertation Title: "Violent Convictions: Punishment, Literature, & the Reconstruction of Race"
Dissertation Advisor: Amy Kaplan

M.A., English, 2011
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

B.A., English and American Literature and Language, *cum laude*, 2008
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nineteenth- & Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature, American Studies, Race & Ethnicity,
Incarceration, Law & Literature, African American Studies, Legacies of Slavery, Social Justice

HONORS & AWARDS

School of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching by Graduate Students,
University of Pennsylvania, 2014-2015

Critical Writing Teaching Fellowship, Critical Writing Program, University of Pennsylvania,
2014-2015

Kosciuszko Foundation Tuition Scholarship, 2014-2015

Graduate Humanities Forum Fellowship, Penn Humanities Forum, 2013-2014

Harvard University Undergraduate Commencement Address (English-language), June 2008

PUBLICATIONS

“Paul Laurence Dunbar’s *Sport of the Gods* and the Modern Discourse of Black Criminality,” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* (forthcoming, Spring 2016)

LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Public Safety and the Rhetoric of State Violence,” Modern Language Association, Austin, TX, January 2016 (Presenter and Panel Organizer) (upcoming)

“Prison Literature, the Revictimization Relief Act, & the Future of Mass Incarceration,” Literature and Social Justice, Lehigh University English Graduate Conference, March, 2015

“National Pastime: Lynching and Law-making during Jim Crow,” American Studies Association, Washington, DC, November, 2014 (Presenter and Panel Organizer)

“Prison Writing and Carceral Grammar in the 20th Century US,” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June, 2014

Roundtable on “Prison Reform through Community Empowerment,” Prison Health Care and Re-entry Summit, Philadelphia FIGHT, June, 2014

“A Wall Is Just a Wall: Prison Writing, Carceral Grammar, and the Abolitionist Imagination,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January, 2014

“New Threadbare Lies: Modern Black Criminality Discourse and Its Critics, 1892-1902,” American Literature Reading Group, University of Pennsylvania, October, 2013

“Civil Whiteness: Legitimate Violence and the Literature of Lynching,” Penn Program on Democracy, Citizenship, and Constitutionalism, University of Pennsylvania, February, 2013

“The Joint: Hip Hop and Mass Incarceration,” English Graduate Student Organization Conference, SUNY Albany, April, 2011

TEACHING

Junior and Senior Tutorial Leader, History and Literature, Harvard College, 2015-2016 (upcoming)

Instructor, “Belonging and Exclusion,” English/Writing Seminar, Pre-Freshman Program, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2015

Instructor, “Reading Karl Marx,” Critical Writing Program, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2014; Spring 2015

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Teaching Certificate, University of Pennsylvania,

Spring, 2014

Instructor, "Literature and Law: American Narratives of Justice and Injustice," English Department, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2013

Instructor, "The Prison in American Literature," Critical Writing Program, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2011; Spring 2012

TA, "The Vietnam War in Literature and Film," English Department, University of Pennsylvania, Professor Amy Kaplan, Spring 2011

Grader, "Shakespeare," English Department, University of Pennsylvania, Professor Barbara Riebling, Fall 2010

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Graduate Admissions Reader, English Department, University of Pennsylvania, 2013-2014

Consultant, Interviewed for "Commonwealth," Audience Channel, DirecTV (documentary film on school funding cuts and prison expansion), 2014

Member, Decarcerate PA (grassroots organization fighting prison expansion in Pennsylvania), 2011-present

Officer and Coordinator, English Graduate Association, 2010-2012

Co-coordinator, American Literature Reading Group, English Department, University of Pennsylvania, 2010-2011

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association
American Studies Association