

SAGE GERSON

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Assistant Professor
Literary Arts and Studies
Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)

EDUCATION

- 2022 **Ph.D.**, English, University of California, Santa Barbara
Interdepartmental Ph.D. Emphasis in Environment and Society
Dissertation: *The Leaky Grid: Black and Native Electrified Imaginaries*
- 2018 **M.A.**, English, University of California, Santa Barbara
Exam fields: Theories of Literature and the Environment; U.S. Race and Ethnic Literatures; Literature and Theory of Technology
- 2013 **B.A.**, English (with honors), University of Chicago
Minor in Environmental Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

- “Pedagogical Interventions in the Energy Humanities: A Place-Based Approach.” *Teaching Energy Humanities*. Modern Language Association. Ed. Debby Rosenthal and Jasen Molesky. Under Review.
- “Siphoning and Sabotage: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and US Electricity Theft.” *Social Text*. Special Issue: “Reading for Infrastructure: Worlds Made and Broken.” Ed. Adriana Johnson and Daniel Nemser. December 2022.
[https://read.dukeupress.edu/social-text/article-abstract/40/4%20\(153\)/125/343184/Siphoning-and-SabotageRalph-Ellison-s-Invisible](https://read.dukeupress.edu/social-text/article-abstract/40/4%20(153)/125/343184/Siphoning-and-SabotageRalph-Ellison-s-Invisible)
- “Reading California’s Power Grid: A Metonymic Methodology.” *Media+Environment*. Special Issue: “Energy Justice in Global Perspective.” Ed. Javiera Barandiaran, Mona Damluji, Stephan Miescher, David Pellow, Janet Walker. August 2022.
<https://mediaenviron.org/article/35472-reading-california-s-power-grid-a-metonymic-methodology>
- “A Field Guide to Oil in Santa Barbara: Pedagogy and Praxis for Environmental Media Studies.” Co-authored with Emily Roehl for *Media+Environment*. Special Issue: “Energy Justice in Global Perspective.” Ed. Javiera Barandiaran, Mona Damluji, Stephan Miescher, David Pellow, Janet Walker. August 2022.
<https://mediaenviron.org/article/36325-a-field-guide-to-oil-in-santa-barbara-pedagogy-and-practice-for-environmental-media-studies>
- “Wasted: Wastewater, Hygiene Theatrics, and Contaminated Imaginaries.” Co-authored with Jeremy Chow for *Lateral*. June 2022.
<https://csalateral.org/issue/11-1/wasted-wastewater-hygiene-theatrics-contaminated-imaginaries-chow-gerson/>

Public Humanities Writing

- “An Environmental Justice Approach to Hydroelectric Damming.” *Water Justice & Tech*. Ed. Theodora Dryer and Amrah Salomón. September 2023.
<https://waterjustice-tech.org/>
- “Book Review: Nikky Finney’s *Love Child’s Hotbed of Occasional Poetry* for the *Journal of Appalachian Studies*’ special issue: “Speculative Fabulation: Queering Appalachian Futurisms.” Ed. Jessica Cory and Z. Zane McNeill. April 2022.

- “An Environmental Justice Approach to Hydroelectric Damming.” *Water and Technology 2021 Report: North America and Central America*. New York University’s AI Now Institute and the Center for Interdisciplinary Environmental Justice. Ed. Theodora Dryer. January 2022.
<https://ainowinstitute.org/water-justice-technology.html>
- “Reimagining California’s Relationship to Fire.” *Foundry*. “Under Fire” Series. University of California Humanities Research Institute. August 2021.
<https://uchri.org/foundry/reimagining-californias-relationship-to-fire/>
- “Chokehold.” *Foundry*. University of California Humanities Research Institute. “Reading for Infrastructure.” Keyword Entry. February 2021.
<https://uchri.org/foundry/reading-for-infrastructure/>
- “Rehearse, Resist, Riot, Repeat: Policing Through Time.” Co-authored with Taylor Holmes and Nirvana Shahriar. *The Black Scholar*. “Social Justice Handbook Series.” July 2020.
<https://www.theblackscholar.org/social-justice-handbook-series-rehearse-resist-riot-repeat-policing-through-time/>.

INVITED TALKS

- “Wastewater: Ecologies, Infrastructures, Imaginaries,” co-presented with Jeremy Chow at the Ecologies of Justice: Wastelands, Wastewaters, and Human Disposability Symposium, March 2023, Phoenix
- “Art, Climate Crisis, and Activism,” co-presenter at the RISD Museum, March 2023, Providence
- “Siphoning and Sabotage: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and US Electricity Theft,” African American Urbanism, University of Freiburg, November 2022, Freiburg im Breisgau (held virtually)
- “Reimagining California’s Electricity-Sparked Fires: Worldbuilding and the Possibilities of Elemental Infrastructure,” Typographic Multiverse, Rhode Island School of Design, October 2022, Providence
- “Don’t make the mistake of calling us resilient’: Urban Indians and City Belonging in Tommy Orange’s *There There*,” RUDESA Spring Academy, March 2021, Duisburg/Essen (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “Deer Woman: A Vignette,” Body as Archive: Animacy/Native American Ways of Knowing, University of California, February 2021, Santa Barbara (held virtually due to COVID-19)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

Presentations

- Respondent: (Re)Mediating Precarity: Post-Oil Narratives as Colonial Legacies in the Global North, Petrocultures, May 2024, Los Angeles (submitted)
- “Post-Oil Energy (In)Justice in Nnedi Okorafor’s *Noor*,” Petrocultures, May 2024, Los Angeles (submitted)
- “Reading N.K. Jemisin’s Visionary Fiction: Environmental Justice in “Emergency Skin,” American Studies Association, November 2023, Montreal (scheduled)
- “Learning from the Land: Cultivating Listening to the More-Than-Human World in the College Classroom,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, May 2023, Toronto
- “‘No one asked the water what it wanted’: Hydroelectric Imaginaries in Linda Hogan’s *Solar Storms*,” American Comparative Literature Association, March 2023, Chicago
- “Wastewater and its Contaminated Imaginaries,” co-presented with Jeremy Chow at the American Studies Association, November 2022, New Orleans
- “Energy Justice on California’s Central Coast: A Public Syllabus,” co-presented as part of the Recentring Energy Justice Collaborative at the Radical Climate Justice for the Global Commons, October 2021, held virtually as part of the Nearly Carbon Neutral Conference
- “Experimental Practices of Siphoning and Sabotage: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* and U.S. Electricity Theft,” Transatlantic Rust Belts: Scripting Urban Futures, September 2021, Detroit (held virtually due to COVID-19)

- “Wastewater Media,” co-presented with Jeremy Chow at the Cultural Studies Association, June 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “Reading N.K. Jemisin’s Visionary Fiction,” International Conference on Narrative, May 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “The Leaky Grid: Electrified Imaginaries and Infrastructural Porosity,” American Comparative Literature Association, April 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “Queer Appalachia: Dwelling in the Intersections of Art and Activism,” Appalachian Studies Association, March 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “Sonic Environmentalism and EMPTY/EVERY MT’s Speculative Soundscape,” Modern Language Association, January 2021 (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- “Out of Narrative Sight, Out of Mind: A Cultural Commentary on Indifference to Incarcerated Labor in the Graphic Narrative *A Fire Story*,” University of California, Santa Barbara Graduate Comix Symposium, January 2020, Santa Barbara
- “Don’t make the mistake of calling us resilient’: Urban Indians and City Belonging in Tommy Orange’s *There There*,” Modern Language Association, January 2020, Seattle
- “Experimental Practices of Siphoning and Sabotage: *Invisible Man* and U.S. Electricity Theft” Society of Literature, Science, and the Arts, November 2019, Irvine
- “Reading like a Buzzard: Circling the Woman-Animal in Faulkner’s Archive,” Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, July 2019, Oxford
- Respondent: Mellon Sawyer on Energy Justice in a Global Perspective Hydro Symposium, February 2019, Santa Barbara
- “Visionary Fictions: ‘Making with’ Feminist Science and Technology Studies,” Modern Language Association, January 2019, Chicago
- “‘Weaving Something Other Than a Shroud’: Radical Queer Rurality in Electric Dirt and Goodbye Gauley Mountain,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, October 2018, New Orleans
- “Piratical Concatenation in Detroit and Chester: Electricity Siphoning, Racial Capitalism, and Environmental Justice,” American Comparative Literature Association, March 2018, Los Angeles
- “On Becoming-Goatman: ‘Speculative Design’ as a Genre of Resistance,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, June 2017, Detroit
- “The Doomsday Clock: Measuring the Approaching Apocalypse,” 6th Annual University of California Los Angeles History Graduate Student Association Conference, April 2017, Los Angeles

Symposia and Panels Organized

- Panel Chair and Co-organizer with Sunaina Kale and Margaret McMurtrey: “Listening to the Land: Sounds and Stories from Turtle Island and Hawai‘i,” Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, March 2023, Toronto
- Organizer and Panel Chair: “Pasts/Presents/Futures of Electric Cultures,” American Comparative Literature Association, March 2023, Chicago
- Planning Committee: “Imagining Indigenous Futurities,” 9th Annual American Indian and Indigenous Collective Symposium, April 22-24, 2022, University of California, Santa Barbara (held virtually due to COVID-19). <https://sites.google.com/view/2022aiicimaginingfuturities>
- American Indian and Indigenous Collective, University of California Santa Barbara, April 2021, University of California, Santa Barbara (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- Co-organizer, Moderator, and Discussant: “Lands/Cosmologies: Ways of Knowing” and “Native Feminisms: Reflections on *Mark my Words* and *Spiral to the Stars*,” 8th Annual American Indian and Indigenous Collective Symposium, February 2021, University of California, Santa Barbara (held virtually due to COVID-19)
- Planning Committee: “Native Feminisms: Centering American Indian and Indigenous Lands and

Peoples,” 8th Annual American Indian and Indigenous Collective Symposium, February 2021, University of California, Santa Barbara (held virtually due to COVID-19).

<https://sites.google.com/view/2021aiicnativefeminisms>

Planning Committee: “Body as Archive,” 7th Annual American Indian and Indigenous Collective Symposium, February 2020, University of California, Santa Barbara.

<https://sites.google.com/view/aiic2020thebodyasarchive>

Co-organizer: “Affinities and Affiliations, Familial and Otherwise,” Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha, July 2019, Oxford

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023-2025	Faculty Fellowship at the RISD Museum in the Prints, Drawings, and Photographs Collection, Rhode Island School of Design, Providence
2022-2023	Mahindra Humanities Center, Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Environmental Humanities, Harvard, Cambridge (declined)
2021-2022	American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) / Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship Link to fellow bio
2020-2021	Graduate Humanities Research Fellowship, Graduate Division, University of California, Santa Barbara
2018-2019	Mellon Sawyer Seminar on Energy Justice in a Global Perspective , Graduate Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental Justice	20 th and 21 st Century Global Anglophone Literatures
Energy Humanities	Native, Black, and Women of Color Feminisms
Infrastructure Studies	Futurisms, Futurity, and Speculative Fiction
Decolonial and Anticolonial Theory	Feminist and Queer Science and Technology Studies
Native North American Literature	
African American Literature	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Literary Arts and Studies Department, Rhode Island School of Design

2024	Energy Cultures: Pasts/Presents/Futures (graduate course) (scheduled)
2024	Native Feminist and Two Spirit Literatures (scheduled)
2023	Literary Worldmaking: A First-Year Literature Seminar
2023	Visionary Fictions
2023	Theories of NatureCulture (graduate course)
2023	Imagining Indigenous Futurities
2023	Visionary Fictions
2022	Literary Worldmaking: A First-Year Literature Seminar
2022	Theories of NatureCulture (graduate course)
<i>Department of English, University of California, Santa Barbara</i>	
2020	Science Fiction: “Visionary Fictions” (upper division)
2020	Introduction to Native American Narrative: “Animacy and the Speaking Earth: The Power of Native Story”
2019	Introduction to Literary Studies: “Literatures of Southern California”
2018	Introduction to Literary Studies: “Reading Infrastructure, Building Worlds”
<i>Department of Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara</i>	
2019	Environmental Studies Independent Group Study: “Energy Justice, Scholar-Activism, and Community Based Research” (upper division)

SERVICE

2023-present	Instruction Committee – Curriculum, Rhode Island School of Design
2023	Instructor: Graduate Independent Study: “Queer Ecologies and Multispecies Studies”
2023	Instructor: Liberal Arts Independent Study, “The Stories of Flight: A Series of Explorations”
2023	First Reader: Global Arts and Cultures MA Thesis Committee, Chhavi Jain, “On Indigenous Knowledge Making and Curatorial Futures”
2023	Guest Critic: “Reconstruct and Render,” Architecture, Rhode Island School of Design
2023	Guest Critic: “Polyphonic Polyrhythmic Polychromatic Worlds,” Architecture Senior Thesis, Rhode Island School of Design
2023	Guest Critic: “Senior Degree Project,” Graphic Design, Rhode Island School of Design
2022-2023	Professional Development Fund Committee, Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Guest Critic: Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies MA Thesis Committee, Sierra Gideon, “Copper Afterlives: Memory, Image, and Waste in the Postindustrial Landscape of Butte, Montana,” Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Guest Critic: “Typographic Multiverse,” Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Guest Critic: “Fundamental and Foundation Studies: Drawing,” Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Guest Critic: MFA Printmaking, Sara Inacio and Jacqueline “Kate” Walker, Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Global Arts and Cultures and Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies Brown Bag Lecture Series, “Reimagining California’s Electricity-Sparked Fires: Indigenous Cultural Burning and the Possibilities of Elemental Infrastructure,” Rhode Island School of Design
2022	Global Arts and Cultures and Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies and RISD Career Center, PhD Panel, Rhode Island School of Design