

Maxime D. McKenna

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EDUCATION

- PhD, Cultural Studies, Graduate School of North American Studies** expected 2024
John F. Kennedy Institute | Freie Universität Berlin (Berlin, DE)
Dissertation: *Interstates: Infrastructure in California Fiction & Film, 1956–92*
Supervisor: Prof. Frank Kelleter
- MA, English** 2015
The University of Chicago (Chicago, USA)
- BA, English, Summa Cum Laude** 2010
The University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- “The Freeway Fix: Infrastructure, Affect, and the Politics and Aesthetics of Distance in Joan Didion’s *Play It as It Lays*.” *AmLit – American Literatures* 2.1 (2022).
- “Nothing Too Private: *The Letters of T.S. Eliot Volume 3: 1926-27*.” *The Journal of Modern Literature* 37.4 (Summer 2014): 182-185.
- “In the Wake of Fair Use: Incest, Citation, and the Legal Legacy of *Finnegans Wake*.” *The Journal of Modern Literature* 35.4 (Summer 2012): 56-72.

Selected Essays and Criticism

- “Teaching Lorine Niedecker in a Massive Open Online Context.” *Solitary Plover* 31 (Winter 2020).
- “*Switched on Pop* Schools the Academy.” *PopMatters*. January 2020.
- “Art is a Recycling Across Generations: In Conversation with Julia Holter.” *PopMatters*. October 2018.
- “Owls, Aliens, and Others: Brian Phillips’s *Impossible Owls*.” *PopMatters*. October 2018.

“Revolution from Below: Tim Mohr’s *Burning Down the Haus*.” *PopMatters*. October 2018.

“*Novel Sounds* and the Southern Institution’s Rock ‘n’ Roll Problem.” *PopMatters*. October 2018.

“Reactionary Rockism: The Dangerous Obsession with ‘Authenticity’ in Indie Rock.” *PopMatters*. August 2018.

“Copyrights Wake: SOPA, James Joyce, and the Future of Intellectual Property.” *The Millions*. January 2012.

CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

“Interstates: California *Noir* and the Infrastructure of Neoliberalism, 1956–92.” New American Studies Research on Literature and Culture; University of Groningen; Groningen, NL. December 2023.

“Conspiracies of Infrastructure: Neo-*Noir* and the Case Against the New Deal.” SINAS Research Seminar; Uppsala University; Uppsala, Sweden. October 2023.

“From Superhighway to Hyperreality: The Infrastructure of Astral America.” 11th World Congress of the International American Studies Association; University of Silesia; Katowice, Poland. September 2023.

“Conspiracies of Infrastructure: Locating the Darkness in Technicolor Noir.” PopMeC Association for US Popular Culture Studies Virtual Conference. September 2023.

“The Oil Embargo, Fifty Years On: Fueling the (Long) Crisis of American Automobility.” 16th International Graduate Conference; JFK Institute; Freie Universität Berlin; Berlin, DE. June 2023.

“Interstate Postmodernism: Superhighway Subjects in *The Crying of Lot 49*.” British Association of American Studies Annual Conference; Keele University; Keele, UK. April 2023.

“Interstates: Superhighways, California *Noir*, & the Neoliberal Order, 1956–92.” HCA Spring Academy; Heidelberg Center for American Studies; Heidelberg, DE. March 2023.

“Neo-Noir’s Strange Loops: Infrastructure and the (Filmic) Past.” Eco-Temporalities & Geo-Politics; Universität zu Köln; Cologne, DE. October 2022.

“The Case of *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*: Intellectual Property, Neoliberalism, and Conspiracies of Infrastructure.” International PhD Seminar; Roosevelt Institute for American Studies; Middelburg, NL. May 2022.

“Zigzagging in the Motor Age: Automobility and Errant Mobility in *The Crying of Lot 49*.”
Converging Narratives: The Personal Meets the National; University of Illinois at Chicago;
Chicago, USA. April 2015.

“Authorities and Authors of Redevelopment: The Language of Black Displacement in
Philadelphia.” Intertextuality; University of North Carolina – Wilmington; Wilmington,
USA. April 2011.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, John F. Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin 2023

Course: American Road Cultures After 1945

Responsibilities: Led a self-designed, discussion-based seminar in American cultural studies as part of the Vertiefungsmodul in Culture for students in Bachelor’s Program in North American Studies.

Teaching Assistant, The University of Pennsylvania 2012–2023

Course: Modern and Contemporary American Poetry

Responsibilities: Provided support for a recurring massive open online course offered by a professor at the University of Pennsylvania. for demographically diverse learners.

Teaching Assistant, The University of Chicago 2015

Course: Introduction to Fiction

Responsibilities: Led a discussion section for and evaluated students in a bachelor-level survey course in Anglophone literature.

Teaching Assistant, The University of Pennsylvania 2013

Course: Kelly Writers House Fellows Seminar

Responsibilities: Helped to foster discussion, evaluate students, and coordinate logistics for visiting authors in a bachelor-level seminar in American literature.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Co-Organizer, International Graduate Workshop Freie Universität Berlin 2021

American Grids: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Housing, Energy, and Infrastructure

Fiction Editor, *Chicago Review* 2021–21

University of Chicago

Co-Organizer, Annual Graduate Student Conference, U. Chicago 2014

Concussions, Commotions, and other Aesthetic Disorders

SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS

Visiting PhD Student, Swedish Institute for North American Studies 2023

Uppsala, Sweden

Recipient of Doctoral Scholarship 2021–24
Graduate School of North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin | Berlin, DE

L. Barry Pick Prize, Best Thesis in English Honors Program 2010
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA, USA

The College Alumni Society Henry Reed Prize, Best Essay on English Renaissance 2010
University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA, USA