

# MARTY CAIN

## CURRICULUM VITAE

(he/him/his)  
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### EDUCATION:

**Ph.D. in Literatures of English**, Cornell University, expected June 2022  
**M.A. in Literatures of English**, Cornell University, April 2019  
**M.F.A. in Creative Writing - Poetry**, University of Mississippi, 2016  
**B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies** (Senior Fellow, *cum laude*), Hamilton College, 2013

### DISSERTATION:

*Rural Avant-Garde: Mapping Contemporary U.S. Poetry Collectives Outside the Metropolis.*  
Committee: Jeremy Braddock (chair), Roger Gilbert, Gregory Londe, and Amy Villarejo.

Ranging from the postwar period to the present, my dissertation is a study of avant-garde poetry collectives based in the rural United States. Against the unspoken consensus that urban centers alone have shaped avant-garde and modernist discourses, I foreground a variety of material practices rooted in rural geographies – small presses, D.I.Y. reading series, anthologies, and email listservs, among them – and emphasize their interpellation through region, infrastructure, and the university. More broadly, my project aims to disclose the complexly networked, heterogeneous characteristics of contemporary rural life.

### CRITICAL PUBLICATIONS (PEER-REVIEWED):

**Journal of Modern Literature** vol. 45, no. 4 (forthcoming 2022): “Frank Stanford’s Rural Avant-Garde: Infrastructure, Mediation, and Poetic Community.”

**ASAP/Journal** vol. 6, no. 1 (2021): “Towards a Poetics of Hacked Infrastructure and Leaky Agency: Reading Global Capitalism Through Aase Berg.”

### SELECTED CRITICAL PUBLICATIONS (OTHER):

**Annulet**: “The Dogs Woke Me Up: Notes Towards a Utopian Poetry Community,” March 2021.

**Action Books Blog**: “‘That Is Some Unassimilable Shit’: Rural Poetics and Opacity,” July 2020.

**Denver Quarterly** vol. 53, no. 4 (2020): Review of MC Hyland’s *The End*, June 2020.

**Boston Review**: “What Is Called Freedom Is a Frozen Freedom: On Aase Berg’s *Hackers*, trans. Johannes Göransson,” October 2017.

**Entropy:** Review of Cody-Rose Clevidence's *Beast Feast*, February 2016.

**Entropy:** "From the Bowels of Arcadia: Tim Earley's *Poems Descriptive of Rural Life and Scenery*," September 2015.

**Jacket2:** "'It Wasn't a Dream, It Was a Flood': Approaching Realness in Frank Stanford," July 2015.

**HTMLGiant:** Review of Lucas de Lima's *Wet Land*, June 2014.

**HTMLGiant:** Review of Jamaal May's *Hum*, December 2013.

#### CONFERENCES & TALKS (AS ORGANIZER / MODERATOR):

Panel co-chair, "Poetics of Infrastructure," Northeastern Modern Literature Association Conference, Baltimore, MD. March 2022.

Served as organizer and gave opening remarks to online symposium, "Regional Poetics: Then & Now," Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. July 2020. Funded by a Truman Capote Ph.D Writers Award from the Cornell Literatures of English Department.

Moderated and presented on panel, "Poetic Community and 'Outsider' Geographies." Frank Stanford Literary Festival, Fayetteville, AR, September 2018.

Moderated and presented on panel, "Horror Poetics as a Feedback Loop of Trauma, or, They Won't Stay Dead." New Orleans Poetry Festival, New Orleans, LA. April 2017.

#### CONFERENCES & TALKS (AS PARTICIPANT):

"Made Spaces: The College Town Poetry Reading Series." Invited speaker for Graduate Poetry & Poetics Working Group, University of Pennsylvania, March 2021.

"The Lucipo Listserv." Media Objects Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. November 2020.

"Garden-Door Press and Small Press Publishing as D.I.Y. Culture." Invited speaker in ENG1168, Theory of the Book, taught by Becky Lu. Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. October 2020.

"'holding you in the woods': Anti-Capitalist Regionalism in Nikki Wallschlaeger's *Houses*." The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. February 2020.

"Lucipo's Networks: Infrastructural Geography and Listserv Community." The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. February 2019.

Invited speaker for Information Sciences Seminar Series. "Mapping Lucifer Poetics." Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, October 2018.

"'Now Do You Know Where You Are': C.D. Wright's *Deepstep Come Shining* and (Post)-Southern Visuality." Pacific Ancient and Modern Literature Association Conference, Chaminade University, Honolulu, HI. November 2017.

"Steve Roggenbuck: Poetic Disembodiment and Internet Post-Ecologies." Panel on "New Poetic Ecologies." Poetics: (The Next) 25 Years Conference. University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY. April 2016.

Talk on creative publication. Panel on "Publishing as a Graduate Student." Southern Writers, Southern Writing Conference, Oxford, MS. June 2015.

#### CLASSROOM VISITS:

Discussed *Kids of the Black Hole* in L13 422, Advanced Poetry Workshop, taught by Professor Aditi Machado. Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2020.

Discussed *Kids of the Black Hole* in ENG315, Reading Poetry, taught by Professor Evan Gray. University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2018.

#### EDITORIAL, CURATORIAL, AND RESEARCH POSITIONS:

Metadata Assistant, Digital Scholarship & Preservation Services, Cornell University, 2021 - present  
 Co-Host, The Rural Poetics Podcast at Cornell's Society for the Humanities, Fall 2020 - present  
 Co-Founder & Co-Editor, Garden-Door Press, August 2016 - present  
 Co-Host, Party Fawn Reading Series, October 2017 - 2020  
 Organizer, Regional Poetics: Then and Now Symposium, Summer 2020  
 Research Assistant to Jeremy Braddock, Summers 2020 and 2017  
 Co-Organizer, The Thicket Small Press Bookfair, Spring 2019  
 Senior Editor, *Yalobusha Review*, Fall 2014 - Spring 2016  
 Host, Trobar Ric Reading Series, Fall 2015 - Spring 2016  
 Poetry Reader, *Yalobusha Review*, Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

##### **Cornell University**

*As Instructor of Record:*

First-Year Writing Seminar: "Rural Media" (Fall 2020; Spring 2021)

This course examines media representations of rural spaces, while also considering how technological media have reshaped the embodied experience of living in the country. Texts under consideration include the following: literary works by authors such as Steven Dunn and James Agee; works of sociology and theory; Instagram accounts such as @QueerAppalachia; music by artists such as Lil Nas X; video games such

as *Night in the Woods*; and TV shows such as MTV's *Buckwild*.

First-Year Writing Seminar: "DIY or DIE: Punk, Subcultural Art, & Grassroots Community" (Fall 2018; Spring 2019)

This course explored a variety of U.S. grassroots arts communities, with a particular focus on D.I.Y. punk and zine culture from the 1980s to the present. In doing so, it aimed to consider how subcultural art has historically mobilized against mainstream commercialism, as well as the cultural forces of patriarchy, white supremacy, heteronormativity, and capitalism. Assigned texts included zines, albums, documentaries, oral histories of music scenes, and critical works on community and utopian thought. Assignments included reports on local art scenes and zines, a sequence of formal essays, and a final collaborative creative project.

First-Year Writing Seminar: "True Stories: Selfhood Across Form and Genre" (Fall 2017; Spring 2018)

A course oriented towards the personal essay as literary mode, with a particular emphasis on work challenging the limitations of form and genre. Readings included Alison Bechdel's *Fun Home*, M. NourbeSe Philip's *Zong!*, Maggie Nelson's *The Argonauts*, and Claudia Rankine's *Citizen*, among other texts. Assignments included a variety of short papers, as well as one longer lyric essay assignment that asked students to triangulate their personal experiences with research and secondary sources.

*As Tutor:*

Student Tutor, Knight Institute Writing Center (Summer 2017).

**Univ. of Mississippi**

*As Instructor of Record:*

Introduction to Creative Writing (Spring 2016; Summer 2014)

A creative writing workshop in which students wrote poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction.

British Literature Before 1800 (Summer 2015)

A survey course that began with *Beowulf* and medieval romances and ended with *Paradise Lost*, Christopher Smart's *Jubilate Agno*, and Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. The arrangement of the syllabus was loosely oriented around the pastoral as a literary mode – with Shakespeare's *As You Like It* serving as the centerpiece – and course discussions frequently engaged with ecocritical discourses and questions of human subject formation.

*As Teaching Assistant:*

British Literature Before 1800 (Spring 2015)

American Literature After the Civil War (Fall 2014; Fall 2013)  
American Literature Before the Civil War (Spring 2014)

**Hamilton College**      *Fall 2012 - Spring 2013: Student Tutor, Writing Center*

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2021      Alan Young-Bryant Memorial Graduate Award in Poetry, Cornell University  
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2020      Society for the Humanities Mellon Graduate Fellowship, Finalist  
Grants Program for Digital Collections in Arts and Sciences, Cornell University: "Ithaca House Small Press Collection"  
Truman Capote Ph.D Writer's Award, Cornell University
- 2019      Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Cornell University  
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University  
Media Studies Graduate Working Group Grant: "Media Networks and Social Practices"
- 2018      Cornell Graduate Student Fellowship in the Digital Humanities: "Mapping the Lucifer Poetics Group: The North Carolina Research Triangle (And Beyond)"
- 2016      Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
- 2015      Dissertation Fellowship, University of Mississippi
- 2013      Excellence Fellowship for High Grades, University of Mississippi  
William Rosenfeld Chapbook Prize, Hamilton College  
George A. Watrous Prize for Criticism, Hamilton College
- 2012      Senior Fellowship, Hamilton College: "The Art of Rural Decay: Reinterpreting the Pastoral with a Postmodern Sense of Place"  
Emerson Summer Research Grant, Hamilton College: "The Real is Surreal: Reinterpreting the Poetic Pastoral"  
Academy of American Poets College Prize, Hamilton College  
George A. Watrous Prize for Poetry, Hamilton College  
George A. Watrous Prize for Most Promising Writer, Hamilton College
- 2011      Emerson Summer Research Grant, Hamilton College: "Stan Brakhage: Poetic Cinema"

CREATIVE BOOKS:

**The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir.** [Hybrid-Genre.] Trembling Pillow Press, forthcoming 2021.

**Four Essays.** [Creative Nonfiction Chapbook.] Tammy Chapbook Series, 2019. Reviewed and/or profiled in *The Tourniquet Review*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, *Heavy Feather Review*, and *Rob McLennan's Blog*.

**Kids of the Black Hole.** [Poetry.] Trembling Pillow Press, 2017. Excerpted in *Best American Experimental Writing 2020* (Wesleyan University Press). Reviewed in *Fanzine*, *Ghost Proposal*, *Take the L*, *Tarpaulin Sky*, and *The Collagist*. Small Press Distribution staff-recommended title; selected for SPD "handpicked" program.

## RECENT CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS (ANTHOLOGIES):

**Best American Experimental Writing 2020** (Wesleyan University Press, 2021, Joyelle McSweeney and Carmen Maria Machado, guest eds.): excerpt from *Kids of the Black Hole*.

**A Shadow Map: An Anthology for Survivors of Sexual Assault** (Civil Coping Mechanisms, 2017): excerpt from *The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir*.

## RECENT CREATIVE PUBLICATIONS (JOURNALS):

**Denver Quarterly:** three poems from *The Prelude*, May 2021  
**Afternoon Visitor:** three poems from *The Prelude*, June 2020  
**Dreginald:** five poems from *The Prelude*, November 2019  
**Poetry Daily:** "Bil[dung]sroman," July 2019  
**Pulpmouth:** two poems from *Meadow of Rust*, March 2019  
**Sink Review:** three poems from *Meadow of Rust*, January 2019  
**Dream Pop Press:** three poems from *Meadow of Rust*, 2018  
**Apartment Poetry:** three poems from *Meadow of Rust*, 2018  
**Tenderrain:** "Narrative Poem," 2018  
**DUSIE:** one poem from *The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir*, March 2018  
**Tarpaulin Sky:** two poems from *Wound*, Summer 2017  
**Fence:** one poem from *Wound*, Summer 2017  
**Gigantic Sequins:** one poem from *Wound*, January 2017  
**TAGVVERK:** three poems from *Wound*, December 2016  
**Cloud Rodeo:** five poems from *Wound*, November 2016  
**Deluge:** three poems from *Wound*, November 2016  
**Banango Street:** "Robert Penn Warren Poem," September 2016  
**Action Yes:** excerpt from *Kids of the Black Hole*, September 2016

## CREATIVE AWARDS:

2021	Robert Chasen Memorial Poetry Prize at Cornell University, Honorable Mention
2020	Nominated for <i>Best of the Net</i> by <i>Afternoon Visitor</i>
2019	Nominated for <i>Best of the Net</i> by <i>Pulpmouth Magazine</i>
2018	Ahsahta Press Sawtooth Prize, Finalist for <i>Meadow of Rust</i> Ahsahta Press Sawtooth Prize, Finalist for <i>The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir</i> Radioactive Moat Reading Period, Finalist for <i>Abject Fingers Are a Swamp of Becoming</i>
2017	Ahsahta Press Sawtooth Prize, Finalist for <i>The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir</i> Tarpaulin Sky Book Prize, Semifinalist for <i>The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir</i> TAR Chapbook Prize, Finalist for <i>Four Essays</i> Subito Press Book Prize in Prose, Finalist for <i>The Wound Is (Not) Real: A Memoir</i>
2016	TAR Chapbook Prize, Finalist for <i>Abject Fingers are a Swamp of Becoming</i> . Bob Kaufman Book Prize, finalist for <i>Kids of the Black Hole</i> (accepted for publication) Little Red Leaves Reading Period, Finalist for <i>Abject Fingers are a Swamp of Becoming</i>
2015	Black Ocean Open Reading Period, Short-Listed for <i>Kids of the Black Hole</i> <i>Gigantic Sequins</i> Poetry Contest, Finalist for two poems TAR Chapbook Prize, Finalist for <i>Decomposing Subject in the Hill Country Hour</i>

- YesYes Books Open Reading Period, Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*  
 Cleveland State First Book Award, Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*  
 Tarpaulin Sky Book Prize, Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*  
 The Song Cave Open Reading Period, Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*  
 Ahsahta Press Sawtooth Prize, Semi-Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*  
 Sarabande Books Kathryn A. Morton Prize, Semi-Finalist for *Kids of the Black Hole*
- 2014 Best New Poets, Nominated by the University of Mississippi  
 Summer Literary Seminars Contest, Finalist
- 2013 Summer Literary Seminars Contest, Finalist
- 2012 Tuition Scholarship at the New York State Summer Writers Institute

## REVIEWS, INTERVIEWS, AND PRESS COVERAGE:

- Kids of the Black Hole* profiled at *The Poetry Question* by Jessie Lynn McMains, October 2019  
 Microreview of *Four Essays* by Julia Madsen, *Tarpaulin Sky*, June 2019  
*Four Essays* profiled at *Heavy Feather Review*, June 2019  
 Microreview of *Four Essays*, *Tourniquet Review*, June 2019  
 Review of *Four Essays*, *Rob McLennan's Blog*, June 2019  
 Interview on WAYO-FM (Rochester, NY) about *Kids of the Black Hole*, July 2018  
 Review of *Kids of the Black Hole* by Caroline Crew, *The Collagist*, February 2018  
 Review of *Kids of the Black Hole* by Claire Cronin, *Ghost Proposal*, December 2017  
 Review of *Kids of the Black Hole* by Evan Gray, *Tarpaulin Sky*, November 2017  
 Interview with Chris Muravez, *Queen Mob's Tea House*, November 2017  
 Review of *Kids of the Black Hole* by Paul Cunningham, *The Fanzine*, October 2017  
 Interview with Rob McLennan, *Rob McLennan's Blog*, September 2017  
 Interview with Paul Cunningham, *Radioactive Moat Press*, March 2016

## REFERENCES:

### **Dr. Jeremy Braddock**

Associate Professor, Literatures of English, Cornell University  
 braddock@cornell.edu, (607)-255-6800

### **Dr. Amy Villarejo**

Professor, School of Theater, Film, and Television, UCLA  
 av45@cornell.edu, (607)-279-1652

### **Dr. Roger Gilbert**

Professor, Literatures of English, Cornell University  
 rsg2@cornell.edu, (607)-277-5300

### **Dr. Gregory Londe**

Assistant Professor, Literatures of English, Cornell University  
 gml82@cornell.edu, (609)-651-6967