

SARA RAFFEL

 sraffel

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 sraffel@knights.ucf.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Texts and Technology

Expected May 2018

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Dissertation title: "Narrative Transportation and Virtual Reality: Exploring the Emotional Impact of Social Justice Stories in the Digital World"

Committee: Dr. Natasha Jones, Dr. Rudy McDaniel (Chair), Dr. Jill Walker Rettberg, Dr. Anastasia Salter

Master of Philosophy in Film Theory and History

November 2012

Trinity College of the University of Dublin, Ireland

First class honors and distinction

Dissertation title: "'I Is Someone Else': Postmodern Identity and the Absent Subject in *I'm Not There*"

Supervisor: Dr. Paula Quigley

Bachelor of Arts in Media Studies

June 2005

Minor in French

Hunter College of the City University of New York, NY

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

virtual reality

social justice

storytelling

gender studies

scientific and technical communication

film theory

video games

public history

information visualization

digital ethnography

PUBLICATIONS

Raffel, Sara, Amanda Hill, Mark Kretzschmar, and David Morton. "'Eenie Meenie Miney Mose': Using Experimental Citizen Curating to Engage Visitors with Racial Ephemera." *Florida Studies*: Forthcoming 2017.

Raffel, Sara. "Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Technology, Mysticism, and the Constructed Body." *Studies in Popular Culture*: Forthcoming 2017.

Argo, Bartley, Nicholas DeArmas, Amanda Hill, **Sara Raffel**, and Shelly Welch. "The Way It Used to Be: Exploring Cultural Heritage through the Augmented Reality Story of a Neighborhood Soul Food Restaurant." *Visual Ethnography* 5(2): 2016.
doi: 10.12835/ve2016.2-0067

Raffel, Sara. "Climate Communication and the Exclusion of Indigenous Knowledge." *2016 IEEE International Professional Communication Conference (IPCC)*: 2016. 1-5.

Raffel, Sara. "Interactive Story: Project Management from Inception to Testing." *SIGDOC '15: Proceedings of the 33rd Annual International Conference on the Design of Communication*: 2015. doi: 10.1145/2775441.2775492

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

May 2015–August 2015

May 2016–August 2016

College of Arts and Humanities Dean's Office, University of Central Florida
Graduate Assistant to Dr. Rudy McDaniel

Graduate Research Assistant

May 2017–August 2017

School of Visual Arts and Design, University of Central Florida
Graduate Assistant to Dr. Rudy McDaniel

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Certified to teach online courses at UCF through the Completion ADL5000 course.

Instructor of Record

English Department, University of Central Florida

- Writing for the Computer Industry (ENC 4265): Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018. Online.
- Writing for the Technical Professional (ENC 3241): Fall 2017, Spring 2018.

Graduate Teaching Associate


English Department, University of Central Florida

- *The Florida Review* (CRW 4724): Grader under Dr. Jocelyn Bartkevicius and Dr. Lisa Roney. Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016.
- Documentation and the Collaborative Process (ENC 4293): Grader under Dr. Sonia Stephens. Spring 2015. Online.
- The Legend and Literature of King Arthur (LIT 3132): Grader under Dr. Tison Pugh. Fall 2015.
- English Literature II (ENL 2022): Grader under Dr. Fayeza Hasanet. Fall 2014. Online.
- Victorian Literature (ENL 4243): Grader under Dr. Fayeza Hasanet. Fall 2014.

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AWARDS

Texts and Technology Dissertation Grant \$1137 for purchase of study materials and research equipment	2017
UCF College of Graduate Studies Conference Grant \$500 for travel to ProComm 2016	2016
Excellence as a Graduate Teaching Assistant College of Arts and Humanities, University of Central Florida	2015-2016
Finalist, SIGDOC 2015 Graduate Research Competition	2015
UCF College of Graduate Studies Conference Grant \$800 for travel to SIGDOC 2015	2015
University of Central Florida Graduate Assistantship Tuition and a four-year stipend of \$14,000 per year	2014

RELATED EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, History Harvest Grant **January 2016–June 2017**
Regional Initiative for Collecting the History, Experiences, and Stories of Central Florida (RICHES), University of Central Florida

- Organized and conducted History Harvests focused on the Parramore neighborhood of Orlando, Florida and Central Florida's LGBTQ+ community.
- Conducted oral histories related to the Pulse Nightclub Shooting.
- Wrote related metadata for collected artifacts.

Graduate Intern **May 2015–August 2015**
Regional Initiative for Collecting the History, Experiences, and Stories of Central Florida (RICHES), University of Central Florida

- In partnership with the Public History Center in Sanford, Florida, digitized over 200 postcards from the Lucile Campbell Collection for use in UCF's History Troves project.

Assistant Managing Editor **August 2014–May 2016**
The Florida Review

- Assisted the editor in the coordination and teaching of interns' orientation session, proofreading training, and final editorial meeting.
- Managed subscriptions and manuscripts for international literary journal.

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Project Manager

April 2003–December 2010

Book Industry Study Group (BISG), New York, NY

- Managed production of annual flagship publication, *Book Industry TRENDS*.
- Optimized search engine rankings for website and employed Google AdWords to advertise conferences and webcasts. Ads secured registrations and a substantial conference sponsor of \$7000 for minimal investment.
- Developed and coded an ISBN-13 Readiness Directory, MySQL databases, and online surveys containing information from over 100 companies.
- Implemented and maintained a membership database.
- Scheduled and organized meeting venues and refreshments for up to 250 attendees.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Raffel, Sara. “Beyond Paradise.” Texts and Technology Advisory Board Luncheon, 6 Nov 2015, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Conference Presentations

Hill, Amanda and **Sara Raffel.** “UpWord Mobility: Rhetoric and Social Justice in *Hamilton*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, 11 Nov 2017, Chaminade University of Honolulu, Honolulu, HI.

Kretzschmar, Mark, Jay Gentry, and **Sara Raffel.** “Colonizing the Hyperreal: Alterity in Zombie Apocalypse Narratives.” HASTAC, 4 Nov 2017, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Raffel, Sara, Bartley Argo, Nicholas DeArmas, and Amanda Hill. “Welcome to Nikki’s Place.” HASTAC, 3 Nov 2017, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Howard, Kenton Taylor, Christopher Foley, Mark Kretzschmar, Eric Murnane, and **Sara Raffel.** “Defining and Questioning the Terms ‘Casual’ and ‘Hardcore’ in Video Games.” HASTAC, 3 Nov 2017, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Raffel, Sara. “Narrative Transportation and Virtual Reality: Exploring the Implications of Social Justice Stories in the Digital World.” Foundations of Digital Games Conference Doctoral Consortium, Hyannis Resort and Conference Center, 14 Aug 2017, Cape Cod, MA.

Raffel, Sara. “Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Magic, Artificial Intelligence, and the Fetishized Female Action Hero.” Popular/American Culture Association Conference, 14 Apr 2017, San Diego Marriott Marquis & Marina, San Diego, CA.

Kretzschmar, Mark and **Sara Raffel.** “The Simulacra of Cultural Trauma: The Eulogizing of

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Fictional Deaths in *The Walking Dead*.” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, 17 Feb 2017, Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Center, Albuquerque, NM.

Raffel, Sara. “Climate Communication and the Exclusion of Indigenous Knowledge.” IEEE ProComm International Professional Communication Conference, 3 Oct 2016, University of Texas, Austin, TX.

Hill, Amanda and **Sara Raffel.** “Finding Lucile: Uncovering the Stories of an Iconic Florida Educator.” Popular Culture Association Conference, 24 Mar 2016, Sheraton Hotel, Seattle, WA.

Raffel, Sara. “*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*: Technology, Mysticism, and the Constructed Body.” 5th Annual University of Central Florida English Symposium, 19 Feb 2016, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Raffel, Sara. “Beyond Paradise: An Interactive Story of the Entertainment Industry in Orlando’s Parramore Neighborhood.” Flicking Landscapes Conference Series, 14 Nov 2015, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Raffel, Sara. “Beyond Paradise: Challenges Creating Interactive Narratives with Underrepresented Voices.” International Digital Media Arts Association (iDMAa) Conference, 21 Oct 2015, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN.

Hill, Amanda, Mark Kretzschmar, David Morton, and **Sara Raffel.** “Methods of Citizen Curation: A Case Study of the Exhibit *Eenie Meenie Money Mose*.” Florida College English Association Conference, 9 Oct 2015, Sirata Beach Resort and Conference Center, St. Petersburg, FL.

Argo, Bartley, Amanda Hill, and **Sara Raffel.** “Interactive Stories for the Classroom: Creation and Curriculum.” International Digital Storytelling Conference, 25 Sept 2015, Smith College, Northampton, MA.

Raffel, Sara. “Interactive Story: Project Management from Inception to Testing.” Special Interest Group on Design of Communication (SIGDOC), 16 Jul 2015, University of Limerick, Limerick, Ireland.

Mauer, Barry and **Sara Raffel.** “Citizen Curating.” THATCamp Florida, 28 Feb 2015, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

Raffel, Sara. “Defamiliarizing the Self: *Black Swan* and the Infinite Regress of the Mirror Image.” 4th Annual University of Central Florida English Symposium, 20 Feb 2015, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

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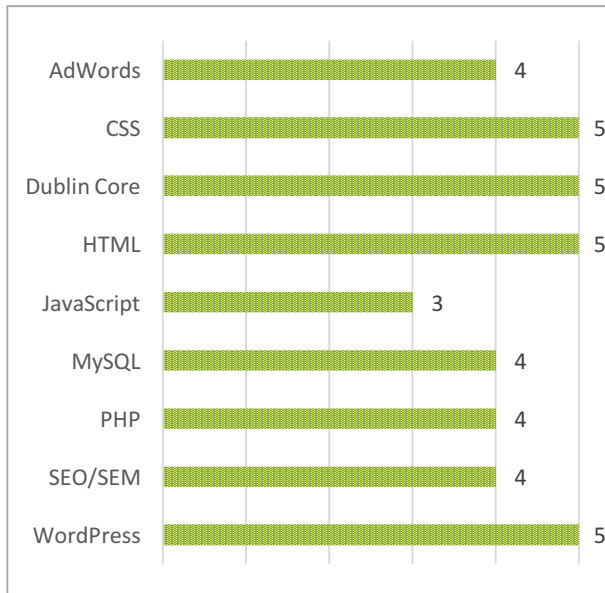
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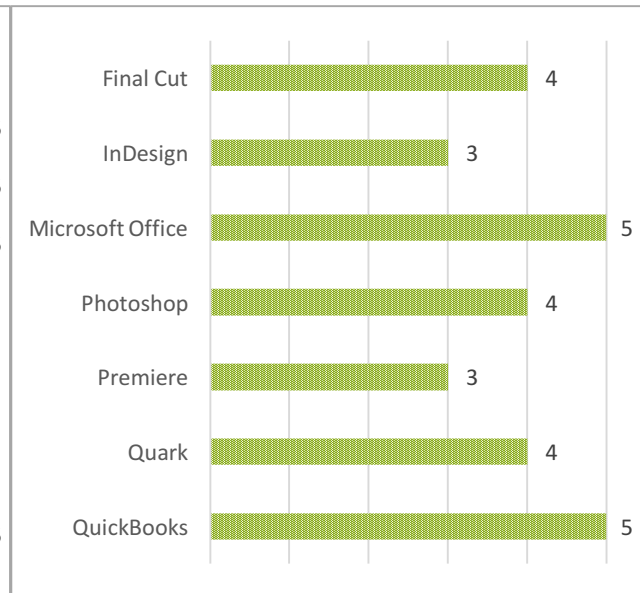
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PROFICIENCIES

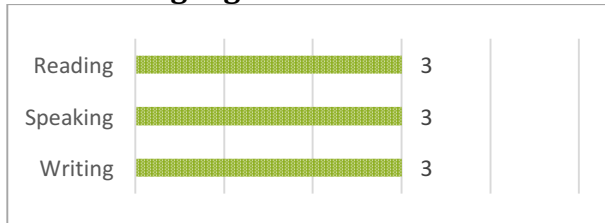
Web Programming and Archiving



Specialized Software



French Language



SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Director of Oral Histories

Board of Directors of the GLBT History Museum of Central Florida

Present

Vice President

Texts and Technology Graduate Student Organization

2016-2017

Secretary

Texts and Technology Graduate Student Organization

2015-2016

Social Media Coordinator

Texts and Technology Graduate Student Organization

2014-2015

Student Liaison Representing the M.Phil. in Film Theory and History


Trinity College Graduate Students' Union

2011-2012

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