

Curriculum Vitae

Robert Thomas Dobler

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Education

- Ph.D. **University of Oregon**, English, June 2014
Dissertation: "New American Ways of Death: Death, Memory, and Mourning in American Eschatologies." Director: Daniel Wojcik
- M.A. **University of Oregon**, Folklore, 2010
- B.A. **Pennsylvania State University, State College**, English, 2003

Book Chapters

- "Ghost Bikes: Memorialization and Protest on City Streets." *Grassroots Memorials: The Politics of Memorializing Traumatic Death*. Eds. Peter Jan Margry and Cristina Sánchez Carretero. New York: Berghahn, 2011. 169-187.
- "Ghosts in the Machine: Mourning the MySpace Dead." *Folklore and the Internet: Vernacular Expression in a Digital World*. Ed. Trevor Blank. Logan: University of Utah Press, 2009. 175-93.

Encyclopedia Entries

- "Bierce, Ambrose G." *The Encyclopedia of American Counterculture*. Ed. Gina Misiroglu. New York and London: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2009. 79-80.
- "Graffiti." *The Encyclopedia of American Counterculture*. Ed. Gina Misiroglu. New York and London: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2009. 326-27.
- "Chick, Jack T." *The Encyclopedia of American Counterculture*. Ed. Gina Misiroglu. New York and London: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2009. 146-47.
- "Bohemianism" (co-author Daniel Wojcik). *The Encyclopedia of American Counterculture*. Ed. Gina Misiroglu. New York and London: M.E. Sharpe, Inc., 2009. 98-101.

Work in Progress

Alternative Memorials: Death and Memory in Modern America (solicited by Sheila Leary, University of Wisconsin Press, for inclusion in the book series "Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World: A Mellon Scholarly Monograph Initiative").

Other Publications

"What Ancient Cultures Teach Us about Grief, Mourning, and Continuity in Life" (co-author Daniel Wojcik). *The Conversation*. Nov. 2, 2017. Online.

Courses Taught at Indiana University

Folklore 101 Introduction to Folklore
Folklore 141 Urban Legends
Folklore 225 Forms of Commemoration
Folklore 253 Folklore and Popular Culture
Folklore 252 Folklore and the Internet
Folklore 253 Folklore and Disaster Folklore
Folklore 256 Folklore and the Supernatural
Folklore 351 Monsters and the Monstrous
Folklore 351 Folklore and Death
Folklore 420 Death and Expressive Culture
CAPP C-103 Memes, Trolls, and Fandoms

Research Interests

- material culture and folk belief
- digital folklore
- folklore, narrative, literary studies
- theories of grief and mourning
- popular culture
- American Gothic literature
- trauma and post-45 U.S. fiction
- mourning culture
- public memory
- sub-cultural movements

Awards and Grants

Primary Sources Immersion Grant funded by the IU Archives

Folklore Studies in a Multicultural World: A Mellon Scholarly Monograph Initiative. October, 2009. Selected from more than 100 applicants for participation in a workshop to develop my manuscript “Alternative Memorials: Death and Memory in Modern America” for possible publication with the University of Wisconsin Press.

Warren E. Roberts Prize for Best Paper in Folk Art. American Folklore Society, October, 2008.

Don Yoder Prize for the Best Paper in Folk Belief and Religious Folklife. American Folklore Society, October, 2007.

The Alma Johnson Graduate Folklore Award. University of Oregon, Folklore Department. October, 2007.

Student Travel Award. American Folklore Society, September, 2007.

The Morgan Signs/Barash Advertising Internship Award. Pennsylvania State University, November, 2002.

Conference Presentations and Talks

“State of the Labor Force: Building Support Systems for Sustainable Employment in the Field.” (Roundtable Sponsored by AFS). American Folklore Society Annual

Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 18-21, 2017.

“The Archives and the Institute: An Emergent Collaboration at Indiana University.” (Co-presented with Carrie Schwier, Outreach and Public Services Archivist for the Indiana University Archives). Adventures in Archiving, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 16-17, 2017.

“Dread and Circus: Legends, Internet Memes, and Phantom Clowns.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Eugene, Oregon, April 21-22, 2017.

“Glitch and the Digital Uncanny.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Miami, Florida, October 19-22, 2016.

“Haunted Streets: Location and Meaning in Ghost Bike Memorials.” Folklore and Ethnomusicology Research Colloquium Series, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, October 23, 2016.

“The Eternal Refresh: Mourning and Post-mortem Subjectivity on the Internet.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Long Beach, California, October 14-17, 2015.

“Memorial Tattoos: Embodied Grief and Vernacular Commemoration.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 5-8, 2014.

"Ghost Bike Memorials: Trauma and Healing at the Portland Bicycle Shrine." American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, October 25-28, 2012.

"Subduing the Supernatural: Folk Belief and Dark Tourism on the Travel Channel." Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Sacramento, California, April 20-21, 2012.

"Marks of Mourning: Memorial Tattoos and the Preservation of Memory." Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Salem, Oregon, April 16-17, 2010.

“Memorialization and Protest in the Ghost Bike Movement.” American Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Louisville, Kentucky, October 22-26, 2008.

“Doom Town: Pulp Comics and Vernacular Eschatology in the Religious Tracts of Jack T. Chick.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Davis, California. April 10-12, 2008.

“Ghosts in the Machine: Mourning the MySpace Dead.” American Folklore Society/Folklore Studies Association of Canada Joint Annual Meeting, Québec, Canada, October 17-21, 2007.

“Ghosts in the Machine: Mourning the MySpace Dead.” Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, California, April 21-23, 2007.

Member, Dissertation

Virginia Fugarino, *Every Hurricane Leaves You with Different Priorities: Preparation, Cultural Response, and Narrative Entitlement* (Folklore, Memorial University of Newfoundland, 2015).

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Folklore Society
International Society for Contemporary Legend
Research Modern Language Association
Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore
(SIEF) Western States Folklore Society (Student Vice
President)

Professional Service

Blind Reviewer for *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore* 2014

Blind Reviewer for *Contemporary Legend*, 2017

Teaching and Other Academic Experience

Lecturer, Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. July 2017 - present

Visting Lecturer, Indiana University, Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. Taught undergraduate-level courses ranging in size from 9 to 150 students. August 2014 – July Instructor, Composition Program (Writing 121/122). Taught argumentative writing in the two- course composition sequence required of all University of Oregon students. Courses consisted of class discussion, textual analysis, and three essay cycles of writing and revising. 26 students per section. 2011-2014.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "Cinema in the Muslim World" (English 380). Assisted Dr. Sangita Gopal with course offered by the Cinemas Studies Program. Led several class meetings and graded essays and exams for approximately 45 students. March-June, 2010.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "Text and Interpretation: Masks and the Ecstatic Experience" (Scandinavian 251). Assisted Dr. Michael Stern with course offered by the Department of German and Scandinavian Department examining the use of masks in identity- construction in Scandinavian film and literature. Graded essays and exams for approximately 45 students. October-December, 2009.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "German Culture and Thought: From Luther to Marx via Faust" (German 257). Assisted Dr. Martin Klebes with the administration and grading of exams and term papers in a course devoted to tracing the impact of German culture on modern literature and religion. March-June, 2009.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "The Holocaust in Literature, Film, and Monument" (German 222). Assisted Dr. Jeffrey Librett and taught discussion sections for two classes of 25 students each. Issues of representation and meaning in accounts of the Holocaust in the writings of historians and survivors were explored and discussed. Graded exams, quizzes, and essays. January-March, 2009.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "Culture of the Weimar Republic" (German 259). Assisted Dr. Alexander Mathas with course on the art and politics of the Weimar period of German history; graded essays, exams, and quizzes for over 60 students. October-December, 2008.

Advisor, "Tracktown Traditions" (Folklore 410/510). Assisted Dr. Daniel Wojcik, Folklore Program Director, with a series of courses and events designed to correspond to the 2008 Olympic Trials in Eugene, Oregon. Project culminated in a lecture and film series and the production of a short film on pilgrimages to the roadside memorial for the running legend Steve Prefontaine. April-June, 2008.

Graduate Teaching Fellow, "British Folklore and Mythology" (Folklore 483/583). Assisted Dr. Dianne Dugaw by leading discussion and grading exams and papers for two twenty- student review sections for a course examining the legends, ballads, folktales, and myths of the British Isles. January-March, 2008.

Facilitated in the Travel Ad Project for the Humanities Center under the direction of Dr. Judith Raiskin, Director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Oregon. Collected and analyzed travel ads for the creation of searchable database. January-March, 2008. Provided Introduction and Discussion of film, *The Omega Man*, as part of the film series, "Apocalypse Films," January-March, 2008.

Archivist, Randall V. Mills Archives of Northwest Folklore, September-December, 2007.

References

Diane Goldstein
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