

Alex Ullman  
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## EDUCATION

- 2017-Present Ph.D. Candidate, English, University of California, Berkeley  
Dissertation: "This Feeling Tone: The Sound of Black-Jewish Collaboration Since 1980"  
Advisors: Scott Saul and Tom McEnaney (co-chairs)  
Namwali Serpell, Nadia Ellis, and Chana Kronfeld (readers)
- 2014 M.A., Teaching, Relay Graduate School of Education, New York, New York
- 2009 B.A., English, University of Pennsylvania  
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa  
High honors thesis: "James Joyce and Jazz Modernism"  
Advisor: Prof. James F. English
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## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Twentieth and Twenty-First Century American Literature and Culture; American Studies; Sound Studies; Performance Studies; LGBTQ History and Theory; Comparative Diaspora Studies; Black Studies; Jewish Studies

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## PUBLICATIONS

### *Journal Articles*

- 2023 "Audre Lorde, Sound Theorist: Register, Silence, Vibrato, Timbre." *PMLA*.  
Forthcoming May 2024.
- 2018 "[A Tradition of Free and Odious Utterance](#): Free Speech and Sacred Utterance in Steve Waters' *Temple*." Co-written with Gabriel Mindel, *Sounding Out!*, April 2018.
- "[The Sound of Translation: Joyce, the Zukofskys, and Liturgical piyutim](#)." *Partial Answers: Journal of Literature and the History of Ideas* 16.1 (January 2018): 43-64.

### *Book Chapters*

- 2023 "The Poetics of Conversation: Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde's Uses of Voice." *Reframing Jewish American Literary History Through Women's Writing*, ed. by Annie Atura Bushnell, Lori Harrison-Kahan, Ashley Walters (Wayne State).  
Forthcoming May 2024.
- 2021 "[The Ontogenesis of Fear in Héctor Tobar's \*The Barbarian Nurseries\*](#)." *Human Rights in the Americas*, ed. by María Herrera-Sobek, Francisco A. Lomelí, Luz Angélica Kirschner (London: Routledge, 2021): 196-208.

## Reviews

- 2023      ["In Mills College Art Museum Show, Technology Becomes an Active Collaborator,"](#) *KQED*, November 7, 2023.
- ["Notes on Sculpting A Friendship: Fugard's \*The Road to Mecca\* at Z Space,"](#)  
*SF/ARTS*, June 18, 2023.
- 2022      ["The Haunting Ventriloquism of Dana H. Asks Us to Listen Differently,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, June 14, 2022.
- ["Bobby McFerrin's 'Circlesongs' and the Politics of Play,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, May 11, 2022.
- ["In Otto Frank, Roger Guenveur Smith Compares the Incomparable,"](#) *KQED Arts & Culture*, Mar. 16, 2022.
- 2020      ["Review of Gerald Shea, \*The Language of Light: A History of Silent Voices\*,"](#)  
*MAKE Literary Magazine*, March 30, 2020.
- 2019      ["Review of Alain Corbin, \*A History of Silence: From the Renaissance to the Present Day\*,"](#) *MAKE Literary Magazine*, August 18, 2019.
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## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### *Conferences Organized*

- 2024      "Why 'Jewish American Literature' Matters: A Conference for Graduate Students, Independent scholars, and Untenured Faculty," co-organized with Ben Schreier, Victoria Aarons, Alison Schachter, February 25-26<sup>th</sup>, Vanderbilt University
- 2020      Semester Long Colloquium "Conversations in Sound," at UC Berkeley, featuring virtual workshops with Christopher Grobe, Julie Beth Napolin, Ragini Srinivasan, Fumi Okiji, Nadia Shihab, and Robin James
- 2019      Music Colloquium at UC Berkeley with Nina Eidsheim to discuss her book *The Race of Sound* (2018)
- "Homophonic Translation, Performance, and the Pataquerical Imagination," UC Berkeley lecture and workshop with Charles Bernstein
- 2017-2018      Co-organizer, "Counter-Production: Noise as Critical Research," UC Humanities Research Institute Multi-Campus Sound Studies Working Group Conferences  
                    As co-organizer, I organized and moderated the following sessions:  
                    "Disruptive: Noise as Material," with Eric Porter and Steven Feld, UC Berkeley, October 2017  
                    "Illegible: Literary Audiation," UCLA, with Nina Eidsheim, Jessica Holmes, John Jordan, and Roshanak Kheshti, January 2018

“Unintelligible: Noise as Critical Research,” UC Santa Cruz, with  
Jemma DeCristo and 15 UC graduate students, April 2018

*Panels Organized*

- 2023 “The Sounds of Solidarity Audio Potluck,” with Gabriel Mindel, Jonathan Sterne, Julie Napolin, Eric Porter, and Pablo Herrera Veitia, American Studies Association Annual Conference: Montreal, November 2024.
- “Can American Studies and Jewish Studies Love Each Other?” with Ben Schreier, Samira Mehta, Keith Feldman, Maxwell Greenberg, Jessie Stoolman, Sarah Imhoff, and Dean Franco, American Studies Association Annual Conference: Montreal, November 2024.

*Papers Given*

- 2022 “The Four Questions: The State of Jewish American Literature Today,” Tulane Center for the Jewish Experience, New Orleans, LA, October 2022.
- “Audre Lorde’s Prophetic Voice: A Performance History,” Black Studies Collaboratory Small Grant Symposium, Berkeley, CA, September 2022.
- 2021 “Adrienne Rich’s Jewish Voice.” American Jewish Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, December 2021.
- “The Poetics of Conversation: Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde’s Uses of Voice.” American Studies Association Annual Conference: Creativity within Revolt, Puerto Rico/Zoom, October 2021.
- “On Listening to Adrienne Rich.” Center for Jewish Studies Graduate Colloquium, with Chana Kronfeld, Berkeley, CA, April 2021.
- 2019 “Hearing ‘Jewish Voice’ in Grace Paley’s Readings.” Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium, Miami, FL, November 2019.
- “‘Could one not get the waves to be heard all the way through?’: Close Listening to Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*.” Sound Waves: Resonances of Virginia Woolf, Berkeley, California, October 2019.
- “‘Ithaca’ as Diasporic Narrative Ethics.” North American James Joyce Symposium: “Joyce Without Borders,” Mexico City, Mexico, June 2019.
- 2018 “(Against) Encyclopedic Failure: Polyvocality, Futurity, and Empathy in David Grossman’s *See Under: Love*.” Jewish American and Holocaust Literature Symposium, Miami, FL, November 2018.

"I Live in America, I Don't Have to Love It: Belize's Ambivalence to Impossibility in *Angels in America*." Princeton Graduate Conference: "Contemporary Cultures of Black Impossibility," Princeton, NJ, October 2018.

"A Tradition of Free and Odious Utterance: Free Speech and Sacred Utterance in Steve Waters' *Temple*." CUNY English Student Association Graduate Conference: "Breaking Through: Textures and Aesthetics of Rupture," New York, NY, March, 2018.

2017 "The Sense of Dialogue in Heidegger and Plato." Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, March, 2017.

2016 "Neo-liberalism, The Media, and the Ontogenesis of Fear in Héctor Tobar's *The Barbarian Nurseries*." International Association of Inter-American Studies Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, October, 2016.

2016 "The Sound of (non-sensical) Translation in Late Joyce and Zukofsky." Berkeley-Stanford Annual Graduate Student Conference, Berkeley, CA, April 2016.

*Papers Delivered in Workshop (Invited)*

2019 "Between Text and Audiobook: Translating Silence in Jonathan Safran-Foer's *Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close*." Digital Humanities Summer Institute, Sound and the Digital Humanities Workshop with John Barber, Victoria, BC, June 2019.

2018 "Encyclopedic Failure: Polyvocality and Futurity in David Grossman's *See Under: Love*." Novel Theory: Society for Novel Studies Conference, Graduate Workshop with Rebecca Walkowitz, Ithaca, NY, May 2018.

2016 "The Remembering of Air in Modernist Poetics: Khlebnikov's 'A Cliff out of the Future.'" Modernist Studies Association Conference, Poetics of Information Exchange Seminar with Marjorie Perloff, Pasadena, CA, November 2016.

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**INVITED TALKS**

2023 "Listening to *The Office*." Stanford Humanities Center. Respondent to Gabriella Safran's book talk on *Recording Russia*, as part of The Matters of Voice working group. May 2023

2020 "Trust." Synagogue Etz Chayim. Moderated a discussion on racial justice with activist Shekhiynah Larks of Be'chol Lashon and artist Charlie Levin of "The One Truthiness," Palo Alto, October 2020.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *Courses Taught*

UC Berkeley (2020-Present)

“Audiotexts: Listening and/as Reading since 1935” (Spring 2021)

“Jewish and *Black-ish*: Race Relations in American Literature” (Fall 2020)

### *Teaching Assistantships*

UC Berkeley (2017-2020)

“Contemporary Literature” (Spring 2020)

“Early American Literature” (Fall 2019)

“Modernist Poetry: Yeats, Pound, Eliot, Stevens” (Fall 2018)

UC Santa Cruz (2015-2017)

“The Intellectual History of Zionism” (Spring 2017)

“Translation Theory” (Winter 2017)

“Introduction to the British Canon” (Fall 2016)

### *Public Teaching*

Book Passage Marin

Lead a semester long book club on “[Contemporary Jewish American Fiction](#)”

Contra Costa County Juvenile Detention Center

Taught creative writing and “The Poetics of Hip-Hop” to 12 students as part of the New Literary Project Fellowship (Spring 2022)

“Read Along with Berkeley English” Public Fellow (2020-2023)

Organized and maintained communication between professors and 350+ online group members; lead discussions across nine undergraduate courses

Achievement First Bushwick Public Middle School, Brooklyn, NY (2012-2015)

Sixth Grade English Teacher

### *Awards*

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2021

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

### *Dissertation Research Grants*

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| 2023 | Townsend Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship                      |
|      | Berkeley Center for Interdisciplinary Critical Inquiry Summer Fellowship        |
| 2022 | Black Studies Collaboratory Grant, UCB African American Studies                 |
|      | Tulane Center for the Jewish Experience Summer Research Stipend                 |
| 2021 | Radio and Decolonization Summer Seminar, National Endowment for the Humanities  |
| 2021 | LGBTQ Cluster Dissertation Grant, UCB Othering and Belonging Institute          |
| 2019 | Digital Humanities Summer Institute Tuition Scholarship, University of Victoria |
| 2018 | Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion New Directions in Theology Fellowship |

### *Teaching Fellowships*

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| 2022 | Berkeley Connect Year-Long Mentoring Fellowship, UCB English       |
| 2022 | New Literary Project Teaching Fellowship, Contra Costa County Jail |
| 2021 | Daniel E. Koshland Junior Course Development Grant                 |
| 2020 | Graduate Remote Instruction Innovation Fellows Program, 2020.      |

*Working Group Grants*

2018-2023	Townsend Center for the Arts Working Group Grant, Co-organizer, Sound Studies Working Group
2017	University of California Humanities Research Institute Multi-Campus Working Group Grant

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**LANGUAGES**

Spanish (Intermediate), German (Intermediate, Goethe Institut B2 Level),  
Hebrew (Middlebury: Advanced Beginner), Yiddish (YIVO: Advanced Beginner)