

# Joseph Darda

Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies  
Texas Christian University

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## Education

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PhD, English, University of Connecticut, 2015

MA, English, University of Connecticut, 2012

BA, *magna cum laude*, English (with honors), Psychology, University of Washington, 2009

## Professional History

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Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, Texas Christian University, 2015–

Mellon Sawyer Seminar Fellow, University of California, Irvine, 2016–17

## Publications

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### Books

*Empire of Defense: Race and the Cultural Politics of Permanent War*. Forthcoming from the University of Chicago Press in June 2019.

*Whiteness on the Edge of Town: Veteran America and White Racial Politics since Vietnam*. Manuscript in progress.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The Thin White Line: Veterans and the White Racial Politics of Creative Writing.” Forthcoming in *American Literature* 91, no. 4 (2019).

“Like a Refugee: Veterans, Vietnam, and the Making of a False Equivalence.” Forthcoming in *American Quarterly* 71, no. 1 (2019).

“Military Whiteness.” *Critical Inquiry* 45, no. 1 (2018): 76–96.

“Dispatches from the Drug Wars: Ishmael Reed, Oscar Zeta Acosta, and the Viet Cong of America.” *Modern Fiction Studies* 64, no. 1 (2018): 79–103.

“Kicking the Vietnam Syndrome Narrative: Human Rights, the Nayirah Testimony, and the Gulf War.” *American Quarterly* 69, no. 1 (2017): 71–92.

“The Ethnicization of Veteran America: Larry Heinemann, Toni Morrison, and Military Whiteness after Vietnam.” *Contemporary Literature* 57, no. 3 (2016): 410–40.

- “The Exceptionalist Optics of 9/11 Photography.” *Journal of American Studies* 50, no. 1 (2016): 185–204.
- “The Literary Afterlife of the Korean War.” *American Literature* 87, no. 1 (2015): 79–105.
- “Airport Memory: Recalling Vietnam from the Terminal in Andrew Pham’s Travel Writing.” *Criticism* 57, no. 2 (2015): 191–210.
- “Universality at War: Race, Nation, and Communism in Chester Himes’s *If He Hollers Let Him Go*.” *African American Review* 48, no. 1–2 (2015): 157–73.
- “The Visual Apologetics of Philip Roth’s Pastoral America.” *Philip Roth Studies* 11, no. 2 (2015): 77–94.
- “MLK at the LA Riots: Civil Rights, Memory, and Neoliberalism in Charles Johnson’s *Dreamer*.” *Twentieth-Century Literature* 60, no. 2 (2014): 197–221.
- “Precarious World: Rethinking Global Fiction in Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.” *Mosaic* 47, no. 3 (2014): 107–22.
- “The Sacrificial Enterprise: Negotiating Mutilation in W. D. Howells’s *A Hazard of New Fortunes*.” *American Literary Realism* 46, no. 3 (2014): 210–29.
- “Graphic Ethics: Theorizing the Face in Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*.” *College Literature* 40, no. 2 (2013): 31–51.

### Special Issues

- Editor. “Literary Counterhistories of US Exceptionalism.” Special issue, *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory* 25, no. 2 (2014).

### Book Reviews

- Review of *Contemporary Drift: Genre, Historicism, and the Problem of the Present*, by Theodore Martin. Forthcoming in *Modern Fiction Studies* 65, no. 2 (2019).
- Review of *The Racial Imaginary of the Cold War Kitchen: From Sokol’niki Park to Chicago’s South Side*, by Kate A. Baldwin; and *Reading America: Citizenship, Democracy, and Cold War Literature*, by Kristin L. Matthews. *American Literature* 90, no. 3 (2018): 664–66.
- Review of *Whiteness on the Border: Mapping the U.S. Racial Imagination in Brown and White*, by Lee Bebout; and *Playing in the White: Black Writers, White Subjects*, by Stephanie Li. *Critical Inquiry* 44, no. 4 (2018): 791–93.
- Review of *Cold War Friendships: Korea, Vietnam, and Asian American Literature*, by Josephine Nock-Hee Park. *MELUS* 42, no. 2 (2017): 203–5.

- Review of *Born Translated: The Contemporary Novel in an Age of World Literature*, by Rebecca L. Walkowitz. *Modern Fiction Studies* 63, no. 1 (2017): 169–71.
- Review of *Distant Wars Visible: The Ambivalence of Witnessing*, by Wendy Kozol. *Critical Inquiry* 42, no. 3 (2016): 714–16.
- Review of *Humanitarian Violence: The U.S. Deployment of Diversity*, by Neda Atanasoski. *MELUS* 40, no. 3 (2015): 205–7.
- “The Global Remaking of the American Political Novel.” Review of *Toward the Geopolitical Novel: U.S. Fiction in the Twenty-First Century*, by Caren Irr. *Contemporary Literature* 55, no. 2 (2014): 430–37.
- Review of *No Accident, Comrade: Chance and Design in Cold War American Narratives*, by Steven Belletto. *Modern Fiction Studies* 60, no. 2 (2014): 390–93.
- “Old Left, New Class: Literary Anxiety in the Consumers’ Republic.” Review of *Fantasies of the New Class: Ideologies of Professionalism in Post–World War II American Fiction*, by Stephen Schryer; *Hip Figures: A Literary History of the Democratic Party*, by Michael Szalay; and *American Night: The Literary Left in the Era of the Cold War*, by Alan M. Wald. *Minnesota Review*, no. 82 (2014): 151–60.
- “When Is Postwar?” Review of *War Time: An Idea, Its History, Its Consequences*, by Mary L. Dudziak; *Warfare State: World War II Americans and the Age of Big Government*, by James T. Sparrow; and *How We Forgot the Cold War: A Historical Journey across America*, by Jon Wiener. *American Quarterly* 65, no. 4 (2013): 639–48.
- Review of *Constructing the Enemy: Empathy/Antipathy in U.S. Literature and Law*, by Rajini Srikanth. *MELUS* 38, no. 3 (2013): 175–76.

## Public Writing

- “The Philosophy of Creative Writing.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, February 25, 2019. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/philosophy-creative-writing/>.
- “The Thin White Line.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, November 19, 2018. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-thin-white-line/>.
- “The Surprising Roots of Recent White Extremism.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 9, 2018. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-surprising-roots-of-white-extremism/>.
- “Post-Traumatic Whiteness: How Vietnam Veterans Became the Basis for a New White Identity Politics.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, November 21, 2017. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/post-traumatic-whiteness-how-vietnam-veterans-became-the-basis-for-a-new-white-identity-politics/>.
- “A New New White Man: Toni Morrison’s *Playing in the Dark* Turns Twenty-Five.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, August 17, 2017. <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/a-new-new-white-man-toni-morrison-s-playing-in-the-dark-turns-25>.

“How America Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Drone.” *Austin American-Statesman*, August 2, 2017. <http://www.mystatesman.com/news/opinion/commentary-how-america-learned-stop-worrying-and-love-the-drone/vmNttxMpgnzZC2UhOTf45K/>.

“Trump Taps a Long U.S. Cultural History of Pitting Immigrants against Veterans.” *Dallas Morning News*, May 10, 2017.  
<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2017/07/10/trump-taps-long-us-cultural-history-pitting-immigrants-veterans>.

## Presentations

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### Conferences

“The Philosophy of Creative Writing.” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

“The Thin White Line.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Like a Refugee: Veterans, Vietnam, and the Precarious Subjects of a False Equivalence.” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018.

“Technologies of Vulnerability: Permanent War and the Cultural Politics of the Fifth Domain.” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018.

“War in the Fifth Domain.” American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Like a Refugee: Veterans, Vietnam, and the Making of a False Equivalence.” Association for Asian American Studies, Portland, OR, April 2017.

“Military Whiteness.” American Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 2016.

“Counterinsurgency and the Great War on Terror Novel.” American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2016.

“The Ethnicization of Veteran America: Larry Heinemann, Toni Morrison, and Military Whiteness after Vietnam.” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 2016.

“Kicking the Vietnam Syndrome Narrative.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2015.

“The Exceptionalist Optics of 9/11 Photography.” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, March 2015.

“Literary Dispatches from the Vietnamization of the War on Drugs.” American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.

“Antiwar Absolution in Joseph Heller’s Vietnam.” Futures of American Studies Institute, Hanover, NH, June 2014.

“The Literary Afterlife of the Korean War.” American Literature Association, Washington, DC, May 2014.

“Airport Memory: Recalling Vietnam from the Terminal in Andrew Pham’s Travel Writing.” American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY, March 2014.

“Universality at War: Race, Nation, and Communism in Chester Himes’s *If He Hollers Let Him Go*.” Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Oklahoma City, OK, March 2014.

“The Sacrificial Enterprise: Negotiating Mutilation in William Dean Howells’s *A Hazard of New Fortunes*.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2013.

“MLK at the LA Riots: Civil Rights, Memory, and Neoliberalism in Charles Johnson’s *Dreamer*.” Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2013.

“Graphic Ethics: Theorizing the Face in Marjane Satrapi’s *Persepolis*.” Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January 2013.

“When Theory of Mind Fails: Race and Folk Psychology in William Faulkner’s *Light in August*.” Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Boston, MA, April 2012.

“Iconographic Immersion in Jonathan Safran Foer’s *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*.” American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, RI, March–April 2012.

### **Invited Talks**

“Whiteness on the Edge of Town: Bruce Springsteen and the Racial Politics of Heartland Rock.” Postwar Faculty Colloquium, Denton, TX, March 2019.

“MFA vs. PFC: Creative Writing and the War Story.” Postwar Faculty Colloquium, Denton, TX, April 2018.

“Like a Refugee: Veterans, Vietnam, and the Making of a False Equivalence.” Critical Voices Series, University of California, Irvine, June 2017.

“War in the Fifth Domain.” Digital War Symposium, University of California, Irvine, March 2017.

“Human Rights, the Nayirah Testimony, and the Gulf War.” Bodies Living with Violence Conference, University of Connecticut, April 2016.

## Courses Taught

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### Texas Christian University

Seminar in American Literature since 1900 (graduate)  
Studies in Twentieth-Century American Literature  
US Multiethnic Literatures  
Asian American Literature  
American Fiction, 1960 to the Present  
Introduction to American Studies  
Seminar in Critical Race Theory  
Major American Writers

### University of California, Irvine

Topics in Literary Journalism

### University of Connecticut

American Literature since 1880  
Seminar in Writing through Literature  
Seminar in Academic Writing

## Service

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### Texas Christian University

Diversity Taskforce Member, Department of English, 2018–present  
Undergraduate Council Member, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, 2017–present  
Curriculum Subcommittee Member, Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, 2017–present  
Associate Member, Women and Gender Studies Program, 2015–present  
Undergraduate Studies Committee Member, Department of English, 2015–16

### Professional

Managing Editor, *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*, 2012–14

## Awards

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OpEd Project Fellowship, University of California, Merced, 2017  
Mellon Sawyer Seminar Fellowship, University of California, Irvine, 2016–17  
First Book Institute Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University, 2016  
Junior Faculty Summer Research Program Grant, Texas Christian University, 2016  
Council of Graduate Schools/ProQuest Distinguished Dissertation Award National Finalist, 2015  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Graduate Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2014–15  
Graduate School Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 2013–14

Siegel/McDaniel Award, Philip Roth Society, 2013  
Aetna Critical Essay Prize, University of Connecticut, 2013  
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Washington, 2008

**Professional Associations**

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American Studies Association  
Modern Language Association  
Association for Asian American Studies  
American Comparative Literature Association