

# Joseph Darda

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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 distinction), Psychology, University of Washington, 2009

## Professional History

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Associate Professor of English, Texas Christian University, 2020–

Assistant Professor of English, Texas Christian University, 2015–20

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

## Publications

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### Books

*How White Men Won the Culture Wars: A History of Veteran America*. Forthcoming from the University of California Press in spring 2021.

*Empire of Defense: Race and the Cultural Politics of Permanent War*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019.

*The Strange Career of Racial Liberalism*. Manuscript in progress.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

“The Race Front.” Forthcoming in *Representations*, no. 157 (2022).

“The Race Novel: An Education.” *MELUS* 45, no. 3 (2020): 1–24.

“The Thin White Line: Veterans and the White Racial Politics of Creative Writing.” *American Literature* 91, no. 4 (2019): 783–810.

“Like a Refugee: Veterans, Vietnam, and the Making of a False Equivalence.” *American Quarterly* 71, no. 1 (2019): 83–104. Constance M. Rourke Prize finalist (best article in *American Quarterly*).

“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.

### Book Chapter

- “The Whiteness of Blue Lives.” In *A Field Guide to White Supremacy*, edited by Kathleen Belew and Ramón A. Gutiérrez. Forthcoming from the University of California Press in 2021.

### Special Issue

- Ed. “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. *Modern Fiction Studies* 65, no. 2 (2019): 385–88.
- 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 Racial Politics of National Defense.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 15, 2019.  
<https://blog.lareviewofbooks.org/essays/racial-politics-national-defense/>.
- “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-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*, July 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 Race Novel: An Education.” American Studies Association, San Juan, PR, October 2021.
- “White Reunion: Vietnam Veterans and the Racial Politics of Post–Civil Rights War Remembrance,” Modern Language Association, Toronto, ON, January 2021 (virtual).
- “Veteran America: *Bakee*, War Stories, and the Memory of Vietnam,” Modern Language Association, Toronto, ON, January 2021 (virtual).
- “The Race Novel: An Education.” American Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2020 (canceled).
- “Operation Homegoing: Tourism and American Veterans in Postwar Vietnam.” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- “Two Appeals to the World! W. E. B. Du Bois, Harry Truman, and the Turn from Human to Civil Rights.” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- “White Liberal, Black Mask.” American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, November 2019.
- “The Philosophy of Creative Writing.” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2019.
- “The Thin White Line.” American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

- “The Veteran and the Refugee.” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018.
- “A New *New* Normal: The Distinguished Warfare Medal and the Cultural Politics of Permanent War.” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018.
- “Defense 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.
- “The Craft of Counterinsurgent Whiteness.” 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 with Human Rights.” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2015.
- “The Exceptionalist Optics of 9/11 Photography.” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA, March 2015.
- “Dispatches from the Drug Wars.” American Studies Association, Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.
- “Antiwar Liberalism against Liberal War.” 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**

“Is There An Antiwar Literature?” Bastian Lecture, Centre College, Danville, KY, September 2020 (virtual).

“The Race Front: Ruth Benedict, Gunnar Myrdal, and the Strange Career of Racial Liberalism.” Postwar Faculty Colloquium, Denton, TX, March 2020 (canceled).

“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.

“Defense 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**

##### Graduate

English 55763: Race and Gender in American Literature

English 55213: Seminar in American Literature since 1900

English 55003: Introduction to Graduate Studies and the Profession of English

##### Undergraduate

English 40683: Studies in Twentieth-Century American Literature

English 40663: Transnational American Literature

English 30953: Post-1945 American Literature

English 30853: Asian American Literature

English 30693: US Multiethnic Literature

English 20553: Introduction to American Studies  
English 20523: Sports and American Literature  
English 20503: Major American Writers  
CRES 20003: Seminar in Critical Race Theory

### **University of California, Irvine**

#### Undergraduate

LIT JRN 103: Topics in Literary Journalism

### **University of Connecticut**

#### Undergraduate

English 2203: American Literature since 1880  
English 1011: Seminar in Writing through Literature  
English 1010: Seminar in Academic Writing

### **Service**

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### **Texas Christian University**

Core Member, Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, 2015–  
Curriculum Committee Member, Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, 2017–  
Personnel Advisory Committee, Department of Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies, 2020–  
Graduate Pedagogy Mentor, Department of English, 2021–  
Undergraduate Studies Committee Member, Department of English, 2015–16, 2019–20  
Undergraduate Council Member, AddRan College of Liberal Arts, 2017–20  
Diversity Taskforce Member, Department of English, 2018–19  
Black Studies Search Committee Member, Department of English, 2017–18

### **Professional**

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

### **Awards**

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Constance M. Rourke Prize finalist (best article in *American Quarterly*), American Studies Association, 2020  
Research Award, Department of English, Texas Christian University, 2020  
Junior Faculty Summer Research Program Grant, Texas Christian University, 2019  
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

**Professional Associations**

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American Studies Association  
Modern Language Association