
Allison Bannister

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Education

MS/PhD in Communication and Rhetoric from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY
MS December 2018, PhD May 2021.

MFA in Cartoon Studies from The Center for Cartoon Studies, White River Junction, VT
Graduated May 2014.

BA in Narrative Studies with a Theatre Minor from Truman State University, Kirksville, MO
Part of the Interdisciplinary Studies Program. Graduated May 2012.

Teaching

Rensselaer Teaching Assistantships

The Center for Global Communication and Design (COMM+D), Spring 2018-Spring 2021
Formerly Rensselaer's Writing Center, COMM+D was renamed in Spring 2018 and embraced an expanded mission to support design, data visualization, illustration and other forms of visual communication as well as continuing to work with students on written and oral communication. As a TA, I provided one-on-one support for writing, oral presentation, and visual design and developed and led workshops on visual design, writing research papers, and citation practices in person and via Webex at COMM+D and in courses across the curriculum.

Psychology of Mindfulness, Spring 2021

Spring 2021 I served in a split appointment between COMM+D and the Psychology of Mindfulness. In this writing-intensive course, I provided particular support for reflective writing, research practices, and citation methods, with a focus on writing across the curriculum, and facilitated small-group discussion in Webex. Online/hybrid course.

Intro to Game Storytelling, Fall 2017

This course serves as a jumping-off point for the writing courses in Rensselaer's undergraduate Game and Simulation Arts and Sciences program. I served as the TA for two on-campus sections, providing detailed feedback on writing projects, guiding students through in-class activities, and lecturing on Aristotle's Poetics, Opening Scenes, and Visual Storytelling.

Guest Lectures/Workshops

As a COMM+D TA, I developed and delivered a wide variety of writing and design workshops tailored to the needs of different courses, focusing on particular types of design projects, styles of writing, and areas of emphasis. These can be broken down broadly into visual design workshops or writing workshops for undergraduate or graduate students.

Visual Design Workshops, Graduate

COMM 1960	Effective Communication for Class Pedagogy	Spring 2021
MGMT 6540	Marketing Communication & Promotional Strategies	Spring 2021
CSCI 6460	Large Scale Program and Testing	Fall 2020
MGMT 7770	Professional Development Workshop I (2 Sections)	Fall 2020
ECON 6020	Advanced Data Analytics and Policy Evaluation	Spring 2020
MGMT 7770	Professional Development Workshop I (3 Sections)	Fall 2019

Visual Design Workshops, Undergraduate

MGMT 4490	Advertising Strategy and Promotions	Spring 2021
CSCI 4460	Software Design and Documentation	Fall 2020
LANG 2410	Chinese II	Fall 2020
COMM 4580	Advertising and Culture	Fall 2020
STSS 2100	Investigating Society	Fall 2020
MGMT 4490	Advertising Strategy and Promotions	Spring 2020
IHSS 1610	Design and Innovation Studio I	Fall 2019
WRIT 1110	Writing in Context	Fall 2019
COMM 2520	Communication Theory and Practice	Fall 2019
COMM 2520	Communication Theory and Practice	Spring 2019
STSH 4961	Sustainability by Design	Fall 2018

Writing Workshops, Undergraduate

COMM 4580	Advertising and Culture	Fall 2020
PSYC 4961	Psychology of Mindfulness	Fall 2019
ARTS 4850	Creative Seminar II	Spring 2019
ARTS 4850	Creative Seminar II	Spring 2018

Scholarship

Academic Publications

Bannister, Allison. "Book Review: *Run, Book One*." *EJournal of Public Affairs*, vol. 10, no. 3, 2021

Bannister, Allison. "A Fairytale Box of ThermoChromic Fragments." *ImageTech: Comics and Materiality*, special issue of *ImageText*, vol. 11, no. 3, 2020. imagetext.english.ufl.edu/archives/v11_3/bannister/

Bannister, Allison. "Agency, Identity, Sex, Gender and *Pokémon Go*." *Well Played*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2017, pp. 1-20. doi: 10.1184/R1/6687032

Research Fellowship

Caroline and Erwin Swann Foundation Library Of Congress Fellowship, 2020-2022

In Spring 2020, I received a Swann Foundation Fellowship to spend two weeks as a scholar in residence at the Library of Congress. Due to COVID-19, the fellowship was delayed and extended—I served the first week of the residency in Nov. 2021, and will return Spring 2022. My research examines tools and techniques used over a century of comics art, looking for traces of the artist's process in white out, pencil marks, marginalia, overlays, and similar materials.

Conference Presentations and Panels

The Pleasures of the Viewer/Spy: Hidden Objects, Easter Eggs, and the Persistent Presence of Pineapples, Spring 2022 (Upcoming)

Paper accepted to the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Superman for All Panels: Layouts, Panel Shapes and the Power of Transitions, Spring 2021

Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference. Online.

Graphic Novels, Comics, and Popular Culture 2: Panels, Sequential Art & Storytelling Mechanics, Spring 2021

Moderator at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM,

Comics Composition and the Matter of Making, Fall 2020

Presentation for the Flyover Comics Symposium, hosted by Digital Frontier. Online.

Conference Presentations and Panels (cont.)

Comics Composition and the Matter of Making, Summer 2020

Proposal accepted to the Comics Studies Society Conference; canceled due to COVID-19. Arkadelphia, AR.

Comics Composition Pedagogy and the Page as a Narrative Unit, Spring 2020

Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Adapting Fairytales Panel, Fall 2018

Panel discussion with Jaime Hernandez, Daryl Seitchik and Craig Yoe at Pulp Culture Comic Arts Festival & Symposium, Burlington, VT.

Comics Box, Spring 2018

Presented at ImageTech: Comics and Materiality Conference on Comics and Graphic Novels, Gainesville, FL.

Iconicity and Visual Rhetoric in *The Most Costly Journey*, Spring 2018

Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Graphic Novels, Comics, and Popular Culture 3, Spring 2018

Moderator at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM.

Rhetoric and *The Silence of Our Friends*, Spring 2017

Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque NM.

Creating a World: Fantasy, Monarchy and Creative Politics, Spring 2016

Presented at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference Albuquerque NM.

Women in Shakespeare, Spring 2012

Presented a staged reading of an original 10-minute play at the Truman State University Women and Gender Studies Conference, Kirksville, MO.

Comics Published Through Kickstarter

Who is the Silhouette?

Quirky superhero anthology co-edited with Tom O'Brien, collecting 10 stories from 15 creators on 3 continents. I wrote the introduction (illustrated by Willow Payne), collaborated on one interior story (with Tom O'Brien), wrote the afterword, worked with each creative team as an editor, designed and laid out the book for print, coordinated with the printer, co-managed the Kickstarter campaign, and fulfilled backer rewards. 2018.

Wit's End

YA fantasy graphic novel begun as my MFA thesis project. I was responsible for every part of the project: writing, illustrating, book design and layout, cover design, editing, coordination with printers, Kickstarter management, etc. 2016.

Creative Work Exhibition

Food Comics

Solo art show at the Rensselaer Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Dean's Lounge, Troy, NY, Fall 2018.

Center for Cartoon Studies Thesis Exhibit

Exhibited a selection of pages and a hand-bound copy of my thesis in the Colodny Building Gallery Space. White River Junction, VT, Spring 2014.

Comics Art Gallery Show

Contributed a piece to the gallery show, hosted by the Hotel Coolidge. White River Junction, VT, Spring 2013.

Charlie Harper Tribute Exhibit

Contributed a piece to the exhibit, hosted by the Montshire Museum of Science. Norwich, VT, Fall 2012.

Truman Theatre Department New Works Festival

Wrote a 10-minute play produced in collaboration with the Advanced Directing course, Kirksville, MO, Spring 2012

Publications in Comics Anthologies

Daphne's Resolve

Retelling of the Daphne and Apollo Myth in Meandering Realms. Forthcoming, 2022

The Play's the Thing

Shakespeare Tribute with Tom O'Brien. Reprint in literary journal Pulp Literature, Forthcoming, 2022. Originally published in My Kingdom for a Panel, 2019.

Never too Elder to Love

Lovecraftian Romance with Willow Payne in Cthulhu is Still Hard to Spell: The Terrible Twos. 2020.

Detour Part 2: The Quest Revised

Fantasy adventure with Tom O'Brien, in Oneshi Press Anthology 9. 2020.

Elizabeth Polly, Blue Light Lady

Ghost story in Local Haunts. 2019.

Detour Part 1: Off the Path

Fantasy adventure with Tom O'Brien, in Oneshi Press Anthology 8. 2019.

Date Night

Feminist monster comic with Ronnie Ritchie, Meaghan Carter, and Nikki Powers for Wayward Sisters. 2018. Anthology awarded Best Graphic Novel of 2018 in the Canadian Independent Comic Book Wiki Awards, received the 2019 Gene Day Award for Anthology Collection, and was nominated for the 2019 Outstanding Anthology Ignatz Award.

Cindermecha

Re-imagined fairytale with Tom O'Brien & Ben Evans for Ever Afterward. 2018.

Xiphactinus

Non fiction comic for Awesome 'Possum 3. 2017.

Home

Fairytale for Maple Key Comics 6. 2015.

Other Comics Publications

Summer Gig

Modern fairytale comic for the comics, art and prose anthology Bikes in Space #10, Forthcoming, 2023

Survived

Short piece for the post-apocalyptic comics, art and prose anthology After the Fall. 2020.

Biking Saturn's Rings

Short comic in literary magazine Wizards in Space. 2020.

Ghost Room

Experimental short story. Reprinted in literary magazine Pulp Literature, 2020.

Published by online literary magazine Burning House Press, 2018.

Received the 3rd place McKinney Writing Award for Graduate Electronic Mixed Media, 2018.

Bike Shop

Experimental short story in comics collection Milk and Honey Volume 4. 2019.

Jupiter Made Easy

Faux nonfiction infographic for Vermont alt weekly newspaper Seven Days. 2019.

A Night in the Woods

Fairytale with Tom O'Brien in online fiction magazine Enchanted Conversations. 2018.

Other Comics Publications (cont.)

Lessons from a Coffee Shop

Autobiographical comic for comics zine Scenes from a Cafe Counter. 2016.

Rapunzel

Fairytale adaptation for Vermont alt weekly newspaper Seven Days. 2016.

Going in Blind

Slice-of-life collaboration with Tom O'Brien for the Dog City 3 mini comic collection. 2014.

The Waiting Game

Slice-of-life comic published in the comics zine Summer Quick and Dirty 2. 2013.

Comic Convention Exhibition

2019 Comic Con at Flywheel Arts, Portland Comics Expo, Litchfield County Zine Fest,

Woo Comix, Non-Fiction Comics Mini-Fest, Alaska Robotics Mini-Con, Maine Comic Arts Festival (MeCAF)

2018 Comic Con at Flywheel Arts, Pulp Culture Comic Arts Festival and Symposium, Litchfield County Zine Fest,

MeCAF, Comics and Medicine Marketplace

2017 Pulp Culture Comic Arts Festival and Symposium, Kids Con New England, MeCAF

2016 MeCAF, Chicago Alternative Comics Expo

2015 MeCAF, Topatocon, Project Comic Con

2014 Museum of Comic and Cartoon Arts festival (MoCCA), MeCAF, Portland Comics Expo

2013 MoCCA, FantaCon

Service

Adirondack Center for Writing Comics Workshops

Two 2-hour workshops on comics making for kids and teens, Spring 2022

Member of the Editorial Review Board for the eJournal of Public Affairs

Reviewing submissions in art, comics, theater, writing programs & pedagogy, communication, & rhetoric.

Summer 2021-Present.

Designer for the McKinney Writing Contest Call for Submissions Postcards

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, Spring 2019.

Writing Comics Workshop

Delivered a free workshop at WOO! Comix, Worcester, MA, Fall 2018

Volunteer for the Comics and Medicine Conference

Conference hosted by The Center for Cartoon Studies and Dartmouth College. Guided conference attendees between locations, assisted with comics marketplace set-up and post-keynote tear-down. White River Junction, VT & Hanover, NH, Summer 2018

Workshop on Non-Traditional Materials in Comics

Delivered a free workshop at Litchfield County Zine Fest, Kent, CT, Summer 2018

Creative Writing Guest Lecturer

Visited two sections of Rensselaer's Creative Writing class to talk about comics making and working in the arts. Troy, NY, Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

Public Library Comics Workshop

Led a free workshop for the Hays Public Library YA department. Hays, KS, Winter 2015

Service (cont.)

Society For Creative Anachronism (SCA)

Assisted with recruitment, meeting coordination and leadership, event planning and organization. Led medieval dance workshops on the Truman State University campus, and worked with other SCA members to bring medieval dance classes to the local middle school and to the disabilities center. Kirksville, MO. Member from 2008-2012, served as the Arts and Sciences officer for the College of Bellewode group in 2010.

US Hong Kong China Summer Innovative Education Week

Served as an English Language Instructor for Chinese High School Students during a week-long intensive summer program in collaboration with Fort Hays State University. Additionally, I worked with several of the students to create a promotional video capturing program highlights and student achievements with portions in both English and Mandarin. Summer 2008.

Hays Public Library Drama Club

Founding member. Wrote, acted in and directed short plays. Student member from 2003-2008, assistant director for summer productions 2009 and 2010. Hays, KS.

Other

Honors and Awards

Caroline and Erwin Swann Foundation Library of Congress Fellowship, 2020-2022

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Founders Award of Excellence, 2021

McKinney Writing Award for Graduate Non-Fiction, 1st Place, 2021

Joanne Wagner Memorial Fellowship, 2020

McKinney Writing Award for Graduate Non-Fiction, 2nd Place, 2019

McKinney Writing Award for Graduate Electronic Mixed Media, 3rd Place, 2018

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Teaching Assistantship, 2017-2021

Rensselaer Graduate Fellowship, 2016-2017

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, 2012

Truman State University General Honors Graduate, 2012

Truman State University Cum Laude, 2012

Truman State University Full Tuition Scholarship, 2008-2012

Professional Development

The Story You Have to Tell

Writing workshop with Cheryl Strayed, Summer 2022

Art of Teaching

This summer workshop through the Arts Center of the Capital Region accepted a 4-person cohort for the inaugural Art of Teaching program, where we discussed writing course descriptions, building syllabi, classroom management, course promotion and ways to make teaching an active part of an arts career. Troy, NY, Summer 2019.

Alaska Robotics Comic Camp

Comics Camp aims to turn the traditional comics festival on its head, with 10% of the time devoted to selling comics and 90% to workshops, networking and summer camp activities like hiking, sketching in the wilderness, and making s'mores. In 2019 roughly 80 cartoonists were selected from a highly competitive application pool to take part in the camp, and I was thrilled to be accepted and to take part in this incredible community event. Juneau, AK, Spring 2019.

Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference

Attended the conference without presenting. Albuquerque, NM, Spring 2015.

Illustration, Comics, and Animation Conference
Attended the conference without presenting. Hanover, NH, Spring 2013

Professional Memberships

Comics Studies Society
National Council of Teachers of English
Conference on College Composition and Communication

Related Work Experience

Freelance Cartoonist, 2010-Present

I write, illustrate, edit and publish comics. In recent years, I have placed multiple comics with small press publishers and presented comics and art books at various comics conventions, festivals, and conferences. In the past I coedited an anthology, ran webcomics and Kickstarters, designed merchandise featuring my illustrations, and edited the work of other cartoonists.

Intern at the Fancy Felix Costume Shop, Spring 2014

I conducted research for historical costume pieces, organized and presented information for clients, explored fabrication options and assisted with the creation of costume pieces ranging from space suits to ball gowns.

Editorial Cartoonist for the Truman State Index, 2011-2012

I drew editorial cartoons for the paper, which was published weekly with strict deadlines and quick turn-around.

Intern at Spontaneous Quirk, Summer 2011

I served as the lead writer for the social blog, assisted with brainstorming, interviewed writers working in the field, and attended the Electronic Entertainment Expo while working with this small video game company aimed at kids.

Other Work Experience

Barista at Cafe Chien, 2015-2016

Barista at the Tuckerbox, 2013-2015

Truman State Chemistry Department Office Assistant, 2009-2012