

Joshua M. Plencner, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science
Union College

807 Union Street
Schenectady, NY 12308
701.371.6779 • plencnej@union.edu

Academic Appointments

Union College Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	2017 - Present
Drexel University Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Politics	2015 - 2017
University of Oregon Instructor, Department of Political Science	2013 - 2015

Education

Ph.D.	University of Oregon, Political Science <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation: "Four-Color Political Visions: Origins, Affect, and Assemblage in American Superhero Comics"Committee: Joseph Lowndes (Chair), Daniel Martinez HoSang, Priscilla Yamin, Ben SaundersFields: American Politics, Visual Politics, Public Policy	2014
M.S.	University of Oregon, Political Science	2011
B.A.	University of North Dakota, Political Science and English <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Magna cum laude</i>	2007

Honors and Fellowships

TENT: Comics Workshop Fellowship, Columbia University Encounters with Jewish Culture Program, Yiddish Book Center	2014
Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, University of Oregon Department of Political Science	2012 - 2014
University of Oregon Public Impact Fellowship (nominated) Department of Political Science	2013
University of Oregon Graduate Teaching Fellowship	2007-2014
Member, <i>Pi Sigma Alpha</i>	2007 - Present

Publications

Plencner, Joshua. 2017. "Gentrifying Luke Cage, or: The Racial Failure of Nostalgia." *Black Perspectives*. African American Intellectual History Society, Special Series on Comics, Race, and Society, eds. Julian Chambliss and Walter Greason. Web.

Plencner, Joshua. 2017. "'Guns in the Valley' – a Review of *Logan*." *The Middle Spaces*. Web.

Plencner, Joshua. 2017. "Stacey Robinson." In *Encyclopedia of Black Comics*, ed. Sheena C. Howard. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishing.

Plencner, Joshua. 2017 (forthcoming). "Fallen Son and Making the Ordinary Sacred." In *Sacred Texts and Comics: Reimagining Religion and Graphic Narratives*, eds. Kenneth Koltun-Fromm and Assaf Gamzou. Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi.

Plencner, Joshua. 2015. "Caught in the 'Lover's War': James Baldwin and the Legacy of Queer Art-making in the Anti-Police Brutality Movement." In *Artists against Police Brutality: A Comic Book Anthology*, eds. Bill Campbell, John Jennings, and Jason Rodriguez. Greenbelt, MD: Rosarium Publishing.

Plencner, Joshua. 2010. "Iron Man," "Robert Kirkman," "Greg Rucka," and "Thor." In *Encyclopedia of Comic Books and Graphic Novels*, ed. M. Keith Booker. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood.

Works in Progress

Book manuscript:

- "Four-Color Whiteness: The Politics of Race and Origin Stories in American Superhero Comics" (manuscript in preparation)

Article manuscripts under review or in preparation for submission:

- "Supergirl and the Corporate Articulation of Neoliberal Feminism"
- Under review.
 - "Race, Affect, and Critical Order in Moore and Gibbons' *Watchmen*"
- Under review.
 - "Resisting Whiteness through Polychromatic Violence in Walker, Villalobos, and Bonvillain's *Nighthawk*"
- In preparation for an edited volume.
 - "'With Great Power': Selfies and Selfhood in Sixties Spider-Man"
 - "On Comics and Interpretive Horizons: *Charlie Hebdo* in North America"
-
-

Research Interests

American politics, culture, and identity; race and racism; American Political Development; visual culture and interpretive methods; American political thought; contemporary political theory; affective politics; political economy of popular culture; comics studies; film and media studies.

Teaching Interests

American politics, culture, and identity; critical race and ethnic politics; American Political Development; gender and sexuality; modern and contemporary political theory; cultural theory; film and politics; social movements; law and society; national institutions; prison studies; cultural policy.

Teaching Experience

Union College:	2017 – Present
Introduction to U.S. Politics	
Comics, Culture, & Politics	
Race and U.S. Politics	
Public Policy	
Drexel University:	2015 – 2017
Introduction to Political Science	
American Government I	
Research Design for Political Science	
The Public Policy Process	
American Government II	
American Foreign Policy	
Comics, Culture, & Politics	
University of Oregon (as Instructor of Record):	2013 - 2015
Intro to American Politics	
Art and the State	
Film and Politics	
University of Oregon (as Teaching Assistant):	2007 - 2012
Intro to American Politics	
State and Local Government	
Public Policy and Democracy	
Film and Politics	
American Political Thought	
Race, Law, and Public Policy	
Politics of Marriage	
Intergenerational Justice	

Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures

“Queer Monstrosity, Colonial Fantasy: Fantomah at the Dawn of the Superhero.” Monstrous Women in Comics—an Interdisciplinary Conference on Women in Comics and Graphic Novels, May 25-27, 2017: University of North Texas, Denton, TX.

“Supergirl and the Corporate Articulation of Neoliberal Feminism.” With Kathryn L. Miller. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 1-4, 2016: Philadelphia, PA.

“Affect, Comics, and Making the Ordinary Sacred.” Sacred Texts and Comics Symposium, May 5-6 2016: Haverford College, PA.

“Flags of our Bastards: *Southern Bastards* and the Race Politics of the Weird South.” 18th Annual Meeting of the International Comic Arts Forum, April 13-16, 2016: Columbia, SC.

“Flags of our Bastards: *Southern Bastards* and the Race Politics of the Weird South.” Conference within a Conference: Abolitionist/Decolonial Politics, at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, March 24-26, 2016: San Diego, CA.

“Superhero Film Scores and the Sonic Representation of Difference.” Invited lecture for English 480, “The Modern American Superhero.” May 23, 2014: University of Oregon.

“Scopophilia and the Politics of Sixties Marvel Comics: Lensing the Self as Losing the Self.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, April 17-19, 2014: Seattle, WA.

“Scopophilia and Sixties Marvel: Lensing the Self as Losing the Self.” 16th Annual Meeting of the International Comic Arts Forum, May 23-25, 2013: Portland, OR.

“Memory, Alienation, and Death: Captain America and the Twilight of Empire.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, March 27-30, 2013: Hollywood, CA.

“‘Apparently on the Side of Law and Order’: Reconsidering the Racial Politics of Visuality in Early Superhero Narratives.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, March 22-24, 2012: Portland, OR.

“Race-ing Superheroes: Four-Color Whiteness in the American Political Imaginary.” Understanding Superheroes, special conference organized in conjunction with Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art’s exhibition “Faster than a Speeding Bullet: The Art of the Superhero.” October 23-24, 2009: Eugene, OR.

Research Experience

Manuscript Editorial Assistant

2013

Berk, Gerald, Dennis C. Galvan, and Victoria Hattam, eds. 2013. *Political Creativity: Reconfiguring Institutional Order and Change*. Philadelphia: Penn UP.

Research Assistant, Priscilla Yamin

2008 – 2009

Additional Training

UO Teaching Effectiveness Program Workshops	
“Teaching for the First Time as the Sole Instructor”	September 2012
“Basic Teaching Skills (Leading a Discussion)”	September 2007
Supervised College Teaching	2007-2008

Service (Professional and Community)

Department Steward	2011-2012
Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, AFT Local 3544	
Delegate, American Federation of Teachers – Oregon	2011-2012
Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation, AFT Local 3544	
Graduate Assistant	2009-2012
Department of Political Science Commencement, University of Oregon	
Executive Board Member	2009-2015
Shelter Animal Resource Alliance, Eugene, OR	

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association
Western Political Science Association
Association for Political Theory
Comics Studies Society

References

Available upon request.