

# Curriculum Vitae

**Dustin A. Abnet, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor

Department of American Studies  
California State University Fullerton

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## Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, 2020-Present

Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton, 2014-2020

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Grand Valley State University, 2013-2014

## Education

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana,  
Ph.D., United States History, 2013

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
M.A.: United States History, 2006  
B.A.: History and Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs, *cum laude* with honors  
Minor: Middle Eastern Studies, 2004

## Scholarly and Creative Activities

### Books

*The American Robot: A Cultural History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020)

### Articles and Book Chapters

“Escaping the Robot’s Loop: Power and Purpose, Myth and History in *Westworld*’s Manufactured Frontier” in Antonia Mackay and Alex Goody, eds. *Reading Westworld*, (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019)

“Americanizing the Robot: Popular Culture, Race, and the Rise of a Global Consumer Icon, 1920-1960” *ICON*, the Journal of the International Committee for the History of Technology, Summer 2022

### Articles and Chapters Accepted for Publication

“Taming Bodies and Machines: Agency, Ideology, and Identity in the American Robot,” in Kristin Hass, ed., *Routledge Handbook of American Material Culture Studies*, Forthcoming

“Teaching the American Multiverse: Power, Agency, and Identity in an Age of Consumer Choice,” in Paul Booth, ed. *Entering the Multiverse: Perspectives on Alternate Universes and Parallel Worlds*, Forthcoming

## Public Writing

[“Why Amazon is Naming New Warehouse Robots After Muppets,” \*Slate\*, July 12, 2021](#)

## Conferences

- November 2019 “Humanism in a Technocratic Age: The Competing Visions of Isaac Asimov and Kurt Vonnegut Jr.” on “The Crisis of Humanism in the Twentieth Century” Panel at Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, New York.
- April 2019 Comment on “Science, Knowledge, and Race” panel at California American Studies Association Annual Meeting
- April 2017 Comment on “Spaces of Spectatorship” panel at California American Studies Association Annual Meeting
- October 2015 “A man is what his hormones make him’: Science, Technology, and Emotions in Machine Age American Culture,” on “Emotions and Ideas in American History” Panel at Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, Washington, DC.
- April 2015 Comment on “Cultures of World War II” panel at California American Studies Association Annual Meeting
- March 2014 Comment on “When Nations Collide: The Local, the National, and the Transnational” panel at International Graduate Historical Studies Conference
- October 2013 “Preserving American Innocence: Children, Robots, and the National Security State in Cold War America” on “Technoculture” Panel at Society for History of Technology Annual Meeting.
- April 2013 “Protecting American Innocence: Children and Robots in Cold War America,” at Paul Lucas Conference in Cultural History.
- March 2013 Comment on “Emotions and Politics in American History” Panel at Paul Lucas Conference in Cultural History

## Invited Lectures and Appearances

October 2022 [“Americanizing the Robot: Westinghouse Electric and the Rise of a Global Consumer Icon,” Robots101 Series, Michigan Technical University](#)

- February 2021 “Playing” at Revolution? Social Media, Participatory Democracy, and Political Violence, at “American Studies Contexts for Understanding January 6,” American Studies Department, California State University, Fullerton
- January 2021 [Ken Hollings, “The Robots Are Us,” BBC Radio 3](#)
- July 2020 [“A Conversation with Dustin Abnet” with Gabriel Hunter-Chang, \*Backstory\*](#)
- June 2020 [“Inquiry” with Mark Lynch. 90.5 WICN Public Radio, Boston](#)
- November 2019 “The American Robot:” Myth, Symbol, and American Studies, California State University Fullerton, Department of American Studies, Colloquium
- April 2016 Discussion and Screening of *Ex Machina*, American Studies Student Association, California State University, Fullerton.
- April 2015 “The War Against the Machines? Robots and American Identity, 1787-2015” California State University, Fullerton, Department of American Studies, Colloquium.
- April 2015 Discussion and Screening of *Her*, American Studies Student Association, California State University, Fullerton.
- August 2013 “Taming Our Machines”: Race and America’s Robots, 1790-2010, at Linda Hall Library, Kansas City, MO, Available at: <http://vimeo.com/72551078>.

### Book Reviews

Meades, Alan. *Arcade Britannia: A Social History of the British Amusement Arcade, in Technology and Culture* 64, No. 3 (2023), 1002-1003, <https://doi.org/10.1353/tech.2023.a904018>.

Teun Koetsier. *The Ascent of GIM, the Global Intelligent Machine. A History of Production and Information Machines* in *Isis*, (2022)

Ronald R. Kline, *The Cybernetics Moment: Or Why We Call Our Age the Information Age*, in *Journal of American History*, (2016), 283-284; doi: 10.1093/jahist/jaw163.

Carl Abbott, *Imagined Frontiers: Contemporary America and Beyond*, in *Western Historical Quarterly*, (2016); doi: 10.1093/whq/whw116.

Jared S. Buss, *Willy Ley: Prophet of the Space Age*, in *Journal of American History*, (2019)

Seb Franklin, *Control: Digitality as Cultural Logic*, in *Technology and Culture*, (2019)

### Works in Progress

“So You Want to Be a Hero”: Power, Purpose, and Play in the American Multiverse

## Teaching

### Courses Taught

#### California State University Fullerton

AMST 201: Introduction to American Studies  
AMST 300: Introduction to American Popular Culture  
AMST 346: American Culture through Spectator Sports  
AMST 350: Seminar in Theory and Methods of American Studies  
AMST 401T: Proseminar in American Studies, The Fifties  
AMST 401T: Proseminar in American Studies, Victorianism to Modernism  
AMST 401T: Proseminar in American Studies: The American Multiverse  
AMST 408: Gaming in American Culture  
AMST 448: American Pop Culture and the World  
AMST 409: Consumer Culture  
AMST 459: Technology and American Culture  
AMST 489: Digital America (America 2.0)  
AMST 501: Theories and Methods  
AMST 502T: Proseminar: American Technocultures  
AMST 596: Teaching Tutorial  
AMST 599 Independent Graduate Research

#### Grand Valley State University

HST 103: Introduction to American Civilizations  
HST 205: American History to 1877  
HST 352: Sports in American Society and Culture

#### Indiana University

A101: What is America? Introduction to American Studies  
A202: Computers in American Life and Culture  
H106: American History II  
H379: A Century of Dissent: Radicalism in American History

### Awards

2022	CSUF HSS, Outstanding Scholarship and Creativity
2021	CSUF Faculty Recognition for Scholarly and Creative Activities
2020	CSUF Faculty Recognition for Service Award
2013	Linda Hall Library Research Fellowship
2011	Kohlmeier Fellowship, Indiana University Department of History
2010	Kohlmeier Fellowship, Indiana University Department of History
2010	Wiseman Fellowship, Indiana University Department of History
2008	Gunderson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Indiana University Department of History
2006-2010	Indiana University Department of History, McNutt Fellowship

## Professional, University, and Community Service

### Service to the AMST Department

Fall 2024-Present	Advisor, M.A. Program
Spring 2023 2022	Advisor, American Studies Student Association Department Personnel Standards Review Committee
Spring 2022	Acting M.A. Program Advisor
2021-2022	Chair, Assessment Committee
2021-2022	Member, Department Personnel Committee
2019-2022	Chair, Website Committee
Fall 2018	Member, American Studies Search Committee
2018-2019	Chair, Assessment Committee
2017-Present	Assessment Committee
2016-2019	Member, Graduate Admissions Committee
Fall 2016	Member, American Studies Search Committee
2015-Present	Web-Site Coordinator
2015-2018	Advisor, American Papers
2015-2016	Member, Weaver Prize Committee
2014-Present	Department Advisor

### Service to the School of Humanities and Social Science

2024	Faculty Director, Passage to the Future Program
2023-2024	STEM/Tech Outreach and Community Assistant Director, Passage to the Future Program
2018-2020	Chair, Study Abroad Committee
2018-2020	Member, Study Abroad Committee
2017-2018	Student Success Coordinator for American Studies Department
2016-2017	Co-Chair, Technology Committee
2015-2017	Member, Technology Committee

### Service to the University

2021-2022	Member, Planning Committee for Symposium on “Ethics and Social Justice in the Metaverse”
2020-2022	IRA Committee, H&SS Representative
2014-Present	Member, Center for the Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research

### Service to the Profession

2019-Present	Conference Committee, California American Studies Association
2017-Present	Co-Vice President, California American Studies Association
2017-2018	Planning Committee, California American Studies Association Annual Meeting
January 2017	“Escaping the Robot’s Loop: <i>Westworld</i> and the Politics of Consciousness-Raising,” Blog Post, Organization of American History, <a href="http://www.processhistory.org/westworld-abnet/">http://www.processhistory.org/westworld-abnet/</a>

## Professional Memberships

Organization of American Historians 2013-Present

Society for U.S. Intellectual History, 2015-Present

California American Studies Association, 2014-Present