

Curriculum Vitae
Dustin A. Abnet, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor
Department of American Studies
California State University Fullerton
dabnet@fullerton.edu
657-278-3225

Education

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, August 2006-July 2013

Ph.D., United States History

Inside Minor Field: Global Labor and Working Class History

Outside Minor Field: American Studies

Dissertation: “*Taming Our Machines: Robots and the American Soul in the Industrial Age*”

Dissertation Committee: Michael McGerr, Chair; Judith Allen, John Bodnar, Edward Linenthal

Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, August 2000-August 2006

M.A.: United States History

B.A.: History and Diplomacy & Foreign Affairs, *cum laude* with honors

Minor: Middle Eastern Studies

Academic Appointments

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

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

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 408: Gaming in American Culture

AMST 409: Consumer Culture

AMST 459: Technology and American Culture

AMST 502: 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

Scholarly and Creative Activities

Book Manuscript

The American Robot: Fantasies of Men and Machines in the Industrial Age (Forthcoming from University of Chicago Press)

The American Robot analyzes close to 300 years of Americans' encounters with both real and fictional robots, automatons, and similar types of devices. Weaving together cultural, technological, scientific, and economic history, it explores how Americans have envisioned, constructed, viewed, and found meaning in devices such as Robby from *Forbidden Planet* and the Westinghouse company's "Rastus Robot" to help them understand and interpret the material world and their relationship to it. More than just meditations on the nature of technology and human nature, robots have provided a particular subset of Americans—white, middle-class and elite men—with fantasies of power in which they have tamed both those technologies that they believed might undermine their political, economic, and cultural authority and the physical bodies of those groups of people they deemed inferior.

Articles

"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*, (Forthcoming from Palgrave MacMillan)

Conferences

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| 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 Events

- 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

- 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), Forthcoming

Awards

- 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 Department

Fall 2018	Member, Search Committee, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton
Fall 2018	Chair, Assessment Committee, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton
2017-2018	Assessment Committee, Department of American Studies, California State University, Fullerton
2016-2019	Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of American Studies
Fall 2016	Member, American Studies Search Committee, California State University, Fullerton
2015-Present	Web-Site Coordinator, Department of American Studies, California State University Fullerton
2015-Present	Advisor, American Papers for the American Studies Student Association, California State University Fullerton
2015-2016	Weaver Prize Committee, Department of American Studies, California State University Fullerton
2014-Present	Department Advisor

Service to the School of Humanities and Social Science

Fall 2018	Chair, Study Abroad Committee
2017-2018	Student Success Coordinator for American Studies Department
2016-2017	Co-Chair, Technology Committee
2015-Present	Member, Technology Committee

Service to the University

2014-Present	Member, Center for the Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research
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Service to the Profession

2018-2019	Conference Committee, California American Studies Association
2017-2018	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, http://www.processhistory.org/westworld-abnet/

Professional Memberships

Organization of American Historians	2013-Present
Society for U.S. Intellectual History,	2015-Present
California American Studies Association,	2014-Present