

MARK HINES

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Game studies, fan and reception studies, post-1945 speculative media, digital activism and social media, genre studies, critical race theory, Black feminism, and cultural studies

EDUCATION

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) IN ENGLISH

April 2026

University Of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Dissertation: "Racism Without Races: Postracial Worldbuilding, Fantasy Games, and the Era of Player Agency"

Dissertation Summary: Examines changing representations of race in fantasy games following criticism of racist and xenophobic depictions based on analogy. Utilizes frameworks based in Black feminist, semiotic, and critical race theories.

Committee: Shauna Morgan (chair), Regina Hamilton, Emily Shortslef, Kishonna Gray

MASTER OF ARTS (M.A.) IN ENGLISH

May 2022

University Of Kentucky, Lexington, KY

Thesis: Fantasies of Race and Place: White Nationalist and Alt-Right Undercurrents in Fantasy Roleplaying Games

BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EDUCATION STUDIES, ENGLISH, SOCIOLOGY (MINOR)

May 2018

Cum Laude

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

PEER- REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Hines, Mark. Game Studies Journal, "Racecraft à la Carte—Fantasy Assemblages in Age of Wonders 4." (Under Review)

Hines, Mark. The Journal of Popular Culture, "Stats and Soil: Fantasy Ethnostates as Idyllic Worldbuilding in Games." (Accepted)

Hines, Mark. (2024). "A Crown is Warranted With Strength": Bosses, Fantasy, and Democracy in Elden Ring. *Games and Culture*, 19(8), pp. 1071-1086. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15554120231186476>

Hines, Mark. (2023). "Becoming Halfling: Racial Permeability as Ludonarrative Architecture in Critical Role." *Press Start*, vol. 9, no. 1, 1, Mar. 2023, pp. 1–20.

Hines, Mark. (2023). "Game Mechanics and Narrative as Symbiotic, Co-Constructive Elements in Tomb of Annihilation | Analog Game Studies." *Analog Games Studies*, vol. X, Mar. 2023, <https://analoggamestudies.org/2023/03/thats-just-what-the-book-says-game-mechanics-and-narrative-as-symbiotic-co-constructive-elements-in-tomb-of-annihilation/>.

Articles in Edited Collections

Hines, Mark and Riley Wilkins. Studies in the Fantastic, Gender Violence in/at/around Horror and Fantasy Video Games Special Issue, "...isn't that how you've made me?": Feminine Dualities and Victorian Sensibilities in *Bloodborne*. (Forthcoming)

Hines, Mark. (2023). "An Affront to My People: Excising the Other from the Fantasy of *Skyrim*." *Journal of Games Criticism*, July 2023, <https://gamescriticism.org/2023/07/27/an-affront-to-my-peopleexcising-the-other-from-the-fantasy-of-skyrim/>.

Book Chapters

Hines, Mark. Aragorn the Divider: Racebending in *Magic: The Gathering's* "Tales of Middle Earth" and Deviant Excommunes. In "I'm Going on an Adventure:" *Seeking Tolkien's Influence in Game Design and Culture*, edited by Alicia Fox-Lenz. MacFarland, 2026 expected. (Accepted)

Hines, Mark. "Honor Your Legacy:" Racial Retrospectives and *Warcraft's* Quest for Heritage. In *The World of Warcraft Handbook: Twenty Years in Azeroth*, edited by David John Boyd and Russel McDermot. Palgrave Macmillan, 2026 expected. (Accepted)

Book Reviews

Hines, Mark. (2024). Review of *Playing Place: Board Games, Popular Culture, Space* edited by Chad Randl and D. Medina Lasansky. *American Journal of Play*, November 2024.

Hines, Mark. Review of *The Privilege of Play: A History of Hobby Games, Race, and Geek Culture* by Aaron Trammell. Press Start. (In Press)

AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS

External

Oxford Internet Institute – UC Berkeley School of Information Summer Doctoral Program 2025
Oxford Internet Institute/UC Berkeley Center for New Media

Michael Schoenecke Travel Grant 2025
The Popular Culture Association

Emerging Scholar Writing Award Runner-Up 2025
SCMS Video Game Studies Special Interest Group

The William Brigman TPCJ Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper 2024
The Journal of Popular Culture

Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award 2018-2019
Fulbright Taiwan

Fulbright Taichung Teacher of the Year 2018-2019
Fulbright Taiwan

Internal

Wagner-Adler Distinguished Graduate Scholar Teaching Release 2026
University of Kentucky English Department

Outstanding TA Award 2025
University of Kentucky English Department

Richard Parmer Memorial Scholarship 2024
University of Kentucky English Graduate Student Organization

English Department Travel Funding 2024 & 2025
University of Kentucky English Department

Robert L. Doty Award for an Outstanding Graduate Student University of Kentucky English Department	2023-2024
WRD Excellence in Teaching Award University of Kentucky Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department	2023-2024
English Department PhD Summer Funding University of Kentucky English Department	2023-2025
English Department Research Stipend University of Kentucky English Department	2023
English Department Teaching Assistantship University of Kentucky English Department	2020-current
Dean's Achievement Scholarship Vanderbilt University	2014-2018
Patterson Scholarship for Educational Equity (with Dr. Donna Y. Ford) Vanderbilt University Peabody College	2014-2018

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

"Re-racing the Fantasy Genre: *Age of Wonders 4* and Fantasy's Crisis of Authority." Presented at the Popular Culture Association National Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 16-19, 2025.

"Racecraft À La Carte: Fantasy Assemblages in *Age of Wonders 4*." Presented at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, Illinois, April 3-6, 2025.

"Racecraft À La Carte: Fantasy Assemblages in *Age of Wonders 4*." Presented at the Virtual International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, virtual, October 23-26, 2024.

"...isn't that how you've made me?": Feminine Dualities and Victorian Sensibilities in *Bloodborne*." Presented at the Gender Violence in/at/around Video Games Symposium, virtual, April 1, 2024.

"Stats and Soil: Fantasy Ethnostates as Idyllic Worldbuilding in Games." Presented at the Popular Culture Association National Conference, Chicago, Illinois, March 27-30, 2024.

"Incorporating Games in the First-Year Composition Classroom." Presented at the Leveling Up the Classroom, Lexington, Kentucky, January 27-28, 2024.

"Loci of Power: Bosses, Fantasy, and Democracy in Dimension 20's 'The Unsleeping City'." Presented at the Generation Analog Conference, virtual, July 26-27, 2023.

"Stats and Soil: Race and Homeland in Fantastic Worlds." Presented at the Glasgow International Fantasy Conference, virtual, May 10-12, 2023.

"Democracy and Boss Monsters in *Elden Ring*." Presented at the University of Kentucky English Graduate Symposium, Lexington, Kentucky, March 21-22, 2023.

"Old School Racism: Game Mechanics and Narrative as Symbiotic, Elements in Worldbuilding Racial Politics." Presented at the Generation Analog Conference, virtual, July 27-28, 2022.

"The Racial Politics of Worldbuilding in Media." Presented at the South Atlantic MLA Conference, virtual, November 4-6, 2021.

"Classist Tropes of the Foundling Narrative from Fielding to Dickens." Presented at the International Society for the Study of Narrative, virtual, May 19-22, 2021.

CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE

PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR:

Lexington

University Of Kentucky (Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies; English Department)

August 2020 - Present

- Delivered classroom instruction on a 2-2 schedule with differing coursework. All courses emphasize introductory elements of textual analysis, media literacy, and critical thinking.
- Modified course materials and assignments to align with course goals, emphasizing revision and collaboration.
- Maintained student satisfaction and perceived learning at higher average than department and college level.

Courses as instructor of record:

WRD 110 (Oral History)—2 sections (Fall 2021)

WRD 111 (Podcasting)—2 sections (Spring 2022)

WRD 111 (Podcasting)—1 section (Summer 2022)

WRD 111 (Campus Issues)—2 sections (Fall 2022)

WRD 111 (Campus Activism)—2 sections (Spring 2022)

WRD 110 (Video Games)—2 sections (Fall 2023)

WRD 111 (Digital Culture)—2 sections (Spring 2024)

ENG 130 Literary Encounters (Dystopian Stories)—1 section (Spring 2025)

TEACHING ASSISTANT:

ENG 280 Introduction to Film—2 sections (Fall 2024)

ENGLISH TEACHER

Taichung

NeuroLink English Teaching Academy

July 2019 - April 2020

- Prepared comprehensive English curriculum for multiple classes
- Led interesting and diverse group activities to engage students in course material
- Completed in-service and additional training to maintain professional growth.

ENGLISH TEACHING ASSISTANT

Taichung

Fulbright Taiwan

July 2018 - May 2019

- Prepared lesson plans for over 15 classes per week to accommodate students with varying proficiency levels
- Employed visual and auditory approaches to make lessons more interesting and interactive for students
- Engaged in cross-cultural and linguistic programming to better understand my students and their backgrounds.

GRANTS AND PROJECTS

Digital Pedagogies Research Initiative, Project Co-Lead, Gaines Center Humanities Cooperatives 2025-2026 (Funded \$1,500)

Examining Antiracist Gaming in the Actual Play Space, Project Graduate Lead, Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, National Endowment for the Humanities (Not Funded)

SERVICE

Editorial Board, Press Start Journal

Present

English Graduate Student Organization Co-President	2024-2025
Advisor and Co-Organizer for “Leveling Up the Games Classroom ” Conference	Present
Host and Organizer of EGSO Symposium, “(Re)Generation through Unprecedented Times,” Keynote Isiah Lavender III (\$3,000 budget)	2023-2024
Student Award, “First-Year Award for Digital/Visual Composition,” 2 nd place	2024
Student Award, “First-Year Essay Award,” 2 nd place	2024
English Department Peer Mentor	August 2021-May 2022; August 2023-Present

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Popular Culture Association

Society for Cinema and Media Studies

Modern Language Association

International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts

MultiPlay Network

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

Interview with D&Disability-- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynpHye3vsVU>

RECOMMENDERS

Dr. Shauna Morgan

Associate Professor of English
University of Kentucky
shauna.morgan@uky.edu

Dr. Regina Hamilton-Townsend

Assistant Professor of English
University of Kentucky
regina.hamilton@uky.edu

Dr. Kishonna Gray

Professor of the School of Information
University of Michigan
kishonna@umich.edu

Dr. Megan Condis

Associate Professor of Communication Studies
Texas Tech University
megan.condis@ttu.edu