Mark Hines

502-287-2717 | mhi267@uky.edu | markhines.me | Lexington, KY

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 critical Whiteness studies

Education

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| **Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English**  University Of Kentucky,Lexington, KY  Dissertation: “Racism Without Races: Postracial Worldbuilding in Fantasy Games in 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 | *Present* |

University of Kentucky, **Lexington, KY**

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| **Master of Arts (M.A.) in English**  University Of Kentucky,Lexington, KY  Thesis: Fantasies of Race and Place: White Nationalist and Alt-Right Undercurrents in Fantasy Roleplaying Games | May 2022 |

University of Kentucky, **Lexington, KY**

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| **Bachelor of Arts in Education Studies, English, Sociology (minor)**  **Cum Laude**  **Vanderbilt University,** Nashville, TN | May 2018 |

Publications

**Journal Articles**

**Hines, Mark**. Game Studies Journal, “Racecraft à la Carte—Fantasy Assemblages in Age of Wonders 4.” (Submitted)

**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. (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**  Accepted, 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**

**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** *2023-2024*

University of Kentucky English Department

**WRD Excellence in Teaching Award** *2023-2024*

University of Kentucky Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department

**English Department PhD Summer Funding** *2023-2025*

University of Kentucky English Deparment

**English Department Research Stipend**  *2023*

University of Kentucky English Department

**English Department Teaching Assistantship**  *2020-current*

University of Kentucky English Department

**Dean’s Achievement Scholarship** *2014-2018*

Vanderbilt University

**Patterson Scholarship for Educational Equity** (with Dr. Donna Y. Ford) *2014-2018*

Vanderbilt University Peabody College

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, Louisianna, 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 theGeneration Analog Conference, virtual, July 27-28, 2022.

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

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

Classroom Experience

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| **Primary Instructor:**  University Of Kentucky | **Lexington**  August 2020 - Present |

* Delivered classroom instruction on a 2-2 schedule with differing coursework. All courses emphasize introductory elements of rhetorical analysis and media literacy.
* 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 Composition and Communication I (Oral History)—2 sections (Fall 2021)

WRD 111 Composition and Communication II (Podcasting)—2 sections (Spring 2022)

WRD 111 Composition and Communication II (Podcasting)—1 section (Summer 2022)

WRD 111 Composition and Communication II (Campus Issues)—2 sections (Fall 2022)

WRD 111 Composition and Communication II (Campus Activism)—2 sections (Spring 2022)

WRD 110 Composition and Communication I (Video Games)—2 sections (Fall 2023)

WRD 111 Composition and Communication II (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)

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| **English Teacher**  Neurolink English Teaching Academy | **Taichung**  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.

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| **English Teaching Assistant**  Fulbright Taiwan | **Taichung**  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.

Vanderbilt University, **Nashville, TN**

Grants and projects

*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

English Graduate Student Organization Co-President  *Present*

Advisor and Co-Organizer for “Leveling Up the Games Classroom II” Conference *Present*

Host and Organizer of EGSO Symposium, “(Re)Generation through Unprecedented Times,”  *2023-2024*

Keynote Isiah Lavender III ($3,000 budget)

Student Award, “First-Year Award for Digital/Visual Composition,” 2nd place *2024*

Student Award, “First-Year Essay Award,” 2nd 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