Ryan Topper, PhD

Adjunct Faculty

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I am an English professor and scholar of postcolonial literature. I have a broad range of teaching experience in literature, writing, and African studies at American and British Universities. I was raised in the Pacific Northwest and am happy to read, write, and teach from Oregon.

Academic Background

- PhD, English, University of Leeds
- MA, English, Idaho State University
- BS, Theology and Biblical Studies, Multnomah University

Expertise and Interests

I specialize in global Anglophone literature of the 20th-21st centuries, with an emphasis on African literature. My research spans postcolonial studies, trauma and memory studies, posthumanism, the environmental humanities, poetry and poetics, psychoanalysis, and postsecular thought. I am especially interested in theorizing how Indigenous cosmologies reframe the practice of literary and cultural criticism. My first book, *Animist Poetics: Ancestral Trauma and Regeneration in African Literature*, is available through SUNY Press.

Outside the Classroom

I live in Salem, Oregon, with my wife, two kids, and cat. We love to travel, explore the outdoors, and make each other laugh.