

# BRIAN M. WATSON

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## EDUCATION:

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<b>Master of Library Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN</b> <i>Archives Management &amp; Digital Humanities</i>	May 2020
<b>Master of Art, Drew University, Madison, NJ</b> <i>History and Culture, summa cum laude</i>	December 2013
<b>Bachelor of Art, Keene State College, Keene, NH</b> <i>English and History, magna cum laude</i>	December 2011

### Honors and awards:

- Association of College and Research Libraries Women and Gender Studies Student Fellow
- IUB Copeland Fellowship Award
- David Kohn Award for Best M.A. Thesis
- American Library Association Student Fellowship and Intern
- Lead Panel: American Historical Association
- Blogger: ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

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**Graduate Researcher, Drs. Cifor and Monyota**      March 2019 - Current

*Project: Classifying, Documenting, and Preserving Human Sexuality at the Kinsey Institute*

- The purpose of the project is examining the historical and contemporary collection, classification, and description practices pertaining to human sexuality materials in the Kinsey Institute. The work of the Institute has had a profound, but under examined impact on the classifications of bodies, sex, and sexuality across information contexts.
- The work with Dr. Marika Cifor and Dr. Robert Montoya has grown out of my own research into the history of the classification and organization of sexualities in Western contexts between Hirschfield and Kinsey. The research is a multi-disciplinary project involving archival studies, knowledge organization, and history, the third of which is my focus and contribution.

**Kinsey Institute**      August 2018 - Current

*Archival Assistant*

- Worked on several projects at the Institute, including a large project involving the unarchiving, moving, and re-archiving of the entire collection to off-site storage.
- Helped in initial conversations with a number of donors that resulted in the curation and depositing of new materials into the. Also built, developed and deposited collections of other scarce and endangered material, including born-digital material.
- Following established protocols to protect material of priceless and rare value, while developing new strategies and ideas for the current challenges facing the collection.
- Developing collection management data including finding aids and other access tools, as well as cataloguing entirely new collections—familiar with archival practices and software.

**Indiana University Libraries, Scholarly Communication**      August 2018 – April 2019

*Open Access Graduate Assistant*

- Worked on several major projects within the Scholarly Communications department and among other Indiana University school units. This includes projects such as the management and understanding of the institutional DSpace repository, blogging, preparing educational

materials, administrating Open Journal Systems for Open Access Journals.

- Contributed towards the promotion, event planning and development of the department.
- Developed a social media strategy for the promotion of Scholarly Communications work including blogging, podcasts, and videos on Twitter and other platforms. Also helped in the management and distribution of departmental email accounts and email newsletters.

### **AskHistorians**

August 2012 – Current

*Moderator, Podcast Host & Editor, and CFO*

- Helped in the establishment of AskHistorians as the largest academic public history forum with nearly 1MM subscribers, 20MM monthly pageviews, and 20-30,000 monthly podcast listeners and financial supporters.
- Received recognition from the AHA and NCPH and collaborated with the Library of Congress and other institutions.

### **New England College, Henniker, NH**

August 2015 - August 2018

*Adjunct Professor*

- Taught American History, Essay Writing, and Democracy to freshman, sophomores, and juniors.
- Used class and internet participation, outside engagement in teaching 20-30 pupils.
- Instructed on a variety of topics, including creative poetry, freshman composition, and literature classes.

### **International Researcher & Author**

December 2013 – August 2018

- Researched and wrote a book on the development of censorship and obscenity, which went on to win several awards, was featured on the *Conan O'Brien* show, and inspired a number of interviews, articles and more.
- Spent nearly seven months abroad conducting international research and engaging in negotiations for access to restricted material

### **Amazon Health (@ PillPack) Manchester, NH**

November 2016 - August 2018

*Certified Pharmacy Technician, Special Operations*

- Worked in the Special Operations oversight of a pharmaceutical startup purchased by Amazon for \$1BB assisting with the needs of 1000 employees and 100k+ customers.
- Completed national CPhT certification in under a month and relied upon extensive use and knowledge of pharmacy technology, math, and software.

### **Noblespirit, Pittsfield, NH**

April 2015 - November 2016

*Historical Researcher/Cataloger*

- Provided research and information for company that sought to disrupt the usual antique store model by selling directly to consumers.
- Supervised a team of 20 photographers and listers.

## **RELEVANT SKILLS**

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### **Library-specific skills:**

- Archiving
- Archival software, EAD
- Omeka
- Controlled vocabularies
- SKOS, RDF
- Knowledge organization
- Development of finding aids
- Social media management
- Open source software
- Open Access

- MARC
- Metadata
- Scholarly Communications

**Software Expertise:**

- Microsoft Office,
- Online collaborative applications (Google Doc suite, Prezi, etc.),
- Educational software (Blackboard, Moodle, etc.)
- Oxygen XML
- Adobe Creative Suite (Creative Cloud, Acrobat, InDesign)
- Audacity

**Languages & Programming**

- French (reading and writing),
- XML (intermediate),
- Ruby on Rails (intermediate),
- LAMP (intermediate),
- Python & HTML (basic to intermediate),
- SQL (beginner)

**Social Media Experience:**

- Experience with utilization of diverse social media, such as Reddit, Facebook, Twitter, Wordpress, Canva, podcast and video editing, and other promotional strategies.

**EXTRACURRICULAR:**

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**Professional Memberships**

- American Library Association
- Sections: ARCL, GLBT, Digital, Historians
- SAA: Society of American Archivists
- InULA: Indiana University Librarians Association
- AHA: American Historical Association
- SHARP: Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing
- MLA: Modern Language Association

**Honor Societies:** Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) English, Phi Alpha Theta (ΦΑΘ) History, Order of Omega Greek, National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS)

**American Library Association IUB Student Chapter**

Fall 2018 - Present

*President*

- Treasurer for the IUB ALA Student Chapter. Lead the executive board and help organize events, correspond with larger student body, and work with department administration.

**Nothing is Binary, Indiana University Bloomington**

Fall 2018 - Present

*Treasurer*

- Treasurer for the IUB SICE queer student group. Run the budget for a student group and aid the president in administrative matters.

**Delta Nu Psi Upsilon Alumni Association, Keene, NH**

April 2014 - Present

*Founder and President*

April 2014 – March 2016

- Wrote constitution and established as a nonprofit in New Hampshire and the United States, included nonprofit and management experience.

*Treasurer and Scholarship Manager*

March 2016 - Current

- Manage a \$5000 budget, fundraising, scholarship disbursements of the chapter's nonprofit arm.

**History of Ideas Club** Drew University

Fall 2012 - Fall 2013

*Founder*

- Won "Dean's Award for Student Club of the Year."

**Psi Upsilon**, Keene State College, Keene, NH

Fall 2009 - December 2012

*President*

Fall 2010 - Spring 2011

- Oversaw the largest membership increase in ten years.
- Balanced and managed a \$10,000 annual budget and over 50 members.
- Awarded by the national chapter for achievements.

*Vice President*

Fall 2009 - Fall 2010

- Restructured the organization by rewriting the constitution and new membership process.
- Served on Community Service and Academic committees as chairperson.

## **PUBLISHED WORK AND APPEARANCES:**

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### **Books:**

- *Annals of Pornographie: How Porn became 'Bad.'* Popular history book for a mass audience, made consistent and remarkable sales and won awards for making history accessible to the public. Resulted in authorial appearance on *Conan O'Brien* and a number of interviews. Extensive re-write underway for academic publication.
- *(In Progress) Grasping Towards Pornotopia: A History of Porn Studies* (working title): an examination of the creation of popular understandings of sex and sexuality in the West between the end of WWII and the beginning of the Reagan Era. Using archival evidence, publisher correspondence, and newspapers accounts, I examine the bestsellers that first brought Victorian erotica and pornography into the public and created modern understandings of sexuality.

### **Conferences:**

- American Historical Association, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020.
- Dean Hopper Graduate Student Conference, 2016
- National Council on Public History 2017
- SHARP, Amherst MA, 2019
- Society for Cinema and Media Studies, 2019

### **Broadcast & Podcast appearances:**

- Broadcast: *Conan O'Brien*. WBUR Boston iLAB: "Boston's Combat Zone, a History."
- Podcasts: *The AskHistorians Podcast*, American College of Physicians' *Bedside Rounds*, WBUR's *Endless Thread*, Gimlet's *Every Little Thing*. WBUR Boston, *The Manwhore Podcast: A Sex Positive Quest for Love*, New Hampshire Public Radio, Greg and the Morning Buzz.

### **Published Works:**

- "Hellfire and Cannibals: 18th and 19th Century Erotic Reading Groups and Their Manuscripts." forthcoming chapter in the *Edinburgh History of Reading* (2019), that assesses erotic book clubs and their material.
- "Rogue Performances: A Review of Abigail De Kosnik's *Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom* (MIT Press, 2016)." Forthcoming review and research article to be published in *Digital Humanities Quarterly*

- Screening Adult Film History at #SCMS19, Seattle. Forthcoming conference report and review for *Screening Sex*.
- “Freedom, Interrupted: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Antisexuality Movements – Histories, Organizations & Tactics.” Forthcoming chapter in American Librarian Association’s *Censorship Stories from the Frontline* (2019) that describes and contextualizes the histories, motives, and tactics of antisexuality and antipornography groups, including the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, Culture Reframed and others.
- “Perverse, Polymorphic, Polyamorous: Queer and Feminist Nonmonogamous Webcomics.” Forthcoming chapter in *Feminist Graphic Novels* (2020) that studies the rise of queer and polyamorous comics.
- Society, Vice, and Suppression: The Historical Creation of ‘Pornography in England, 1750-1850. Submitted and accepted for Drew University’s Masters of Arts in History and Culture. <https://walter.drew.edu/ETD/MA/2013/Watson/>
- (with Bobby Derie) ‘Queer Beginnings: From Fanzines to Rule 34’ forthcoming chapter in *Literature’s Kinkiest Corners* (Routledge, 2019) discussing the history and creation of fan fiction and queer culture.
- “The Victorian with a Secret” and “A Poison More Deadly’: Defining Obscenity in the West” for *NOTCHES Blog: (Re)Marks on the History of Sexuality*—a peer-reviewed, collaborative and international history of sexuality blog.
- Sex-Ed articles for Pornhub.com’s Sexual Wellness Center: ‘History of the Dildo’, ‘History of the Condom’, ‘When and why did masturbation become an issue?’, ‘How did Porn become Porn?’, ‘Where did the ideas of homosexuality and heterosexuality come from?’
- *Crossdressing Crossculture: Shakespeare, Calderon de la Barca, Catalina Erauso, Mary Frith and the Theaters of Golden Age Madrid and Tudor-Stuart London*. Published in *Metamorphosis*. <https://metamorphosis.coplac.org/index.php/metamorphosis/article/view/140>

### Additional Work in Progress:

- *A Study of Hierarchical Pornographic Classification vs. Individualized Pornographic Classification on Reddit’s /r/NSFW411*: a research paper on the development of sexual hierarchal and classification systems on Reddit and elsewhere.
- *Pre-Obscenities & Real Obscenities: The Creation of Male Pornographic Space*: research paper being prepared for publication on the creation of a specifically male-gendered space in obscenity.

### Additional Professional Blogging and Interviews:

Articles for the **ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom**:

- [National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s Dirty Dozen Censorship](#)
- [“Actions Shutting Down Information and Freedom – Interior’s Attack on FOIA”](#)

Articles for **Indiana University’s Scholarly Communications**:

- [Using Podcasts and Videos for Scholarly Communication](#)
- [“PDQT and Open Access — Dissertation Publishing](#)
- [cOAlition S: The Future of Research](#)
- [Open Access Week](#)

Articles for **Hack Library School**

- [FOSTA/SESTA and Libraries](#)

Others:

- [“The Raunchy World of Edmund Curll.”](#) *A Covent Garden Gilflurt’s Guide to Life* Edited by Catherine Curzon.
- [HistoryGal Interview with Brian M. Watson](#). Interview by Nicola Lambert.
- Clutterbuck-Cook, Anna. [“Book Review: Annals of Pornographie.”](#)

- [Reddit Moderator Has MA in History of Porn](#)
- [Porn Historian Brian Watson Explains Balloon Porn, 17th-Century Dildos in Reddit AMA.](#)