

# Finn J.D. John

## Curriculum Vitae • January 2015



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### Education:

- MS, Journalism: Literary Nonfiction, University of Oregon.** **June 2010**
- Terminal project: *America's Most Hated Hero: How Herbert Hoover saved an entire nation from starving to death during the First World War.*
- BA, English (honors), University of Oregon.** **June 1991**

### Professional appointment:

- Instructor, Oregon State University, New Media Communications department** **2010 – Present**
- One-year renewing teaching appointment at 4 classes per term (no research component).

### Research interests:

- Trans-media franchise creation and management as a venue for creative expression;
- Oregon history;
- Vintage pulp fiction;
- Herbert Hoover in the First World War.

### Teaching:

- Instructor, Oregon State University, New Media Communications department** **2010 – Present**
- **Introduction to New Media (NMC 101).**
    - ♦ Introducing multimedia journalism, sound and video production, virtual worlds, media law and ethics and mediated communications in society.
  - **Media Spin Detecting (NMC 399).**
    - ♦ Developed as a new class in 2012 for delivery either in class or via OSU Ecampus (on line). Covers historical and practical ways media sources spin or fabricate information and finishes with a term paper analyzing one of the many apocryphal explanations of the D.B. Cooper skyjacking.
  - **Writing for the Media Professional (NMC 301; a Writing Intensive Curriculum class).**
    - ♦ Intensive interactive workshop class designed to teach students to create professional output for trans-media and social media productions in both traditional and new-media environments.
  - **History of Telecommunications (NMC 321).**
    - ♦ Covers the development of telecommunications from the telegraph to computer and wireless telegraphy, with an eye to delivery of multimedia and transmedia content.
  - **History of Broadcasting (NMC 321).**
    - ♦ Developed as a new class in 2011. The history of broadcasting in the context of telecommunications networks and technologies.
  - **Creating a Fictional World (NMC 499).**
    - ♦ Developed as an intensive four-week class for summer term 2014. Students use "The Plot Genie," a plot-prompt-generating tool created in 1931, to generate and write a 40,000-word pulp novel.

## Teaching (continued):

- Capstone: Building a Trans-Media Franchise (NMC 498).
  - ♦ Developed as an intensive four-week class for Summer Term 2014. Students build trans-media franchises around the storyworlds created in *Creating a Fictional World*.

## Graduate fellowship, University of Oregon

2008 – 2010

- Journalism 202: Information Gathering (“Info Hell”);
- Journalism 203: Writing for the Media;
- Journalism 461/561: Advanced News Editing.

## Publications:

### Books and audiobooks:

- *Wicked Portland: The Wild and Lusty Underworld of a Frontier Seaport Town* (2012, The History Press). Published in paperback, e-book and audiobook editions. A pop-history treatment of 1890s Portland, Ore. Includes a mobile-ready Website accessible through QR codes in each chapter head, delivering additional content.
- *The John Carter Trilogy of Edgar Rice Burroughs* (2014, Pulp-Lit Press). Annotated collection of classic pulp novels published in audiobook, e-book, paperback and hardcover editions.
- *Heroes and Rascals of Old Oregon*. Pop-history collection of historical accounts of several interesting individual Oregonians, to be published through Pulp-Lit Press in audiobook, e-book, paperback and hardcover editions (in preparation).
- *The Imaginary Friends*. A short novel written in the style of a classic 1930s adventure-romance pulp magazine, written as a class demo (in third-draft rewrite).

### Articles:

- Various titles (325 at last count), *Offbeat Oregon History*. Weekly syndicated newspaper column. Launched September 2008. Published in McMinnville News-Register, Creswell Chronicle, McKenzie River Reflections, Cottage Grove Sentinel, Douglas County News, Redmond Spokesman, the Drain Enterprise, Madras Pioneer, Dead Mountain Echo, Douglas County Mail, Daily Astorian, Clatskanie Chief, Curry Pilot, Columbia Press, Lincoln County Dispatch, Pendleton Record, and Medford Mail-Tribune, as well as Willamette Living Magazine.

The 50 most recent columns are as follows:

- ♦ “Dynamite used to be a regular part of Oregon life,” Jan. 11, 2015;
- ♦ “Express clerk’s silence foiled train robbery,” Jan. 4, 2015;
- ♦ “Roseburg ‘Champagne Riot’ likely wasn’t what you think,” Dec. 28, 2014;
- ♦ “Oregon senator almost became President; luckily, he didn’t,” Dec. 21, 2014;
- ♦ “Simpson empire made Coos Bay shipbuilding Mecca,” Dec. 14, 2014;
- ♦ “Free-love ‘Harmonial Brotherhood’ colony was a disaster,” Dec. 7, 2014;
- ♦ “The father of Oregon’s nursery industry’s ‘free-love’ cult,” Nov. 30, 2014;
- ♦ “Shouldn’t Oregon’s official language be Chinook?,” Nov. 23, 2014;
- ♦ “Wreck of the steamer U.S. Grant: Baffling historical mystery,” Nov. 16, 2014;
- ♦ “Nutty 1890s governor left Oregon with two Thanksgivings,” Nov. 9, 2014;
- ♦ “The short, tragic story of Portland’s municipal whale,” Nov. 2, 2014;
- ♦ “Scholarly Albany flyer was true father of Oregon aviation,” Oct. 26, 2014;

## Publications (continued):

- ♦ "Offer of bonus turned out badly for owner of wrecked ship," Oct. 19, 2014;
  - ♦ "Port Orford P.R. wizard managed 'secession' like a movie," Oct. 12, 2014;
  - ♦ "Famous 1941 Jefferson 'secession' largely a publicity stunt," Oct. 5, 2014;
  - ♦ "Oregon Indian prince was Japan's introduction to the West," Sept. 28, 2014;
  - ♦ "A secret Native American prince's quest to reach Japan," Sept. 21, 2014;
  - ♦ "Legendary 'Chief Bigfoot' as elusive as his hairy namesake," Sept. 14, 2014;
  - ♦ "Merrill brought bikes to women; prostitutes took them away," Sept. 7, 2014;
  - ♦ "Portland stunt made local aero-daredevil world famous," Aug. 31, 2014;
  - ♦ "Massive war game covered Central Oregon in 1943," Aug. 24, 2014;
  - ♦ "Massive steamer wrecked by future Costa Rica Navy admiral," Aug. 17, 2014;
  - ♦ "Thousands of Oregonians remember replanting Tillamook Burn," Aug. 10, 2014;
  - ♦ "Tillamook Burn 'blew up' with shocking speed," Aug. 3, 2014;
  - ♦ "Tillamook Burn sprang from logging crew's unwise gamble," July 27, 2014;
  - ♦ "Bunco Kelley: The Coyote of Portland's waterfront mythos," July 20, 2014;
  - ♦ "Oregon's most notorious shanghai artist: 'Bunco' Kelley," July 13, 2014;
  - ♦ "Rumors of sunken submarines: The government denies it, but ...," July 6, 2014;
  - ♦ "Atlantis in the Beaver State: Underwater lost cities of Oregon," June 29, 2014;
  - ♦ "Pioneer Chinese doctor was a municipal treasure in John Day," June 22, 2014;
  - ♦ "Did Vortex music festival prevent riots in downtown Portland?," June 15, 2014;
  - ♦ "Governor McCall expected 'Vortex I' to cost him the election," June 8, 2014;
  - ♦ "Riot at PSU set the stage for 'Governor's Pot Party,'" June 1, 2014;
  - ♦ "Pirates were defeated in Yaquina Bay Oyster War," May 25, 2014;
  - ♦ "Portland's Pioneer Square could have been a 'crystal palace,'" May 18, 2014;
  - ♦ "NASA's 'Moon Trees' have roots in an Oregon forest fire," May 11, 2014;
  - ♦ "The mysterious disappearance of a schooner's entire crew," May 4, 2014;
  - ♦ "Japanese shipwrecks on Oregon coast likely predate Columbus," April 27, 2014;
  - ♦ "Bad batch of 'dehorn' alcohol killed 28 hobos on Skid Road," April 20, 2014;
  - ♦ "Beavercreek Bomber: 'Give me \$1 million or the lights go out,'" April 13, 2014;
  - ♦ "Cayuse tribe's world-beating ponies are now very rare," April 6, 2014;
  - ♦ "Iconic movies filmed in Oregon: Part Three, 1975-1989," March 30, 2014;
  - ♦ "Iconic movies filmed in Oregon: Part Two, 1965-1975," March 23, 2014;
  - ♦ "Iconic movies filmed in Oregon: Part One, 1908-1952," March 16, 2014;
  - ♦ "Brutal 'Oregon Boot' made our state prison famous," March 9, 2014;
  - ♦ "After logger's murder, bordello madam mysteriously vanished," March 2, 2014;
- and 275 earlier articles, omitted for space reasons.
- "Lynching of Innocent Man Kicked Off Vigilante Rule in Crook County." *Prineville Territory* magazine, Spring 2013: 11-15.
  - "Taking Flight: The Heroic Final Flight of Cottage Grove's Jim Wright." *Etude Magazine*, Spring 2009.

## Podcasts:

- *Offbeat Oregon History* podcast. Thrice-weekly podcast derived from the archives of the Offbeat Oregon History newspaper column. Launched December 2011. Averages 800 downloads per episode.
- *Pulp-Lit Storytellers Club* podcast. Twice-weekly podcast in which I read a chapter from a classic pulp novel and lead a discussion of its storytelling technique on the Facebook page. Launched September 2014. Averages 50 downloads per episode, but growing fast.

## Publications (continued):

### Blogs:

- *Offbeat Oregon History* (<http://offbeatoregon.com>). Browsable and searchable collection of all previously published Offbeat Oregon History newspaper columns (325 as of January 2015), organized by date of first publication. (Site hand-coded in HTML and CSS; no CMS system in use)
- *Pulp-Lit Book Club Blog* (<http://pulp-lit.com/blog>). Wordpress-powered blog (using custom theme) that provides a transcript of Pulp-Lit Storytellers Club podcast episodes, as well as an HTML version of the book being read from.

### Websites and social media pages:

- *finnjohn.com*. Central hub page for all on-line franchises.
- *offbeatoregon.com*.
  - ♦ Website functions as sub-hub for the Offbeat Oregon History franchise, including the blog content as well as links out to social-media assets (listed below). Launched 2009; currently averages 35,000 unique visits per month.
- *facebook.com/oregon.1859*. This is the Facebook page for Offbeat Oregon History column and podcast (1,550 likes) with content updated regularly.
- *pinterest.com/offbeatoregon*. Collection of Pinterest boards regularly updated with historic images relating to Offbeat Oregon columns, with links to those columns.
- *twitter.com/offbeatoregon*. 675 followers; content updated thrice weekly via Feedburner.
- *pulp-lit.com*:
  - ♦ Website functions as a sub-hub for the Pulp-Lit Productions enterprises, including links to podcast feed, blog, and the social media spaces in which the readings are discussed.
- *facebook.com/pulp.lit.project*. This is the Facebook page on which Pulp-Lit Storytellers Club podcast readings are discussed, and drawn on for the discussion part of the next episode.
- *wicked-portland.com*:
  - ♦ Support site for the Wicked Portland book.

## Media enterprise:

### Publishing enterprises:

- *Pulp-Lit Productions/ Pulp-Lit Press (2014-present)*: Title: Principal. Produces annotated collections of the works of classic pulp writers like Edgar Rice Burroughs and H.P. Lovecraft in audiobook, e-book, paperback and hardcover editions. The audiobook versions of these books are the primary focus, with exclusive distribution through Audible.com.
- *Travelin' Magazine (1998-2000)*: Title: Editor and Publisher. Bi-monthly consumer magazine, distributed by subscription and on newsstands, about exploring the back roads and by-ways of the American West.
- *The Real Estate Book of Eugene/Springfield (1995-1999)*: Title: Associate Publisher. Monthly real-estate advertising publication distributed free in Lane County, Ore.

## Presentations:

### Public appearances/lectures:

- Public lecture/multimedia history show series: Monthly series presented in bars by the **Stumptown Storytellers**, a troupe of irreverent pop historians composed of me, Joe Streckert, Heather Arndt Anderson, J.B. Fisher and Doug Kenck-Crispin. Topics:
  - ♦ "Sylvester Pennoyer: Oregon's Father of Thanksgiving," Nov. 10, 2014;
  - ♦ "The KKK and Portland's bridge scandal," Sept. 8, 2014;

- ♦ "Pioneer Courthouse Square: Three Portland Icons," June 5, 2014;
- ♦ "Portland's Tawdriest Love Triangle," May 8, 2014;
- ♦ "Murder on the Oregon Express," March 4, 2014;
- ♦ "Opium Smuggling in Old Portland," Feb. 4, 2014;
- ♦ "Bootlegging the Oregon Way: The Volstead years," Jan. 7, 2014;
- ♦ "How we Almost Lost the Peter Iredale to a Crooked Scrap-Metal Man," Jan. 21, 2014;
- ♦ "Bootlegging the Oregon way: Adventure, romance, comedy and tragedy in Oregon's second-oldest profession," Dec. 2, 2013;
- ♦ "Embezzler, Philanderer, Racketeer, Senator," Nov. 4, 2013;
- ♦ "The Man with the Hook Kills in Portland," Oct. 31, 2013;
- ♦ "Mysterious Skeletons of Oregon History," Oct. 1, 2013;
- ♦ "Weird Cults of Old Oregon," Sept. 3, 2013;
- ♦ "The Ku Klux Klan in 1920s Oregon," Aug. 6, 2013;
- ♦ "When Masked Outlaw Riders Ruled Central Oregon: The Rise and Fall of the Prineville Vigilantes," July 2, 2013;
- ♦ "Senator John H. Mitchell: Oregon's Own Snidely Whiplash," June 4, 2013;
- ♦ "Smooth-Moving Bad Guys of Oregon History," May 7, 2013;
- ♦ "Shipwrecks of Oregon II," Feb. 5, 2013;
- ♦ "Shipwrecks of Oregon I," Nov. 6, 2012;
- ♦ "Top 5 Most Delicious Political Swindles of Old Oregon," Sept. 11, 2012.
- Oct. 22, 2014: Multimedia presentation at Albany Historical Museum, "Legends and mysteries of Crater Lake."
- Sept. 5, 2013: Presentation at McMinnville Kiwanis Club, "Herbert Hoover and the Commission for Relief in Belgium."
- May 11, 2013: Convention keynote address, "Wicked Politics in 1800s Portland," at the Oregon Mensa Regional Gathering, Portland.
- April 13, 2013: Kickoff speech given at Northwest College Radio Conference at KBVR studios at OSU. Topic: "Writing for Radio."
- Sept. 18, 2012: Panel discussion, "Election Campaign Ads," League of Women Voters, Corvallis Public Library, Corvallis. On panel with OSU Prof. Bill Loges and Oregon Public Broadcasting reporter Chris Lehman.
- Sept. 7, 2012: Public lecture/multimedia history show, "Wicked Politics in 1800s Portland," Willamette University, Salem.
- Nov. 17, 2010: "Oregon History's Secrets." Lecture presented at OASIS Center in Eugene, Ore.
- March 4, 2010: "Offbeat Lane County History." Lecture presented at Lane County Historical Museum, Eugene, Ore.
- March 21, 2004: Organizer and presenter, **Society of Professional Journalists Training Day**, Corvallis, Ore. A day-long series of seminars on various topics presented by professional journalists.
- Priewe, Rob; Spatz, Dan; John, Finn. "Community Journalism," Society of Professional Journalists Writing Workshop 2002, Eugene, Ore.

#### **Media appearances:**

- Jan. 2, 2015: Discussed train robberies of Oregon history with producer Kami Horton for an upcoming episode of *Oregon Experience* on Oregon Public Broadcasting.
- Aug. 15, 2012: Discussed the shanghaiing of sailors in 1890s Portland with Doug Kenck-Crispin on an episode of the *Kick Ass Oregon History podcast*.
- July 7, 2012: Profiled in Karl Klooster's newspaper column in *McMinnville News-Register*.  
Headline: "The Oregon you never knew."

## Service to profession:

- Coordinated the drafting and collaborative fine-tuning of New Media Communications writing standards for purposes of teaching evaluation;
- Served as a marshal at Commencement in June 2013 and June 2014;
- Reviewed book proposal for Oregon State University Press. Subject: "Oregon History Comics" proposal by Sarah Mirk;
- Served on hiring committee for Student Media Journalism Adviser position, May 2014.

## Languages:

- Proficient: *French* (can carry on a heavily-accented but normal conversation, read technical material).
- Working knowledge: *Castellian Spanish, Italian* (can carry on a slow conversation, read a graphic novel or a book written to about sixth-grade level).

## Professional involvement:

- Member, Oregon Historical Society.
- Board member, Oregon Territory Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists.

## Journalism awards and honors:

### Oregon Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspapers Awards:

- 2001 – 2006: 20 awards.

### Society of Professional Journalists Greater Oregon Chapter Non-Daily Awards:

- 2001 – 2003: 6 awards.

### Society of Professional Journalists Northwest Region Daily Newspaper Awards:

- 2004 – 2005: 6 awards.

## Journalism experience:

Independent syndicated columnist (Offbeat Oregon History)	2008 – present
The (Eugene) Register-Guard: Freelance correspondent	2009 – 2010
Albany Democrat-Herald (Lee Enterprises): Freelance columnist	2008 – 2010
Corvallis Gazette-Times (Lee Enterprises): Copy editor, reporter	2002 – 2004
	2006 – 2008
The Islands' Sounder, Orcas Island, Wash.: Editor	2006
The Springfield News (Lee Enterprises): Editor	2004 – 2006
The New York Post: Freelance correspondent	2003 – 2004
Cottage Grove Sentinel (Lee Enterprises): Editor	2000 – 2002
Silverton Appeal-Tribune and Mt. Angel News: Reporter, advertising manager	1991 – 1994