



# Musings

Fall 2019 Newsletter  
Volume XXIII • Number 1

Northwestern

Department of  
English

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

## FROM THE CHAIR

Amid the comings and goings in University Hall, we are particularly pleased to welcome Lauren Jackson and Justin Mann as new assistant professors in the department. The second class of students in the MFA + MA program in creative and critical writing also has arrived, as have new MA and PhD students from near and far. Welcome all!

Last year the faculty deliberated long and hard about a new structure for the PhD program. In the end, we abolished the structure of a two-part qualifying exam in favor of a single exam that asks students to define their own subfields. We also have added workshop-style courses where students can learn how to script compelling proposals (whether for a dissertation or for a grant) and to transform seminar papers into publishable articles.

We also are instituting new practices for supporting graduate students in their pursuit of a diverse range of careers. Starting this year, we will regularly invite back to campus our graduates who have crafted satisfying careers that look nothing like those of their mentors. Elizabeth Rodriguez (PhD 2019), Coordinator of Learning Innovations in the Center for Teaching and Learning at Northeastern Illinois, and Rebecca Fall (PhD 2016), Program Manager at the Newberry Library's Center for Renaissance Studies, will be our inaugural speakers this year.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season,

Susan Manning  
Chair of English  
Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor  
English, Theatre, Performance Studies



## A WORD FROM EGSO

As we enter into our busy Fall Quarter, we have an opportunity to reflect on the 2018-19 academic year. The Department kicked off this academic season with our annual Fall Collation, where Department Chair Susan Manning welcomed us back to University Hall, announced exciting departmental programming, and introduced our new faculty members. Doctoral student Katie Blankenau began the evening with a talk on Early Modern hospitality and the construction of reputation, Professor Evan Mwangi followed with a paper on interspecies intimacies and postcoloniality, and Professor Juan Martinez gave us a reading from his new short-story collection *Trumbull*, forthcoming in 2020.

As always at the beginning of the year, EGSO organized festivities aimed to reunite continuing students after a long summer and to welcome our newest cohort of PhD, MFA + MA, and MA students into the fold. We paired new students with peer mentors, coordinated our annual first-year breakfast, and hosted welcome-back drinks. Students-in-coursework representative Nancy Jiang organized thoughtful pairings of graduate student work that included presentations by Will Pierce and Clay Cogswell in the fall, Johana Godfrey and Sam Botz in the winter, and Harris Mercer and Serena Simpson in the spring. Students-in-coursework representative Kaitlin Browne organized our November 2019 colloquium, which featured presentations by doctoral student Nina Moon and MFA + MA student Natalie Richardson.

Last year, the 2018-19 students-in-candidacy representative Sarah Mason organized a series of professionalization workshops for graduate students which included topics on dissertation note-taking practices, conference presentations and applying for the all-important fellowship funding opportunities. We are grateful for Stephanie Pentz and Casey Caldwell (doctoral students); Professors Sarah Dimick, Todd Nordgren, Kelly Wisecup, and Viv Soni (post-docs and faculty); and Dr. Stephen Hill (from the Office of Fellowships) for leading these workshops and sharing their insights. At the beginning of this year, Adam Syvertsen, our 2019-20 students-in-candidacy representative, organized our first workshop of the year led by Profs. Juan Martinez and Tristram Wolff on the topic of undergraduate teaching.

The past year's programs and events would have been impossible without the incredible generosity of the students, scholars, and faculty members who gave their time to enrich the life of our department. Equally, none of this would have been possible without the peerless efforts of Jennifer Britton, Kathy Daniels, Myriah Harris, David Kuzel, and Nathan Mead, who never failed to answer any question or calm any crisis. We are both grateful and humbled to work with such excellent mentors and colleagues.

**Johana Godfrey and Nancy Jiang**, Co-Chairs  
**Kaitlin Browne**, Students-in-Coursework Representative  
**Adam Syversten**, Students-in-Candidacy Representative  
**Jeremiah Barker**, MFA+MA Representative  
**Paulina Jones-Torregrosa**, Archivist

## NEW FACULTY

**Lauren Jackson** (Ph.D. University of Chicago) teaches and writes in the areas of black studies, affect theory, and American literature. Her recently published book, *White Negroes: When Corncrows Were in Vogue ... and Other Thoughts on Cultural Appropriation*, is a collection of critical essays on racial aesthetics in popular culture. Her current project, “Black Vertigo,” examines aesthetics of affective disorder in post-’60s black American literature.

Her work appears in *The Atlantic*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Journal of Popular Music Studies*, *The Paris Review*, *The New Yorker*, and *New York* magazine’s *Vulture*, among other venues.



**Justin L. Mann** (Ph.D. American Studies, George Washington University) has research and teaching interests in African American literature, speculative fiction, black feminist theory and queer of color critique, and security studies.

His current project, “Breaking the World: Blackness and Insecurity after the New World Order,” explores the interpenetration of speculative fiction and security policy to understand the underexamined connections between these two seemingly disparate fields of writing. Bringing works by Octavia Butler, Walter Mosley, Colson Whitehead, and N.K. Jemisin into conversation with security policy and practice, “Breaking the World” argues that that black speculation is an overlooked but essential archive for understanding America’s security ambition since the Reagan Administration.

Justin’s work has appeared in *Feminist Theory*, *Feminist Studies*, and *Surveillance & Society*. His research has been supported by the Huntington Library in Pasadena, CA.

## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS

**Viola Bao** (PhD – CLS) was born in Sweden to Chinese parents. Prior to moving to the Chicago area, she lived in Berlin while working as a literary critic and translator. Viola finished her MA at Copenhagen University in Denmark in 2016, and her interests lie within 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century theory and literature (English, German, Chinese, and Scandinavian), with a special focus on documentary poetry, and conceptual poetry in relation to race. She also occasionally produces a podcast about video games.

**Rio Bergh** (PhD) completed an MA in English at North Dakota State University in 2019, where he also received a 2017 BS in English and Psychology with a minor in History. He also completed the University Honors Program, with a thesis examining poverty and homelessness. His MA thesis is on the multiple versions of *The Narrative of Venture Smith* (1798, 1835, and 1897), which recount the life of Smith, an African-American man who purchased his freedom before going on to own slaves and achieve financial success. The essay considers the cultural implications of the differing ways in which financial success is

legitimated and framed by the narratives themselves and by the published material surrounding them. His research interest is on the development of consumerism and capitalism as it intersects with early American literature, particularly in the 18<sup>th</sup>- and 19<sup>th</sup>-centuries.

**Raina Bhagat** (PhD – CLS) just completed an MA in English Studies from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India, and has a BA in English from St. Xavier’s College in Mumbai, India. Raina is intrigued by the intersections between gender and the environment in 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century speculative fiction, particularly in the context of ecological crisis; their Master’s dissertation, however, deals with nationhood and communication in alien encounter texts, in the area of more traditional science fiction. Raina is a proud Indian-American, was born in a Midwestern university town and raised in Chicagoland, and called Mumbai home for the past seven years.

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## NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS CONTINUED

**Nina Li Coomes** (MFA+MA – Creative Nonfiction) was born in Nagoya, Japan and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She graduated from the University of Chicago in 2014 with a degree in Comparative Human Development. She worked as a news producer for the New York bureau of a Japanese news network where she covered a variety of stories, ranging from the 2016 U.S. Presidential election to the still-unsolved murder of a Japanese pianist in Trinidad-Tobago. Prior to joining the English Department, she was a Research Assistant at the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at Harvard University. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Catapult* and *The Indiana Review*, and she is interested in history, memory, and translation in essay.

**Alexandra Ibarra** (PhD) is from Atlanta, Georgia, and graduated in May from the University of Georgia with an AB in English, Philosophy, and Religion. Her undergraduate research explored reimaginings of womanhood in Cuban revolutionary cinema and films from the contemporary U.S. black film community. She also worked as a research assistant in the UGA Special Collections Library, specializing in political oral histories. Her current research interests fall within the interdisciplinary field of Latinx literary and cultural studies.

**Irene Kim** (PhD) is a native of southern California, and received her BA in English from the University of California: Irvine, followed by an MA in the Humanities from the University of Chicago. Her Master's thesis argues that the textual ecology of Ronald Johnson's assemblage poetics allows us to more fully consider the variegated scalar and sensorial rhythms—from the micro- to the telescopic, deep time to the human *umwelt*—of our current climate crisis, towards an understanding of our radical ecological interconnectedness. Her current research interests are constellated around questions of form, medium, and design. She is particularly interested in the material, formal, and affective textures (seams and holes, rips and ruptures, folds and creases, pixels and circuitry) of 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century poetry, and their implications for visualizing lyric subjects.

**Elliott Kingston** (MA) received his BS in Mechanical Engineering from UCLA, and worked for two years in the aerospace industry before pivoting to pursue his interest in literature. He is particularly interested in the role

fiction plays in shaping our understanding of the 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century.

**Michelle Goun Lee** (MFA+MA – Fiction) is from southern California, and holds a BA in History from the University of California: Berkeley, and an MA in Anthropology from Columbia University. Her research interests are primarily based in animal studies and spatial theory, folklore and diaspora, and the animate/inanimate. Though her studies greatly influenced her prose, Michelle's writing is strongly rooted in her identity and heritage, narratives from her family history, and the uncanny and unknown. She is sadly allergic to cats.

**Mariana Lowe** (PhD) is from Guanajuato, Mexico. She graduated from West Texas A&M University with a BA in English and a minor in Creative Writing. Her primary areas of interest are Mexican American literature, postcolonial feminism, and border studies. Her last research project and senior capstone explored African feminism in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and how Western feminism robs the women in the novel from achieving agency. Mariana also enjoys writing fiction and poetry.

**Matthew Richardson** (MFA+MA – Fiction) is from the South Side of Chicago, and received a BA in World Literature from the University of Illinois in 2016.

**Avey Rips** (PhD) graduated from Rutgers University in 2015 with a BA in Comparative Literature and minors in Spanish and Philosophy, writing their thesis on Baudelaire's use of allegory as a mode of rhetorical communion with one's historical time. After graduating, they ran a DIY art space, taught, learned to code, and then worked

at an education technology start-up in NYC. Avey has a 2019 MA from the University of Chicago, where they studied the philosophy of poetry and poetics, as well as German and Portuguese. Their research interests include the representations and tropings of transportation by American queer poets in the 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-centuries, as well as new materialist, ecocritical, and post-phenomenological methodologies of poetic interpretation.

**Maria Vиейtez** (PhD) graduated from Swarthmore College with a BA in English Literature in 2016, and completed an MA in Humanities at the University of Chicago in 2018. Her MA thesis considered feminine subject formation in Chaucer's *Wife of Bath's Tale*, particularly in the characters of Guinevere, the Loathly Lady, and the tale's unnamed, raped maiden. Maria's current research interests include interior and material representations of masculine violence in the lives of medieval women, and the roles played by age, motherhood, and marriage in determining the status of feminine subjects.

**Elizabeth Winter** (PhD) is originally from Bethesda, Maryland, and she graduated from Vanderbilt University in May 2018 with a BA in English, French and Political Science. At Vanderbilt, her honors thesis explored manifestations of female violence in Jean Rhys's *Wide Sargasso Sea* and Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, focusing particularly on how self-harming violence allows female protagonists to claim a troubled agency. Her current research interests include depictions of violent resistance, 19<sup>th</sup>-century transatlantic literary exchange and struggles for raced and gendered agency.

**Yuan-Chih (Sreddy) Yen** (PhD) graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, with an MA in English. His dissertation considers Barbara Adair's two novels to explore the potentialities of impersonal intimacy as well as to open a space for reimagining frameworks for understanding literary production in South Africa. A peer-reviewed article based on this work has recently been published in the *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* (2019). His research interests, situated at the intersections of postcolonial and queer studies, continue to be literary articulations of desire and relationality that unsettle normative borders and categories.

## DEGREES COMPLETED

**Spencer Anderson** (MA)

*Is Whiteness Interrogated?: Revisiting bell hooks and Paris is Burning*

**Erin Andrews** (PhD)

*Collective Imagination and the Superpower State: Science Fiction and U.S. Militarism in the Late Twentieth Century*

**Anne Boemler** (PhD)

*Sion's Muse: Literary Communities in Renaissance Devotional Verse*

**Casey Caldwell** (PhD)

*Imaginary Money: Monetary Imaginaries in Early Modern Theater*

**Corrine Collins** (PhD)

*Violent Intimacies and Queer Desires: Hegemonic Multiracialism and the Post-racial Future*

**Annalese Duprey-Henry** (PhD)

*Disciplining the Heart: Love and Pity in Medieval Literature*

**Elizabeth Rodriguez** (PhD)

*Consensual Relations: Subjectivity, Shakespeare, and the Law in Early Modern England*

**Susanna Sacks** (PhD)

*Viral Verses: Poetic Movements and Social Media in Southeastern Africa*

**Simone Waller** (PhD)

*Talk of State: Publicizing Political Debate in Sixteenth-Century Dialogues and Drama*

## JOB PLACEMENT

**Kellen Bolt** (PhD 2018) Elgin Community College (Instructor of English)

**Corrine Collins** (PhD 2019) Carleton College (post-doc)

**Meaghan Fritz** (PhD 2018) Northwestern Writing Program (Assistant Professor of Instruction)

**Kritish Rajbhandari** (PhD 2019, CLS) Reed College (Assistant Professor)

**Elizabeth Rodriguez** (PhD 2019) Coordinator of Learning Innovations, Northeastern Illinois University

**Susanna Sacks** (PhD 2019) Wooster College (Assistant Professor)

**Seth Swanner** (PhD 2017) University of Wyoming (Assistant Lecturer in the Learning Resource Networks [LeaRN] Program)

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

**Katie Blankenau** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) has appointed as a Francis Bacon Foundation Fellow at The Huntington Library, where she spent time this fall researching early modern travel poems.

**Maria Dikcis** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) received an Honorable Mention for the American Comparative Literature Association's 2019 A. Owen Aldridge Prize for her paper "Gertrude Stein Learns to Code: Brian Kim Stefans's *Kluge: A Meditation* and the Corruptibility of Modernist Time."

**Brad Dubos** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) and **Jayne Collins** were both selected as 2019-20 fellows in the Kaplan Humanities Institute's Franke Fellowship Program. Brad was also one of the students to be accepted to the 2018-19 inaugural cohort of graduate fellows in the Northwestern Center for Native American and Indigenous Research.

**Chad Infante** and **Andrew Keener** (both PhD 2018) were selected as co-winners of the English Department's 2018-19 Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation. Chad's dissertation is titled *Cool Fratricide: Murder and Metaphysics in Black and Indigenous U.S. Literature*, and Andrew's is *Staging Worlds of Words: Cosmopolitan Vernaculars in English Renaissance Drama*. **Andrew** was also a recipient of the 2019 J. Leeds Barroll Dissertation Prize, awarded by the Shakespeare Association of America.

**Ilana Larkin** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) received three fellowships for the 2019-20 year; the Lapidus Fellowship from the American Antiquarian Society (where she'll be researching nineteenth-century children's abolitionist literature), the Newberry/Lipking Fellowship (while in residence at the Newberry Library, she'll be researching Francis LaFlesche's ethnographic writings alongside his memoir *The Middle Five* for a chapter on Native American children and

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## FACULTY NEWS

**Chris Abani** and **Reg Gibbons** were in the #14 spot in the Lit 50: Who Really Books in Chicago list this year.

**Eula Biss'** 2014 *On Immunity* was selected by Literary Hub as one of the ten best essay collections of the past decade.

**Anne Boemler's** article, "George Herbert and the Dangers of Invention" is forthcoming in winter 2020 in *Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* (60.1).

Beginning in November of 2019, **Brian Bouldrey's** first 3 novels, *The Genius of Desire*, *Love, the Magician*, and *The Boom Economy*, will be brought back into print in the US and Canada by ReQueered Tales, as "classics" in the genre.

**Casey Caldwell** is the co-editor of *The Hare*, a peer-reviewed online journal of untimely reviews in early modern scholarship and performance, Volume 4 Issue 2 of which was published in 2019. It featured articles by Joey Gamble and M.L. Stapleton. Casey was also invited to contribute a chapter, entitled "The Dramatic Life of the Early Modern Jetton," to a forthcoming interdisciplinary edited collection, *Embodying Value: Representing Money in the Early Modern Period* (Amsterdam University Press), an opportunity that grew out of a dual art history/renaissance literature panel he participated in at the Renaissance Society of America conference in 2017. Casey spent this past summer at Harvard's Houghton Library, looking at original documents related to currency exchange and the emergent discourse of political economy.

**Betsy Erkkila** next book, *The Whitman Revolution: Why Poetry Matters*, is at the University of Iowa Press for a 2020 release. In 2019, she was invited to give several talks as part of the celebration of the bicentennial of Whitman's birth in West Hills, Long Island. She presented a Keynote Address, "The Whitman Revolution," at the Bicentennial Celebration and Walt Whitman Exhibit at the University of Iowa in April, and another at the International Walt Whitman Seminar and Symposium in New York at the end of May. 2019 was also the bicentennial of Herman Melville's birth on August 1, 1819 in New York, and Betsy was invited to participate in a conversation at the Chicago Opera Theater in April with librettist Gene Scheer on adapting *Moby-Dick* into an opera. Betsy also served as Chair of a panel on "Race, Women, and the Market," at the March 29-30 Society of

Early Americanists conference in Eugene, Oregon, an event that also occasioned a reunion dinner with several former Northwestern Americanist graduate students, including Katy Chiles (University of Tennessee), Alanna Hickey (Yale University), Wendy Roberts (University of Albany, SUNY), and Peter Jaros (Franklin and Marshall College), joined by our own Kelly Wisecup. She has an article entitled "Phillis Wheatley and the Revolutionary Transatlantic" forthcoming in *Early American Literature*, and is currently writing a short book entitled "The Abigail Adams Affairs," which grew out of a longer work-in-progress entitled "Imagining the Revolution: Literature and Politics in Insurrectionary America."

As a visiting professor in Northwestern's faculty exchange program with the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon in May, **Christine Froula** gave three lectures, "Poetry and Poetics of the Modernist Everyday: Ibsen, Joyce, Woolf, Pound," "War, Catharsis, Peace: Ancient Greek Visions and 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Violence," and "Make It Old New, or, Chance, Surprise, Wonder: Revolution and Return in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Art."

**Harris Feinsod** is a Fellow in residence at the National Humanities Center this year, where he is at work on a cultural history of marine workers in the age of the steamship. A new excerpt appears in a special issue of *English Language Notes* on "hydro-criticism." His first book *The Poetry of the Americas* (2017) has just been released in paperback, and it is the subject of a roundtable at the upcoming 2020 MLA convention. *Decals: Complete Early Poems of Oliverio Girondo*, co-translated with Rachel Galvin, was shortlisted for the 2019 National Translation Award in poetry. In spring 2019, Feinsod lectured on the concept of "world poetry" at the University of Michigan and Vanderbilt University. This essay now appears in *Modern Language Quarterly*. Closer to home, two new essays in *Chicago Review* and *Post45* discuss poets from Chicago, and Feinsod and PhD candidate Jayme Collins recently co-organized the first meeting of the Chicagoland Poetics Initiative, an intensive seminar for a regional network of poetry scholars. Most recently, in October, Feinsod delivered the third annual C. D. Wright Lecture at Brown University's Department of Literary Arts.

**Reg Gibbons'** new book of poems, *Renditions*, will be published in early 2021 by Four Way Books. In January he will give a reading and a lecture

and will teach poetry workshops at the 2020 Palm Beach Poetry Festival. *Poetry* magazine will publish two of Reg's "visual poems" (etchings) in the coming year and will, along with the novelist Luis Alberto Urrea, receive the two 2020 Fuller Awards for Lifetime Achievement from the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame. The ceremony will be co-sponsored by the Poetry Foundation and the American Writers Museum in Fall 2020 at the Newberry Library, where his papers are archived. See <https://chicagoliteraryhof.org/fuller>.

**Jay Grossman** continues to pursue his research and writing of a cultural biography of the Harvard literary scholar and political activist F.O. Matthiessen. He has been awarded a six-month fellowship at Yale's Beinecke Library, where Matthiessen's papers and letters are held, starting in January 2020. He has published three new essays on his long-time scholarly focus, Walt Whitman: "Queer Contingencies of Canonicity: Dickinson, Whitman, Jewett, Matthiessen" in *Whitman & Dickinson: A Colloquy*, edited by Éric Athenot and Cristanne Miller (University of Iowa Press, 2017); an invited chapter on "Whitman and Sexuality," in Cambridge University Press's *Walt Whitman in Context* (edited by Edward Whitley and Joanna Levin, 2018); and "Whitman in Your Pocket: The History of the Book and the History of Sexuality" in *The New Walt Whitman Studies*, edited by Matt Cohen (Cambridge University Press).

**Chris Herbert's** new book, *Evangelical Gothic: The English Novel and the Religious War on Virtue from Wesley to Dracula*, was recently published by the University of Virginia Press.

**James J. Hodge** published a video essay called "Touch" in *Triquarterly* about the new networked genres of always-on computing. You can watch the video at <http://www.triquarterly.org/node/303191>. He made the video with C. A. Davis and John Bresland. Hodge also published his book *Sensations of History: Animation and New Media Art* in October 2019 with the University of Minnesota Press.

**Chris Lane** was invited to tape two podcasts on his recent book about Norman Vincent Peale and his self-described "religio-psychiatry" movement, the first of which was released this fall. He gave invited lectures from his next book, on biotechnology and human mutability, at Rutgers University (Institute for Health

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# Mary Kinzie Professor Emeritus

Notes on Professor Kinzie's retirement  
by Averill Curdy



Photography by Sean Su | @PurplePhotoCo

Mary Kinzie, the founder of Northwestern's highly regarded undergraduate creative writing program, arrived at Northwestern in 1978. Last May, at the end of another successful Writer's Festival, friends, family, colleagues and former students gathered in the lobby of the Block Museum (pictured above) to toast Mary on her retirement, reflecting on the vision and energy, the generosity and rigor, which led to her abiding contributions to Northwestern's English department, and to the lives of countless writers, over the past 40 years.

As appetizers were circulated and the champagne flowed, several of Mary's colleagues and former students (sometimes, as in the cases of Sheila Donohue and Brian Bouldrey, in the same person) offered up their tributes. Sheila described the combination of anxiety and exhilaration of working over multiple drafts of a poem in order to receive the rare and much-coveted "v. good" in the margin. Brian had contacted dozens of Mary's former students asking for a written recollection, which were bound into a keepsake book presented to Mary and given to all of the attendees. He read aloud the contribution from poet, Joshua Weiner, who also later taught in the program. Recalling the poem-a-day exercise in the advanced poetry sequence (an exercise that continues to challenge the poetry majors to this day), Joshua wrote:

I showed up at her office with another sad attempt. I made some kind of edgy desperate low cattle-like noise, to which she responded, "Oh, I know what I'm asking of you is completely impossible; that's simply the practice." It felt like one of those moments as a child when a grown-up tells you no one really knows what they're doing. It was the announcement of your freedom . . . How can one pay adequate tribute to a teacher who was so foundational to how you hear language taking shape; to how you conceive of an artistic practice worthy of a life's devotion; to how you view the nobility of that practice in a society which degrades such value? You can't. You can only keep working, because more than anything else, that's what she taught you to do. She showed you a life of form in your ardor.

Joshua spoke for many of us who had found in Mary a model of what it means to be a writer, a teacher, and a thinker when he closed by saying, "Dear Mary, you knew what mattered, and you passed it on."

## GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS CONTINUED

missionary boarding schools), and a fellowship from the New England Regional Fellowship Consortium, which she was unfortunately unable to accept.

**Sarah Mason** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) was selected as the recipient of the English Department's 2018-19 Teaching Excellence Award.

**Kate Scharfenberg** (PhD 4<sup>th</sup> year) was awarded the English Department's 2018-19 Award for Excellence as a Teaching Assistant.

**Serena Simpson** (MFA+MA 2<sup>nd</sup> year) was chosen as a 2019 Tin House Scholar, an award supporting her participation in the Tin House Summer Workshop in Portland, Oregon.

## FACULTY NEWS CONTINUED

and Health Care Policy); Rice University (Institute for Medical Humanities); Feinberg School of Medicine (Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities); and Northwestern's Science in Human Culture Program. An interview marking the tenth anniversary of his book *Shyness: How Normal Behavior Became a Sickness* was published by *Mad in America*, a popular website on psychiatry and medical news. Recently appointed a member of Feinberg's Center for Bioethics and Medical Humanities, Chris continues to write a monthly column for *Psychology Today* on significant developments in psychiatry and psychology, with total cumulative hits at just under 2 million.

**Susan Manning** recently returned from Berlin, where she lectured on "Mary Wigman and Asia: Between Orientalism and Transnationalism," a lecture that she had earlier delivered at Ohio State and at Northwestern. An essay based on the lecture will form part of her work in progress, *Critical Histories of Modern Dance: a Retrospective*. Meanwhile, she has three large-scale editing projects in press: *Futures of Dance Studies*, a survey of emerging scholarship in the field; the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernist Dance*, an expansion of the canon and conceptualization of dance modernism; and a cluster of essays for *TDR: The Drama Review* titled "Nelisiwe Xaba Dancing between South Africa and the Global North." Manning has been named the Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor for 2018-21.

**Barbara Newman** published articles this year on Dante's *Matelda*, Charles Williams and the tarot cards, and medieval nuns in the history of

emotions. She has completed a translation of the Latin works of Richard Methley, a 15th-century English mystic, and is finishing her book titled *The Permeable Self: Five Medieval Relationships*. She continues to direct the Medieval Studies Cluster and has just sent two newly minted Ph.D.'s into the world, one with a dissertation on pacifism, the other on lovesickness and pity.

In her last year as Department chair, **Laurie Shannon** wrote the program note for the Globe Theatre's 2019 production of Christopher Marlowe's *Edward II*. She gave a response (entitled "A Thousand Infirmities") in a seminar on "Desire and the Nonhuman" at the April Shakespeare Association of America Conference. In May, she delivered the 2019 Kingsley Weatherhead Lecture in Shakespeare Studies in the English Department at the University of Oregon, presenting a talk called "Frailty's Name: *Hamlet* and the Natural History of Human Being." For much of her sabbatical in 2019-20, she will be a Visiting Fellow at the Warburg Institute, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

**Natasha Trethewey** finished her memoir, *Memorial Drive*, to be published by Ecco/HarperCollins. She is a Kaplan Institute Fellow during the 2019-20 academic year. Her 2012 *Thrall* was selected by Literary Hub as one of the ten best poetry collections of the past decade.

**Wendy Wall** was thrilled that *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making* launched in November 2018. This collaborative, digital edition of the

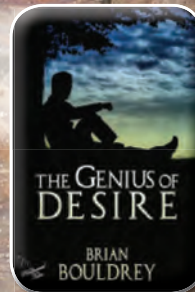
recently discovered poems of a 17<sup>th</sup>-century female writer (Hester Pulter) engages a radical editorial philosophy and involves a team of scholars from across the Anglophone world [<http://pulterproject.northwestern.edu/>]. Wendy made presentations about *The Pulter Project* and Pulter's theory of "matter in motion" at numerous venues this year (including Sewanee, South Carolina, Harvard, Alabama, Northwestern, and the Folger Shakespeare Library). *TPP* continues to expand, as readers create new pedagogical material, exhibits, and editions. In addition, the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender (SSEMWG) has selected *The Pulter Project* as the best project in digital scholarship, new media, or art on women and gender for 2018. When not Pultering, Wendy gave papers on her experience in prison education at the National Humanities Alliance; on *The Duchess of Malfi* at the École Normale Supérieure in Lyon; and on recipes while serving a visiting scholar for the Food Studies program at the Folger.

**Rachel Jamison Webster** is a Kaplan Institute Fellow this year while working on her next book, "Before and Behind Us in Time," a work of creative non-fiction in which ancestral history intersects with Colonial and U.S. Revolutionary history. Her just published *The Sea Came Up and Drowned* is a work of collage artwork and poetry that meditates on the extractive economy and the exploitation of the earth and her peoples that contributes to cataclysmic climate change.

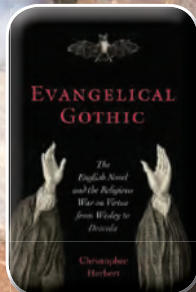
**Kelly Wisecup's** co-written article, "Completing

## FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Brian Bouldrey**  
*The Genius of Desire*  
ReQueered Tales



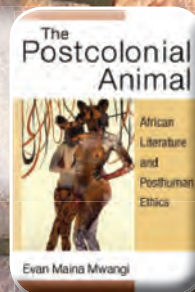
**Christopher Herbert**  
*Evangelical Gothic: The English Novel and the Religious War on Virtue from Wesley to Dracula*  
University of Virginia Press



**Lauren Jackson**  
*White Negroes: When Cornrows Were in Vogue... and Other Thoughts on Cultural Appropriation*  
Beacon Press



**Evan Mwangi**  
*The Postcolonial Animal: African Literature and Posthuman Ethics*  
University of Michigan Press



**Wendy Wall**  
*The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*  
[pulterproject.northwestern.edu](http://pulterproject.northwestern.edu)





## GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

the Turn: An Introduction to the Joint Forum on Native American and Indigenous Studies Materials and Methods,” won two awards: the Lester J. Cappon prize for the best article in *The William and Mary Quarterly* for 2018 and the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association Most Thought Provoking Article Award for 2019. Along with Northwestern librarians and staff members at the American Indian Association of Illinois, she is the recipient of a Mellon-funded Collections as Data grant for the Native American Educational Services College Digital Library project, an archival and digital humanities project to research NAES College (the first urban college by and for Native Americans, open in Chicago from 1974-2005). The project focuses on the College’s archives and card catalog, especially its innovative classification system. She contributed an article on the account books of Mary Fowler Occom for the digital project *Hidden Literacies* and gave talks at Tulane University, the University of Chicago, the Society of Early Americanists, and the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing.

**Matt Beeber** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) spent September doing research into the 1937 second International Congress for the Defense of Culture in Barcelona, Madrid, and Valencia, Spain under the auspices of a Graduate Research Grant from The Graduate School.

**Anne Boemler** (PhD 2019) and **Maria Dikcis** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) co-taught a six-week course in the spring through the inaugural Northwestern Prison Education Program. The class, titled “Introduction to Poetry: Voices, Rhythms, and Visions of Chicago,” was meant to provide incarcerated students at the Cook County Department of Corrections with an opportunity to develop the skills of argumentation, organization, and style that go into formal essay writing. The course concluded with a poetry reading by local Chicago poets Nate Marshall and Daniel Borzutzky, and students received a certificate from Northwestern University for their participation.

**Jayne Collins** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) worked with Professors Harris Feinsod, John Alba Cutler, and Rachel Galvin (of the University of Chicago) in co-founding and organizing the Chicagoland Poetics Initiative, a one-day intensive workshop on new work in poetry and poetics for graduate students and faculty from across the Chicago area and throughout the Midwest. The first workshop took place in May of 2019, and will become an annual event.

**Maria Dikcis’** review of *semiautomatic* (2017) by Evie Shockley was published in *Chicago Review; The Black Arts Movement in Chicago*, issue 62:4/63:1/2, and she has placed two poems, “The Unicorn in Captivity: 1:23am” and “Disbelief is Fertile,” in Yale’s graduate literary and arts magazine *Palimpsest*, Volume IX: Trans[...].

**Bonnie Etherington’s** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) article, “Mapping Modernity in Guam: The unincorporated Ecologies of Craig Santos Perez’s Poetics,” was published in an edited collection from Routledge entitled *New Oceania: Modernism and Modernity in the Pacific*, edited by Matthew Hayward and Maebh Long. Bonnie also did archival work in the University of Hawai’i at Manoa Library’s Pacific collections, thanks to funding from the Northwestern Presidential Fellowship and the Humanities Without Walls project.

**Harrison Graves** (PhD 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and **Delali Kumavie** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year), along with doctoral students from the Departments of African American Studies and Performance Studies, organized the May 2019 “Rupture and Relation: Workshop on Black Critical Thought.” The workshop’s goal was to critically examine the compulsory turn to transcendental relation as a mode of disciplining and organizing Black critical thought, with faculty and graduate students from around the world attending and presenting.

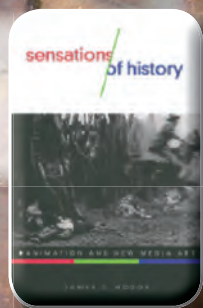
**Erica Hughes** (MFA+MA 2<sup>nd</sup> year) has recently had poems published in *Entropy Magazine*, “What We’re Made Of,” “On My Inability to Speak,” “Memory Is Given Without Permission,” and “Swimming with the Neighbor Kids”; and in *Hot Metal Bridge*, “Funeral.” An interview she conducted with Brooklyn Poet Laureate Tina Chang can be found in the journal *TriQuarterly* at <https://www.triquarterly.org/interviews/interview-tina-chang>.

**Erica and Serena Simpson** (MFA+MA 2<sup>nd</sup> year) were selected, out of a pool of over 2000 applications, as participants in the Tin House Summer Workshop, held at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Erica participating in the poetry sessions, and Serena in the one for non-fiction. Tin House started the series in 2003, providing a venue for their most esteemed and exciting colleagues to work with ambitious and talented up-and-coming writers for a week of workshops, seminars, and readings.

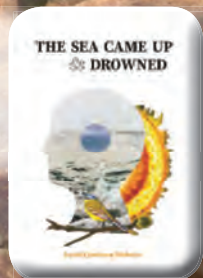
**Paulina Jones-Torregrosa’s** (PhD 2<sup>nd</sup> year) “How to Unleash a Wild Tongue” is being published in spring 2020 as part of *Welcome to the Light*, a graduate student anthology run out of Southern Connecticut State University.

**Jessica Ramirez** (PhD 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and **Katherine Scharfenberg** (PhD 4<sup>th</sup> year) assisted Professors Jules Law and Kelly Wisecup with the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences’ 2019 summer Bridge program, a multi-week orientation designed to welcome, engage, and support incoming students who attended high schools with little or no AP/IB preparation, or who are among the first in their families to attend college.

**James J. Hodge**  
*Sensations of History: Animation and New Media Art*  
University of Minnesota Press



**Rachel Jamison Webster**  
*The Sea Came Up and Drowned*  
Raw Books



## GRADUATE PAPERS & CONFERENCES

### The English Graduate Student Organization's 2018-19 Colloquium Series

#### FALL 2018

**Will Pierce** (PhD 8<sup>th</sup> year) "Counter-surveillance Under Omniscience: the Jesuit Underground in Elizabethan England"

**Clay Cogswell** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "The Case for Suffering: Charlotte Brontë and the Ethics of *Impressibility*"

#### WINTER 2019

**Samantha Botz** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "Collaborative Inclinations: Dialogic Vulnerability in Sarah Fielding and Jane Collier's *The Cry*"

**Johana Godfrey** (PhD 4<sup>th</sup> year) "'Among them piles of bones': Anachronism and the Murk of the Past in *Bleak House*"

#### SPRING 2019

**Harris Mercer** (PhD 4<sup>th</sup> year) "Stranger Things: Distribution and the Vagrancy Crisis in the Year of Lear"

**Serena Simpson** (MFA+MA 2<sup>nd</sup> year) "Through Plastic Windows"

### 2018-19 CONFERENCES

#### OCTOBER 2018

#### The Toronto Renaissance and Reformation Colloquium: Early Modern Cultures of Hospitality

University of Toronto, Canada

**Katie Blankenau** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "Inviting an Author to Supper: Guest-writing and Early Modern Literary Production"

#### NOVEMBER

#### Sixteenth Century Society Conference

Albuquerque, NM

*The Sixteenth Century Society promotes scholarship on the early modern era, broadly defined (ca. 1450 – ca. 1660). The SCS includes scholars from all disciplines in early modern studies including history, art history, religion, history of science, musicology, digital humanities, Ottoman studies, and literary and cultural studies in English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish.*

**Anne Boemler** (PhD 2019) "Pedagogy and Paradise: The Case of the Sixteenth-Century Anthology"

#### Modernist Studies Association

Columbus, OH

*The Modernist Studies Association took shape in 1998 as part of an effort to provide a venue, interdisciplinary and international, in which scholars of*

*Modernism could contribute to ongoing reshapings of the field. Since that time, the annual conference has aimed to provide a forum open to the increasingly interdisciplinary dynamics of contemporary scholarship.*

**Matthew Beeber** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) "Coalitional Aesthetics: Popular Front Politics in Pablo Neruda and Nancy Cunard's Spanish Civil War Anthology, *Los poetas del mundo defendien al pueblo español*"

**Jayme Collins** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) "Pastoral Concrete: Environmental and Industrial Poetics in Ian Hamilton Finlay's *Little Sparta*"

**Harrington Weihl** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) organized the panel "Modernist Physical Cultures," and presented his own paper, "Joyce's Play Against Sporting Nationalisms in *Ulysses*" as part of it.

#### American Studies Association

Atlanta, GA

*The American Studies Association is a scholarly organization founded in 1951. It is the oldest scholarly organization devoted to the interdisciplinary study of U.S. culture and history. The ASA works to promote meaningful dialogue about the U.S., throughout the U.S. and across the globe.*

**Corrine Collins** (PhD 2019) "Violent Intimacies: Queer Multiraciality and Interracial Parenthood in Danzy Senna's *Caucasia*"

#### Christianity and Politics Conference

University of Turku, Finland

*Christianity and Politics zooms in on Christianity with a critical focus on the examination of the relationship between Christianity and politics in the West, particularly the manifold ways in which Christianity and politics have been and are intertwined and exist in relation to one another, both in the past and in the contemporary world.*

**Uta Ayala** (PhD 8<sup>th</sup> year) "'The commune profit koude she redresse': The Political Ethics of Preternatural Brides"

#### African Studies Association Annual Meeting

Atlanta, GA

*The African Studies Association encourages the production and dissemination of knowledge about Africa, past and present. Based in the United States, the ASA supports understanding of an entire continent in each facet of its political, economic, social, cultural, artistic, scientific, and environmental landscape.*

**Yemi Ajisebutu** (CLS PhD 3<sup>rd</sup> year) "Reconceptualizing the Historical Construction and Reconstruction of Efunsetan Aniwura, Iyalode Ibadan"

**Delali Kumavie** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "Measuring Airlessness: Imagining Afro-futurity Through the Poetics of Subjection"

#### JANUARY 2019

#### Modern Language Association Conference

Chicago, IL

**Maria Dikcis** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "Analog Internet: Pseudo-autobiography and the Poetics of Print Digitality in 22nd-Century Multiethnic Writing"

## FEBRUARY

### **Newberry Consortium on American Indian Studies Graduate Conference** Chicago, IL

*The Newberry Consortium in American Indian Studies draws on the Newberry's world-renowned collections in American Indian and Indigenous studies and the resources of the McNickle Center to offer programs such as institutes, conferences, and annual workshops.*

**Bonnie Etherington** (PhD 6<sup>th</sup> year) "Women's Work: Crafting Perseverance and Rhetorical Sovereignty in the Pacific with Queen Lili'uokalani and Penina Ava Taesali"

### **Society of Early Americanists Eleventh Biennial Conference** University of Oregon

*Founded in 1990, the Society of Early Americanists furthers the exchange of ideas and information among scholars of various disciplines who study the literature and culture of America to approximately 1830.*

**Brad Dubos** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) "Spatializing Brotherton: Phenomenology, Memory, and Religious Space in Occom's *Collection of Hymns and Spiritual Songs*"

## MARCH

### **American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies** Denver, CO

*The American Society for 18<sup>th</sup>-century Studies is an interdisciplinary group, established in 1969, dedicated to the advancement of scholarship in all aspects of the period from the later 17<sup>th</sup> through the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

**Samantha Botz** "Collaborative Inclinations: Authorship and Authority in Sarah Fielding and Lane Collier's *The Cry*"  
and "The Character of Collaboration: Sarah Fielding and Lane Collier's *The Cry*"

**Hannah Chaskin** (PhD 7<sup>th</sup> year) "'As never woman loved another': Forms of Friendship in the Eighteenth Century"  
and "'Sickly and Cross': Heterosexual Plots and Ill Narratives"

### **New Oceania Literary Series** University of Hawai'i at Manoa

*The New Oceania Literary Series publishes books, many of them anthologies, focused on vital and urgent themes of Pacific literature today. These books feature creative writing, literary scholarship, and pedagogical materials by multilingual voices and an intergenerational network of writers, scholars, and educators from Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, and the global Pacific diaspora.*

**Bonnie Etherington** "West Papua in the New Oceania: Through a Literary Lens"

### **Renaissance Society of America** Toronto, Canada

*Founded in 1954, the Renaissance Society of America promotes the study of the period 1300-1650. The R.S.A brings together scholars from many backgrounds in a wide variety of disciplines from North America and around the world.*

**Anne Boemler** "The Question of Truth in Abraham Cowley's *Dauides*"

### **Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States** Cincinnati, OH

*Founded in 1973, MELUS endeavors to expand the definition of new, more broadly conceived US literature through the study and teaching of Latino, Native American, African American, Asian and Pacific American, and ethnically specific Euro-American literary works, their authors, and their cultural contexts.*

**Maria Dikcis** "Printed Internets: Pseudo-autobiography and Digital Interruptions in 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Multiethnic Poetry"

## APRIL

### **Conference on Eliza Haywood: 300 Years of Love in Excess** Purdue University - Indianapolis, IN

**Samantha Botz** "Spying on the Narrative Conjuror: Eliza Haywood's Partial Spectators"

### **Shakespeare Association of America** Washington, DC

*The Shakespeare Association of America is a non-profit professional organization for the advanced academic study of William Shakespeare's plays and poems, his cultural and theatrical contexts, and the many roles he has played in world culture.*

**Katie Blankenau** "London's strange hosts: Performing hospitalities in *The Magnificent Entertainment*"

**Casey Caldwell** (PhD 2019) "The Utterance of Flesh in *The Merchant of Venice*"

### **Kaplan Institute for the Humanities Symposium - "Waste Matters"** Chicago, IL

At the symposium's Keyword Roundtable, moderated by Professor Harris Feinsod, participants presented on specific keywords. **Bonnie Etherington** (Contamination), **Jayme Collins** (Mold), and **Adam Syvertsen** (Decay) were among those involved.

## MAY

### **African Literature Association Annual Meeting** Columbus, OH

*The African Literature Association is an independent non-profit professional society open to scholars, teachers and writers from every country. It exists primarily to facilitate the attempts of a world-wide audience to appreciate the efforts of African writers and artists.*

**Susanna Sacks** (PhD 2019) "Social Media Canons: The Digitization of Literary Prestige in South Africa and Koleka Putuma's *Collective Amnesia*"  
and "The Promise of a Pan-African Poetics: The Spoken Word Project, IGO Poetry Prizes, and the Establishment of Digital African Poetry Networks"

continued on page 12

## GRADUATE PAPERS & CONFERENCES CONTINUED

**American Literature Association**  
Boston, MA

and

**The Cultural Studies Association**  
New Orleans, LA

**Maria Dikcis** “All in a Day’s Work: LaTasha N. Nevada Diggs’s *TwERK* and the Performance of Racial Sonic Labor”

**Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR)  
Research Symposium**  
Northwestern University

*CNAIR is Northwestern University’s primary institutional space dedicated to advancing scholarship, teaching, learning, and artistic or cultural practices related to Native American and Indigenous communities, priorities, histories, and lifeways. This, the first in an annual symposium series, featured presentations by its artist-in-residence, undergraduate and graduate fellows, and Center affiliates sharing their work from the year.*

**Brad Dubos** “Placing Brothertown Hymnody”

**Kalamazoo International Congress on Medieval Studies**  
Kalamazoo, MI

*The International Medieval Congress is an annual gathering of more than 3,000 scholars interested in Medieval Studies. It features more than 550 sessions of papers, panel discussions, roundtables, workshops, and performances.*

**Stephanie Pentz** (PhD 8<sup>th</sup> year) “‘Leie to this olde sor a newe salve’: Wartime and Peacetime in John Gower’s *In Praise of Peace*”

### JUNE

**Canon? Practice? Commodity? The Past, Present and Future  
of the Literary Anthology**  
Queen Mary University of London

**Matthew Beeber** (PhD 4<sup>th</sup> year) “Collectivist Collections: Coalitional Formation in the 1930s Radical Anthology”

**Association for the Study of Literature and Environment**  
University of California - Davis

*ASLE is the principal professional association for American and international scholars of ecocriticism and environmental humanities. It was founded in 1992 for the purpose of “sharing of facts, ideas, and texts concerning the study of literature and the environment.”*

**Jayne Collins** (PhD 5<sup>th</sup> year) “Silken Bodies: Queer Historiography and Archival Ecology in Jen Bervin’s *Silk Poems* (2017)”

**European Council on African Studies Annual Meeting**  
University of Edinburgh, Scotland

*The ECAS is organized by the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies, which was set up in 1991 in order to build upon the resources and the research potential available within Africanist institutions of the European Union.*

**Susanna Sacks** (PhD 2019) “Decolonizing the Canon: Lingua Franca Spoken Word Movement and the Transformation of South African Poetry Institutions”

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Conference**  
University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand

*The Native American and Indigenous Studies Association is an interdisciplinary, international membership-based organization, incorporated in 2009 and comprised of scholars working in the fields of Native American and Indigenous Studies, broadly defined.*

**Bonnie Etherington** chaired a roundtable she has organized on “Wansolwara: The Trans-Indigenous Ocean With West Papua.”

### JULY

**Brothertown Forward Summer Speaker Series**  
Chicago, IL

*Brothertown Forward is a group of Brothertown citizens committed to dialogue, deliberation, and demonstrable movement which preserves and protects the Brothertown Indian Nation. Its Summer Speaker Series features live video presentations and conversations on current scholarly research and publications involving the Brothertown Indians.*

**Brad Dubos** “Samson Occom’s Hymnal and Brothertown Orientations”

### AUGUST

**North American Society for the Study of Romanticism**  
Chicago, IL

*The North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR) was founded at the University of Western Ontario in 1991 by a group of faculty members and graduate students. NASSR was established to provide a forum for the discussion of a wide variety of theoretical approaches to Romantic works of all genres, disciplines, languages, and countries of origin.*

**Jennifer Comerford** (2<sup>nd</sup> year) “The Proleptic Present: Helen Maria’s Utopian Vision in *Letters Written in France*”

# GRADUATE COLLOQUIA

## American Cultures Colloquium

Each year the American Cultures Colloquium hosts a speaker series designed to foster multi-disciplinary exchange among Northwestern's plurality of Americanist scholars. Last year, the ACC's program included talks by Marianne Noble (American University) in the Fall Quarter, Timothy Yu (University of Wisconsin-Madison) in the Winter, and Northwestern's own scholar, Jennifer Nash, Associate Professor of African American Studies and Gender & Sexuality Studies. Our series began on October 24<sup>th</sup>, with Northwestern's own Jay Grossman (English) whose talk, "Manuprint: Walt Whitman and Modes of Authenticity" which called for renewed attention to the materiality of Whitman's compositional practices, and rearticulating Whitman's relation to both handwriting and print. On February 13-14<sup>th</sup>, we'll be welcoming Sari Altschuler (Northeastern University) who will present on her work in the fields of health humanities and disability studies, which focuses primarily on the literature and culture of the early United States. In the spring, we will welcome Rachel Galvin (University of Chicago) on April 16-17<sup>th</sup> to discuss her work on 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century English, Spanish, and French poetry, hemispheric studies, U.S. Latinx poetry, and poetry and politics. The ACC speaker series will conclude on May 21-22<sup>nd</sup> with a talk from Susan Scott-Parrish (University of Michigan) whose research "addresses the interrelated issues of race, the environment, and knowledge-making in the Atlantic world from the seventeenth up through the mid-twentieth century, with a particular emphasis on southern and Caribbean plantation zones."

## Colloquium on Indigeneity & Native American Studies

The Colloquium on Indigeneity and Native American Studies (CINAS) is a Graduate student run interdisciplinary academic endeavor at Northwestern University that aims to promote and stimulate conversations with and about Indigenous peoples and politics. In 2018-19, Bonnie Etherington (English) was the Colloquium's President, Alissa Baker-Oglesbee (Cognitive Psychology) was Treasurer, and Kelly Wisecup was our faculty advisor. Last year our major event was a panel on "Sovereignty," featuring Doug Kiel (History, Northwestern) in conversation with Jenny L. Davis (American Indian Studies, Anthropology, and Gender & Women's Studies, U of Illinois), and J. Kēhaulani Kauanui (Anthropology & American Studies, Wesleyan). This was a joint event with the Center for Native American and Indigenous Research (CNAIR) and the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities' Dialogues on Security. Over the course of the year we also held regular working group meetings and we look forward to continuing our Indigenous studies-related initiatives and programming throughout 2019-20.

## Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium

This year, the Long Nineteenth Century Colloquium (LNCC) is co-chaired by Tyler Talbott (English) and Clair Arnold (History). The LNCC fosters interdisciplinary connections, conversation, and collaboration between graduate and faculty scholars of the global 19<sup>th</sup>-century, bridging diverse research interests and career stages. Thank you to last-year's chairs, Johana Godfrey and Gideon Cohn-Postar, for their fantastic program that included talks by Tristram Wolff (Northwestern), Adela Pinch (University of Michigan), and Preeti Chopra (University of Wisconsin-Madison). The LNCC has a fantastic series of talks planned for the 2019-20 academic year. In the Fall Quarter, Tanya Agathocleous (CUNY) will speak on the role of negative affect in Indian print culture. In the Winter Quarter, the LNCC will host Benjamin Morgan (University of Chicago) to discuss fin-de-siècle literary genres and climate change, and will co-sponsor with the British Studies Cluster Anna Kornbluh's (University of Illinois-Chicago) talk on impersonality and the novel. In the Spring Quarter, historian Nara Milanich (Barnard College) will be speaking about family law and state building in Chile. As in past years, visiting speakers will also offer graduate student master-classes on contemporary, interdisciplinary topics for humanities scholars.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Carla Arnell** (PhD 1999) was promoted earlier in 2019 to the rank of Full Professor at Lake Forest College in Illinois

**Charlotte Artese's** (PhD 2002) second book, *Shakespeare and the Folktale: An Anthology of Stories*, was recently published by Princeton University Press.

**Sarah Blackwood** (PhD 2009) has published her first book, *The Portrait's Subject: Inventing Inner Life in Nineteenth-Century America*, with the University of North Carolina Press. Over the past summer, Sarah also published two book reviews in *The New Yorker* and *The New Republic*, and is currently working on writing the introduction for a new Penguin Classics edition of Edith Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*. The first three books in the *Avidly Reads* book series that Sarah is editing with **Sarah Mesle** (PhD 2009) were published this Fall; *Avidly Reads Board Games* by Eric Thurm, *Avidly Reads Making Out* by Kathryn Bond Stockton, and *Avidly Reads Theory* by Jordan Alexander Stein.

**Katy Chiles** (Ph.D. 2008) is the new Co-Editor for Reviews for the journal *Early American Literature*. She is also serving on the Advisory Council of the American Literature Society and as Vice Chair of Africana Studies at the University of Tennessee.

**Vanessa I. Corredera** (PhD 2012) was recently awarded tenure at Andrews University. This fall, she published the essay "The Moor Makes a Cameo: *Serial*, Shakespeare, and White Racial Frame" in *The Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Global Appropriation*, and she has two forthcoming essays, "How Dey Goin to Kill Othello?": *Key & Peele* and Shakespearean Universality" in *The Journal of American Studies* and "Get Out and the Remediation of *Othello's* Sunken Place: Beholding White Supremacy's Coagula" in *Borrowers and Lenders*. She co-led a double seminar on Shakespeare and Cultural Appropriation at SAA 2019, and she will present on the panel Shakespeare, Race, and Adaptation for SAA 2020. She is currently working on a book that turns to appropriations of *Othello* created in "postracial" America in order to examine how particular representational strategies result in either anti-

black or anti-racist reimaginings of the play. She shared this scholarship as the Emerging Scholar Plenary at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference in June 2019, and will again as a speaker for the RaceB4Race 3: Appropriations Symposium hosted by ACMRS in January 2020.

**Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus'** (PhD 2012) first book, *Afro-Realisms and the Romances of Race: Rethinking Blackness in the African American Novel*, will be published in April 2020 by Louisiana State University Press.

**Becky Fall** (PhD 2016) finished a postdoctoral Mellon/ACLS Public Fellowship at The Public Theater in New York City in January of 2019, and is now working as a Program Manager at the Newbery Library's Center for Renaissance Studies, along with having resumed her role as a PreAmble Scholar at the Chicago Shakespeare Theater. In March, she presented "Making Midsummer for the People: Audience, Access, and the Politics of Engagement," at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Toronto, Canada. Her article, "Nonsense and Rebellion" was published in *Shakespeare Studies* 46.

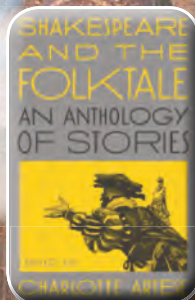
**Ryan Friedman's** (PhD 2004) second book, *The Movies as a World Force: American Silent Cinema and the Utopian Imagination*, was published in early 2019 by Rutgers University Press.

**Aaron Greenberg** (PhD 2017) co-founded [bioGraph LLC](#), a life-writing company that works with clients including the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Civic Consulting Alliance, and several multi-generation family businesses. Forthcoming in 2020, bioGraph will publish a book form of *On the Corner*, a collection of stories based around Chicago intersections, as well as *Words Matter*, an anthology of stories from Holocaust survivors, produced in partnership with the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center. Aaron currently teaches "(Still) life-writing," a first-year seminar at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and his chapter, "Science, Politics, and Sovereignty: Vitalism and Early Modern Theories of Materiality in *King Lear*," is being published in *Shakespeare's Things: Shakespearean Theatre and the Non-Human*

## ALUMNI PUBLICATIONS

**Charlotte Artese**  
(PhD 2002)

*Shakespeare and the Folktale: An Anthology of Stories* (ed.)  
Princeton UP



**Sarah Blackwood**  
(PhD 2009)

*The Portrait's Subject: Inventing Inner Life in the Nineteenth-Century United States*  
UNC Press



**Michael Bryson**  
(PhD 2001)

*The Humanist (Re)Turn: Reclaiming the Self in Literature*  
New York: Routledge



**Ryan Friedman**  
(PhD 2004)

*The Movies as a World Force: American Silent Cinema and the Utopian Imagination*  
Rutgers UP



**Chris Hager**  
(PhD 2003)

*Timelines of American Literature* (co-ed.)  
Johns Hopkins UP



**Paul Hedeem**  
(PhD 1990)

*The Butterfly*  
BHC Press



*World in History, Theory, and Performance*, eds. Brett Gamboa and Lawrence Switzky (forthcoming from Routledge in January 2020).

In April, **Chris Hager** (PhD 2003) had the pleasure of welcoming to Trinity College fellow NU alum Katy Chiles and current NU faculty member Kelly Wisecup, both among the participants in a symposium and digital-humanities project called Hidden Literacies (forthcoming at [www.hiddenliteracies.org](http://www.hiddenliteracies.org)), which he is co-editing with his Trinity colleague Hilary Wyss. Also, Chris was promoted to Full Professor and received an ACLS fellowship to support his next book project, a cultural history of illiteracy in the United States.

**Carissa Harris** (PhD 2012) was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor at Temple University in 2019.

**Paul M. Hedeem's** (PhD 1990) second novel, *The Butterfly*, was published in February 2019 by BHC Press.

In 2019, **Carolina Hotchandani** (PhD 2013) began a tenure track position at the University of Nebraska: Omaha as a Goodrich Assistant Professor in English.

**Kara Johnson** (PhD 2017) is in her second year as the Manager of Teacher and Student Programs at the Newberry Library, where she creates professionalization programs and curates digital content for K-12 humanities teachers in the Chicago area.

After most of a decade as director of the University of Scranton's Honors program, **Joe Kraus** (PhD 2000) moved on to become chair of the Department of English & Theatre, and remains President of MELUS, the Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States.

**Deanna Kreisel** (PhD 1995) began a tenured position as an Associate Professor at the University of Mississippi in 2019.

**John Edward Martin** (PhD 2006) is a Scholarly Communication Librarian at the University of North Texas, and recently became a member of the Board of Directors for the Digital Frontiers organization, and co-founding editor of its new journal, *Unbound: A Journal of Digital Scholarship*. He is also the Book Review Editor for the *Edgar Allan Poe Review*, and he recently wrote a chapter on Poe, women, and comics for a forthcoming book on *Women and Poe Studies*. He organizes the [Comics Studies@UNT](mailto:ComicsStudies@UNT) reading group and blog, and is currently helping to organize a conference on "Making Monsters" for the fall of 2020.

**Gregory Laski's** (PhD 2012) book *Untimely Democracy: The Politics of Progress after Slavery* (Oxford, 2017) won the American Literature Association's 2019 Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society Scholarship Award. Greg is at work on two new projects: a coedited volume to support citizen formation, "Democracies in America: Keywords for the Nineteenth Century and Today"; and an intellectual history of race and revenge after the Civil War. An excerpt from the latter study was recently published in *American Literature*.

**Jennifer Michael** (PhD 1996) is continuing as chair of the English Department at the University of the South (Sewanee). Jennifer finished up a 2-year term as president of the International Conference on Romanticism at the end of 2018, and has been writing and publishing more poetry lately, posted at [jenniferdavismichael@wordpress.com](mailto:jenniferdavismichael@wordpress.com). A chapbook of Jennifer's poems, *Let Me Let Go*, is forthcoming in January 2020 from Finishing Line Press.

**Gayle Rogers** (PhD 2008) is professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, where he has just begun a term as chair of the department. He has continued his work as associate editor of *Critical Quarterly*, for which he is editing a special issue on risk theory, and as co-editor with Sean Latham of the book series *New Modernisms* (Bloomsbury Academic), which has just published its eighth title. His and Latham's *New Modernist Studies Reader* is forthcoming in late 2020. His current book project is a history of the concept of speculation from Aristotle to artificial intelligence. He is grateful for the help he has received on this project from several of his NU English professors from the past, and from several friends from the grad program—in Gayle's words, "you know who you are, and you're the best."

**Laura Rosenthal** (PhD 1990) has a new book coming out in late 2019 or early 2020, *Ways of the World: Theater and Cosmopolitanism in the Restoration and Beyond*, published by Cornell University Press. Laura is editor of the journal *Restoration: Studies in Literary Culture 1660-1700*, and serves at the University of Maryland as the Director for Faculty Leadership in the Office of Faculty Affairs.

**Whitney Taylor** (PhD 2015) was the co-winner of the Milton Society of America's 2019 James Holly Hanford Award for a distinguished article on Milton.

In February of 2020, **Abram Van Engen's** (PhD 2010) next book, *City on a Hill: A History of American Exceptionalism*, will be published by Yale University Press.

**Jade Werner's** (PhD 2014) edited collection titled *Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion: Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue* (co-edited with Joshua King) was published back in May 2019 by Ohio State University Press.

**John Young's** (PhD 1998) article, "The Editorial Ontology of the Periodical Text," is out in *Ecdotica* vol. 15 (2019): 89-128, and his chapter "The Textual 'Truth' behind Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*" (originally a blog post for the Harry Ransom Center) was included in the 2018 e-book edition of Harold Bloom's *Modern Critical Interpretations* series on O'Brien's book. In 2019, he co-edited a posthumous collection of his mother's poetry, *A Careful Hunger* by Judy Young (University of Kentucky Press), with Mary Ann Taylor-Hall and Susan Starr Richards.

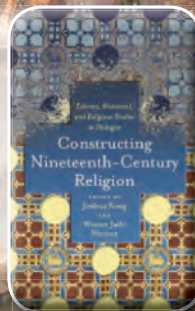
**Joe Kraus**  
(PhD 2000)

*The Kosher Capones: The History of Chicago's Jewish Gangsters*  
Northern Illinois UP



**Winter Jade Werner**  
(PhD 2014)

*Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion: Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue* (co-ed.)  
Ohio State UP



**John Young**  
(PhD 1998)

*A Careful Hunger: Poetry by Judy Young* (co-ed.)  
U Kentucky Press



We are grateful to everyone who has donated to the department over the years. It is with your continued support that we are able to offer our graduate students the many opportunities for research and professionalization funding available to them.

We list here, with our most sincere thanks, our valued donors from this past year.

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# Musings

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Designed by  
Nathan Mead

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<http://sites.northwestern.edu/englishmusings/>

Please send thoughts and news to

## Musings

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Northwestern English

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