

DAVID FAFLIK

DEPARTMENT ADDRESS

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CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2005)
Major: American Literature to 1900; Minor: American Studies
M.A. English. University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (2001)
M.S. Technical Communications. Utah State University (1999)
M.A. History. University of Washington (1996)
B.A. Honors History and English. University of Texas at Austin (1994, Phi Beta Kappa)

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2011 - present: Professor of English, Univ. of Rhode Island; promoted/tenured, 2015; promotion to Full, 2019
2008 - 2011: Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, South Dakota State University
2006 - 2008: Assistant Professor, Dept. of American Culture & Literature, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey
2005 - 2006: Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of English, University of Arkansas

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nineteenth-century American literature and culture, American Renaissance, the city in literature, urban studies, global American Studies, History of the Book

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Transcendental Heresies: Harvard and the Modern American Practice of Unbelief (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2020)

Urban Formalism: The Work of City Reading (New York: Fordham University Press, 2020)
Appears in POLIS: Fordham Series in Urban Studies

Melville and the Question of Meaning (New York: Routledge, 2018)
Appears in Routledge Series Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature

Boarding Out: Inhabiting the American Urban Literary Imagination, 1840 - 1860 (Northwestern UP, 2012)

David Faflik, ed. *The Physiology of New York Boarding-Houses*. By Thomas Butler Gunn (1857; Rutgers UP, 2009)

Articles and Chapters:

"Communitarianism," in *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Politics*, ed. John D. Kerkering (New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming Dec. 2021).

"Notes to Reader: Whitman's Adventures in Metafiction," *Studies in American Fiction* 46.1 (Spring 2019): 55-77.

"Antebellum Apathy: A Study of Indifference in Melville," *American Literature* 89.3 (Sept. 2017): 529-56.

- "Fashion, France, and the Politics of Form," *Arizona Quarterly* 73.3 (Autumn 2017): 49-75.
- "Melville's Little Historical Method," *J19: Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 5.1 (Spring 2017): 51-77.
- "Transcendentalism," from *Henry David Thoreau in Context*, ed. James Finley (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017), 100-109.
- "Stuart Hall and the Whiteness of the Whale," *South Atlantic Quarterly* 115.4 (Oct. 2016): 715-25.
- "What We Talk About When We Talk About Poe," *Edgar Allan Poe Review* 17.1 (Spring 2016): 1-5.
- "Deep Thought, Shallow Aesthetic: Reading Surface Meaning in Thoreau," *American Literature* 85.1 (March 2013): 61-91.
- "Light Writing: Verbal, Visual, and Virtual Images in the STEM Classroom," *Currents in Teaching and Learning* 5.1/2 (Fall 2012 – Spring 2013): 52-64.
- "A Nobel Sport: The Racial Football Rhetoric of Mandela, Obama, and Martin Luther King Jr.," *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* 36.4 (Nov. 2012): 361-86.
- "A Philadelphia Story; or, the Mysteries of Phil," in *Phil Lapsansky: Appreciations*, a *festschrift* volume dedicated to Phillip S. Lapsansky (archivist of early African Americana) on his retirement from the Library Company of Philadelphia (Philadelphia: The Library Company of Philadelphia, 2012): 64-66.
- "Housing the 'Other' Half: American Studies' Global Urban Turn," *Journal of Transnational American Studies* 2.1 (March 2010).
- "Myth, Symbol, and American Studies Methodology: the Post-National Persistence of the Humanities," *Amerikastudien / American Studies* 54.2 (2009): 229-47.
- "Authorship, Ownership, and the Case for *Charles Anderson Chester*," *Book History* (2008): 149-68.
- "Boardinghouse Life, Boardinghouse Letters," *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 40.1 (Spring 2007): 27-47.
- "*Fútbol América*: Hemispheric Sport as Border Studies," *Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture* (1900-present) 5.1 (Spring 2006).
- "Community, Civility, Compromise: Dr. Holmes's Boston Boardinghouse," *New England Quarterly* 78.4 (December 2005): 547-69.
- "South of the 'Border,' or Poe's *Pym*: A Case Study in Region, Race, and American Literary History," *Mississippi Quarterly* 57.2 (Spring 2004): 265-88.
- "Young American Puns: Antebellum Wordplay & Democratic Manhattan," *American Speech* 78.1 (Spring 2003): 75-92.
- "Graffiti Northwest: The Suburban Landscape," *Proteus: A Journal of Ideas* [special issue on Popular Culture and Folk Art] (Spring 1999): 35-39.

Reviews:

- Phillip Schweighauser, *Beautiful Deceptions: European Aesthetics, the Early American Novel, and Illusionist Art* (Univ. of Virginia Press, 2016) and Michelle Sizemore, *American Enchantment: Rituals of the People in the Post-Revolutionary World* (Oxford Univ. Press, 2018), *American Literature* (forthcoming March 2020).
- Douglas A. Guerra, *Slantwise Moves: Games, Literature, and Social Invention in Nineteenth-Century America* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), *Journal of American History* (forthcoming).

Joshua Kottin, *Utopias of One* (Princeton Univ. Press, 2017), *Thoreau Society Bulletin* 303 (Fall 2018): 12-13.

A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau, ed. Jack Turner (Univ. of Kentucky Press, 2010). Review appears in the Web edition of *boundary 2* (March 13, 2014).

Wendy Gamber, *The Boardinghouse in Nineteenth-Century America* (Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 2007), *American Nineteenth Century History* 9.3 (September 2008): 290-91.

William C. Dowling, *Oliver Wendell Holmes in Paris: Medicine, Theology, and the Autocrat of the Breakfast Table* (Univ. Press of New England, 2006) and Michael A. Weinstein, *The Imaginative Prose of Oliver Wendell Holmes* (Univ. of Missouri Press, 2006), *New England Quarterly* 80.1 (March 2007): 159-62.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Books:

Reception Histories: The Form of the Gift in American Literature

Articles:

"Critique, Belief, and the 'Negative' Tendencies of New England Transcendentalism," *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* (under review)

AWARDS and HONORS

- 2019 Subvention Grant, The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society
Project Completion Grant, Division of Research and Economic Development, University of Rhode Island
Subvention Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 2018 Regional Research Fellow, New England Regional Fellowship Consortium
Marjorie Harding Memorial Fellowship, The Thoreau Society
Faculty Career Enhancement Grant, Council for Research, University of Rhode Island
Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 2014 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society
- 2013 Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 2011 Subvention Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 2010 Academic and Scholarly Excellence, Office of Academic Affairs, South Dakota State University
- 2009 Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Support Grant, South Dakota State University, for interdisciplinary campus initiative in Visual Thinking Strategies, Instruction, and Assessment
South Dakota Humanities Council Grant, for campus colloquium on "Race, Rhetoric, Sport"
- 2006 Teaching Support Grant, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, to lead undergraduate field-trip to local squatter settlement for comparative study of Jacob Riis's *How the Other Half Lives*
- 2004 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, The Library Company of Philadelphia
- 2003 Gilder Lehrman Dissertation Fellowship, New York Public Library

SELECTED CONFERENCES / PAPERS

"A Gifting of Indians: Roger Williams's *Key* to the Literatures of Colonial Exchange," a paper delivered as part of the "Indigeneity and Cultural Exchange" panel at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (SHARP), Amherst, Mass., July 2019

"From Ecstasy to Blasphemy: Belief, Critique, and the 'Negative' Critical Tendency of New England Transcendentalism," a paper delivered as part of the Emerson Society Panel at the Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord, Mass., July 2018

"(Not) Seeing the Nineteenth-Century City," a paper presented to the "(Not) Seeing the 19th Century: Photographs, Archives, and Absences" seminar (co-led by Laura Wexler, Yale University, and Shawn Michelle Smith, Art Institute of Chicago) at the biannual meeting of the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19), Penn State, PA, March 2016

"Historicism Unsettled: Reading the Nineteenth Century," panel member at the biannual meeting of the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19), Penn State, PA, March 2016

"A Critical Case for 'Little' History," a paper presented to the "American Literature: New Narratives, New Paradigms" seminar (led by Kenneth Warren, University of Chicago) at the biannual meeting of the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19), Chapel Hill, NC, March 2014

"Hard Times in the Land of Plenty: Imagining American Studies at the Land-Grant University," a paper delivered at the American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, "Imagination, Reparation, Transformation," Baltimore, MD, October 2011

Session Organizer and Chair, "Urban Perspectives: Literature of and for the City," Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA, January 2011

"The Forms and Functions of Modern Metropolitan American Literature," a paper delivered at the College English Association (CEA) "Design" Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, March 2009

Member and attendee, European Association for American Studies (EAAS), Nineteenth-Century American Literature Reading Group, Poznan, Poland, 2006-2007

"From Noir to Nowhere: Cities, Cinema, and the Global Mysteries of America," a paper delivered at the Third International American Studies Association (IASA) Conference, as part of the "Transatlantic and Transpacific Popular Culture" panel, University of Lisbon, Portugal, September 2007

"Myth, Symbol, and American Studies Methodology," a paper delivered at the Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (ASCA) Conference "Inside Knowledge," University of Amsterdam, March 2007

"Thoreau's *Walden*: The Cabin by the Pond and the Urban Boardinghouse," a paper delivered at the Graduate School of American Studies, Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan, April 2006

Participant, NEH Summer Institute in Literary Studies, "Benjamin Franklin: Reader, Writer, Printer," National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, July 2005

Conference participant, American Antiquarian Society Summer Seminar, "Enriching American Studies Scholarship Through the History of the Book," Worcester, Mass., June 2004

COURSES

University of Rhode Island

American Studies 204: Gateway Course for Undergraduate Minor in American Studies

Introduction to American Studies

English 110: Introduction to Literature

Imagining Early America

ENG 241: U.S. Literature I

Survey of Early American Literature

English 243: The Short Story

The American Short Story

English 339: Literary Nonfiction

Culture and Criticism: The Essay

English 347: Antebellum U.S. Literature and Culture

New England Transcendentalism

English 347: Antebellum U.S. Literature and Culture

American Renaissance

English 399: Special Topics

City Mysteries in the Nineteenth Century

English 469: The Novel

The House of Fiction in the Nineteenth Century

English 484: U.S. Authors Before 1900

The Writings of Herman Melville

English 510: Introduction to Professional Study I (graduate)

English 511: Introduction to Professional Study II (graduate)

English 543: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Texts (graduate)

Reading the Antebellum City

English 543: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Texts (graduate)

Melville and Historical Method

English 543: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Texts (graduate)

Sense and Sentimentalism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature

English 543: Seminar in Historical Periods (graduate)

Nineteenth-Century New England Transcendentalism

English 605: Seminar in Genres (graduate)

Antebellum Apathy

English 999: Methods of Teaching Literature (graduate)

Honors Program 107: Honors Seminar in Letters

Introduction to American Studies

Honors Program section of ENG 243: The Short Story

The American Short Story

South Dakota State University

English 151: Introduction to English Studies

English 212: World Literature II

Remapping the Americas (online)

English 241: American Literature I

English 268: Literature & Sport

English 277: Technical Writing in Engineering

English 379: Technical Communication

English 492: Professional Writing in the Sciences and Humanities

English 553: American Renaissance (graduate)

English 592: Special Topics Seminar (graduate)
Reading the Transatlantic City
English 728: Seminar in American Literature to 1900 (graduate)
Reading the Antebellum City

Bilkent University

American Studies 195: Introduction to American Studies I
American Studies 196 Introduction to American Studies II
American Studies 374: American Poetry
American Studies 396: Social and Cultural Movements
American Transcendentalism
American Studies 461: The History of the Book in America
American Studies 467: The Early American Metropolis

University of Arkansas

English 3833 American Novel
The "Long" Nineteenth Century
English 3843 American Short Story
Readers, Writers, Printers
English 5243 American Romanticism (graduate)

ACADEMIC SERVICE, University of Rhode Island

UNIVERSITY-WIDE SERVICE

Member, Special Committee on Minor Programs of Study, 2019-2020
Director, Undergraduate Minor in American Studies, 2011-2017
Member, University Task Force on Graduate Teaching Assistantships, 2015-2017
Member, University Search Committee for Associate Dean of the Graduate School, May 2015
University Graduate Council Member, At-large Arts & Sciences Representative, 2013-2015
Graduate Council Curriculum Sub-Committee, 2013
Graduate Council New Programs Sub-Committee, 2013-2015
Graduate Council Graduate Awards Sub-Committee, 2013-2015
Urban Studies Faculty, 2011-present
Vice President, Phi Beta Kappa, Beta Chapter of Rhode Island, 2018-present

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Member, Dean's Advisory Committee, 2015-2019
Faculty Mentor, 2016-2017
Member, Collaboration/Program Development Committee, NEH Next Generation Ph.D. Grant, 2017

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018
Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2017
English Executive Committee, 2016-2017
Literature T.A. Supervisor (Departmental Administrative Position), 2011-2016
English Graduate Committee, 2011-2017, 2019-2020
English Graduate Admissions, 2011-2017, 2019-2020
English Graduate Fellowship Sub-Committee, 2011-2012, 2015-2017
Undergraduate Writing Contest Panel Member, 2014-present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS), Short-Term Fellowship Selection Committee, 2019-2020

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)

Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing (SHARP)