

# David Faflik

## 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, University of Rhode Island  
(tenure and promotion 2015, promotion to Full Professor 2019)
- 2008 - 2011: Assistant Professor, Department of English, South Dakota State University
- 2006 - 2008: Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture & Literature, Bilkent University
- 2005 - 2006: Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Arkansas

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Nineteenth-century American literature and culture, urban studies, global American Studies, History of the Book, Society and Sport

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books:

- The Literary Gift in Early America* (forthcoming Stanford University Press, Spring 2025)
- That Futebol Feeling: Sport and Play in Brazil's Heartland* (forthcoming Temple University Press, 2025)
- Transcendental Heresies: Harvard and the Modern American Practice of Unbelief*  
(University of Massachusetts Press, 2020)
- Urban Formalism: The Work of City Reading*  
(Fordham University Press, 2020) / Appears in POLIS: Fordham Series in Urban Studies
- Melville and the Question of Meaning*  
(Routledge, 2018) / Appears in Routledge Series Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature
- Boarding Out: Inhabiting the American Urban Literary Imagination, 1840 - 1860*  
(Northwestern University Press, 2012)
- David Faflik, ed. *The Physiology of New York Boarding-Houses*. By Thomas Butler Gunn  
(Rutgers University Press, 2009)

### Articles and Chapters:

- "Communitarianism and Its Literary Contexts," in *The Cambridge Companion to Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Politics*, ed. John D. Kerkerling (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024), 93–106.

- “Brazilian Independence, or the Year of the Whale,” *(Syn)thesis* 15, no. 2 (2022): 43–58, special issue on “200 Years of Brazilian International Thought: Places and Perspectives.”
- “Migrações Literárias no Século XXI,” in the *Coleção Desafios Globais* book series, *Vol. 2: América do Norte*, from the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG) (Belo Horizonte: UFMG Press, 2021), 287–99.
- “Critique, Belief, and the Negative Tendencies of New England Transcendentalism,” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 66, no. 3 (2020): 518–32.
- “Notes to Reader: Whitman’s Adventures in Metafiction,” *Studies in American Fiction* 46, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 55–77.
- “Antebellum Apathy: A Study of Indifference in Melville,” *American Literature* 89, no. 3 (Sept. 2017): 529–56.
- “Fashion, France, and the Politics of Form,” *Arizona Quarterly* 73, no. 3 (Autumn 2017): 49–75.
- “Melville’s Little Historical Method,” *J19: Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 5, no. 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, no. 4 (Oct. 2016): 715–25.
- “What We Talk About When We Talk About Poe,” *Edgar Allan Poe Review* 17, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 1–5.
- “Deep Thought, Shallow Aesthetic: Reading Surface Meaning in Thoreau,” *American Literature* 85, no. 1 (March 2013): 61–91.
- “Light Writing: Verbal, Visual, and Virtual Images in the STEM Classroom,” *Currents in Teaching and Learning* 5, no. 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, no. 1 (March 2010).
- “Myth, Symbol, and American Studies Methodology: the Post-National Persistence of the Humanities,” *Amerikastudien / American Studies* 54, no. 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, no. 1 (Spring 2007): 27–47.
- “Fútbol América: Hemispheric Sport as Border Studies,” *Americana: The Journal of American Popular Culture* (1900-present) 5, no. 1 (Spring 2006).

“Community, Civility, Compromise: Dr. Holmes’s Boston Boardinghouse,” *New England Quarterly* 78, no. 4 (Dec. 2005): 547–69.

“South of the ‘Border,’ or Poe’s *Pym*: A Case Study in Region, Race, and American Literary History,” *Mississippi Quarterly* 57, no. 2 (Spring 2004): 265–88.

“Young American Puns: Antebellum Wordplay & Democratic Manhattan,” *American Speech* 78, no. 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:

“Race and the Cultures of Transcendental Reform,” a review essay of Peter Wirzbicki, *Fighting for the Higher Law: Black and White Transcendentalists Against Slavery* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021). In *Reviews in American History* 50, no. 1 (March 2022): 25–30.

Douglas A. Guerra, *Slantwise Moves: Games, Literature, and Social Invention in Nineteenth-Century America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018), *Journal of American History* 107, no. 1 (June 2020): 192.

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* 92, no. 1 (March 2020): 151–53.

Joshua Kotin, *Utopias of One* (Princeton University Press, 2017), *Thoreau Society Bulletin* 303 (Fall 2018): 12–13.

*A Political Companion to Henry David Thoreau*, ed. Jack Turner (University 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 University Press, 2007), *American Nineteenth Century History* 9, no. 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, no. 1 (March 2007): 159–62.

#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

##### Books:

*Back of the Bus: Race and the Integration of Red Sox Nation* (under external review, UMass Press)

*Meaningful Relay: The Burden of Metaphor in Melville and Twain*

#### **AWARDS and HONORS**

2024 Project Completion Grant, Division of Research and Economic Development, University of Rhode Island

2023 Regional Research Fellow, New England Regional Fellowship Consortium

- Faculty Career Enhancement Grant, Office of Research Development, University of Rhode Island
- Subvention Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 2022 Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Studies of the United States  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG), Belo Horizonte, Brazil
- Faculty Research Excellence Award, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Rhode Island
- 2020 Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Humanities, University of Rhode Island
- 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, 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**

“An Informal History of Gift Literature,” a paper delivered to the “Invisible Genres of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries” roundtable (sponsored by the Keats-Shelley Association of America) at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana, Jan. 2025

“Back of the Bus: Race and the Integration of Red Sox Nation,” a pre-circulated paper contributed and presented to the Dina G. Malgeri Modern American Society and Culture Seminar Series, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Mass., Fall 2024

“Back of the Bus: Race and the Integration of Red Sox Nation,” a paper delivered at the New England American Studies Association’s (NEASA) 2024 Conference, “Revisiting Region: Locating the ‘Where’ in American Studies,” Cambridge, Massachusetts, June 2024

Participant, *Moby-Dick* Marathon 2024, New Bedford, Massachusetts, sponsored by the Melville Society Cultural Project (MSCP)

“Benjamin Franklin no Brasil: *Poor Richard’s Almanack* as Anti-Insurrectionist Text,” a paper delivered to the “Revolución/Révolution” LLC 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American panel at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, Washington, D.C., Jan. 2022

“Transcendental Women Losing Their Religion,” a paper delivered to the “Nineteenth-Century Women Writers and Archives” roundtable at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, Toronto, Canada, Jan. 2021

“Reprints, Indians, and the Gift of Roger Williams’s *A Key into the Language of America*,” a paper delivered to the “Nineteenth-Century Print Cultures and Indigeneity” panel at the Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, Toronto, Canada, Jan. 2021

“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 19<sup>th</sup> 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) Convention, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 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*

New England Studies 400: Special Topics in New England Studies

*Red Sox Nation*

English 110: Introduction to Literature

*Imagining Early America*

English 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 345: Topics in American Colonial Literatures

*Networks of Early American Literary Exchange*

English 347: Antebellum U.S. Literature and Culture

*New England Transcendentalism*

English 347: Antebellum U.S. Literature and Culture

*American Renaissance*

English 347: Antebellum U.S. Literature and Culture

*Melville and Twain*

English 348: U.S. Literature & Culture, 1865–1914

*The Hawthorne Effect*

English 399: Special Topics

*City Mysteries in the Nineteenth Century*

ENG 410: Capstone Seminar in Literary and Cultural Studies

*The History of the Book in Early America*

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: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Texts (graduate)  
*Nineteenth-Century New England Transcendentalism*  
English 543: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Texts (graduate)  
*Melville and Twain*  
English 605: Seminar in Genres (graduate)  
*Antebellum Apathy*  
English 625: Seminar in Media (graduate)  
*The History of the Book in America*  
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*

#### Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais (UFMG)

UNI 174: The American Short Story and the Politics of Print  
DCP 920: Special Topics in Political Theory/Analysis (graduate)  
*American Politics and Literature*

#### 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 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

Director, Undergraduate Minor in New England Studies, 2021–present

Director, Undergraduate Minor in American Studies, 2011–2017

Reviewer, Competitive Grant Proposals, Faculty Career Enhancement and Development, 2020–21

Member, Special Committee on Undergraduate Minor Programs of Study, 2019–2020

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, 2018–2023

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Member, Arts and Sciences Committee on Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work, 2024–

Member, College Selection Committee for NEH Summer Research Grants, 2021–2022

Member, Dean's Advisory Committee, 2015–2019

Faculty Mentor, 2016–2017

Member, Program Development Committee, NEH Next Generation Ph.D. Grant, 2017

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Literature Graduate Teaching Assistant Supervisor, 2011–2016, 2021–2024

Undergraduate Academic Advisor, 2020–2021

English Executive Committee, 2016–2017, 2020–2021

Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2017–2018

Director of Graduate Studies, 2016–2017

English Graduate Committee, 2011–2017, 2019–2024

English Graduate Admissions, 2011–2017, 2019–2024

English Graduate Fellowship Sub-Committee, 2011–2012, 2015–2017, 2020–2024

Undergraduate Writing Contest Panel Member, 2014–present

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Massachusetts Historical Society, Short-Term Fellowship Selection Committee, 2019–20, 2024–25

## **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)

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