

# GREGORY LASKI

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, Northwestern University, 2012

Dissertation: "The Present-Past: Race, Repetition, and the Temporality of American Democracy after Slavery," supervised by Julia A. Stern (chair), Betsy Erkkila, Charles W. Mills (Philosophy), and Ivy G. Wilson

M.A., English, Northwestern University, 2007

B.A., *summa cum laude*, English and Spanish, University of Notre Dame, 2005

English Honors Thesis: "White Rage: Race, Riot, and Nation in Charles Chesnut's *The Marrow of Tradition*," directed by Glenn Hendler

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, 2017-present

Director, Core Introduction to Literature Course, United States Air Force Academy, 2014-17

Assistant Professor of English (civilian faculty appointment), United States Air Force Academy, 2012-present (on leave for the 2017-18 academic year)

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Nineteenth-century American literature, African American literature, critical race theory, cultural studies, film, political philosophy, composition

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

*Untimely Democracy: The Politics of Progress after Slavery* (New York: Oxford University Press, October 2017)

### Articles and Essays

"Chesnut as Political Theorist: Imagining Democracy and Social Justice in the Literature Classroom." In *Approaches to Teaching Charles W. Chesnut*, ed. Susanna Ashton and Bill Hardwig (New York: Modern Language Association), forthcoming.

Introduction to "'Democracy' in the American Nineteenth Century." Co-written with D. Berton Emerson. *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 5, no. 2 (2017): 361-68.

"Citizens, Soldiers, and Future Selves: On the Democratic Functions of the Literary Imagination (Notes from a 'Pure Civilian')." *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture* 17, no. 1 (2017): 77-105.

"'No Reparation': Accounting for the Enduring Harms of Slavery in Stephen Crane's *The Monster*." *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1, no. 1 (2013): 37-69; lead article in the inaugural issue of the journal.

Introduction to “Assessing *What Was African American Literature?*; or, The State of the Field in the New Millennium.” Co-written with Melissa Asher Daniels. *African American Review* 44, no. 4 (2012): 567-70.

“Falling Back into History: The Uncanny Trauma of Blackface Minstrelsy in Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*.” *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters* 33, no. 4 (2010): 1093-1115.

#### Editorial Work

“‘Democracy’ in the American Nineteenth Century.” Coordinator, with D. Berton Emerson, of this forum featuring contributions by Danielle Allen, Sandra Gustafson, Jason Frank, Kelvin Black, and James Sanders. *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 5, no. 2 (2017): 361-403.

“Assessing *What Was African American Literature?*; or, The State of the Field in the New Millennium.” Coordinator, with Melissa Asher Daniels, of this special forum on Kenneth W. Warren’s recent book featuring papers by Russ Castronovo, John Ernest, Sharon P. Holland, Soyica Diggs Colbert, and Adam Bradley, along with a response by Warren. *African American Review* 44, no. 4 (2012): 567-91.

#### Reviews and Roundtables

“Post Transbellum?” Invited contribution to a roundtable on Cody Marrs’s *Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 2015). *Common-place* 17, no. 1 (2016), <http://bit.ly/2hX6Gxm>.

Review of *Jim Crow, Literature, and the Legacy of Sutton E. Griggs*, ed. Tess Chakkalakal and Kenneth W. Warren (University of Georgia Press, 2013). *American Literary History Online Review*, Series IV (2015), <http://bit.ly/2aMGbpI>.

#### Work under Review

“Reconstructing Revenge.” Under external review.

“In Transitu at the Nadir: African American Literature Between Vengeance and Forgiveness.” Invited chapter for *African American Literature in Transition, 1880-1900*, part of an 18-volume series edited by Joycelyn K. Moody to be published by Cambridge University Press.

#### Work in Progress

*Race, Reunion, and Revenge: Reconstruction’s Afterlives* (book project)

“A. D. 2150’: W. E. B. Du Bois’s Postracial Prophecy.” Edited version of Du Bois’s unpublished short story in preparation for *PMLA*’s “Little-Known Documents” forum.

“Frederick Douglass.” Invited chapter for *American Literature in Transition, 1851-1877*, part of a 4-volume series edited by Coleman Hutchison to be published by Cambridge University Press.

#### Public Writing

“The Power of Dialogue.” Co-written with K. Elizabeth Coggins. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, September 24, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2xqRLWz>.

“Measuring Racial Progress, Past and Present.” *Black Perspectives: The Blog of the African American Intellectual History Society*, June 1, 2017, <http://bit.ly/2rekxpf>.

“Remembering Montrell Jackson’s Ethic of Mutuality.” *Oxford University Press Blog*, August 11, 2016, <http://bit.ly/2blxHrY>.

**HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- McDermott Award for Research Excellence in the Humanities, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17  
*(awarded annually to one faculty member in the Humanities Division)*
- Grant Recipient, “The Democratic Dialogue Project,” Project on Civilian-Military Academic Cooperation, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18  
*(awarded grant to create intellectual exchanges between Colorado College and Academy students)*
- Nominee, Colorado Professor of the Year, United States Air Force Academy, 2014  
*(nominated by the Department of English and Fine Arts for this statewide honor)*
- Outstanding Academy Educator, United States Air Force Academy, 2014  
*(awarded annually to twenty-four of the Academy’s nearly six hundred instructors)*
- Research Grant, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences, United States Air Force Academy, 2014, 2015, 2017
- Outstanding Instructor Award, Introduction to Literature Course, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2013  
*(awarded to one instructor of the core literature course taken each year by nearly one thousand students)*
- Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation of the Year, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2012
- Research Grant, The Graduate School, Northwestern University, 2011
- Lawrence Lipking Fellowship, The Newberry Library, Spring 2011
- Teaching Excellence Award, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2010  
*(awarded annually to one instructor for a course of his/ her own design)*
- Selected Participant, Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2010, June 2013
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2008  
*(granted annually to one teaching assistant based on faculty review of student nominations)*
- University Fellowship, The Graduate School, Northwestern University, 2006-07, 2011-12
- Valedictorian Candidate, College of Arts and Letters, University of Notre Dame, 2005
- Phi Beta Kappa, Epsilon of Indiana, University of Notre Dame, 2005
- Eleanor Meehan Medal for Best Essay in Literary Criticism, Department of English, University of Notre Dame, 2005

**INVITED TALKS**

- “Re/discovering Sutton Griggs,” *Thirteenth: Literature and Legacy*, Humanities and the Legacy of Race and Ethnicity Initiative, National Endowment for the Humanities/Indiana Humanities, Bind Café, Kokomo, IN, October 2017
- “Democracy’s Plunges,” Ralph Ellison Seminar, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, June 2016

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- Participant, “The Temporal Turn in Black Studies: A Roundtable,” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018
- Participant, “The Queer Nadir: A Roundtable,” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018
- Untimely Democracy* featured in the “New and Noteworthy” panel, Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2017
- “Slavery, Unavenged,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA, January 2017
- “*Django Unchained*, the Archive, and the Unfinished Reconstruction (Race, Reunion, Revenge),” Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO, November 2016
- “Reading Race in the Nadir: Charles W. Chesnutt, Sutton E. Griggs, and the Times of Optimism and Pessimism,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA, March 2016
- “Zig, Zag, Plunge, Fall: or, Ralph Ellison, Spike Lee, and the ‘Futuristic Drama of American Democracy,’” Midwest Modern Language Association, Columbus, OH, November 2015
- “Charles W. Chesnutt’s Failed Futures: Of Prophecy and Pessimism,” Charles W. Chesnutt Society, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2015
- “Watching *12 Years a Slave*; or, How to Count the Legacy of Racial Bondage,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Detroit, MI, November 2014
- “Du Bois’s Declaration: Race, Time, and the Prospect of Democracy in *The Souls of Black Folk*,” American Literature Association, Washington, DC, May 2014
- “Democracy’s Progress,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Chapel Hill, NC, March 2014
- “W. E. B. Du Bois’s ‘Present-Past’: Reimagining the Times of Slavery and Freedom in *The Souls of Black Folk*,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2014
- “Untimely Democracy,” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, June 2013
- Participant, “New Directions in Hopkins Scholarship: A Roundtable Discussion,” Pauline E. Hopkins Society, American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2013
- “The Present-Past: Thomas Jefferson, W. E. B. Du Bois, and the Times of Slavery and Democracy,” Newberry Library Seminar in Early American History and Culture, Chicago, IL, October 2011
- “Making Amends, Then and Now: Frederick Douglass, Barack Obama, and the Politics of Racial Reconciliation,” Critical Whiteness Studies Symposium, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, September 2010
- “‘No Reparation’: Frederick Douglass, Stephen Crane, and Slavery’s Endurance,” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, June 2010
- “Slavery’s Recurring Story Lines,” Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO, November 2009

“A New Millennium? Thinking about Race in the Twenty-First Century with Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*,” Minority Graduate Student Association Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, May 2009

“Falling Back into History: The Uncanny Trauma of Blackface Minstrelsy in Spike Lee’s *Bamboozled*,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 2008

“Traumas of the Sentimental Eye: Witnessing Slavery, Revolution, and the Limits of Sympathy in Crèvecoeur’s *Letters from an American Farmer*,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Cleveland, OH, November 2007

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Carnegie Mellon University

First-Year Writing: Democracy and Deliberation: The Intellectual Work of Citizenship, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

### United States Air Force Academy

Representing Race: (African) American History on the Page and on the Screen, Spring 2016

Reading *Invisible Man*: Race, Politics, and Culture in America—Past, Present, and Future, Spring 2015

Junior Seminar: Imagining Democracy and Social Justice in Late Nineteenth-Century American Literature, Spring 2014

Introductory Composition and Research: Democracy, Deliberation, and Public Life in the United States, Fall 2013

Survey of American Literature: Beginnings to the Present, Spring 2013

Introduction to Literature: Literature, Justice, and Judgment, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017

### Northwestern University

#### *Instructor:*

Interdisciplinary Freshman Seminar and Lecture: True Love and Perfect Union: Love, Marriage, and Social Theory, Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program, Winter 2011 (team taught with colleagues from performance studies and history)

Freshman Seminar: Slavery and Freedom, Past and Present, Spring 2010

Expository Writing: Democracy, Deliberation, and Public Life, Fall 2009, Winter 2010

#### *Teaching Assistant:*

Introduction to Twentieth-Century American Literature, Professor Nick Davis, Spring 2009

American Literary Traditions I, Professor Betsy Erkkila, Winter 2009

American Literary Traditions II, Professor Julia A. Stern, Fall 2008

British Literary Traditions II, Professor Christopher Lane, Spring 2008

American Literary Traditions II, Professor Jay Grossman, Winter 2008

Introduction to Fiction, Professor Jules Law, Fall 2007

**TEACHING DEVELOPMENT**

Faculty Developer, Center for Educational Excellence, United States Air Force Academy, 2014-17

Co-chair, New Faculty Orientation Program, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2014-16

Instructor, Kaplan Humanities Scholars Program, Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Northwestern University, 2010-11  
(*one of three selected from across the humanities division to teach in this interdisciplinary program*)

Certificate of Distinction, Graduate Teaching Certificate Program, Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University, 2009-10

Fellow, Teaching Assistant Fellows Program, Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern University, 2008-09

Mentor and Coordinator, Teaching Assistant Mentorship Program, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2008-09

**MEDIA**

“A Tale of Two Minstrel Shows.” *Chicago Reader*, December 17, 2013, <http://bit.ly/2aYBHzt>.  
(*interviewed for this article on blackface minstrelsy*)

**SERVICE**Professional

Chair, “Weird John Brown?” Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2017

Chair and respondent, “Archives of Blackness,” American Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 2016

Co-organizer and chair, “*Post-Bellum, Pre-Harlem* at 10: Unsettling Nineteenth-Century African American Studies,” a roundtable featuring papers by Caroline Gebhard, Eric Gardner, M. Giulia Fabi, Shirley Moody-Turner, and Andrea Williams, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, PA, March 2016

Co-organizer and chair, “Democracy in American Literary and Cultural Studies: Past, Present, and Future,” a roundtable featuring papers by Dana Nelson, Russ Castronovo, Jennifer Greiman, Koritha Mitchell, D. Berton Emerson, Derrick Spires, and Christopher Castiglia, Modern Language Association, Vancouver, BC, January 2015

Manuscript reviewer, *American Literary History*; *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*, 2014-present

Organizer and chair, “Representing Slavery in the Twenty-First-Century American Cultural Imagination,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2014

Organizer and co-chair, “Assessing *What Was African American Literature?*; or, The State of the Field in the New Millennium,” a roundtable on Kenneth W. Warren’s recent book, featuring papers by Russ Castronovo, John Ernest, Sharon P. Holland, Soyica Diggs Colbert, and Adam Bradley, along with a response by Warren, Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA, January 2012

Organizer and chair, “Frederick Douglass after Emancipation,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2010

Organizer and chair, “African American Literature and the ‘Postracial,’” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2010

Co-organizer and respondent, “Return of the Repressed? The Place of Psychoanalysis in Contemporary American Studies,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 2008

#### Institutional

Member, Oxford Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17

Member, Interdisciplinary Research Awards Selection Committee, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17

Co-organizer and leader, Campus Forum on Race and Citizenship after Ferguson, United States Air Force Academy, December 2014

Co-chair, American Cultures Colloquium, Northwestern University, 2009-10

Panelist, “Preparing for Graduate School,” Shepard Residential College, Northwestern University, January 2008

Member, New Graduate Student Orientation Committee, Northwestern University, 2008

Member, Organizing Committee, American Cultures Colloquium, Northwestern University 2006-09

#### Departmental

Member, Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17

Member, Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Multiethnic American Literature, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2015-16

Research and Teaching Mentor to MA-holding Instructor, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2015-17

Assistant Director of Undergraduate Advising, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2013-14

Coordinator, Graduate Scholarship Selection Process, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2013-14

Organizer and leader, “Approaches to Teaching Walt Whitman’s Poetry,” Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, August 2013

Chair, Faculty Speakers Program, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2012-14

Member, Curriculum Committee, Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, 2012-17

Organizer and leader, “Approaches to Teaching Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*,” Department of English and Fine Arts, United States Air Force Academy, October 2012

Representative, Northwestern University English Graduate Student Organization, 2008-09

## RELEVANT RESEARCH, WORK, AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

- Instructor, “Immerse Yourself,” Northwestern University, May 2010, May 2011  
*(led seminar that introduced Chicago public school students to college coursework)*
- Research Assistant for Julia A. Stern, Northwestern University, 2009-10  
*(proofread and created index for Mary Chesnut’s Civil War Epic, published by Chicago in 2010)*
- Assistant Director, Summerbridge Pittsburgh, Sewickley, PA, 2005-06  
*(managed academic enrichment program for students with limited opportunities)*
- Mentor/Tutor, Allegheny Youth Development, Pittsburgh, PA, 2005-06
- Instructor, Summerbridge Pittsburgh, Sewickley, PA, Summer 2003, Summer 2004  
*(taught two sections of seventh-grade writing and literature course)*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association; C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists; Midwest Modern Language Association; Modern Language Association; Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society

## REFERENCES

Julia A. Stern  
Herman and Beulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature  
Charles Deering McCormick Professor of Teaching Excellence  
Professor of English and American Studies  
Northwestern University  
University Hall 215, 1897 Sheridan Road, Evanston, IL 60208

Andrea F. Trocha-Van Nort  
Professor of English  
United States Air Force Academy  
2354 Fairchild Drive, USAF Academy, CO 80840

Russ Castronovo  
Tom Paine Professor of English  
Dorothy Draheim Professor of American Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison  
7187 H. C. White, 600 N. Park Street, Madison, WI 53706

Charles W. Mills  
Professor of Philosophy  
The Graduate Center, CUNY  
365 Fifth Avenue, Room 7113, New York, NY 10016

Steven Olsen-Smith  
Coors Distinguished Visiting Professor, United States Air Force Academy (2015-16)  
Professor of English  
Boise State University  
Liberal Arts Building 223, Boise, ID 83725