

GREGORY LASKI

Department of English and Fine Arts
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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

Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Dissertation

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

Associate Professor of English (civilian faculty appointment), United States Air Force Academy, 2018-present (Assistant Professor, 2012-17)

Associate Head, Department of English and Fine Arts, 2019-present

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, Carnegie Mellon University, 2017-18

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

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)

Winner of the 2019 American Literature Association's Pauline Hopkins Society Scholarship Prize for its contributions to Hopkins studies

Reviewed/Featured in: *American Literary History*; *Black Perspectives*, official blog of the African American Intellectual History Society; New Books Network Political Science Channel; *Journal of American History*; *Political Theory*

Articles and Essays

"Reconstructing Revenge: Race and Justice after the Civil War." *American Literature* 91, no. 4 (December 2019), forthcoming.

“Chesnutt as Political Theorist: Imagining Democracy and Social Justice in the Literature Classroom.” In *Approaches to Teaching Charles W. Chesnutt*, ed. Susanna Ashton and Bill Hardwig (New York: Modern Language Association, 2017), 130-37.

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

Review of *A Political Companion to Frederick Douglass*, ed. Neil Roberts (University of Kentucky Press, 2018). *Political Theory* (2019), <https://bit.ly/2NTd5NL>.

“Post Transbellum?” Invited contribution to a roundtable on Cody Marris’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), <https://bit.ly/2NVSrg1>.

Work under Review

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

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

Work in Progress

Democracies in America: Keywords for the Nineteenth Century and Today. Co-edited volume.

Reconstructing Revenge: Race and Justice after the Civil War. Book manuscript in progress.

Overshadowed. Co-editor of the scholarly edition of Sutton E. Griggs's 1901 novel, to be published by West Virginia 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

Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Scholarship Award for *Untimely Democracy*, Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins Society, American Literature Association, 2019

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

“Frederick Douglass’s Peace Theory: Race, Revenge, and Justice after the Civil War,” Waller Lectureship, Andrews University, March 2019

“Imagining the Humanities Public: Literature, History, and the *Trade* Trade Gap,” Keynote Address, Humanities Beyond the Academy Symposium, University of Maryland, February 2019

“Race and Revenge: Rethinking the Legacy of the Civil War,” University Forum Lecture, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, March 2018

“Reconstructing Revenge: Afterlives of Slavery in the Postbellum United States,” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh, February 2018

“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, “African American Responses to the Civil War: A Readings Roundtable,” Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2019

Participant, roundtable on “Recovering Sutton E. Griggs,” American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2019

“Samuel Hall’s *47 Years a Slave*: The Most Important Slave Narrative We’re Not Reading,” Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Kansas City, MO, November 2018

“Reconstructing Revenge,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, NM, March 2018

Participant, roundtable on “The Temporal Turn in Black Studies,” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018

Participant, roundtable on “The Queer Nadir,” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018

- “Reflections on *Untimely Democracy*,” Civil War Caucus, 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),” Civil War Caucus, 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,’” Civil War Caucus, 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,” Civil War Caucus, 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, roundtable on “New Directions in Hopkins Scholarship,” 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

United States Air Force Academy

Junior Seminar: Race and Revenge in Reconstruction-Era American Literature, Spring 2020

Scholars Program Sophomore Literature Seminar: Writing Wrongs: Slavery and the Moral Imagination in American Literature, Fall 2019

Ways of Reading: An Introduction to Literary Study, Spring 2019

American Literature: Before and/or After 1865? Fall 2018

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, Spring 2019

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 2018, Fall 2019

Carnegie Mellon University

Community-Engaged First-Year Writing Course: Communicating about Race, Spring 2018

Democracy and Deliberation: The Intellectual Work of Citizenship, Fall 2017, Spring 2018

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, 2019-20

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

Interview about *Untimely Democracy*, New Books Network, Political Science Channel, January 2018, <https://bit.ly/2BrP0r6>.

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

SERVICE

Professional

Organizing Committee, Literary Tourgée Conference, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, September 2019

Chair, “Teaching Tourgée Today” and “New Directions in Tourgée Studies,” Literary Tourgée Conference, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY, September 2019

Co-organizer and chair, “Democracy and Practice: What the C19 Can Teach Us Now,” an interdisciplinary roundtable featuring papers by Nancy Armstrong, Margot Minardi, Michelle Sizemore, and Mandy Cooper, Albuquerque, NM, March 2018

Chair, “Weird John Brown?” Civil War Caucus, 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 Andreá 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*; *Literature d’America*, 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
- United States Air Force Academy
- Chair, Dean’s Oxford Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee, United States Air Force Academy, 2018-19
- Member, Interdisciplinary Research Awards Selection Committee, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17
- Member, Dean’s Oxford Graduate Scholarship Selection Committee, United States Air Force Academy, 2016-17
- 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
- Co-organizer and leader, Campus Forum on Race and Citizenship after Ferguson, United States Air Force Academy, December 2014
- 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

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

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

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

Carnegie Mellon University

Planning Committee, Campus Deliberative Forum on Free Speech, Program for Deliberative Democracy, Carnegie Mellon University, 2017-18

Respondent, First-Year Writing Symposium, Department of English, December 2017

Northwestern University

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

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

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

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
(*copy edited 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
Professor of English
Boise State University
Liberal Arts Building 223, Boise, ID 83725