

# Cody Marrs

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## Education

Ph.D. in English, University of California at Berkeley, 2010  
B.A. in English, with departmental and university honors, University of Kansas, 2004

## Academic Appointments

Professor of English, University of Georgia, 2021–  
Associate Professor of English, University of Georgia, 2016–2021  
Assistant Professor of English, University of Georgia, 2010–2016

## Authored Books

*Melville, Beauty, and American Literary Studies: An Aesthetics in All Things*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023.

Reviewed in *Style*, *American Literary History*, *Modern Philology*, *H-Net Reviews*, *European Journal of American Studies*, *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, the *Journal of American Studies in Italy*, and *French Review of American Studies*, *Poetics Today*, *Amerikastudien/American Studies*, among other venues.

“A timely, spiritually moving, and compelling study. . . of the value of beauty in an ugly world. Poetically written, philosophically rich, and accessibly structured, this book is a refreshing reminder of the complex and beautiful nature of Melville’s prose . . . For those seeking to analyze literature with an eye for possibility and hope, Marrs offers a plethora of methods and frameworks for doing so in seemingly hopeless times.”

—*H-Net Reviews*

“Marrs’s playful, eloquent approach to reading Melville through his multifaceted pursuit of beauty offers the promise of a new way of conceiving, not just of Melville, but of American literary studies writ large. In the course of making this argument about the place of pleasure in literary studies, Marrs makes a compelling case for writing literary criticism that gives as well as analyzes pleasure, through the wit and elegance of his own prose. This is a

book that Melville scholars and general readers alike can savor.”—*Modern Philology*

“In this uplifting, highly readable book, Cody Marris cements his status as one of the very best critics of Melville's work. We travel in these pages through pragmatism, aesthetics, the decentering of humanity, and the history of American literary studies, and at the same time, by means of Marris' rigorously sensitive readings, we sink deeper into the textures and rhythms of Melville's writing. I feel closer, at the end of this book, to where Melville was intuitively trying to go.” —Geoffrey Sanborn, Amherst College, author of *The Value of Herman Melville*

“Cody Marris enables us to see an aspect of Melville's writing that has always been before our eyes but has never before been regarded with such acuity: a sustained attention to beauty as a shared, transformative experience, defined in relation to suffering and violence, that connects perceivers to the wider world. Marris amplifies our experience of Melville- and 'experience' is a key term for him, as he redirects attention not only to the significance of beauty in Melville's fiction, poetry, and journals but also to the experience of reading literature and literary criticism.” —Samuel Otter, UC Berkeley, author of *Melville's Anatomies*

*Not Even Past: The Stories We Keep Telling About the Civil War*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2020.

Awarded the Montaigne Medal for the “most thought-provoking book.” Featured in *Time* magazine. Reviewed in the *New York Journal of Books*, *History Today*, *American Literary History*, *Civil War Book Review*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Times Higher Education*, *Southern Review of Books*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, *Choice*, and *Library Journal*, among other venues. Shortlisted for “Books to Quarantine With” by the *Telegraph Herald* and the *Georgia Voice*. Shortlisted for “Escape the News” by the American Association of University Presses. Rated “Essential” by *Choice*.

“*Not Even Past* is an impressive feat that straddles the line between intense academic history and popular history. The world needs more such books.”—*Civil War Book Review*

"In the American imagination the Civil War has never really ended. Marris digs deep into artistic and literary history to show that 'we' as a multi-vocal people can never quite find an 'ending' to this most divisive American story that teeters forever between the opposing plots of emancipation and the Lost Cause. This is a splendid book, and one that asks existential and fundamental questions about this thing we call the United States.”—David

W. Blight, Yale University, author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning *Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom*

“An excellent, wide-ranging literary history of the Civil War that covers not only fiction, history, and memoir, but also painting, sculpture, public memorials, and film. Marrs writes with relaxed authority, sharing the reader's curiosity. Insightful, nuanced, and well informed, this book makes an excellent guide.”—John Burt, Brandeis University, author of *Lincoln's Tragic Pragmatism: Lincoln, Douglas, and Moral Conflict*

*Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the Long Civil War*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Choice Outstanding Academic Title. Roundtable feature in *Common-Place: The Journal of Early American Life*. SAMLA Studies Book Award, Honorable Mention. Reviewed in *American Literature*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *Choice*.

“Cody Marrs's book will make a conspicuous contribution to American literary studies. Carefully researched and cogently written, this book offers a valuable corrective and a swaggering provocation. What would it mean to think about the boundary of the American Civil War in more elastic and non-sequential terms? Cody Marrs makes the most compelling case yet for why we should rethink this most fundamental of periodic divisions, articulating and modeling a new approach to the problem of the Civil War. His will be an influential thesis, one that scholars will return to again and again in the coming years.”—Coleman Hutchison, University of Texas-Austin, author of *Apples and Ashes: Literature, Nationalism, and the Confederate States of America*

“In this graceful intervention into the boundaries of nineteenth-century literary studies, Cody Marrs impresses the need for reperiodizing the century, and by extension the teaching of American literature, through sustained inquiries of four major authors: Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, Herman Melville, and Emily Dickinson. Literary critics looking for an excellent treatment of temporality in literature, or perhaps the yet unfolding American Civil War, should take note.”—*Nineteenth-Century Contexts*

## **Edited Books**

*The Norton Anthology of American Literature, Volume B: 1820–1865*, 11th Edition (under contract with W.W. Norton & Co)

*The Routledge Companion to Herman Melville*, co-edited with Brian Yothers (under contract with Routledge)

*Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition, Vol. III: 1851–1877*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

*Timelines of American Literature*, co-edited with Christopher Hager. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.

Reviewed in *Early American Literature*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Modern Language Review*, and *American Literary History*.

“*Timelines of American Literature* shakes up disciplinary assumptions that have undergirded literary historiography for over a century. These fresh and provocative essays offer bracing alternatives to long-standard field chronologies, methodologies, and ideologies.”—Elizabeth Renker, The Ohio State University, author of *Realist Poetics in American Culture, 1866–1900*

“Marrs and Hager have assembled a rollicking and provocative collection of essays in this superlative volume. Ranging from a single year to several millennia, the ages, eras, and histories mapped by these essays imagine multiple expansive, inclusive, madcap, and shifting futures for American literature.”—Elizabeth Duquette, Gettysburg College, author of *American Tyrannies in the Long Age of Napoleon*

*The New Melville Studies*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019.

“Highly Recommended” by *CHOICE*. Reviewed in *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, *American Literary History*, *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, *American Literary Scholarship*, and *The Year’s Work in English Studies*.

“*The New Melville Studies*, edited by Cody Marrs, brings together fascinating work by fifteen scholars, each of whom offers a unique lens into Melville’s writing . . . Read through in its entirety, the volume is enlightening and surprising in the best ways possible, and it’s hard to predict the shape that each essay will take as one reads. Marrs’s collection undoubtedly provides significant new avenues for the study of Melville’s life and work and is itself a useful model of scholarly creativity.”—*Nineteenth-Century Literature*

“It is well worth finding a way to retrieve, read, and reflect on these essays, as they creatively engage with critical developments to show how and why Melville continues to speak anew to readers in multiple ways across varied generative registers.”—*Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*

## Book Series

General Editor, *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*. Four-volume series featuring nearly 100 contributors. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022. Nominated for the MLA Prize for an Edited Collection.

## Edited Journal

*Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 18.3 (October 2016), Special Issue: "Late Melvilles"

## Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

"Introduction," co-authored with Brian Yothers, in *The Routledge Companion to Herman Melville*, eds. Cody Marrs and Brian Yothers (forthcoming)

"American Literature, 1820-1865," in *The Norton Anthology of American Literature*, Vol. B: 1820-1865, 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (forthcoming)

"*Battle-Pieces* and the Problem of Beauty," in *The Oxford Handbook on Herman Melville*, eds. Jennifer Greiman and Michael Jonik (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2025), 477-488.

"Religion at Sea," *Leviathan: A Journal in Melville Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 26.2 (June 2024): 25-39.

"The Front Line in American War Literature," *Transatlantica: The French Review of American Studies* (RFEA/Éditions Belin) 178 (2024): 120-133

"The War Story," in *The Cambridge Companion to the American Short Story*, eds. Gavin Jones and Michael Collins (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2023), 117-130

"Realism and Reconstruction: A Comparative Perspective," *American Literary Realism* 55.3 (Spring 2023): 189-197

"The Future of Civil War and Reconstruction Literature," in *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction*, eds. Kathleen Diffley and Coleman Hutchison (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 284-294

"Frederick Douglass and the 'Moral Chemistry of the Universe,'" in *Crossings in Nineteenth-Century American Culture: Junctures of Time, Space, Self, and Politics*, ed. Edward Sugden (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022), 19-28

“Introduction: The System of American Literature, 1851–1877,” in *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*, Vol. 3, ed. Marrs (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 1–9

“The Civil War in African American Memory,” in *African American Literature in Transition, 1865-1880*, eds. Eric Gardner and Joycelyn Moody (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2021), 213–232

“Frederick Douglass in 1848,” in the Norton Critical Edition of *My Bondage and My Freedom*, eds. Nicholas Bromell and Blake Gilpin (New York: W.W. Norton, 2020)

“1866 and After: Jane Jackson, Herman Melville, and the Literature of Emancipation,” in *Visions of Glory: The Civil War in Word and Image*, eds. Kathleen Diffley and Benjamin Fagan (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2019), 219–228

“Dickinson’s Physics,” in *The New Emily Dickinson Studies*, ed. Michelle Kohler (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 155–167

“*Drum-Taps* and the Chaos of War,” in *This Mighty Convulsion: Whitman and Melville Write the Civil War*, eds. Christopher Sten and Tyler Hoffman (Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2019), 119–134

“Introduction: Melville Studies, Old and New,” in *The New Melville Studies*, ed. Cody Marrs (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 1–10

“Introduction,” co-authored with Christopher Hager, in *Timelines of American Literature*, eds. Cody Marrs and Christopher Hager (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019), 1–9

“Three Theses on Reconstruction,” *American Literary History* (Oxford University Press) 30.3, Special Issue on “Reenvisioning Reconstruction” (Fall 2018): 401–428

“Dickinson in the Anthropocene,” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* (Washington State University Press) 63.2, Special Issue on “Dickinson’s Environments” (2017): 201–225

“Introduction: Late Melvilles,” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 18.3 (October 2016): 1–10

“Afterword: Archiving the War,” co-authored with Christopher Hager, in *A History of American Civil War Literature*, ed. Coleman Hutchison (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 331–342

“Against 1865: Reperiodizing the Nineteenth Century,” co-authored with Christopher Hager, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 1.2 (October 2013): 259–284

“Frederick Douglass in 1848,” *American Literature* (Duke University Press) 85.3 (September 2013): 447–474

“Clarel and the American Centennial,” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 13.3 (October 2011): 98–114

“Whitman’s Latencies: Hegel and the Politics of Time in *Leaves of Grass*,” *Arizona Quarterly* (Johns Hopkins University Press) 67.1 (Spring 2011): 47–72

“A Wayward Art: *Battle-Pieces* and Melville’s Poetic Turn,” *American Literature* (Duke University Press) 82.1 (March 2010): 91–119 (Winner of the Melville Society’s Hennig Cohen Prize)

## Reviews

Review of *Up From the Depths: Herman Melville, Lewis Mumford, and Rediscovery in Dark Times* (Princeton University Press, 2002) in *American Literary History* 36.2 (Summer 2024): 601–3

“Intimate Excess in *Moby-Dick* and Melville’s *Anatomies*,” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 24.1 (March 2022): 121–123

Review of *Melville’s Mirrors: Literary Criticism and America’s Most Elusive Author* by Brian Yothers in *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 16.2 (June 2014): 79–81.

## Work in Progress

*The Guide to Herman Melville’s ‘Moby-Dick’* (under contract with Johns Hopkins University Press)

## Awards, Grants, and Fellowships

Montaigne Medal for the “most thought-provoking book,” 2021

Finalist, Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2020

Research Fellowship, Willson Center for the Humanities, 2019

Visiting Scholar, UGA at Oxford, 2019

Alan K. Smith Visiting Scholar, Trinity College (Connecticut), 2017

Choice Outstanding Academic Title, 2016

Presidential Early Career Scholar Award for Outstanding Assistant Professor in the Arts and Humanities, 2016

Research Fellowship (semester-long sabbatical), Willson Center for the Humanities, 2014  
 Provost's Summer Grant for research productivity, 2013  
 Faculty Seminar Grant for "Historical Poetics," Willson Center, 2013  
 Faculty Research Grant, UGA Research Foundation, 2012  
 Hennig Cohen Prize in Melville Studies for "A Wayward Art: Battle-Pieces and Melville's Poetic Turn," 2011  
 Faculty Seminar Grant for "Transnationalism," Willson Center, 2011  
 Newberry Library Fellowship (short-term), 2011  
 Holloway Postdoctoral Fellowship in Poetry, UC Berkeley, 2010 (declined)  
 Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2009  
 Townsend Center for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2008  
 Graduate Division Summer Research Grant, UC Berkeley 2008  
 English Department Block Grant Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2005–07  
 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, 2004  
 Ilus W. Davis Award for critical writing, 1<sup>st</sup> place, University of Kansas, 2004  
 Kenneth Rockwell Award, University of Kansas, 2003

### **Invited Talks and Keynote Lectures**

"Why Read *Moby-Dick*?" Invited Talk, Willson Center for the Humanities, Lake Oconee, April 2026

"Southern Literature Before, During, and After the Civil War," Invited Talk, New York University, April 2025

"Interpreting *A Wizard of Earthsea*," Invited Talk, University of Georgia Honors College, October 2024

"'The Poets are with Us': Douglass's Uses of Poetry," Keynote Panel on "Literary Frederick Douglass," Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers, 27<sup>th</sup> Conference, Catholic University, Washington, D.C., October 2024

"Walt Whitman and the Secret of Happiness," invited talk, Willson Center for the Humanities, Lake Oconee, October 2024

"A Melville Gam with Cody Marrs and Jennifer Greiman," Zoom roundtable organized by The Melville Society, June 2023

"The Meaning of Captain Ahab," invited talk, Folio Club, Athens Country Club, October 2023

"The Future of the English Department," invited talk, Department of English, Saint Louis University, February 2023



“Voice and Consciousness in *Huck Finn*,” invited talk, Folio Club, Athens Country Club, February 2023

“Why Did the End of *Game of Thrones* Suck?,” invited talk, Screen Time With Your Humanities Professors, University of Georgia, September 2022

“Melville, *Battle-Pieces*, and the Literature of Emancipation,” invited talk, Trinity College, Connecticut, April 2022

“Perspectives on *Whitman, Alabama*,” signature lecture, University of Georgia, November 2021

“Reading *Moby-Dick*,” invited talk, University of Arizona, October 2021

“The Literary History of the Civil War,” invited talk, New York University, March 2021

“Herman Melville and the Legacies of the *Essex*,” keynote address, National Endowment for the Arts Big Read, Golden Isles Arts and Humanities Association, February 2020

“On Melville and Beauty,” keynote address at the University of Paris and the University of Lille, Conference on “Melville’s Measures,” October 2019

“What is Beauty Good For?: Melville, Aesthetics, and the Aims of Literary Studies,” invited talk, University of Maryland-College Park, March 2019

“Walt Whitman’s Civil War,” invited talk for the Willson Center for the Humanities, Lake Oconee, October 2017

“Literature, Slavery, and Alternate Histories of the Civil War,” invited talk, Trinity College, Connecticut, February 2017

“Writing the Civil War Era,” invited talk, Texas Institute on “Teaching the American Literary Tradition,” Ransom Center at the University of Texas-Austin, June 2016

“Looking at the Civil War through Literature,” invited talk for the Honors College at the University of Georgia, April 2016.

Featured author, “New and Notable,” Civil War Caucus of the Midwest MLA (Modern Language Association), Columbus, November 2015

“Dickinson in the Winds of War,” plenary address at the Emily Dickinson International Society’s annual meeting, Amherst, August 2015

“The Postwar Aesthetics of Civil War Literature,” invited talk, symposium on “Cultural Life During Wartime, 1861-1865,” University of Texas at Austin, September 2014

“Melville’s Late Style,” invited talk, Emory University, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, April 2014

“Frederick Douglass's Poetics and the Freedom of Form,” invited talk, University of Georgia, April 2010

### **Conference Presentations**

Roundtable on “Careers in Academia,” University of Georgia, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, March 2025

“Melville and Ancient Beauty,” MLA (Modern Language Association) Conference, Washington, D.C., January 2022

Chair, “The Possibilities of Public Engagement in Language and Literature” (Presidential Theme Session), MLA Conference, Washington, D.C., January 2022

Roundtable on “*Melville’s Anatomies* at 20,” American Literature Association, July 2021

Roundtable on “Teaching Reconstruction: Texts, Contexts, Strategies,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, October 2020

“Douglass’s Immaterialism,” University of Paris, Conference on “Frederick Douglass Across and Against Times, Places, and Disciplines,” October 2018

“Melville, Personhood, and the Aesthetics of War,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, New Mexico, March 2018

“John Brown in Space: *Fire on the Mountain* and the Pleasures of Alternative History,” Roundtable on “Weird John Brown?” Civil War Caucus of the Midwest MLA, Cincinnati, November 2017

“*Battle-Pieces* and the Problem of Beauty,” Eleventh International Melville Conference, King’s College London, June 2017

“Emily Dickinson and the Physics of Force,” Emily Dickinson International Society’s Triennial Conference, Paris, June 2016

“Melville Among the Symbolists,” American Literature Association, San Francisco, May 2016

Chair, "Long and Short Nineteenth Centuries: A Roundtable on Periodization," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pennsylvania State University, March 2016

"Confederate Cosmopolitanism and the Limits of Transnational Literary Studies," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pennsylvania State University, March 2016

"1866 and After: Melville, War, and the Art of Memory," MLA Conference, Austin, January 2016

"Disenchantment and Reenchantment in Melville's *Timoleon*," Civil War Caucus of the Midwest MLA, Detroit, November 2014

"Emily Dickinson and the Illocality of War," ALA Symposium on American Poetry, Savannah, October 2014

"Melville's Times," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 2014

"The Civil War Origins of the Civil War Anthology," MLA Conference, Chicago, January 2014

"The Civil War and the Problem of Literary Periodization," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, UC Berkeley, May 2012

"Emancipated Lines: Frederick Douglass's Uses of Poetry," MLA Conference, Seattle, January 2012

"'The Hemispheres are Counterparts': *Clarel* and the Idea of the Transnational," Inaugural Conference of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pennsylvania State University, May 2010

"Aesthetics after the 'Symptom,'" Conference on Postwar Economy and Culture, UC Berkeley, March 2009

"The Civil War and the Labor of Poetry," Townsend Center for the Humanities, UC Berkeley, October 2008

"Money and Bondage: Reflections on *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*," American Literature Association, San Francisco, May 2006

"Return of the Diachronic: Notes Toward a Revitalized Historical Criticism," Ninth Annual Berkeley/Stanford Graduate Student Conference, UC Berkeley, April 2006

## Teaching

### *Lower-division courses:*

Reading *Moby-Dick*  
 Mariners, Renegades, and Castaways  
 American Literature to 1914  
 American Literature to 1865  
 American Literature after 1865  
 Writing the Civil War  
 The American Sublime  
 Americans Abroad

### *Upper-division courses:*

Aesthetics and Politics  
 Literature and Philosophy  
 The Great American Novel  
 Herman Melville  
 Mark Twain  
 Whitman and Dickinson  
 Realism and Naturalism  
 The American Renaissance  
 Literatures of the Civil War  
 Independent Study: Whitman, Dickinson, and Music  
 Independent Study: Realism and Photography  
 Independent Study: The World of *Moby-Dick*

### *Graduate-level courses:*

Literatures of the American Civil War  
 American Literature, 1820-1865  
 The Civil War and the Methods of Literary Studies

## Professional Service & Leadership

Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Johns Hopkins University Press, Columbia University Press, Princeton University Press, W.W. Norton & Co., Edinburgh University Press, University of Massachusetts Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of Virginia Press, Routledge, Broadview Press, Lexington Books, *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, *African American Review*, *Journal of American Studies*, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*, *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*, *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*, *College Literature*, *European Journal of American Studies*, *Analecta Hermeneutica*, and *Borrowers and Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation*  
 Editorial Board for Cambridge Studies in American Literature and Culture,

Cambridge University Press, 2025–  
 Editorial Board for *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* (Johns Hopkins University Press), 2020–  
 Editorial Board for *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* (Johns Hopkins University Press), 2019–  
 Editorial Board for *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* (Washington State University Press), 2017–  
 Chair of the Selection Committee for the 1921 Prize in American Literature, awarded annually to the “best article in any field of American literary studies,” 2022–2023  
 Elected Member of the Advisory Council for the American Literature Society, 2021–2023  
 Editorial Board for the University of Georgia Press, 2017–2020  
 Referee/Evaluator for the MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grants,” 2017  
 Co-organizer of “Long and Short Nineteenth Centuries: A Roundtable on Periodization,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pennsylvania State University, March 2016  
 Seminar leader for the Texas Institute on “Teaching the American Literary Tradition,” Ransom Center, Austin, 2016  
 Organizing Committee for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual MELUS Conference (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States), 2015  
 Chair of the Melville Society Cohen Prize Committee, 2015  
 Principal organizer, “African American Writing Lost in Transcription,” University of Georgia, October 2015  
 Evaluator for the Melville Society Cohen Prize Committee, 2013–15  
 Principal organizer, “Locality and Illocality in Civil War Poetry,” ALA Symposium on American Poetry, Savannah, October 2014  
 Principal organizer, “Late Melville,” American Literature Association Conference, 2013  
 Co-organizer of a panel on “Ruins and Enchantment,” Civil War Caucus of the MMLA, November 2014  
 Research Associate for the NEH-funded Melville Electronic Library, 2010–14  
 Co-organizer of a special session on “Modes of Transport: Media, Genre, and Nineteenth-Century U.S. Poetry,” MLA Conference, January 2012  
 External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion at the University of Notre Dame, Brandeis University, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, University of Tennessee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Texas Tech University, Villanova University, King’s College (London), and Connecticut College, among other institutions.

### **Departmental and Institutional Service**

Franklin College Standing Committee on Fellows and Major Awards, 2024–  
 Undergraduate Committee, 2024–26, 2020–22, 2015–17  
 Post-Tenure Review Committees, 2024, 2022  
 Board of Regents Academic Advisory Committee for English, 2022–

Chair, Academic Program Review Committee, 2024  
 Department Meeting Officer, 2023–24  
 Interim Department Head, 2022–23  
 Chair, English Department Advisory Committee, 2022–23  
 Judge, Bedingfield Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2023  
 Third-Year Review Committee, 2022  
 Elected Member of the English Department Advisory Committee, 2020–22, 2016–18  
 First-Year Writing Committee, 2021–22  
 Chair of the Ballew Lectures Committee, 2019–20  
 Ballew Lectures Committee, 2015–20  
 Search and Hiring Committees, 2014, 2017, 2018, 2025  
 Phinizy Spalding Lecture Committee, 2018–  
 Judge for the H. Grady Hutcherson Memorial Scholarship, 2017  
 Co-organizer of a Symposium on “Historical Poetics,” University of Georgia, 2014  
 Co-organizer of a Faculty Seminar on “Historical Poetics,” funded by the Willson Center  
 for the Humanities, 2013–14  
 Keynote Speaker at the English Department Graduation Ceremony, 2014  
 Graduate Program Committee, 2011–13  
 Co-organizer of a Faculty Seminar on “Transnationalism,” funded by the Willson Center  
 for the Humanities, 2011–12  
 Judge for the Robert E. Park Essay Award (for the best essay in a graduate class), 2012

### **Theses Supervised**

Kelsey McQueen, “American Cultures of Death and Dying: Walt Whitman’s Late Style and the *Ars Moriendi*,” Ph.D. 2025 (chair) [Faculty at Oglethorpe County High School]  
 Sarah Shermeyen, “A Swamp Pastoral: Writing Florida into the American Imagination,” Ph.D. 2024 (co-chair) [Acquisitions Editor at the University of Georgia Press]  
 Julia Lindsay, “Afrofuturist Pasts in the American South,” Ph.D. 2024 (reader) [Independent Scholar]  
 Phillip Brown, “‘Loose’ But Not Free: Postcolonial Ambivalence and Ambiguity in Martin R. Delany’s *Blake*,” M.A. 2023 (chair) [Ph.D. student at the University of Notre Dame]  
 Sidonia Serafini, “Black, White, and Native: *The Southern Workman*, Coalition Citizenship, and American Writing, 1890-1920,” Ph.D. 2022 (reader) [Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University]  
 Michelle-Taylor Sherwin, “American Women Writer’s and Mentorship, 1920-1995,” Ph.D. 2022 (reader) [Faculty at Montverde Academy]  
 Cameron Winter, “‘The Monstrous Tinder-Dry Rotten Shell’: the Ruination and Destruction of the Plantation Big House in the Literature of the U.S. South, 1865-1939,” Ph.D. 2022 (reader) [Postdoctoral Fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology]

- Alexander Sheldon, "Salvaging the Self: Form and Style in Tom McCarthy's *C*," M.A. 2022 (reader) [Ph.D. student at the University of Georgia]
- Margaret Dryden, "Rare and Trembling Praise: The Rigorous Splendor of Emily Dickinson and Marianne Moore," M.A. 2021 (reader) [Ph.D. student at Emory University]
- Elizabeth Heinz Swails, "The Animal Mind: Nonhuman Movement in American Romanticism," Ph.D., 2020 (chair) [Communications Coordinator for Upstate Forever]
- Jessica Brumley, "'That Bold American': The Construction of Race in the Letters of Christopher Wren Bunker," M.A., 2019 (chair) [Faculty at Anderson County High School]
- Kamina Gates, "The Revisionist Literary Practices of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, 1854-1892," M.A., 2019 (reader) [Faculty at Emily Griffith High School]
- Christopher Bollini, "Dark Lonerism: Self-Sabotage, Apathy, and Uncanny Whiteness," Ph.D., 2018 (reader) [Visiting Assistant Professor at Jacksonville State University]
- Will Dunlap, "Bounty: A Novel," Ph.D., 2016 (reader) [Faculty at the Collegiate School in Richmond]
- Joshua Hussey, "The Material Imagination: Poetic Itineraries from Bradstreet to Olson," Ph.D., 2014 (reader) [Senior Lecturer at the University of Georgia]
- Tareva Johnson, "Perched in Potential: Mobility, Liminality, and Blues Aesthetics in the Writings of James Baldwin," M.A., 2012 (reader) [Lecturer at Clemson University]
- Emily Patrick, "Ishmael's Call, Ahab's Pen: Orality and Literacy in *Moby-Dick*," M.A., 2012 (reader) [Business Owner]

### **Professional Associations**

Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers  
 Modern Language Association  
 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
 The Melville Society  
 The Emily Dickinson International Society