

## Cody Marrs

Department of English  
University of Georgia  
135 Park Hall  
Athens, GA 30602  
email: cmarrs@uga.edu

### 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

### Administrative Appointments

Interim Department Head, 2022–23

### Authored Books

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

*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*, *Civil War Book Review*, *Journal of the Civil War Era*, *Journal of Southern History*, *Times Higher Education*, *Southern Review of Books*, 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.

*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*. SAML A Studies Book Award, Honorable Mention. Reviewed in *American Literature*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *Choice*.

### **Edited Books**

*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*.

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

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

### **Book Series**

General Editor, *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*. Four-volume series featuring about 100 contributors. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2022.

### **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**

“*Battle-Pieces* and the Problem of Beauty,” in *The Oxford Handbook on Herman Melville*, eds. Jennifer Greiman and Michael Jonik (forthcoming, Oxford University Press)

“The War Story,” in *The Cambridge Companion to the American Short Story*, eds. Gavin Jones and Michael Collins (forthcoming, Cambridge University Press)

“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. Marris (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

“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 Marris (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2019), 1–10

“Introduction,” co-authored with Christopher Hager, in *Timelines of American Literature*, eds. Cody Marris 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)

### Reprints

“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)

“*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

### Reviews

“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.

### 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 (semester-long sabbatical), 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  
 SAMLA Studies Book Award, Honorable Mention, 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 (semester-long sabbatical), UGA Research Foundation, 2012  
 Hennig Cohen Prize for the best essay or chapter on Herman Melville, 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 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**

“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 Political Economy of Poe’s Racial Unconscious,” 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

*Graduate-level courses:*

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

**Professional Service**

Member of the Advisory Council for the American Literature Society, 2020-  
 Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Johns  
 Hopkins University Press, Columbia University Press, University of  
 Massachusetts Press, University of North Carolina Press, University of  
 Virginia Press, Routledge, Broadview Press, Lexington Books, *American  
 Literary History*, *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*, and *Borrowers and  
 Lenders: The Journal of Shakespeare and Appropriation*  
 Member of the Editorial Board for *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, 2020-  
 Member of the Editorial Board for *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century  
 Americanists*, 2019-  
 Member of the Editorial Board for *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American  
 Literature and Culture*, 2017-  
 Chair, 1921 Prize for the “best article in any field of American literature,” 2022-23  
 Member of the Editorial Board for the University of Georgia Press, 2017-2020  
 Referee/Evaluator for the MacArthur Foundation “Genius Grants,” 2017  
 Seminar leader for the Texas Institute on “Teaching the American Literary  
 Tradition,” Ransom Center, Austin, 2016  
 Co-organizer of “Long and Short Nineteenth Centuries: A Roundtable on  
 Periodization,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists,  
 Pennsylvania State University, March 2016  
 Chair of the Melville Society Cohen Prize Committee, 2015  
 Evaluator for the Melville Society Cohen Prize Committee, 2013-15  
 Organizer of a roundtable on “African American Writing Lost in Transcription,”  
 University of Georgia, October 2015  
 Member of the Organizing Committee for the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual MELUS Conference  
 (Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States), 2015

Co-organizer of a panel on “Ruins and Enchantment,” Civil War Caucus of the MMLA, November 2014  
 Organizer of a panel on “Locality and Illocality in Civil War Poetry,” ALA Symposium on American Poetry, Savannah, October 2014  
 Research Associate for the NEH-funded Melville Electronic Library, 2010–14  
 Organizer of a panel on “Late Melville,” American Literature Association Conference, 2013  
 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 Pennsylvania State University, Brandeis University, Texas Tech University, Villanova University, King’s College (London), and Connecticut College, among other institutions.

### **Departmental and Institutional Service**

Interim Department Head, 2022–23  
 English Department Advisory Committee, 2020–22, 2016–18, 2014–15  
 Third-Year Review Committee, 2022  
 Post-Tenure Review Committee, 2022  
 Undergraduate Committee, 2020–22, 2015–2017  
 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  
 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**

Sidonia Serafini, “Black, White, and Native: The Southern Workman, Coalition Citizenship, and American Writing, 1890-1920,” Ph.D. 2022 (reader) [Assistant Professor at Georgia College & 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 Franklin 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]
- Joshua Hussey, "The Material Imagination: Poetic Itineraries from Bradstreet to Olson," Ph.D., 2014 (reader) [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**

Modern Language Association  
 C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
 The Melville Society  
 The Emily Dickinson International Society