

ERICA FRETWELL

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University at Albany
1400 Washington Ave.
Albany, NY 12208

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS Associate Professor of English, University at Albany, 2020- present
Assistant Professor of English. University at Albany, 2013 – 2020
Visiting Assistant Professor. College of the Holy Cross, 2012 – 2013
Visiting Scholar. University of California, Berkeley, 2011 – 2012
Lecturer. San Francisco State University, 2011 – 2012

EDUCATION Ph.D. English, Duke University, 2011
B.A. English and Anthropology, New York University, 2004

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Sensory Experiments: Psychophysics, Race, and the Aesthetics of Feeling (Duke, 2020)
Awards: Finalist, Modernist Studies Association First Book Prize
Reviews: *American Literary History*; *Centaurus: European Society for the History of Science*; *CHOICE*; *Essence & Critique*; *Papers in Language and Literature*; *Pulse: The Journal of Science and Culture*; *The Senses and Society*; *Social History of Medicine*

The Palgrave Handbook of Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature and Science.
Co-editors Ahuja, Allewaert, et. al. Palgrave, 2020. Multiauthor Volume.

Edited Journal Issues

“Senses with/out Subjects.” Co-editor Hsuan L. Hsu. *American Literature* 95.3 (2023)

“Common Senses and Critical Sensibilities.” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 5.3 (2018)

Journal Articles

“Redistributions of the Sensible.” Co-author Hsuan L. Hsu. *American Literature* 95.3 (2023): 447 – 457.

“Sensitivity Training.” *PMLA* 138.1 (2023): 144 – 150.

“Common Senses and Critical Sensibilities: An Introduction.” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities* 5.3 (2018): 1 – 9.

“Stillness Is a Move: Helen Keller and the Kinaesthetics of Autobiography.” *American Literary History* 25.3 (2013): 563 – 587.

“Emily Dickinson in Domingo.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1.1 (2013): 71 – 96.

Book Chapters

“Sense.” In *Keywords for Health Humanities*, ed. Sari Altschuler, Jonathan Metz, Priscilla Wald, 183 – 186. New York University Press, 2023.

“How to Read Disabled Bodies in History.” In *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Body*, ed. Travis Foster, 165 - 179. Cambridge University Press, 2022.

“Introduction.” In *The Palgrave Handbook of Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literature and Science*. Co-authors Ahuja, Allewaert, et. al., 1 – 25. Palgrave Macmillan, 2020.

“Black Power in the Kitchen.” In *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Food*, ed. J. Michelle Coghlan, 182 – 196. Cambridge University Press, 2020.

“Haptic Feelings.” In *The New Walt Whitman Studies*, ed. Matt Cohen, 144 – 160. Cambridge University Press, 2020.

“1833 – 1932: American Literature’s Other Scripts.” In *Timelines of American Literature*, ed. Cody Marrs and Christopher Hager, 21 – 36. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2019.

Book Reviews

Writing the Brain: Material Minds and Literature, 1800 – 1880 by Stefan Schöberlein. *British Society for Literature & Science* (2024)
<https://www.bsls.ac.uk/stefan-schoberlein-writing-the-brain-material-minds-and-literature-1800-1880/>

Bio-Imperialism: Disease, Terror, and the Construction of National Fragility by Gwen Shuni D’Arcangelis. *American Literary History* 35.1 (2023): 672 – 675.

Writing Pain in the Nineteenth-Century United States by Thomas Constantinesco. *Textual Practice* (2022)
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0950236X.2022.2122302>

The Portrait’s Subject: Inventing Inner Life in the Nineteenth-Century United States by Sarah Blackwood. *The New England Quarterly* 94.2 (2021): 295 – 298.

Animate Literacies: Literature, Affect, and the Politics of Humanism by Nathan Snaza. *Studies in the Novel* 52.3 (2020): 368 – 370.

The Biopolitics of Disability: Neoliberalism, Ablenationalism, and Peripheral Embodiment by David T. Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder. *ALH Online Review* XIV (2018): 1 – 3.
https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/alh_review_series_14

Reading and the Body: The Physical Practice of Reading by Thomas McLaughlin. *SHARP News* 25.3 (2016): 19 – 20.

Public Writing

“The Spell of the Sentimental.” *World Picture* 14 (Summer 2023)

<http://worldpicturejournal.com/article/the-spell-of-the-sentimental/>

“Methods of Feeling.” Response to *Beside You in Time: Sense Methods and Queer Sociabilities in the American Nineteenth Century* by Elizabeth Freeman. *Syndicate Network*. June 2, 2021.

<https://syndicate.network/symposia/literature/beside-you-in-time/>

“From Lynchings to the Capitol: Racism and the Violence of Revelry.” *Al-Jazeera*. January 13, 2021.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2021/1/13/from-lynchings-to-the-us-capitol-us-racism-and-the-violence-of-revelry>

“Dickinson Variations,” with Emily Ogden and Johanna Winant. *Avidly*

- January 8, 2021.

<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/01/08/dickinson-variations/>

- January 15, 2021.

<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/01/15/dickinson-variations-2/>

- February 26, 2021.

<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2021/02/26/dickinson-variations-3/>

“Reading Tactics.” Pedagogy Forum. #TeachingC19, C19 Society. August 25, 2019. <https://www.c19society.org/teachingc19>

“American Literature’s Other Scripts.” Fellow Highlight Blog Post, Library Company of Philadelphia. January 13, 2019.

<https://librarycompany.org/2019/01/18/american-literatures-other-scripts/>

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society (2019)

Faculty Research Award Program, University at Albany (2019)

VW-Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, FRIAS (2017)

Drescher Leave Program Award, NYS/United University Professors (2016)

Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia (2015)

University Auxiliary Service Program Grant, University at Albany (2015)

College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award, University at Albany (2014)

Dean’s Conference Support Award, University at Albany (2014)

Ashbel G. Brice Dissertation Fellowship Award, Duke University (2011)

Women’s Studies Gender and Race Research Award, Duke University (2010)

Franklin Humanities Institute Dissertation Fellowship, Duke Univ. (2009)
Women's Studies Ernestine Friedl Research Award, Duke University (2009)
Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University (2007)
Vertical Integration Grant, Duke University (2007)
Estelle Holmes Award for a Senior Thesis in U.S. Literature, NYU (2004)

**INVITED
LECTURES
& KEYNOTES**

“The Affective Bind”

Trowbridge Symposium: Interlocutions in American Literary History, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. February 2, 2024.

“Once More without Feeling: The Sentimental Anaesthetics of Living”

- *Guest Lectures in American Studies*. Lecture Series. University of Münster (DE). May 25, 2023.
- English Colloquium, University of Sussex (UK). February 22, 2023.
- Virginia J. Rock Plenary Address, Canadian Association of American Studies (CAN). October 29, 2022.
- *The Labor of Pain*. Symposium. University of Oxford. June 24, 2021.

“Sensitivity Training”

- *Sensation: A Lecture Series*. Concordia University (CAN). November 4, 2022.
- *A19: 19th-Century Americanists*. Lecture Series. Université Paris-Cité. October 7, 2022.
- *Other(ing) Sensing: Practices, Politics, and Ethics of Sensitive Media*. Symposium. Brandenburg Centre for Media Studies (DE). June 17, 2021.

“Sensory Experiments in Nineteenth Century America”

- *New Adventures in American Studies*. Symposium. Department of English, University of California – Berkeley. April 2, 2021.
- *Reading Late Nineteenth-Century African American Literature Now*. Graduate Seminar (Autumn Womack). Princeton University. April 1, 2021.
- *American Literature Seminar Series*. Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford. January 28, 2021.
- *American Science and Literature Lecture Series*. Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill. January 25 – 26, 2021.
- Medical Humanities Research Group, Durham University (UK). Jan 20, 2021.

“Body Images and the Psychophysics of Phantom Limbs”

- *Inter/dependency: A Symposium on the Medical Humanities*. Rutgers University. April 19, 2018.

- Department of American Studies. Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. Eichstätt (DE). June 14, 2017.
- *A19: 19th-Century Americanists*. Lecture Series. Université Paris-Diderot. March 3, 2017.

INTERVIEWS & PODCASTS

- “Feeling and Knowing: An Interview with Erica Fretwell.” *Transatlantica: Revue d’études américain*. Vol. 2 (2023)
<https://journals.openedition.org/transatlantica/21744>
- “Sensory Experiments.” *G19 New Book Forum*. May 25, 2021.
<https://www.g19collective.org/g19-new-book-forum/on-sensory-experiments>
- “Sensory Experiments.” *New Books Network*. Podcast. December 11, 2020.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/sensory-experiments>
- “Psychophysics, Mysticism, and Meaning.” *The Deep Dive*. Podcast. December 3, 2020.
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/3PyuXLLR58Qxmd0Mwbnx6C?s=i=UPL7bqYoTlKp6IIaHg12Gw>

EVENTS ORGANIZED

Series

- Resisting Anti-Blackness @ UAlbany: Research, Teaching, Activism* (co-organized with Johana Londoño, Elliot Tetreault, Francisco Vieyra). University at Albany. 2020 – 21
- Americanist Lecture Series* (with Wendy Roberts). University at Albany. 2014–15
- Graduate Student Pedagogy Workshop*. Workshop. Duke University. 2009 – 10
- Americanist Speaker Series*. Lectures. Duke University. 2008 – 10

Symposium

- Literature, Culture, and the Work of the Humanities*. Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies. Freiburg, Germany. July 19 – 20, 2017

Conference Sessions

- “Creative Cognitions.” American Studies Association, 2022
- “Racial Properties.” C19: The Society of 19th-Century Americanists, 2020
- “Synthetic Forms.” ASA, 2018
- “Haptic Feelings: Texts, Textures, Textiles.” C19, 2018
- “Common Senses, Critical Sensibilities.” C19, 2014
- “Racial Impressions, Religious Expressions.” C19, 2012
- “Toward a Sensual Politics.” ASA, 2011
- “The Disorder of Things.” C19, 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Sleeping in the Wake: Black Rest and the Politics of Unlived Experience.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present, 2024.
- “Almost White, But Not Quite.” *Ukraine: Crisis in Context*. UAlbany, 2022.

- “Maria Montessori’s Aesthetic Education.” American Comparative Literature Association, 2021.
- “Good Sympathetic Vibrations.” C19: The Society for Nineteenth Century Americanists, 2020.
- “Haptic Feelings.” Modern Language Association, 2020.
- “Sensitivity, 1888.” MLA, 2019.
- “Sexual and Organic Chemistry.” American Studies Association, 2018.
- “Holding Patterns.” C19, 2018.
- “Helen Keller: Skin (Touch) Flesh.” ASA, 2017.
- “Sense and Synaesthetics.” ACLA, 2017.
- “The War of the Dots.” C19, 2016.
- “Bodies that Antimatter.” C19, 2014.
- “Phantom Limbs and the Times that Bind.” ASA, 2013.
- “Ultrasonic Youth: Sight, Sound, Citizenship.” *Media in Transition*, MIT, 2013.
- “Racial Synaesthesia; or The Senses Pass.” C19, 2012.
- “Helen Keller and the Kin-aesthetics of Autobiography.” MLA, 2012.
- “Sensitive Citizenship and Other Nervous Conditions.” ASA. 2011.
- “Recipes for Reading.” Society for Textual Scholarship. 2011.
- “Scents of Subjection.” Univ. of Chicago, English Grad. Conference, 2010.
- “Sonographic Youth: Ultrasounds, Albums, National Affiliation.” ASA, 2009.
- “Annotations in Time and Space.” Digital Humanities, 2009.
- “Interface Design for Static Multimedia Documents.” STS, 2009.
- “Unborn Images: The Promise and Disavowal of Race in Fetal Sonograms.” Yale University, American Studies Graduate Conference, 2008.

**GRADUATE
TEACHING
AND
ADVISING**

Graduate Courses, University at Albany

- ENG 580 Racial Modernity and the Realist Impulse
- ENG 581 Taste-making in Postbellum America
- ENG 681 *Moby-Dick*
- ENG 681 Archives in Black and White
- ENG 685 Literary Sense and Scientific Sensibility
- ENG 710 Textual Studies I
- ENG 771 Practicum in Teaching Writing and Literature

Doctoral Dissertation Committees

- Timothy Laberge (in progress) “Problems of Historical Imagination in the Postmodern Era.” Member.
- Julie Edewaard (in progress) “Confucianism in Transcendentalism: Lydia Maria Child, Henry David Thoreau, and Ralph Waldo Emerson.” Director.
- Paul Lashway (in progress) “Coven of Democracy: Native American Witches and the Founding of American Politics.” Member.
- Andrew Butt (in progress) “‘To become interesting’: An Approach to Affect and Reason in Modernist Literature.” Member.
- Eugene Pae (in progress) “Rethinking Black Ontology and the Theory of the

Human: Subject Formation in Narratives of Slavery.” Director.
Eric Koch (2024) “Contemporary American Fiction and the New Sincerity.” College of Arts and Sciences. Member.
Naoto Kojima (2022) “Before Realism: The Great American Novel and the Forms of Nationhood, 1852 – 1881.” Member.
C. Alice Hofmann (2021) “Trauma Before the Name: Impersonal Violence in Nineteenth-Century American literature.” Member.
Miaad Mahmood (2021) “The Paradox of Intimacy in Victorian and Early Twentieth Century Novels.” Member.
Skye Anicca (2019) “The Fiction of Women in Contemporary American Literature: The Borderlands of Intersectional Feminism, Postcolonial American Studies, and Creative Writing.” Member.

Doctoral Exam Committees

Donna Hayles (2025), Director.
Timothy Laberge (2023), Member.
Julie Edewaard (2022), Director.
Paul Lashway (2022), Member.
Andrew Butt (2022), Member.
Eugene Pae (2020), Member.
Miaad Mahmood (2019), Member.
Skye Anicca (2018), Member.
Naoto Kojima (2015), Member.

Master’s Thesis Projects

Nyna Dies (2024) “On Becoming: Queerness, Erotics, and Motion in Urban Crime Fiction.” Reader.
Kelly D’Souza (2022) “Body, Mind, and Locale: Understanding the American Reality through Blended Environs in William Carlos Williams’s Poetry.” Reader.
April Quattlebaum (2021) “Defining African American Authorship from James Weldon Johnson to Melvin B. Tolson.” Director.
Natalia Davila (2021) “Uncle Tom’s Women: Slavery and Black Female Sexuality.” Director.
Tommie Sutton (2021) “Gendered Rhetoric of Video Game Streaming: Female Agency, Harassment, and Cat Girls.” Reader.
Jillian Shea (2020) “Idealist and Materialist Approaches to Abolition in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin* and *The Daughter of Adoption*.” Co-director.
Lauren Weeks (2020) “The Legacy of Uncle Tom: The Transformation of Black Masculinity and Racial Politics.” Director.
Joanna Heath (2019) “Emily Dickinson and the Book of Job.” Co-director.
Julian Mostachetti (2018) “(i).” Co-director.

Awards Students Received

Lauren Weeks, English Dept. Award for Outstanding M.A. Thesis (2020)

Teaching Mentorship

Julie Edewaard

**UNDER-
GRADUATE
TEACHING AND
ADVISING**

Mari Christmas

Undergraduate Courses

ENG 413 Sentimentality
ENG 374 Race and Realist Fiction
ENG 373 Literature of the Americas: New World Genres
ENG 368 Women Writers: Our Emily Dickinson
ENG 337 Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature
ENG 205 Introduction to Writing in English Studies

Undergraduates Mentored

Margaret O'Connor, Senior Honors Thesis (2021) "Performing American Eugenics." Director.

Emily Lange, Senior Honors Thesis (2015) "The Failure of Science Fiction: Revisiting Scientific Romance." Director.

Awards Students Received

Margaret O'Connor, Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research (2021)

*Published in *Intersect: The Stanford Journal of Science and Technology* 15.1 (2021): 1 – 15.

Emily Lange, Presidential Award for Undergraduate Research (2015)

**TEACHING
EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Course, San Francisco State University (2012)

ENG 760 Nineteenth-Century American Gothic

Undergraduate Courses, College of the Holy Cross (2012 – 13)

ENG 368 African American Literature
ENG 351 American Renaissance
ENG 295 Readings in Twentieth-Century American Literature
ENG 201 Masterpieces of American Literature
ENG 121 Critical Reading and Writing

Undergraduate Courses, San Francisco State University (2011 – 12)

ENG 528 American Literature: 1914 – 1960
ENG 260 Introduction to Science Fiction

Undergraduate Courses, Duke University (2007 – 2009)

ENG 90 American Literature: Civil War to Civil Rights
ENG 26 Autobiography and the Lives of Others
TWP 20 Alone Together

**PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Editorial Board Member

American Literature, 2022 – 2025

External Reviewer for Tenure & Promotion

Dickinson College, Department of English

University of New Mexico, Department of English

Book Manuscript Reviewer

Fascination: Trance, Enchantment, and American Modernity by Patrick Kindig
(Louisiana State Univ. Press, 2022)

Essay Manuscript Reviewer

American Literature

American Literary History

American Quarterly

ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture

EurAmerica: A Journal of European and American Studies

History and Philosophy of the Life Sciences

History of Psychology

Isis: A Journal of the History of Science Society

J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

Journal of Modern Literature

Nineteenth-Century Literature

Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities

The Senses & Society

Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature

Victorian Studies

Fellowship Application Reviewer

Leverhulme Trust (UK)

Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (DE)

Endorsement Writer

How We Became Sensorimotor by Mark Paterson (Univ. Minnesota Press, 2021)

Editorial Assistant

American Literature, 2009 – 2011

Assistant Editor

Walt Whitman Digital Archive, 2007 – 2008

Project Manager

NEH Digital Humanities Grant for Walt Whitman's Marginalia, 2007 – 2008

<http://www.whitmanarchive.org/manuscripts/marginalia/>

**INSTITUTIONAL
SERVICE**

University at Albany, College of Arts and Sciences

CAS Council, Vice-Chair. Fall 2021

CAS Council, Representative. Fall 2017; Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

University at Albany, Department of English

Director of Graduate Studies Program. 2023 – present

Graduate Advisory Committee

Chair (ex officio). 2023 – present

Member. 2019 – 2022
Professionalization Committee
Member (ex officio), 2023 – present
Member. 2013 – 2017; 2021 – 2022
Promotion & Tenure Committee (E. Tetreault), Member. 2024 – 2025
Pre-tenure Review Committee (E. Tetreault), Chair. 2021 – 2022
Undergraduate Awards Committee, Member. 2020 – 2021
Honors Program Committee, Member. 2019 – 2020
Faculty Diversity Committee, Member. 2018 – 2019
Undergraduate Advisory Committee, Member. 2017 – 2018

**PROFESSIONAL
AFFILIATIONS**

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)
American Studies Association (ASA)
Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)
C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
Modernist Studies Association (MSA)
Society for Textual Scholarship (STS)