

**KARAH MARIE MITCHELL**

karahm@live.unc.edu

Department of English & Comparative Literature  
College of Arts & Sciences  
University of North Carolina  
Greenlaw Hall  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

---

## **EDUCATION**

**University of North Carolina**, Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D. English, Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2024

Dissertation: *"If you are always kind": Animals and Becoming Human(e) in Nineteenth-Century American Children's Literature*

Advisor: Eliza Richards

**University of Missouri**, Columbia, MO

M.A. English, May 2016

Thesis: *"The Dead, the Dead, the Dead": Encountering Loss in Civil War Poetry*

Advisor: Alexandra Socarides

**Louisiana State University**, Baton Rouge, LA

B.A. English, *summa cum laude*, College Honors, May 2014

Honors Thesis: *Shifting Stability: Identity in the World of Louise Erdrich*

Advisor: J. Gerald Kennedy

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

American literature of the long nineteenth century, with special attention to animal studies and the history of humane education.

## **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

Andrew Oliver Research Fellowship, 2022-2023

Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston MA

Dissertation Research Fellowship, Summer 2022

UNC Dept. of English & Comparative Literature

## **TEACHING AWARDS**

Krista Turner Award for Excellence in Student Support for Spring 2022  
UNC Dept. of English & Comparative Literature

Student Undergraduate Teaching Award, Spring 2022  
UNC Office of the Chancellor

## **OTHER AWARDS & NOMINATIONS (selected)**

C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists Travel Grant Award, April 2022

Robert Bain Award, April 2018, UNC Dept. of English & Comparative Literature (for outstanding work by a second-year student in pre-1900 American literature)

Outstanding Honors Thesis Award nomination, Louisiana State University, April 2014

## **CONFERENCE & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

“Melville, Montaigne, and Energetic Kittens,” 13<sup>th</sup> International Melville Society Conference, Paris, France, June 2022

“Human(e) Reconstructions: Animal Autobiography and the Almost-Human Animal,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists’ Seventh Biennial Conference, Coral Gables FL, April 1, 2022

“Spirits and elements / Have their descents’: Thoreau’s Dissenting Poetics,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists’ Sixth Biennial Conference, Virtual (due to COVID-19), October 2020

“Henry David Thoreau and the Possibilities of a Parahuman Approach,” Modern Language Association 2020 Convention, Seattle WA, January 2020

“Formal Elements: Thoreau’s Textual Technologies,” Thoreau Society Annual Gathering, Concord MA, July 2019

“I think I might learn some wisdom of him’: Thoreau’s Relationship to Animals and Our Post-Human Moment,” Modern Language Association 2019 Convention, Chicago IL, January 2019  
“John Rollin Ridge’s Aboriginal Transatlanticisms,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists’ Fifth Biennial Conference, Albuquerque NM, March 2018

“The Blessedness of Beginning Again’: Thinking about Poetry as Archaeology with Susan Howe,” Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Baltimore MD, March 2017

“Dickinson’s ‘Science of the Grave,’” Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting, Cité Universitaire in Paris, June 2016

“‘I write for the world at large’: Antebellum Bodies, Sympathies, and Print in Robert Montgomery Bird’s *Sheppard Lee*,” delivered for the English department’s graduate Intersections series at the University of Missouri, September 2015

“The Performative Politics of Robert Montgomery Bird’s *Sheppard Lee*,” delivered for the University of Missouri’s Women and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference, February 2015

“Shifting Stability: Native American Identity in the World of Louise Erdrich,” delivered for the LSU Honors College Undergraduate Research Colloquium, April 2014

## **SEMINAR PARTICIPATION**

“Indigenous Textualities” seminar at C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists’ Fifth Biennial Conference, Albuquerque NM, March 2018: “John Rollin Ridge’s Aboriginal Transatlanticisms”

Dickinson Critical Institute, Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting, Amherst MA, August 2017: “Theorizing Language as Death with Dickinson”

Dickinson Critical Institute, Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting, Paris 2016: “Dickinson’s ‘Science of the Grave’”

Dickinson Critical Institute, Emily Dickinson International Society Annual Meeting, Amherst MA, August 2015: “Inside and Outside ‘the Atom’s Tomb’: Nature, Death, and the Body in Dickinson’s Civil War Poetry”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book Chapter & Articles**

“‘Our School House is the Universe’: Henry David Thoreau as Radical Educator,” forthcoming in the new proposed *Oxford Handbook of Henry David Thoreau* (2024)

“Black Cats and White Women: Animal Autobiography and the Shaping of Race, Species, and Gender,” has been granted a revise and resubmit, to be revised and submitted again in March 2023

“A Posthumous Life: Thoreau and the Possibilities of Posthuman Biography,” *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies*, Vol. 27, 2019

### **Book Reviews**

Review of Antoine Traisnel's *Capture: American Pursuits and the Making of a New Animal Condition* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020) for *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* (Winter 2022, Vol. 30, No. 1)

[Online review](#) of LeAnne Howe's *Savage Conversations* for *The Carolina Quarterly* (March 2019)

Review of Laura Dassow Walls's *Henry David Thoreau: A Life* for the *Emerson Society Papers* (Fall 2018, vol. 29, no. 2)

[Online review](#) of Caleb Johnson's *Treeborne: A Novel* for *The Carolina Quarterly* (September 2018)

[Online review](#) of Filip Springer's *History of a Disappearance: The Story of a Forgotten Polish Town* for *The Carolina Quarterly* (April 2018)

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Undergraduate courses taught at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

**English 144: Popular Genres**, a general-education survey course

- Spring semester 2023; animals and literature focus

**English 105i: Writing in the Natural Sciences**, a field-intensive section of English Composition and Rhetoric, a first-year writing course

- Spring semester 2022
- Fall semester 2021
- Spring semester 2021: one section (online)

**English 105: English Composition and Rhetoric**, a first-year writing course

- Fall semester 2022: one section
- Fall semester 2020: one section (online)
- Summer session II 2020: one section
- Spring semester 2020: one section
- Fall semester 2019: one section
- Spring semester 2019: one section
- Spring 2018: one section
- Fall semester 2017: two sections
- Spring semester 2017: two sections
- Fall semester 2016: one section

**English 125: Introduction to Poetry**, a general-education survey course

- Fall semester 2018: one section

**Undergraduate courses taught at the University of Missouri, Columbia**

**English 1000: Exposition and Argumentation**, a first-year writing course

- Spring semester 2016: two sections
- Fall semester 2015: two sections

**WRITING COACHING EXPERIENCE**

**University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

August 2018-present: Graduate Writing Coach at The Writing Center

- Coach undergraduate, graduate, and professional students at UNC on any writing project
- Assist in the development and revision of instructional resources for the Writing Center

January-July 2018: Writing tutor for the Academic Support System for Student Athletes (ASPSA)

**University of Missouri, Columbia**

August 2014-May 2015: Graduate writing tutor for The Writing Center

**Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge**

January-December 2013: Undergraduate writing tutor for Writing Across the Curriculum

**OTHER ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE & SERVICE**

**At the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**

- Participant and organizer, UNC-Duke Americanist Speakers Series (August 2018-May 2019)
- Contributor, *Melville Electronic Library* (June 2017)
- Participant and organizer, King's College, London—UNC Exchange Program (June 2017)

**At the University of Missouri, Columbia**

- English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) Representative, Undergraduate Studies Committee, August 2015-May 2016

**At Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge**

Student Research Assistant to J. Gerald Kennedy, Fall Semester 2012

- Proofread manuscript for *Poe and the Remapping of Antebellum Culture* (published by LSU Press)
- Researched pertinent materials for Dr. Kennedy's book project on Nationalism and Literature in nineteenth-century America

Archives Assistant at Hill Memorial Library, May-July 2012

- Digitized and edited photographs for “Andrew D. Lytle’s Baton Rouge Photograph Collection”: <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/lsuscp15140coll12:collection>.
- Managed and organized spreadsheets in connection with this collection

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, June 2015-present

Modern Language Association, April 2018-present

The Thoreau Society, April 2018-present

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, June 2018-present

### **RELEVANT COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Independent Animal Rescue (IAR), Durham, NC (March 2021-present)

- Assist with anesthesia induction, surgical preparation, & surgery for feline spays and neuters
- Fill in other supporting roles as needed by the organization