

# **Karah M. Mitchell**

*pronouns: she/her/hers*

## **EDUCATION**

### **Ph.D., English, 2024 (expected)**

The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Dissertation: “‘If You Are Always Kind’: Animals and Becoming Human(e) in Nineteenth-Century American Children’s Literature”

Director: Eliza Richards

Committee: Gregory Flaxman, Timothy Marr, Kimberly J. Stern, Matthew Taylor

### **M.A., English, 2016**

The University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Thesis: “‘The Dead, the Dead, the Dead’: Encountering Loss in Civil War Poetry”

Advisor: Alexandra Socarides

### **B.A., English, Minor in French, College Honors, 2014**

Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

Thesis: “Shifting Stability: Identity in the World of Louise Erdrich”

Advisor: J. Gerald Kennedy

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Peer-Reviewed Articles**

“Black Cats and White Women: Animal Autobiography and the Shaping of Race, Species, and Gender,” forthcoming in *American Literature*, vol. 96, no. 3, September 2024.

“A Posthumous Life: Thoreau and the Possibilities of Posthuman Biography,” *The Concord Saunterer: A Journal of Thoreau Studies*, vol. 27, 2019, pp. 127-142.

### **Book Chapters**

“‘Our School House is the Universe’: Henry David Thoreau as Radical Educator,” forthcoming chapter in *The Oxford Handbook of Henry David Thoreau*, 2025.

### **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*, vol. 30, no. 1, Winter 2022, pp. 107-110.

[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*, vol. 29, no. 2, Fall 2018, p. 14.

[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.

### **Public Humanities Scholarship**

Co-host of an episode on the history of Newfoundland dogs in the nineteenth century, "Sagacious Canine Companions: Nineteenth-Century Newfies in Fact and Fiction," for the C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanist Podcast Series (in final editing stages as of December 2023)

"A Journey Through Thoreau's Journals," a website documenting my 20+ year reading project through Thoreau's journals, which he kept from October 1837 to November 1861 (in development, to be released to public in Summer 2024 with continual updates until 2044)

### **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**

Off-Campus Dissertation Research Fellowship, Spring 2024

The Graduate School, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Lapides Fellowship in Pre-1865 Juvenile Literature and Ephemera, 2023-2024

American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

Andrew Oliver Research Fellowship, 2022-2023

Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, MA

Dissertation Research Fellowship, Summer 2022

Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

### **TEACHING AWARDS**

Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching by Graduate Teaching Assistants, 2024

Office of the Provost, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Krista Turner Award for Excellence in Student Support for Spring 2022

Dept. of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Student Undergraduate Teaching Award, 2022

Office of the Chancellor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Behold My Little Lamb’: Little Girls, Little Lambs, and Ending Animal Cruelty,” to be presented at C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists’ Eighth Biennial Conference, Pasadena CA, March 2024

“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

## **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”

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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

English 144: Popular Genres (Animals and Literature focus)

- Spring semester 2023

English 125: Introduction to Poetry

- Fall semester 2018

English 105i: Writing in the Natural Sciences

- Fall semester 2023
- Spring semester 2022
- Fall semester 2021
- Spring semester 2021 (online)

English 105: English Composition and Rhetoric

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

### **Undergraduate courses at the University of Missouri, Columbia:**

English 1000: Exposition and Argumentation

- Spring semester 2016 (two sections)
- Fall semester 2015 (two sections)

## **WRITING COACHING EXPERIENCE**

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

August 2018-December 2023: Graduate Writing Coach at The Writing Center

- Coached over 2,000 individual UNC students (undergraduates, graduates, and professional students) on a variety of writing projects
- Assisted in the development and revision of instructional resources for the Writing Center
- Trained new coaches for each academic year (beginning August 2019)

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***

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

- Proofread manuscript for *Poe and the Remapping of Antebellum Print Culture* (LSU Press, 2012; eds. J. Gerald Kennedy and Jerome McGann)
- Researched relevant materials for *Strange Nation: Literary Nationalism and Cultural Conflict in the Age of Poe* (Oxford U Press, 2016)

Archives Assistant at Hill Memorial Library, May-July 2012

- Digitized and edited original photographs for “Andrew D. Lytle’s Baton Rouge Photograph Collection”: <https://louisianadigitallibrary.org/islandora/object/lsu-sc-p15140coll12:collection>
- Managed and organized spreadsheets in connection with this collection

## **COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER WORK**

*Independent Animal Rescue (IAR), Durham, NC (March 2021-December 2023)*

- Prepare felines for spay and neuter procedures
- Assist veterinarians by monitoring feline vitals, administering necessary anesthetics during spay and neuter procedures, and assisting in treating injuries

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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

Modern Language Association, April 2018-present

The Thoreau Society, April 2018-present

## **LANGUAGES**

French – Reading/Writing/Speaking (C1 level)

## **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Adobe Audition (audio recording & editing), Adobe Premiere Pro (video recording & editing),

Adobe Spark (web-based story-building), WordPress (website building)

## **REFERENCES**

Eliza Richards

Professor, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ecr@email.unc.edu

Kimberly J. Stern

Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature

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Timothy Marr

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