

KARAH MARIE MITCHELL

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Department of English & Comparative Literature
College of Arts & Sciences
University of North Carolina
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EDUCATION

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Ph.D. English, Anticipated Graduation Date: May 2023

Dissertation: *"The Call of Kind": Humanizing the Animal in American Literature, 1830-1918*

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 critical animal studies, histories of natural science, and poetics.

CONFERENCE & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

"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

Articles

“A Posthumous Life: Thoreau and the Possibilities of Posthuman Biography,” *The Concord Saunterer* Vol. 27, 2019 (roundtable article from MLA 2019)

Book Reviews

Currently reviewing: 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*

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

- Spring semester 2021: one section (online)

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

- 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 required 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

ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE & SERVICE

At the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

- Participant and organizer, 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

Student Worker 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/lsu-sc-p15140coll12:collection>.
- Managed and organized spreadsheets in connection with this collection

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

UNC Robert Bain Award (for outstanding work by a second-year student in pre-1900 American literature), April 2018

Emily Dickinson Critical Institute Travel Grant, \$500, August 2017

Emily Dickinson Critical Institute Travel Grant, \$750, June 2016

Outstanding Thesis Award nomination, Louisiana State University, April 2014

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Thoreau Society, April 2018-present

Modern Language Association, April 2018-present

The Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, June 2018-present

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

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Independent Animal Rescue (IAR), Durham, NC

- Assist with anesthesia induction and surgical preparation for feline spays and neuters
- Fill in other supporting roles as needed