**matthew a. taylor**

Department of English & Comparative Literature

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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Chapel Hill, NC 27599

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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D., English, Johns Hopkins University, 2008

M.A., English, Johns Hopkins University, 2005

B.A., Honors English and Biology (double major), *magna cum laude*, Trinity University, 2001

**ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2014-present

Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008-2014

**EDITORIAL POSITIONS**

Co-Editor, *American Literature*, 2016-present

Associate Editor, *English Literary History*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005-2007

Assistant to Simon During, ed., *The Cultural Studies Reader*, 3rd ed., 2006

**SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Faculty Fellowship, UNC Institute for the Arts & Humanities, 2017

Schwab Academic Excellence Award, UNC Institute for the Arts & Humanities, 2016

Distinguished Publication Awards, UNC Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, 2011, 2013

University Research Council Small Grant Award, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012

IBM Junior Faculty Development Award, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2009

James Gargano Award for Best Scholarly Essay (2007), Poe Studies Association (awarded 2009)

Deans Teaching Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2007

*English Literary History* (*ELH*) Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2005-2007

J. Brien Key Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University, 2006

Johns Hopkins University Graduate Fellowship, 2002-2005

Phi Beta Kappa, Trinity University, 2001

Most Outstanding Student Awards in English Honors and Biology, Trinity University, 2001

National Merit Finalist Scholarship, Trinity University, 1997-2001

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Books*

Co-Editor, *Twentieth/Twenty-First Century Literature and Science*, Vol. 5 of Palgrave Handbooks of Literature and Science (in progress)

*Universes without Us: Posthuman Cosmologies in American Literature* (Univ. of Minnesota Press, 2013)

*Essays in Edited Collections*

“Nicholas Black Elk and Cosmology,” in *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*, ed. Coleman Hutchison, Volume IV (1876-1910), ed. Lindsay Reckson (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2020)

“Ahab’s After-Life: The Tortoises of ‘The Encantadas,’” in *Rethinking Ahab*, ed. Meredith Farmer and Jonathan Schroeder (under review at University of Minnesota Press)

*Journal Articles*

“At Land’s End: Novel Spaces and the Limits of Planetarity,” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (Spring 2016): 115-38.

“‘Contagious Emotions’ and the Ghost Dance Religion: Mooney’s Science, Black Elk’s Fever,” *English Literary History* 81.3 (Fall 2014): 1055-1082.

“The Ends of History,” *American Literary History* 25.4 [special 100th issue devoted to “History, Historicism, and Historiography”] (Winter 2013): 944-957.

“Ghost-Humanism; or, Specters of Materialism,” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1.2 (October 2013): 416-422.

“Whither Life?” ­*Subjectivity* 5.3 (September 2012): 276-289.

“The Nature of Fear: Edgar Allan Poe’s Posthuman Ecology,” *American Literature* 84.2 (June 2012): 353-380.

“The Phantasmodesty of Henry Adams,” *Common Knowledge* 15.3 (August 2009): 373-394.

“Edgar Allan Poe’s (Meta)physics: A Pre-History of the Post-Human,” *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 62.2 (September 2007): 193-221. (Received the James Gargano Award for Best Scholarly Essay by the Poe Studies Association)

**BOOK REVIEWS**

“*Uncertain Chances: Science, Skepticism, and Belief in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. By Maurice S. Lee,” *New England Quarterly* 86.1 (March 2013): 137-39.

**IN-PROGRESS WORK**

*Books*

“Forms of Life: Literature, Biology, Philosophy, 1859-1953”

“The Scale of Theory: Criticism in the Anthropocene”

*Journal Articles*

“Life’s Returns: Hylozoism, Again” (under review)

“Animate Planet: Vitalizing the Anthropocene”

**INVITED LECTURES, ROUNDTABLES, INTERVIEWS, RESPONSES, & READINGS**

Interviewed by Dominic Boyer and Cymene Howe, “Cultures of Energy Podcast,” Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences at Rice University, March 2017 (http://culturesofenergy.com/ep-68-matthew-taylor/)

“Planetary Being: Paradoxical Life in the Anthropocene,” Invited Speaker, Mellon Graduate Research Seminar, Rice University, March 2017

“On Not Saving the World,” Distinguished Lecturer, “The Americas Project” Speaker Series,

Co-Sponsored by the TILTS Environmental Humanities Public Forum, University of Texas at Austin, April 2016

“Thinking at the Scale of the Planet; or, The Problem with Sustainability,” Distinguished

Speaker, “Sustainabilities” Series, Georgia Tech University, April 2016

Interviewed by Andrés Lomeña Cantos, *Teknokultura*, 2016

Respondent to Adelene Buckland, “Borders” Symposium, King’s College London, September 2015

“Planetary Fictions,” Invited Speaker, Stanford University Center for the Study of the Novel, May 2014

“The Future of Graduate Study in the Humanities,” Invited Discussant, *Ethos Review* (http://www.ethosreview.org/intellectual-spaces/conversations2/), April 2014

“Planetary Writing,” Co-Keynote Speaker, 2013 *NOVEL* Forum: “The Novel and the Anthropocene,” Duke University, October 2013

Reader of David Reinfurt’s “bit-by-bit” for audio catalog of *paperless* exhibit, Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art (Winston-Salem, NC), June 2012

“Public Spheres and Public Spaces,” roundtable discussion with Michael Warner, Critical Speaker Series, UNC-Chapel Hill, September 2011

“Contagious Ideas and Communicable Cultures in James Mooney’s *The Ghost Dance Religion*,” Duke Americanist Speaker Series, October 2009

Respondent to N. Katherine Hayles, “Virtual Architecture, Actual Media,” UNC-Chapel Hill CHAT Festival Discussion Series, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, October 2008

“Physics Is a State of Mind: Henry Adams’s *Education*,” Johns Hopkins University Journal Club, October 2007

**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Animate Earths: Vitalizing the Anthropocene,” Twentieth-Century American Literature Division Panel, MLA Conference, January 2018

“Scalar Life,” SLSA Conference, November 2016

“Forms of Life,” C19 Conference, Penn State University, March 2016

“Life,” Medical Humanities and Health Studies Panel, MLA Conference, January 2016

“Hylozoism and the Meaning of Life,” Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel, MLA Conference, January 2015

“Weird Life,” MLA Conference, January 2015

“Mark Twain in Space: The Scale of Criticism,” C19 Conference, UNC-Chapel Hill, March 2014

“Speculative Reading,” Twentieth-Century American Literature Division Panel, MLA Conference, January 2014

“Weird Criticism: Speculative Fiction, Speculative Philosophy,” Literature and Science Division Panel, MLA Conference, January 2014

“A Livable Extinction: The Promise of Nonhuman Life,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, September 2012

“Posthuman Prospects: Nineteenth-Century Extinction Narratives,” C19 Conference, UC-Berkeley, April 2012 (unable to attend)

“Extinction as *Pharmakon*: Life after People,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, September 2011 (unable to attend)

“‘It Might Be the Death of You’: Chesnutt’s Conjure and Hurston’s Voodoo,” Late-19th and Early-20th Century American Literature Division Panel, MLA Conference, January 2011

“Whither Life? Human Extinction Narratives and Posthuman Futures,” “Whither Posthumanism?” Panel, MLA Conference, January 2011

“Hoodoo You Think You Are? Self-Conjuration in Chesnutt’s *The Conjure Woman* and Hopkins’s *Of One Blood*,” C19 Conference, Penn State Univ., May 2010

“Immortal Postmortems: The Posthuman (and) Literature,” Literature & Science Panel, NeMLA Conference, April 2010

“The Posthuman Ecology of *The World Without Us*,” ASLE Panel, NeMLA Conference, April 2010

“Dark Green: Edgar Allan Poe & Eco-Terror,” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment International Conference, June 2009

“Faculty/Student Collaborations in Editing and Publishing,” NeMLA/*MLS* roundtable, NeMLA Conference, March 2007

“*Mules and Men*: Zora Neale Hurston and the Materiality of Context,” American Literature Association National Conference, May 2006

“‘A Great Business Enterprise’: Charles Chesnutt and the Economics of Race,” Race in the Humanities Conference, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, November 2001

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 261: “Introduction to Literary Criticism,” Fall 2008, Spring 2012, Spring 2017

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 886: “Theories of Nature and the Human,” Fall 2016

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 786/CMPL 700: “Introduction to Graduate Study in English and Comparative Literature,” Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 347: “The American Novel: Popular Genres,” Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 057: “FYS: Future Perfect,” Fall 2014

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 861: “Pulp Fiction, Pragmatism, and the Politics of Life,” Spring 2014

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 268: “Medicine, Literature, Culture,” Spring 2014, Spring 2015

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 089: “FYS: The Future,” Spring 2012, Fall 2012 (designated a John L. Townsend III First-Year Seminar)

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 861: “Literature and Cultural Theory: Futures of Theory,” Fall 2011

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 344: “American Literature: 1860-1900,” Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2013

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 785: “Posthumanism,” Spring 2010

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 261H: “Honors Introduction to Literary Criticism,” Fall 2009

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 466/657: “Humanism and Its Others,” Spring 2009

UNC-Chapel Hill, ENGL 190: “Introduction to Literary Study: Transatlantic Literary Naturalism,” Fall 2008

Johns Hopkins University, “Logics of Race, Rhetorics of Racism,” Awarded Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Spring 2008

Johns Hopkins University, “Nature and the Individual in American Literature,” Fall 2007

Johns Hopkins University, “American Literature in Film,” Summer 2007

Johns Hopkins University, “The (Great) American Short Story,” Intersession 2007

Johns Hopkins University, “Academic Writing: Social and Ethical issues in Literature and Media,” Summer 2005

Johns Hopkins University, “Expository Writing: Sensationalism in Literature, Art, Media, Politics,” Fall 2004, Spring 2005

Johns Hopkins University, Teaching Assistant to Amanda Anderson, “The Nineteenth-Century Novel,” Spring 2004

Johns Hopkins University, Teaching Assistant to Michael Moon, “Twentieth-Century American Fiction and Film,” Fall 2003

**TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Critical Theory (including posthumanism, biopolitics, science studies, and critical race theory)

Science and Literature

Environmental Humanities

Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century American Literature (with transatlantic emphases)

**ADVISING**

*Graduate*

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Katharine Henry, 2017-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Kathleen Burns (Duke), 2017-

Dissertation Committee Member, Alejandro Omidsalar (UT-Austin), 2016-18

Dissertation Committee Co-Director, Moira Marquis, 2016-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Sean DiLeonardi, 2015-

Dissertation Committee Member, Connor Pitetti (Stony Brook), 2015-16

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Sarah Kuczynski, 2015-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Katya Gorecki (Duke), 2015-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Tyler Easterbrook, 2015-17

Qualifying Examination Committee Director, Ben Murphy, 2015-

Qualifying Examination Committee Co-Director, Travis Alexander, 2015-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Bridget Donnelly, 2014-16

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Nicole Berland, 2014-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Christina Lee, 2014-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Chair, Kenneth Lota, 2014-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Elisa Faison, 2014-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Anneke Schwob, 2014-

Qualifying Examination Committee & Dissertation Director, Ian Murray, 2014-

Qualifying Examination Committee & Dissertation Member, Jeff Gibbons, 2014-16

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Eric Meckley, 2013-

Qualifying Examination Committee Chair, Kym Weed-Buzinski, 2013-

Qualifying Examination Committee & Dissertation Co-Director, Lina Kuhn, 2012-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Josh Doty, 2012-16

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Jacob Watson, 2012-

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Erin Lodeesen, 2012-16

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Lee Norton, 2012-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Chair, Leslie McAbee, 2012-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Jason Loan, 2011-

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Rebecca Evans (Duke), 2011-16

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Chair, Ben Mangrum, 2011-14

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Fran McDonald (Duke), 2011-15

Dissertation Committee Member, Kwangtaek Han, 2011-2013

Qualifying Examination Committee Director, Ilouise Bradford, 2010-2012

Qualifying Examination Committee Member, Ashley Hall, 2010-2012

Dissertation Committee Member, Wilson Kaiser, 2010-2011

Qualifying Examination Committee Chair, Scott Dill, 2010-2011

Dissertation Committee Member, Kelly Bezio, 2009-2012

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Oren Abeles, 2009-

Dissertation Committee Member, Graham Culbertson, 2009-2012

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation Committee Member, Lynn Badia, 2009-2014

Dissertation Committee Chair, Heath Sledge, 2008-2015

Qualifying Examination Committee Chair, Meredith Farmer, 2008-2011

Qualifying Examination Director, Ricky Werner, 2008-2009

*Undergraduate*

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Matthew Hardin, 2018

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Carla Aviles-Jimenez, 2018

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Adviser, Anne Bennett Osteen, 2016-2017

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Michael Dickson, 2014

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Taylor Dodge, 2013

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Travis Styres, 2013

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Katharine Dulaney, 2011

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Laura Ownby, 2011

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Natalie Jayne Moore, 2010

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Jill Dwiggins, 2010

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Graham Hunter, 2010

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Jordan Wingate, 2010

Undergraduate Honors Exam Committee, Daniel Lawrence, 2009

**DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Concentration Co-Coordinator, Science, Medicine, and Literature concentration, 2018-

Group VI (American Literature to 1900) Coordinator, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2016-2017

Graduate Town Hall on Academic Publishing, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2016

Chair Selection Process Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2015

Interim Director of Undergraduate Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2015

UNC Marshall Scholarship Endorsement Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2015

Undergraduate Curriculum Working Group, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2015

Co-Director of Graduate Job Placement, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2011-2015

Group IX (Critical Theory and Cultural Studies) Coordinator, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2013-2014

Prospective Graduate Student Panel on Job Placement, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2013, 2014

Graduate Forum Panel on Academic Publishing, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2012

Graduate Admissions Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2010-2012

University Merit Scholarship Selection Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2009-2010

University Honors Welcome Reception, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2009

Dartmouth American Studies Scholarship Selection Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2009

Graduate Student Professionalization Panel, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2009

MA/MD Program Development Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008-2009

Graduate Student Mock Interviews Participant, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008, 2010-2012, 2015

Graduate Student MLA Interview Preparation Presentation, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008

Sophomore Seminar Course Development Committee, UNC-Chapel Hill, 2008

**SERVICE TO THE FIELD**

Chair, “Navigating the Academic Job Market: Job Materials & Interview Preparation,” British Womens Writer Conference, 2017

Peer Reviewer, *New York University Press*, 2015-

Peer Reviewer, *ESQ*, 2010-

Peer Reviewer, *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 2010-

Peer Reviewer, *Poe Studies*, 2010-

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE)

C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

**REFERENCES**

John McGowan, Ruel W. Tyson Jr. Distinguished Professor of the Humanities, UNC-Chapel Hill

Priscilla Wald, R. Florence Brinkley Professor of English, and Professor and Chair of Women's

Studies, Duke University

Cary Wolfe, Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English, Rice University

Mark McGurl, Professor of English, Stanford University

Sharon Cameron, William R. Kenan Jr. Emeritus Professor of English, Johns Hopkins University