

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,” has been accepted for publication in *American Literature* contingent upon review of final revisions (as of October 2023)

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

Book Chapters

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

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 editing stages as of October 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

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

"Melville, Montaigne, and Energetic Kittens," 13th 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-present: Graduate Writing Coach at The Writing Center

- As of August 2023, have coached over 1,800 individual UNC students (undergraduates, graduates, and professional students) on a variety of writing projects
- Assist in the development and revision of instructional resources for the Writing Center
- Train new coaches for each academic year (since 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-present)

- 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

Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies, Dept. of American Studies

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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