

Kir Kuiken

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English Department

University at Albany, SUNY
Albany, NY 12222
Department Phone: (518) 442-2648

EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D. English and Comparative Literature with Emphasis in Critical Theory, University of California, Irvine
- 2000 M.A. in Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine
- 1999 M.A. in Philosophy, University of California, Irvine
- 1996 Honors B.A. in Philosophy & English, Trent University, Canada

EMPLOYMENT

- 9/2014- Present Associate Professor, University at Albany, SUNY, English Department
- 8/2008 – 9/2014 Assistant Professor, University at Albany, SUNY, English Department
- 8/2007 - 5/2008 Lecturer, University of Illinois, Chicago, English Department
- 3/2007 - 6/2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, Univ. of California--Riverside, English Department

FIELDS OF RESEARCH

English and German Romanticism
18th and 19th Century European Literature
Critical Theory/ Literary Theory
Caribbean Studies
Film

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Adrift on the Earth: Caribbean Romanticism and Geo-Poetics (365 manuscript pages, Stanford University Press, 2026)

Imagined Sovereignties: Toward a New Political Romanticism (Fordham University Press, 2014)

Co-Edited Book (With Deborah Elise White, Emory University).

Haiti's Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution (Bloomsbury, 2022).

Articles

- "David Wills and the Tropological Machinery of Life," *Derrida Today* 18.1, 2025: 46-56.
- "Introduction- Romanticism and Political Ecology," *Romantic Circles* 1(2), 2024, hypertext
http://romantic-circles.org/index.php/praxis/political_ecology

- "Hölderlin: From the Death of Nature to the Earth," *Romantic Circles*, 1(2), 2024, hypertext http://romantic-circles.org/index.php/praxis/political_ecology
- "Günderrode's Earth: on the Political Ecology of 'Life,'" *European Romantic Review* 34.3 (2023): 369-376.
- "Impasse, Promise, and Impossible Community: Kleist's *Michael Kohlhaas* and Blanchot's Community of Lovers," *Comparative Literature*, 72.2 (2020): 128-143.
- "The Power of a Form of Thought that Has Become Foreign to Itself": Rancière, Romanticism and the *Partage of the Sensible*," *SubStance*. 45.1 (2016): 6-21.
- "Omphalos" *Essays in Romanticism*, 22.2 (2015): 167-181.
- "Derrida, Sovereignty and Style," *Oxford Literary Review*, 36.2 (2014): 225-229.
- "Introduction- The Citizen-Subject Revisited," (co-Authored with Jennifer Greiman) *Postmodern Culture*, 22.3 (2012).
- "The Metaleptic Imagination in Shelley's *Defence of Poetry*," *Keats-Shelley Journal*, 60 (2011): 95-111.
- "Shelley's 'Mask of Anarchy' and the Problem of Modern Sovereignty," *Literature Compass*, 8.2 (2010): 95-106.
- "Between Heidegger and Derrida: On the Impossible Futures of Techne," *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, 33.3-4 (2006): 293-310.
- "Deleuze/ Derrida: Towards an Almost Imperceptible Difference," *Research In Phenomenology*, 35 (2005): 290-308.
- "On the Delineation of Choice and Decision in Benjamin's Goethe's Elective Affinities," *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, 31.3 (2004): 286-308.

Book Chapters

- "Introduction- Haiti's Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution," co-authored with Deborah Elise White (Emory), *Haiti's Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution*, New York (Bloomsbury Press, 2022), 1-24.
- "Unavowed Community in Kleist's *Betrothal in San Domingo*," *Haiti's Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2022), 117-139.
- "Bio-Inscriptionality: The Eternal Return and Reproduction in Derrida's *Life/Death Seminar*," *Biotheory: Life and Death After Capitalism* (New York: Routledge Press, 2020), 63-79.
- "Bidding up on the Question of Sovereignty: Derrida Between Kant and Benjamin," *Deconstructing the Death Penalty: Derrida's Seminar and the New Abolitionism* (New York: Fordham University Press 2018), 119-138.
- "Eclipse of the Gaze: Nancy, Community and the Death of the Other," *Dead Theory: Derrida, Death and the Afterlife of Theory* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2016), 173-190.

Edited Volumes

- Editor of special issue of *Romantic Circles*, “Romanticism and Political Ecology” http://romantic-circles.org/index.php/praxis/political_ecology
- Co-editor with Deborah Elise White (Emory), collection on *Haiti’s Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution* (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2022).
- Co-editor with Jennifer Greiman (Wake Forest), special issue of *Postmodern Culture* on “The Citizen-Subject Revisited,” 22.3 (2012).

Review Essays

- Review of *Singularity* by Samuel Weber, *Derrida Today*, 15: 1 (2022), 118-125.
- “Deconstruction Beyond Itself: On Zsuzsa Baross’s ‘Posthumously for Jacques Derrida,’” *Cultural Critique*, 89 (2015), 218-233.

Dictionary Entries

- “Bare Life,” *Bloomsbury Handbook to Literary and Cultural Theory* ed. Di Leo, Jeffrey (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2018), 383-384.
- “Sovereignty,” *Bloomsbury Handbook to Literary and Cultural Theory* ed. Di Leo, Jeffrey (New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2018), 623-625.

Book Reviews

- Review of *Common Measure: Romanticism and the Groundlessness of Community* by Joseph Albernaz, *Genre* forthcoming 2026.
- Review of *Creolizing Frankenstein* ed. by Michael R. Paradiso- Michau, *Review 19*, Sep. 2025: https://www.review19.org/view_doc.php?index=676
- Review of *The Politics of Romanticism* by Zoe Beenstock, *Studies in Romanticism* 58(1) (2019): 143-146.
- Review of *The Reject: Community, Politics and Religion after the Subject* by Irving Goh, *SubStance* 48(1) (2019): 107-112.
- Review of *Life After Theory*, ed. Payne, Michael and Schad, John. *Philosophy in Review/ Comptes Rendus Philosophiques* 24.2 (2004): 143-146.
- Review of *Philosophy, Revision, Critique: Rereading Practices in Heidegger, Nietzsche, and Emerson* by David Wittenberg, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, 29.2-3 (2002): 470-474.
- Review of *The Work of Mourning* by Jacques Derrida, *Philosophy in Review/Comptes Rendus Philosophiques*, 22.3 (2002): 176-178.
- Review of *The Purest of Bastards: Works of Mourning, Art, and Affirmation in the Thought of Jacques Derrida* by David Farrell Krell, *Philosophy in Review/Comptes rendus philosophiques*, 21.2 (2001): 130-132.
- Review of *Deconstruction as Analytic Philosophy* by Samuel T. Wheeler III, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, 27.2 (2000): 543-547.

- Review of *Derrida, Kristeva, and the Dividing Line: An Articulation of Two Theories of Difference* by Juliana de Nooy, *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature*, 27.1 (2000): 316-322.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- **Book:** *The Earth and the Ends of Worlds in Post-Phenomenological Thought*
- **Book:** *Esoteric Romanticism and Political Ecology*
- **Article:** "Traces of the Earth and the Ends of Worlds: Derrida's Geo-philosophy" (25 manuscript pages for forthcoming special issue of *Derrida Today*)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022	Keats-Shelley Association Essay Prize for Unavowed Community in Kleist's <i>Betrothal in San Domingo</i> ," <i>Haiti's Literary Legacies: Romanticism and the Unthinkable Revolution</i> : New York: Bloomsbury Press, 2022, 117-139
2022	FRAP B Award
2015	CAS Faculty Travel Award
2015	UUP Individual Development Award
2014	CAS Faculty Travel Award
2014	Conference Support Award, University at Albany, SUNY
2014	UAS Program Funds, University at Albany, SUNY
2013	FRAP B Award
2013	CAS Faculty Travel Award
2011	UAS Program Funds, University at Albany, SUNY
2011	UUP Individual Development Award
2011	Conference Support Award, University at Albany, SUNY
2010	UAS Program Funds, University at Albany, SUNY

INVITED LECTURES

- "Ocular Proof: Derrida, Lanzmann and the Act of Witnessing" Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, July 11, 2026.
- "Traces of the Earth and the Ends of Worlds: Derrida's Geo-Philosophy," Derrida's Futures Symposium, Princeton University, Princeton NJ, October 6, 2024.
- "Heidegger's Earth," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, July 4, 2024.
- "David Wills and the Prosthetics of Language," Derrida Today Conference, Athens, Greece, June 12, 2024.
- "Derrida on the Concept of Hospitality," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, July 3, 2022.

- "Derrida's Concept of Forgiveness," Derrida Seminar Translation Project, Caen, France, July 3, 2019.
- "Bio-Inscriptionality: On Derrida's Life/Death Seminar," Society for Critical Exchange, University of Houston-Victoria, Victoria TX, February 8-11, 2018.
- "Hölderlin's Earth," Anthropocene Now: Ecology, Ethics, Politics Symposium, University at Albany-SUNY, Albany NY, April 20-12, 2018.
- "Nietzsche's 'Alleged Biologism' in Derrida's Life/Death Seminar," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, July 5, 2017.
- "Derrida on Heidegger's Marx," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, July 6, 2016.
- "Benjamin's 'Great Criminal' and Sovereign Violence," University of Texas A&M, College Station TX, November 17, 2016.
- "Agamben On the Sovereign's Relation to the Exception," UMASS, Boston MA, October 13, 2015.
- "Bidding Up on the Question of Sovereignty: Derrida Between Kant and Benjamin," Dialectical Thinking in the Humanities Workshop, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, April 28, 2015.
- "Benjamin's *Critique of Violence* and the Problem of the Death Penalty," Rethinking Sovereignty Conference, University at Albany-SUNY, Albany NY, April 17-18, 2015.
- "Omphalos," Symposium on 50th Anniversary of Geoffrey Hartman's *Wordsworth Poetry*, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University, New Haven CT, November 8, 2014.
- "Imagined Sovereignities"- workshop on my book (*Imagined Sovereignities*) for Brown Romanticism Workshops, Brown University, Providence RI, October 24, 2014.
- "'Love of Nature Leading to Love of Man': Rethinking Wordsworth's Political Imagination" University of Calgary, Calgary AB, Canada, March 8, 2014.
- "Glissant and the Concept of Relation," Columbia University, New York NY, Nov 20, 2013.
- "Sovereignty and Visuality: From Romanticism to the Occupy Movement," Adelphi University, New York NY, Nov 29, 2012.
- "Toward a New Political Romanticism: Coleridge, Fichte Schlegel and the Unconditional," Emory University, Atlanta GA, Feb 16, 2012.
- "Derrida and Nietzsche: on the 'Bidding Up' of Sovereignty," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, Jul 4-9, 2011.
- "Derrida and Schmitt on the 'Exception,' Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, Jul 5-10, 2010.
- "The Eclipse of the Gaze: Death, Image and Community in Nancy and Blanchot," Symposium on Death and Dying, Trent University, Peterborough ON, Canada, March 26-27, 2010.
- "On Derrida's Translation of 'Gewalten' in *Beast and the Sovereign* Vol 2," Derrida Seminars Translation Project, Caen, France, Jul 6-11, 2009.
- "On Two Forms of Interdisciplinarity," Interdisciplinary Research Workshop, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy NY, Mar 25, 2009.

- “Between Two Plasticities: Form, Trace and Sovereignty in Kant’s Transcendental Schematism,” Idioms of the Post Global conference, State University of New York- Buffalo, Buffalo NY, Mar 19-21, 2009.

PRESENTATIONS

- “Roumain and Clare: the Commons as Gift” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Athabasca University, Alberta Canada, Aug 14- 16, 2025
- “The Elements of Life: Günderrode and Schelling’s Organicism,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, University of Texas- Huntsville, Huntsville TX, Mar 30- Apr 2, 2023.
- “Gunderrode and Political Ecology,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Liverpool University, Liverpool, England, Aug 2-5, 2022.
- “Hölderlin and Political Ecology,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Chicago IL, University of Illinois- Chicago, Aug 8-11, 2019.
- “Kleist’s *Prinz Friedrich von Homburg*, Fichte’s *Addresses* and the Apostrophe of Community,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Brown University, Providence RI, June 22-25, 2018.
- “Kleist’s Unavowed Community,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Ottawa ON, Canada, August 10-13, 2017.
- “The Community of Lovers in Kleist’s Betrothal in San Domingo,” ACCUTE conference, Ryerson University, Toronto ON, Canada, May 27-30, 2017.
- “Toward a Biopoetics: Bataille, Kleist and the Avowal of Sovereignty” Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, Rice University, Houston TX, Nov 12-15, 2015.
- “Bidding Up on the Question of Sovereignty: Derrida Between Kant and Benjamin,” Derrida Today Conference, New York NY, May 28, 2014.
- “Figures of the Unconditional: Kant and Benjamin on the Death Penalty,” American Comparative Literature Association, New York NY, March 20-23, 2014.
- “Romantic ‘Muteness’: Reading Ranciere Reading Romanticism,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Boston University, Boston MA, Aug 8-11, 2013.
- “Fichte and Coleridge on the Unconditional: On (at least) Two Different Concepts of ‘Sovereignty’ in Romanticism,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Boston University, Boston MA, Aug 8-11, 2013.
- “The Exception Within the Exception: From Schmitt to Agamben and Beyond,” American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto ON, Canada, April 4-7, 2013.
- “Educs of the Imagination: Coleridge’s Symbolic Politics and the Problem of Sovereignty,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, Canada, August 18-22, 2010.
- “On the Threshold: London and the (Missing) Experience of Being-in-Common in Wordsworth’s Prelude,” International Conference on Romanticism, City University of New York, New York NY, Nov 5-8, 2009.

- "Between Two Exceptions: American Sovereignty as Auto-Immune Reaction," International Association of American Studies, Beijing, China, Sep 18-21, 2009
- Shelley's 'Mask of Anarchy' and the Problem of Modern Sovereignty," North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Duke University, Durham NC, May 21-24, 2009.
- "Blake, Desire and Sovereignty," Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Philadelphia PA, Nov 19-22, 2008.
- "Work of the Imagination: Difference and Repetition in Blake's Illuminated Manuscripts," International Conference on Romanticism, Oakland University, Rochester MI, Oct 16-19, 2008.
- "Shelley's Materialism: On the Imagination and the Language of Objects in the Defence of Poetry," International Conference on Romanticism, Loyola University, Baltimore MD, Oct 18-21, 2007.
- "Wordsworth's Second Missed Crossing: Techne and the Imaginatio Negativa of The Prelude," North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Purdue University, Lafayette IN, Aug 31-Sep 3, 2006.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Classes

AENG 894	Directed Reading
AENG 771	Teaching Practicum
AENG 710	Textual Studies I
AENG 642	Contemporary Problems in Critical Theory
AENG 641	Literature and the Anthropocene
AENG 581	Studies in a Literary Period- Romanticism and the Anthropocene
AENG 580	Romanticism and Political Ecology
AENG 541	Romantic Ideology / Aesthetic Ideology
ENG 265	Romantic Irony (UC – Riverside)

Undergraduate Classes

19th- Century Literature/ Romanticism

AENG 497	Independent Study
AENG 411Y	Romanticism and History/ Romanticism and the Anthropocene
AENG 343	Keats and Shelley
AENG 334	Romanticism, Imagination and Revolution
AENG 310	Introduction to Critical Reading
AENG 292	British Literary Traditions to the Present
AENG 291	British Literary Traditions
ENG 316	British Romanticism (U. of Illinois, Chicago)
ENG 166A	Introduction to British Romanticism (UC – Riverside)

Core Curriculum

AENG 210	Introduction to Literary Studies
AENG 310	Image and Text
AENG 305Z	Literature and Terror
AENG 205Z	Gothic Short Fiction

Critical Theory / Literary Theory

AENG 315	Introduction to Literary Theory
AENG 410	Literature and the Problem of Sovereignty
ENG 240	Introduction to Literary Theory (U of Illinois, Chicago)

Interdisciplinary

AENG 355	Studies in Film
AENG 412Y	French/ Global New Waves

Philosophy

PHIL 4	Introduction to Ethics (UC – Irvine)
PHIL12	History of Modern Philosophy (UC – Irvine)
PHIL 10	History of Ancient Philosophy (UC – Irvine)
PHIL 113	Race and Gender (UC – Irvine)
PHIL 5	Contemporary Moral Problems (UC – Irvine)

ADVISING/SUPERVISING

Ph.D. Chair

- Robert Williams-Taylor (In Progress)
- Brandon Tankersley (In Progress)
- Tom Skowronek (In Progress)
- Natalie Amiama (Completed)
- Audrey Peterson-McCann (Completed)

Ph.D. Committee Member

- Megan Wilson (In Progress)
- Will Pattee (In Progress)
- Minji Huh (In Progress)
- Kayla Adgate (In Progress)
- Michael Amrozowicz (In Progress)
- Ingrid Chen (In Progress)
- Sudarshan Ramani (In Progress)
- Andrew Brooks (Completed)
- Janna Urschel (Completed)

- Heewon Kwang (Completed)
- Dana Lawton-Balejko (Completed)
- Amy Mallory- Kani (Completed)
- Lucyna Prostko (Completed)
- Sabine Seiler (Completed)

Masters Chair

- Meghan J. Slaff (Completed)
- Lily Ringler, M.A. (Completed)
- Joseph Bertoni, M.A. (Completed)
- Mirit Elyahu, M.A. (Completed)

Masters Committee Member

- Daniel Charles (In Progress)
- Ethan Snowball (Completed)
- Sarah Di Carluccio (Completed)
- David Kelly (Completed)
- Colleen Burton, M.A. (Completed)
- Taylor Churchill, M.A. (Completed)
- Loralynn Krobetsky, M.A. (Completed)
- Caitlin Scheufler, M.A. (Completed)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor

- Florinda Gjypi (Presidential Award Recipient, Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Research, Completed)
- Auger Copps (Completed)
- Steffi Santos (Completed)
- David Allen (Completed)
- Stephanie Medrano (Completed)
- Joseph Meringolo (Presidential Award Recipient, Completed)
- Max Lawatsch (Presidential Award Recipient, Completed)
- Noelle Webster (Completed)

Honors Thesis Committee Member

- Mo Gardner (Completed)
- Angelica Medina (Completed)
- Kaitlyn Sheppeck (Completed)
- Sean Johnson (Completed)
- Emily Wierzbowski (Completed)
- Brian Deinhart (Completed)

- Candice Mann (Completed)
- Amanda McGowan (Completed)

SERVICE

University/College

09/2024- 05/2026	Member, Academic Senate
09/2024- 05/2026	Member, Governance Committee (Academic Senate)
09/2021-05/2022	Interim Director, Liberal Studies Program
08/2014- 08/2015	Interim Director, Liberal Studies Program
12/1/2012 – 05/2014	Member, Academic Planning Committee, CAS Faculty Council
3/1/2012	Scholar's Day Fair and Luncheon for incoming freshmen
9/14/2011	ITLAL panelist for Graduate Students entering job market
11/16/2009	NUFE meeting with delegates from Nanking University
9/2008 - 1/2010	CAS Faculty Council Representative
9/4/2008	ITLAL panelist for Graduate Students entering job market

Departmental

8/2026- Present	Director of Undergraduate Studies
5/2026- Present	Chair, Committee for Promotion to Full for Associate Professor Richard Barney
3/2024- 2/2025	Chair, Tenure Committee for Assistant Professor Elliot Tereault
9/2024- 5/2026	MA Committee
1/2017- 9/2022	MA English Director
9/2012-5/2024	Graduate Admissions Committee
9/2013- 5/2023	Events Planning Committee
9/2012- 9/2013	Departmental By-Laws Committee
1/2012- 5/2012	Faculty/ Staff Awards Committee
9/2010- 5/2011	Graduate Admissions Committee
9/2008 – 9/2010	MA Review Committee
11/ 2009 – 9/2010	Ad Hoc Committee on Service
10/2008 – 5/2011	19 th -Century Reading Group (Organized and hosted reading group for graduate students and faculty in the department)

Conference Organizer

4/17-18/ 2015	Member, organizing committee for “Rethinking Sovereignty” conference, SUNY-Albany
4/11-12/ 2014	Member, organizing committee for “Affinities” symposium, SUNY-Albany
11/15-16/ 2013	Member, organizing committee for “The Politics and Poetics of Affect: The Enlightenment and its Aftermaths” conference, SUNY-Albany
10/25-26/ 2011	Member, organizing committee for “Citizen-Subject Revisited” conference,

SUNY-Albany

- 10/22/2010 Organizer of seminar on “Crisis in the Humanities,” SUNY-Albany
- 2/26-28/2009 Member of organizing committee for “Rhetorics of Plague” conference, SUNY-Albany
- 10/28-30/2004 Member of organizing committee for “Legacies of Theory” conference, University of Alberta, Canada

Professional Service

- 2024- Present Chair, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
- 2022-2024 Vice-Chair, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
- 2009-Present Derrida Seminars Translation Project Member
- 2023-2024 Chair, Award Committee for Keats-Shelley Association of America
- 2018- 2021 Member, Executive Board, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
- 2016- 2020 Review Editor, Journal of Postmodern Culture (Johns Hopkins Press)
- 2016-2019 MLA Delegate Assembly (Romanticism)

Professional Reviewing

- 2024 Book Manuscript, Stanford University Press
- 2023 Book Manuscript, Cambridge University Press
- 2013 Book Manuscript, Fordham University Press
- 2017- 2018 Journal Reviewer, Derrida Today, Edinburgh University Press
- 2014- 2017 Journal Reviewer, Philosophy and Rhetoric, Penn. State University Press
- 2014- 2016 Journal Reviewer, Criticism, Wayne State University Press
- 2013- 2020 Journal Reviewer, Differences, Duke University Press
- 2011-2013 Journal Reviewer, PMLA, MLA New York