

VESNA KUIKEN

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Department of English

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EDUCATION

- PhD, 2015 American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
- MA, 2008 American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
- BA, 2007 European Literary Traditions, Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2019-Present Lecturer, Department of English, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2016-19 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, University at Albany, SUNY
- 2022-24 Lecturer, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
- 2012-2014 Instructor of Record: Literature Humanities, Columbia University
- 2010-2012 Writing Coach and Writing Center Consultant, Columbia University

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2014-2016 Research Assistant and Grant Writer, El Museo del Barrio, New York, NY
- 2000-2006 Grant Writer, Belgrade Circle, NGO, Belgrade, Serbia

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2018 Council on Research Award, UAlbany
- 2017 The Leon Edel Prize for the best essay on Henry James
- 2012-13 Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2010-11 Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Institute
- 2012, 2013 Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University,
- 2008 Bunner Award for the best Americanist MA thesis, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2008
- 2007-14 Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

Book

How Islands Remember in American Literature (forthcoming from Oxford University Press)

Edited Collection

Dispersion: Thoreau and Vegetal Thought, assistant editor, with Branka Arsić (Bloomsbury Press, 2021)

Articles

- "Emerson's Banyan-Rhizomatics," *SubStance Journal* 166 (54.1), 2025: 57-63.
- "Chance Encounters: Thoreau's Pomontology in 'Wild Apples,'" in *Dispersion: Thoreau and Vegetal Thought*, eds. Branka Arsić and Vesna Kuiken (New York: Bloomsbury, 2021), pp. 189-204.
- "Foreign Before 'The Foreigner': Jewett's Conjure Aesthetics" Special issue on women and medicine in nineteenth-century American literature, *Arizona Quarterly*, 74.4 (2018): 115-144.
- "Idiorhythmic Regionality, or How to Live Together in Jewett's *Country of the Pointed Firs*," *Arizona Quarterly*, 74.3 (2018): 87-118.
- "1884: *The Princess Casamassima*, Anarchy, and Henry James's Materialist Poetics," *The Henry James Review* 38.2 (2017): 113-133, recipient of the 2016 Leon Edel Prize.
- "'Fit to Be Free': From Race to Capacity in Jewett's 'The Mistress of Sydenham Plantation,'" *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 5.2 (2017): 239-266.
- "The Impersonal Lives of Margaret Fuller: A Problem of Biography," *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 42.1 (2015): 95-112.
- "On the Matter of Thinking: Margaret Fuller's Beautiful Work," in *American Impersonal*, ed. Branka Arsić (New York: Bloomsbury, 2014), pp. 99-129.

Work in progress

- "Submarine Histories: Stowe's Cuban Communities"
- "Tolstoy on Life as War"

Translations (English to Serbian, selection)

Edward Said, *Culture and Imperialism*, Judith Butler, *Psychic Life of Power* (co-translation), Gil Anidjar, *The Jew, the Arab: A History of the Enemy*, David Wills, *Prosthesis* (co-translation)

INVITED LECTURES AND SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Thaxter's Tidal Perception," Jewett Unbound Conference, Paris, France, October 18-19, 2024, conference co-organizer and presenter
- "Melville and Thaxter: Two Models of Outlandishness," Melville Society Annual Conference, Paris, France, June 27-30, 2022, panel organizer and presenter
- "Life on the Rocks: Celia Thaxter on Ecological Memory," University of Utah, February 26, 2022 (invited lecture)
- "Geology and Memory of Celia Thaxter's Isles of Shoals," Princeton University, November 30, 2021 (invited lecture)
- "Chance Encounters: Thoreau on Wild Apples," MLA, January 9-12, 2021 (panel organizer)
- "Life on the Rocks: Celia Thaxter's Driftwood Aesthetics," October 18-25, 2020, C19, virtual.

- “Idiorhythmic Temporalities in American Literature,” symposium *Anthropocene Now: Ecology, Ethics, Politics*, April 20, 2018, SUNY-Albany, symposium organizer.
- “Geology, History, and Native Americans in Sarah Orne Jewett’s Fiction,” Columbia University, EPIC Seminars, February 2, 2017 (invited lecture)
- “The Intimate Narration of Shell-Heaps: Jewett and the Native Americans,” SUNY-Albany, November 17, 2016 (invited lecture)
- “The Aesthetics of Vegetal Healing: Jewett and the Caribbean,” Seton Hall University, February 11, 2016 (invited lecture)
- “1884: *The Princess Casamassima* and James’s Materialist Poetics,” The Henry James Society Conference, Brandeis University, June 9-11, 2016, panel organizer.
- “‘Fit to be Free’: On Being a Person in Jewett’s ‘Mistress of Sydenham Plantation,’” The Society of American Women Writers, Philadelphia, PA, November 4-8, 2015.

GRANTS

2024	English Department, UAlbany, grant for conference organization
2024	Maine Women Writers Collection, grant for conference organization
2017-19, 2021	Individual Development Award, Program of the New York State/United University Professions Professional Development Committee
2019-20	Strategic Allocation of Resources (StAR) grant for English Department’s Humanities Labs project
2020	Maine Women Writers Collection Research Support Grant, Josephine S. Abplanalp Library, University of New England

COURSES TAUGHT

AENG 261: American Literary Traditions / America’s Literary Spaces

AENG 295: Classics of Western Literature / Home Away from Home

AENG 226: Literary Theme, Form or Mode / Natural Histories of the Americas: Bartram to Hurston

AENG 210: Introduction to English Studies / Reading through Concepts

AENG 310: Reading and Interpretation / Ecocriticism and Posthumanism

AENG 337: 19th-Century American Literature / Liquidity

AENG 368: American Women Writers / Out of Her Mind

AENG 413Y: American Literature and Culture/ Oceans, Streams, Lakes: Water in American Literature

MA THESIS ADVISING

Seja Stubblefield (2021), English Department, UAlbany, director

Andrea Guerrero (2019), English Department, UAlbany, reader

HONORS THESIS ADVISING

Christina Lownie (2025), English Department, UAlbany, reader
Ashly Shields (2024), English Department, UAlbany, director
Alijah Gonzales (2024), English Department, UAlbany, reader
Jean-Paul Klem (2022), English Department, UAlbany, reader
Skylar Blankenship (2020), English Department, UAlbany, reader

SERVICE

Department of English, University at Albany, SUNY

2016-Present Honors Committee Member
 Awards Committee Member
2020-2022 Development Committee Member
2019-Present Reviewer for *Textual Practice* and *Arizona Quarterly*

PROFESSIONAL EVENTS

2026 Among Thaxter's Isles (Isles of Shoals, NH), conference—co-organizer
2025 Jewett Rebound (UAlbany), roundtable—organizer
2024 Jewett Unbound (Paris, France), international conference—co-organizer
2018 Anthropocene Now! (UAlbany), international symposium—organizer

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

MLA, C19, Margaret Fuller Society

LANGUAGES

Serbian (native), Latin (basic reading), Russian (basic reading and comprehension)

REFERENCES

Academic Research

Branka Arsić Charles and Lynn Zhang Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (ba2406@columbia.edu)
Ross Posnock Anna Garbedian Professor of the Humanities, Columbia University (rp2045@columbia.edu)
Stuart Burrows Associate Professor, Brown University (Stuart_Burrows@brown.edu)

Teaching

Nicholas Dames Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities, Columbia University
(nd122@columbia.edu)

Gareth Williams Violin Family Professor of Classics, Columbia University (gdw5@columbia.edu)

Jeffrey Berman Distinguished Teaching Professor, University at Albany, SUNY (jberman@albany.edu)