VESNA KUIKEN

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### **EDUCATION**

PhD, 2015	American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia
MA, 2008	University American Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia
D. 4. 2007	University
BA, 2007	European Literary Traditions, Department of Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Belgrade, Serbia

#### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

AY 2022-23 Lecturer, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University Undergraduate courses in Early American Literature, American Women Writers, American Literature and the Environment (1600s-1900s)

## 2016-Present Lecturer, Department of English, University at Albany, SUNY

*Pedagogical contexts*: General required first-year core courses in seminar and lecture format; discussion-based seminars for all English majors; small junior and senior classes on a range of interpretive methods; independent, one-on-one intensive study.

Classroom practice: Introduction to specific genres and styles; exploration of historical background; inclass discussion and/or online discussion board; group work and writing workshops; individual or group student presentations; peer-review practice; end of semester conference for English majors; library visit and introduction to source finding; field trips; guest lectures.

Courses: "American Literary Traditions: 1600s-2000s" (lecture; 40 students); "Eco-Lit: Nature Writing in the Americas" (discussion based seminar, 15 students); "Out of Her Mind: Pain and Women Writing" (junior advanced undergraduate seminar, 25 students); "Home Away from Home: From Homer to Morrison" (classics of Western literature from the ancient Greeks to Toni Morrison; lecture; 40 students); "Introduction to Literary Criticism and Critical Approaches" and specialized methods classes ("Feminism," "Eco-Criticism"; "Posthumanism"; seminar format; 25 students); expository writing courses.

Advisement: Member of the Honors Committee (soliciting the best English major sophomores to pursue an honors degree); Honors thesis and MA thesis Advisor (mentoring and overseeing individual students as they research and draft the first large piece of writing in their academic career); one-on-one student advising and writing coaching.

## 2012-2014 Instructor of Record: Literature Humanities, Columbia University

Part of Columbia University's Core Curriculum for first-year students. A two-semester reading-intensive discussion-based seminar (capped at 22 students); authors include Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Herodotus, Thucydides, Plato, Virgil, Ovid, Augustine, Dante, Montaigne, Shakespeare, Cervantes, Milton, Austen, Dostoevsky, Woolf, and Morrison.

# 2010-2012 Writing Coach and Writing Center Consultant, Columbia University

Required first-year expository and essay writing course. Selected out of a competitive pool to work oneon-one with students from all disciplines and with a variety of needs, including business and science majors, international and first-generation college enrollees, special needs students and students for whom English is a second language. Consulting included explaining techniques of essay writing in a particular field of study; articulating essay argument and auxiliary claims; finding and integrating secondary sources; creating annotated bibliography; essay structuring.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Book** (in progress)

Eco-Fem: Four Women on Islands

#### **Edited Collection**

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

#### **Articles**

- "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': Caribbean Fetishes, *Zombi*, and Jewett's Conjure Aesthetics" Special issue on women and medicine in nineteenth-century American literature, *Arizona Ouarterly*, 74.4 (2018): 115-144.
- "Idiorrhythmic 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.

## In progress

- "Life on the Rocks: Celia Thaxter on Ecological Memory," invited contribution for the collection Speculative Materialisms in the Nineteenth Century, ed. Renée Bergland, Christian Haines, and Mark Noble
- "Submarine Histories: Stowe's Cuban Communities"

# Translations (English to Serbian)

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

- "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.
- "Idiorrhythmic 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.

### AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS

Individual Development Award, Program of the New York State/United University
Professions Professional Development Committee,
Strategic Allocation of Resources (StAR) grant for English Department's Humanities Labs
project
Maine Women Writers Collection Research Support Grant, Josephine S. Abplanalp
Library, University of New England
Council on Research Award, SUNY-Albany
The Leon Edel Prize for the best essay on Henry James
Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University
Global Supplementary Grant, Open Society Institute
Mellon Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia University,
Bunner Award for the best Americanist MA thesis, Department of English and
Comparative Literature, Columbia University, 2008
Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship, Columbia University

### **ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE**

# 2016-Present Department of English, University at Albany, SUNY

- Member of the Development Committee: maintaining a large donor database to help fund individual student projects and student-teacher collaborations within the English Department
- 2019: co-wrote a grant that brough \$25,000 to the English Department to help student retention and enhance graduation rates
- 2018: organized and secured funding for a two-day symposium on the role of literature in the era of climate change which brought in a number of renowned national and international scholars: https://anthropocenenowsymposium.weebly.com

## 2019-Present Reviewer for Textual Practice and Arizona Quarterly

## 2014-2016 Senior Research Associate and Grant Writer, El Museo del Barrio, NYC

Wrote 30 grants, narrative and financial reports annually to help maintain the Museum's exhibitions and education programs; collaborated with Education, Curatorial, and Government Offices within the Museum to understand their project needs and design targeted grants; created lists of corporate, private, and government donors; maintained contact with existing and solicited new donors; projected monthly and yearly revenue goals; tracked progress toward reaching museum's financial goals.

#### **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)