

James D. Lilley

Department of English
333 Humanities
University at Albany, SUNY
Albany, NY 12222
jlilley@albany.edu

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

Ph.D., English Literature, 2007

M.A., English Literature, 2004

Specializations: 18th- and 19th-century British and American literature, literature and philosophy

Dissertation Committee: Eduardo Cadava and Claudia L. Johnson

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

M.A., Literature Program (American and Native American Studies), 2000

Stanford University, Stanford, California

B.A. (Honors), Religious Studies, 1993

EMPLOYMENT

University at Albany, SUNY, Albany, New York

Director of Graduate Studies and Associate Professor, Department of English, 2007-present

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Common Things: Romance and the Aesthetics of Belonging in Atlantic Modernity. Fordham University Press (2014; "Commonalities" Series).

During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a transatlantic revival of romance helped give shape to emerging modern systems of identity and belonging. Focusing on the work of Horace Walpole, Thomas Jefferson, Henry Mackenzie, Washington Irving, Charles Brockden Brown, and Edgar Allan Poe, I explore aesthetic transformations that make community conceivable in terms of a series of peculiar and interrelated common things: race, feeling, property, genre, and event.

Cormac McCarthy: New Directions. Editor and Introduction. U of New Mexico Press (2002; Rpt. 2014 Paperback) and U of British Columbia Press (2002).

Even before Harold Bloom designated *Blood Meridian* as the Great American Novel, critics had been quick to address McCarthy's indebtedness to southern literature, Christianity, and existential thought. The essays in this collection, however, are among the first to tackle such issues as gender, race, and empire in McCarthy's work. The debates that these essays helped to spawn continue to animate McCarthy scholarship and to influence recent work in U.S. southern, southwestern, and border literatures.

Articles: Peer-Reviewed Journals

"Edgar Allan Poe: Pioneering Mollusk Scientist." *Common-Place: The Journal of Early American Life* (November 2022).

"Poe, Movement, and Matter: The Malacological Aesthetics of *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym*." *Arizona Quarterly* 73.4 (Winter 2017): 1-31.

"Studies in Uniquity: Horace Walpole's Singular Collection." *ELH* 80.1 (Spring 2013): 93-124.

"Henry Mackenzie's Ruined Feelings: Romance, Race, and the Afterlife of Sentimental Exchange." *New Literary History* 38 (2007): 649-66.

"The Short Way of Saying *Mexicano*": Patrolling the Borders of Mario Suárez's Fiction." *Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)* 26.3 (2001): 100-118.

"Of Whales and Men: The Dynamics of Cormac McCarthy's Environmental Vision." *Southern Quarterly* 38.2 (2000): 111-22. Rpt. in *The Greening of Literary Scholarship*. Ed. Steven Rosendale. Iowa UP, 2002.

Book Chapters

"Fateful Gestures: On Movement and the Maneuvers of Style in "Benito Cereno." *Melville's Philosophies*. Ed. Branka Arsić and K.L. Evans. Bloomsbury: London (2016)

"Being Singularly Impersonal: Edwards, and Aesthetics of Consent." *American Impersonal: Essays With Sharon Cameron*. Ed. Branka Arsić. Bloomsbury: London (2014)

"The Hands of Yet Other Puppets': Reading Repetition and Figuring Freedom in *All the Pretty Horses*." *Myth, Legend, Dust: Critical Responses to Cormac McCarthy*. Ed. Rick Wallach. New York: St. Martin's P, 2000. 272-87.

Essays on Teaching

"*Amelia*, Agency, and the Aesthetics of Mourning." *Common-Place*. Just Teach One Project (2013):
<http://jto.common-place.org/2013/01/20/amelia-agency-and-the-aesthetics-of-mourning/>

"Piracy, Politics, Power: Teaching *Constantius and Pulchra*." *Common-Place*. Just Teach One Project (2013). <http://jto.common-place.org/2013/06/13/piracy-politics-power-teaching-constantius-and-pulcher/>

Book Reviews

"*American Claimants*." *American Literary History* 34.3 (2022): 1155-58.

"Intimacies of Exile. A Review of Giorgio Agamben's *The Use of Bodies*." *Postmodern Culture* 26.3 (2016).

“The Rise of the Multitude in Gothic America.” *Novel* 49.2 (2016): 380-84.

“The Transatlantic Gothic Novel and the Law.” *Victorians Institute Journal* (Digital Annex) 40 (2012).

“Review of *Cities of the Plain*.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 6.1 (1999): 163-5.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Charles Fenno Hoffman: *Wild Scenes in the Forest and the Prairie*.” American Literature Archive. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 2000.

“James Kirke Paulding: *John Bull in America*.” American Literature Archive. Detroit: Gale Research Company, 2000.

Interviews

“An Interview with Barry Hannah.” *Mississippi Review* 25.3 (1997): 19-43; reprinted in *Contemporary Literary Criticism* (vol. 270). Gale Cengage Publishing, 2009.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Edgar Allan Poe and the Philosophy of Detection is a single-author study that revisits the relationship between Poe’s earlier gothic fiction and the three stories he wrote between 1841 and 1844 that would spawn our modern-day obsession with true crime and give birth to the figure of the hyper-analytical detective sleuth: “The Murders in the Rue Morgue,” “The Mystery of Marie Rogêt,” and “The Purloined Letter.” I argue that Poe’s interest in what I call the “philosophy of detection” is registered not only in these three stories but also throughout much of his earlier gothic fiction. By placing problems of knowledge—and the always-public spectacle of their solution—at the heart of Poe’s oeuvre, we not only highlight Poe’s longstanding interest in questions of epistemology, science, and perception: we also learn what the seemingly unending appeal of detective fiction tells us about how and why these same philosophical questions remain relevant to us today.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Response: Gesture and Love in Melville.” Modern Languages Association Conference. Seattle, WA (2020).

“Jane Bennett’s ‘The Subtle Strength of Natural Influences.’” Anthropocene Now! Conference. Albany, NY (2018).

“On Gesture in ‘Benito Cereno.’” Melville Society Conference. London, England (2017).

“Fateful Gestures.” Americanist Colloquium. Columbia University. New York (2016).

“A Particular Multitude: Revisiting the Allegorical Aesthetics of Jonathan Edwards.” *Art of Decreation: A Colloquium in Honor of Sharon Cameron*. Johns Hopkins University (2015).

"Logics of Inclination and Habit in the Philosophical Aesthetics of Jonathan Edwards." NEASECS Conference. Syracuse, NY (2014)

"The Thermodynamics of Poe's *Pym*." Affinities Conference. Albany, NY (2014).

"Buoyant Gestures: The Impersonal Community of Poe's *Pym*." C19 Conference. Chapel Hill, NC (2014).

"No Thing in Common: Allegory and the Aesthetics of Belonging in Early American Gothic Literature." Society of Early Americanists Conference. Philadelphia, PA (2011).

"Revisiting Irving's Aesthetics of Dispossession: Sovereignty, Indian Removal, and *A Tour on the Prairies*." C19 Conference. State College, PA (2010).

"Epistemologies of Ruin; Or, why Ossian was Jefferson's Favorite Poet." Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference. Dallas, TX (2009).

"'The Live Wreck of a Prodigious Empire': Romance, Indian Removal, and the Grimace of Ruined History." Society of Early Americanists Conference. Hamilton, Bermuda (2009).

"'Seeing With Saxon Eyes': Horace Walpole and the Antiquarian Aesthetics of Race." Modern Languages Association Conference. San Francisco, CA (2008).

"'Tenderness Unutterable': *Julia de Roubigné* and the Dialectics of Sentimental Servitude." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montréal (2006).

"'A Gothic Vatican of Greece and Rome': Strawberry Hill's Authentic Fakery." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Las Vegas, NV (2005).

"The Taste of the Nation: Transatlantic Aesthetics and the New York Mercantile Library." Society of Early Americanists Conference. Providence, RI (2003).

"'The Discipline of the Halter': Washington Irving, Indian Removal, and the Landscapes of Colonial Violence." Modern Languages Association. Washington, D.C. (2000).

"Literary Postcoloniality on the Border." American Comparative Literature Association. Yale University. New Haven, CT. (2000).

"Immigration and Indians: Charles Bronson, Border Capital, and the Financial Frontier." Tough Guys on the Border Conference. Tucson, AZ (2000).

"The Politics of Postcoloniality." 3rd International Crossroads in Cultural Studies Conference. Birmingham, England (2000).

"'Cause I'm an American': Teaching *All the Pretty Horses* as a (Post)Western." Emerging Literatures of the Southwest Conference. El Paso, TX (1998).

“Discussing the Border Trilogy.” American Literature Association, San Diego, CA (1998).

“‘The Indian with a Camera’: Spiritual Resistance in Silko and McCarthy.” Emerging Literatures of the Southwest Conference, El Paso, TX (1997).

“The Rusty, Double-Edged Sword of Language: Inwardness in the Body and Blood of Queen Elizabeth’s Discourse.” Renaissance in Mississippi Conference, Oxford, MS (1997).

“Representing Cormac McCarthy’s ‘Desert Absolute’: Ansel Adams, Edward Weston, and the Dynamics of Vision.” Emerging Literatures of the Southwest Conference, El Paso, TX (1996).

“(De)Constructing the Supreme Fiction: The Legacy of Mr. Compson.” College English Association, New Orleans, LA (1996).

Panel Organizer

“Aesthetics, Democracy, and Community: Prospects and Archives.” With Jennifer Greiman. C19 Conference. Berkeley, CA (2012).

“The Colonial Garden: Landscapes of Violence in the Emerging U.S. Nation.” Special Session. Modern Language Association. Washington, D.C. (2000).

SELECTED INVITED LECTURES

“Allegory and Apocalypse: Notes Toward a New Aesthetics of Belonging.” Institute on Critical Climate Change (IC3) Conference. Albany, NY (2008).

“Dissecting the Body.” Constructing the Body, Constructing the Text: Literary and Scientific Discourses of the Human Body. EGSO Conference. Albany, NY (2008).

“Everyday Gothic.” Co-authored with Jennifer Greeson. Eton College, Eton, England. Friends of Strawberry Hill Conference on the Gothic (2005).

“Crises of the Common: Romance, Walpole, and the Genericity of Genre.” Princeton Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Princeton, NJ (2005).

“Taxonomies of Race in the Early Republic.” English 476, Early American Literature, University of Arizona. Invited by Dr. Annette Kolodny (1998).

“Thoreau and Ecocriticism.” English 496A, Ecocriticism, University of Arizona. Invited by Dr. Annette Kolodny (1998).

“Representing the Borderlands” for the University of Arizona Library Lecture Series (1998).

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Torch Night Professor, University at Albany, SUNY (2013)
2013 Presidential Award for Leadership: Faculty/Student Engagement Award
The Huntington Library, *Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellow* (awarded in 2000 and 2001)
Princeton Environmental Institute, *Ford Foundation Scholar in the Environment* (2001)
Stanford University, International Student Scholarship (1989-1993)
Stanford University, B.A. conferred with Departmental Honors (1993)

TEACHING (Selected Courses)

Graduate Courses taught at the University at Albany, SUNY

English 580, "Transatlantic Gothic," Fall 2012
English 581, "Romance and Ruin," Fall 2011
English 580, "Eccentricities," Fall 2009
English 710, "Textual Studies," Fall 2008

Undergraduate Courses taught at the University at Albany, SUNY

English 413Y, "American Literature and the 'Indian Problem,'" Spring 2013
English 372, "Transatlantic Romance," Spring 2013, Spring 2009
English 310, "Monsters and Modernity," Fall 2012
English 210, "Introduction to English Studies," Spring 2012, Fall 2007
English 373, "Literature of the Americas," Fall 2011
English 337, "Nineteenth-Century American Literature," Spring 2010
English 205Z, "Introduction to Writing in English Studies," Spring 2010
English 413Y, "The American Saxon," Fall 2009
English 310, "Literature, Technology, and the Human," Spring 2009
English 343, "Jane Austen," Fall 2008
English 343, "American Gothic: Brockden Brown and Poe," Spring 2008
English 337, "Nineteenth-Century American Literature," Fall 2007

Graduate Student Directed Reading and Independent Studies

Christopher Jacques (Ph.D.) and Michael Amrozowicz (Ph.D.). Theories of Community in the Gothic and the Sentimental Novel (English 894: Spring 2012)

Undergraduate Courses taught at Princeton University

English 371, "Contemporary Literary Theory" (with Eduardo Cadava), Fall 2006
English 327, "Jane Austen in Context" (with Claudia L. Johnson), Fall 2004

Undergraduate Courses taught at the University of Arizona (1997-2000)

English 101, Freshman Composition

English 102, American Indian Literature and the Viet Nam War
English 200, American Literature to 1950

Graduate Student Project Supervision

Doctoral Field Examination and Dissertation Committees

Naoto Kojima. Chair of Dissertation Committee. Preparing Dissertation.

Timothy Laberge. Preparing Exams.

Kyle Macy. Preparing Exams.

Joshua Sheridan. Preparing Exams.

Audrey Peterson-McCann. Preparing Dissertation.

Haneen Khirfan. Preparing Dissertation.

Farhana Islam. Preparing Dissertation.

Paul Lashway. Preparing Dissertation.

Julie Edewaard. Preparing Dissertation.

Rumi Takahashi. Preparing Dissertation.

Mary Evans. C18th British Women's Writing. Preparing Dissertation.

Elaina Frulla. Early American and Transatlantic Literature. Preparing Dissertation.

Jessy Poole. Novel, title TBD. Preparing Dissertation.

Nikki Consentino. *Queer Outings in Imaginary Spaces*. Filed.

Caroline Hoffman. *Trauma Before the Name: Impersonal Violence in Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. Filed.

Amy Mallory-Kani. *Imagining a Healthy State: Medicine, Politics, and English Literature in the 1790s*. Filed. Tenure track Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University.

James Belflower. *Freedom as After-Image: An Aesthetics of Vibration, Circulation and (S)pace in Post-WWII Poetic, Cinematic and Architectural Practices*. Filed.

Aaron Wittman. *The Gothic Spaces of Empire in American Literature*. Filed.

Joel Sodano. *Novelistic Communities: Sentimentality as a Theoretical Concept in Eighteenth Century British Novels, 1714-1820*. ABD May 2011. Filed.

Christina Thyssen. *For a Nihilist Reading Practice*. Filed.

Joshua Bartlett. *Nature in Early American Poetry*. ABD December 2009. Filed. Assistant Professor, Bilkent University.

Lucas Hardy. *Theologies of Pain in American Puritanism: the Human Body and Spiritual Conversion from Anne Bradstreet to Jonathan Edwards*. Filed 2012. Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of English at Youngstown State University.

Shari Goldberg. *Quiet Testimony: the Ethical Impulse of Silence in Emerson, Douglass, Melville and James*. Filed 2009. Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of English at the University of Texas, Dallas.

Kate Cove. *Antebellum American Literature and Theories of Servitude*. Withdrawn.

Christopher Jacques. *Nineteenth Century and Antebellum American Literature*. Withdrawn.

Hyunah Kim. *Nineteenth-Century and Transatlantic Literature of Slavery*. Withdrawn.

Masters Examinations and Theses

Nyna Dies (Chair), *Female Gothic Novel*. In Process.

Kelly Bartlett (Chair), *British Gothic*. In Process

Sarah DiCarluccio (Chair), *Gothic and True Crime*. Filed.

Matthew Perez (Chair), *MA Exam*. In progress

Ivy Poitras. *Gothic and Literature*. Filed.

Michael Sokoler. *MA Exam*. Filed.

Ashley Tanzillo (Chair). *Internalizing the Native Identity: The Metamorphosis of the American Myth Narrative in Washington Irving's Work*. Filed December 2013.

Sophie Moss. *C19th U.S. literature and the Gothic*. Filed.

Andrew Follano (Chair). *Cormac McCarthy and the Contemporary*. Filed.

Rumi Takahashi (Chair). *American Literature and the Culture of Print, 1830-1850*. Filed.

Cary Gouldin (Chair). Nineteenth-Century American Literature. Filed.

Kevin Giampa. The Short Fiction of Edgar Allan Poe and Ambrose Bierce. Filed.

Sarah Morse (Co-Chair). *Silvia Plath at Yaddo: A Poet Finds Her Voice*. Filed.

Lucy Turner. *Life as Contagion: Sheppard Lee and Arthur Gordon Pym's Viral Travel Logs*. Filed.

Undergraduate Honors Project Committees

Sarah Hladik. Filed.

Olga Neroni. Filed.

Stephen Hitt (Chair). "Contesting the Gothic." Filed.

Michael Monescalchi. "Phillis Wheatley and the New Divinity Movement." Filed 2012.

Jennifer Kowalski. "Personhood, Objectification, and Ownership in *Linden Hills* and *Paradise*." Filed 2009.

John Miller (Chair). "Duelling in Early America." Filed 2008.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

University at Albany, SUNY, University Service

Torch Night Professor, 2013

Committee on Academic Standing (2012-2013)

University at Albany, SUNY, English Department Service

Program Direction

Director of Graduate Studies (2016-2023)

Director, M.A. Program (2014-2016)

Search Committees

Americanist Hire (2 lines) in pre-1800 and post-bellum American Literature (2013)

English Department Manager (2019-20)

Tenure and Promotion Committees

Erica Fretwell (Chair), 2019

Program and Ad-hoc Committees

Undergraduate Advisory Committee (2008-2011)

Ad-hoc Committee on Class Size and Pedagogical Practices (2008)

Admissions Committees

Graduate Admissions, Ph.D. Program (2016-present)
Honors Program, Admissions Committee (2008-2011)
Graduate Admissions, Masters Program (2007-present)

Other Committee Appointments

Executive Committee (2013-Present)
English Major Professionalization Committee, Chair (2013)
Events Committee (2013)

Speaker and Participant at Events Sponsoring Departmental Culture

Invited Participant: Americanist Reading Group Roundtable on Poe (2012)
Invited Lecture: "The Problems We Face Teaching Longer Texts." Initiatives in Teaching.
English Department (2008)

University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

Outreach Program Organization and Teaching

Instructor: Med Start Program, Tucson, Arizona. Devised and taught six-week intensive literature and composition course for minority and Native American students interested in careers in health sciences (1999)

Tutor Coordinator: Med Start Program, Tucson, Arizona. Hired and trained English composition tutors for this minority student outreach program. The training program helped tutors prepare for common student concerns such as problems with grammar, organization, and expression. (1998)

Service to the Profession:

Manuscript reader for Fordham University Press and University of Pennsylvania Press.
Referee for *Arizona Quarterly*, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*,
Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Technology, and Culture, *Textual Practice*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Studies in American Fiction*.

LANGUAGES: Spanish, French, and German (reading knowledge)

AFFILIATIONS: SEA, ALA, ASECS, MLA