

MATTHEW CARL GARRETT

Department of English
Wesleyan University
294 High Street
Middletown, CT 06459
Telephone: 860-685-3598
Email: mcgarrett@wesleyan.edu

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Associate Professor of English, Wesleyan University, 2015-
Core faculty member, American Studies, Wesleyan University, 2012-
Assistant Professor of English, Wesleyan University, 2008-15

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Stanford University, 2008
M.A., Stanford University, 2005
M.Phil., Trinity Hall, University of Cambridge, 2000
B.A., Bard College, 1998

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

American literature and culture; narrative theory, poetics; literary history; politics, culture, and social history; historiography and philosophy of history; social theory; history of the book.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Editor, *The Cambridge Companion to Narrative Theory* (in preparation for Cambridge University Press).

Episodic Poetics: Politics and Literary Form after the Constitution (Oxford University Press, 2014).

Reviewed in *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, *Choice*, *Common-place*: *The Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Modern Philology*, *New England Quarterly*.

Excerpted in *The Two-Sided Lake: Scenarios, Storyboards, and Sets from Liverpool Biennial 2016*, edited by Rosie Cooper, Sandeep Parmar, and Dominic Willsdon (Liverpool University Press, 2016).

Articles

"You Have to Read First," *American Literary History* 29.1 (Spring 2017): 142-155.

"An Imperial Syllabus," *History and Theory* 55 (May 2016): 302-313.

"Subterranean Gratification: Reading after the Picaro." *Critical Inquiry* 42.1 (Autumn 2015): 97-123.

"History with a Capital H." *Radical History Review* 118 (Winter 2014): 197-203.

"The Self-Made Son: Social Competition and the Vanishing Mother in Franklin's *Autobiography*." *ELH* 80.2 (Summer 2013): 519-542.

"The Romance of Real Politics." *American Quarterly* 64.4 (December 2012): 795-798.

"The Liquid Life: Money and the Circulation of Success after Franklin." Brad Pasanek and Simone Polillo, eds. *Beyond Liquidity*. Special issue of *Journal of Cultural Economy* 4.3

(August 2011): 315-328. Reprinted in Brad Pasanek and Simone Polillo, eds., *Beyond Liquidity: The Metaphor of Money in Financial Crisis* (New York: Routledge, 2013).

Single-Title Book Reviews

- David Scott, *Omens of Adversity: Tragedy, Time, Memory, Justice* (Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 2014). *e-misférica* 12.1 (2015).
- Mark Rifkin, *Settler Common Sense: Queerness and Everyday Colonialism in the American Renaissance* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014). *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 24.3 (September 2015): 540-543.
- Christopher N. Phillips, *Epic in American Culture: Settlement to Reconstruction* (Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). *Journal of American Studies* 49.3 (August 2015): E49.
- Robin Peel and Daniel Maudlin, ed., *Transatlantic Traffic and (Mis)Translations* (Durham: University of New Hampshire Press, 2013). *Early American Literature* 49.3 (Winter 2014): 803-807.

Other Publications

- “Panther Power, Dual Power?” Forthcoming in *Against the Current*.
- “Anti-Imperialist Dreamwork.” Review of Alex Lubin, *Geographies of Liberation: The Making of an Afro-Arab Political Imaginary* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014). *Against the Current* 173 (November-December 2014): 32-33.
- “You Can’t Kill a Revolution.” Review of Joshua Bloom and Waldo E. Martin, Jr., *Black Against Empire: The Politics and History of the Black Panther Party* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013). *Against the Current* 168 (January-February 2014): 34-35.

RECENT FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Faculty Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, Wesleyan University, Spring 2013
- ACLS Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2011-12
- Lloyd Lewis Fellowship in American History, Newberry Library, 2011-12 (declined)
- AAS-Northeast Modern Language Association Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, 2011
- Alden Prize for most distinguished dissertation in the Department of English, Stanford University, 2009
- Barra Dissertation Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2007-08
- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Fellowship, Library Company of Philadelphia, 2007
- Internal grants available upon request.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “Reading Being Read: Gil Blas to Mary Wollstonecraft.” Eighteenth-Century Studies Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, March 2016.
- “Sophistical Looking.” Response to Elisa Tamarkin, American Literature and Culture Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, November 2014.

- “Errors of Form: Adorno and Marcuse on the Dialectics of Praxis.” Marcuse Workshop, Institute for German Cultural Studies, Cornell University, April 2014.
- “Introducing V.I. Lenin.” Center for the Humanities, In Theory Lecture Series, Wesleyan University, March 2013.
- “Subterranean Gratification: Sites of Reading and Scenes of Mobility after the *Picaro*.” Wesleyan Center for the Humanities Lecture, February 2013.
- “Revolution and the Rhetoric of the Book, 1778-1788.” Newberry Library, Chicago, May 2012.
American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass., August 2011.
- “Reading the Episode.” Panel on “Units of Fiction,” arranged by the MLA Division on Prose Fiction. Modern Language Association Conference. Los Angeles, January 2011.
- “The Liquid Life: Money and the Circulation of Success after Franklin.” After the Crash, Beyond Liquidity: Interdisciplinary Conference on Money and Metaphors. University of Virginia, October 2009.
- “The Gestures of National Sentiment.” Post-performance talk on Royall Tyler’s *The Contrast*, Metropolitan Playhouse, New York, October 2009.
- “Benjamin Franklin’s Mother.” McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, November 2008.
- “On Reticence and the Novel.” Invited seminar response, Working Group of the Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, June 2008.

Conference Presentations and Talks

- “Interpretation: For, Even So.” Seminar on “Strong Interpretation.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Utrecht, July 2017.
- “Shivering Life.” Society for Novel Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, May 2016.
- “The Pleasure of the Theft: Tmesis and the Stolen Text.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Pittsburgh, April 2016.
- “The Pleasure of the Theft.” Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Hartford, October 2015.
- “Everything’s Fine: Commitment, Critique, and the Erotics of the Image.” Critical Theory, Film, and Media: Where Is Frankfurt Now? Sponsored by the Institut für Sozialforschung and the Institut für Theater-, Film-, und Medienwissenschaft. Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, August 2014.
- “Fénelon’s Forms.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Cleveland, April 2013.
- “*Salmagundi*’s Style.” Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Savannah, March 2013.
- “Units of Criticism.” Roundtable on “Form and Eighteenth-Century Studies: New Formalism, New Eighteenth Century.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference. San Antonio, March 2012.
- “Franklin beyond the Pleasure Principle.” Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists. Philadelphia, March 2011.
- “Time and Events between Two Revolutions.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference. Vancouver, March 2011.
- “The Declining Rate of Plotting, 1799.” International Conference on Narrative. Birmingham, United Kingdom, June 2009.

- "The Vital Discomfort of Aimé Césaire." Concluding remarks, Aimé Césaire: A Celebration of His Life and Work. The Americas Forum, Center for the Americas, Wesleyan University, April 2009.
- "From Pseudo-History to Pseudo-Revolution." Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists. Bermuda, March 2009.
- "Success amidst Failure: American Identity and Narrative Form at the End of the Eighteenth Century." British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference on Identity. University of Winchester, United Kingdom, June 2008.
- "Working, Thinking, and Narrative Time: Gramsci's Reading Lesson." International Conference on Narrative. Austin, May 2008.
- "American Federalism and Vernacular Rights" (with William Hunting Howell). Theorizing Vernacular Discourse: Imperial Beginnings to Global English. Cornell University, April 2008.
- "The Novel in Episodes: Structure, Social Cohesion, and the Literature of Historical Hesitation." Working Group of the Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, March 2008.
- "Episodic Poetics in the Early American Republic." McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, November 2007.
- "The Politics of Printing in Parts, 1787-1830." Library Company of Philadelphia, August 2007.
- "Commerce, Time, and Debt: Reading the Newspaper in 1787." Joint Conference of the Society of Early Americanists and the Omohundro Institute of Early American History & Culture. Williamsburg, June 2007.
- "Early U.S. Novels: Episodic Structure and the Problem of Social Cohesion." International Conference on Narrative. Washington, D.C., March 2007.
Awarded Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper
- "Episodic Poetics in Early U.S. Political Autobiography." International Conference on Narrative. Ottawa, April 2006.
- "*The Federalist's* Poetics of Complexity and the Debate over the U.S. Constitution." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference. Montreal, April 2006.
- "Democracy and Popular Voice." Introduction, Fifth Annual Ian Watt Lecture in the History and Theory of the Novel. Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University, January 2005.
- "'That one might do': Narrative Marginality and the Representation of Race in *Light in August*." Berkeley-Stanford Conference. Stanford University, April 2003.

TEACHING

Courses at Wesleyan

- ENGL 151: American Revolutions and Counterrevolutions (first-year seminar)
- ENGL 201: Ways of Reading: The Pleasures of the Text
- ENGL 203/AMST 243: American Literature from the Colonial Period to the Civil War
- ENGL 209/AMST 298: From Seduction to Civil War: The Early U.S. Novel
- ENGL 258/AMST 269: New World Poetics
- ENGL 302/AMST 346: American Revolutions and Counterrevolutions: A Short 18th Century
- ENGL 303: Narrative Theory (also taught in Center for Prison Education)
- ENGL 327: Criticism and Psychoanalysis
- ENGL 359: Criticism and Marxism

ENGL 380: In Place of Reading: Social Location and the Literary Text

Tutorials at Wesleyan

Faculty advisor for student forum, The History of English (Spring 2015)
 Law and Literature: Theory, History, Case Studies (Spring 2014)
 Faculty advisor for student forum, The Social Theory of Rap (Spring 2013)
 Playability and Possible Worlds: Narrative Theory and Video Games (Spring 2013)
 Nation Formation and Subject Formation in the Early United States (Spring 2010)
Moby-Dick and Nineteenth-Century U.S. Politics (Spring 2010)

Senior Theses and Essays at Wesleyan

Christopher Gortmaker (2017), “Monster/Machine: A Prosthesis to *Patchwork Girl*” (awarded honors in English)
 Catherine Green (2017), “Spectral Afterlife: Hauntology, Historical Memory and Inheritance in Postmodernist Fiction” (awarded high honors in English)
 Zachary Roach (2017), “Binding Commonalities: The Chronotopes of *Infinite Jest*” (awarded honors on English and American Studies)
 Jake Rosenberg (fall 2016), “Dickinson’s Death” (senior essay)
 Tahreem Khalied (2016), American Studies (co-advisor) (awarded high honors and prize for best thesis in American Studies)
 Calhoun Hickox (2015), “London Psychogeographies: Three Moments” (awarded high honors in English)
 Rebecca Michelson (2015), “A Tumultuous Sea of Human Heads: Detective Fiction and the Mystery of the Crowd” (awarded honors in English)
 Ethan Tucker (2015), “Whitman’s Ecopoetics,” essay in the College of the Environment
 Meredith Hritz (2014), “Sex, Violence, and the Fantastic: Mapping Sexual Violence against Women in Gothic Novels” (awarded honors in English)
 Marina Reza (2013), “In Hungry Time,” creative-writing essay on the Hungryalist movement
 Eli Meixler (2013), “Combat Refuse: Fictions of Remembering,” creative-writing thesis based on archival research into U.S. State Department protection of Nazi war criminals (awarded high honors in English)
 Michael Santopietro (2011), “‘Ordained to Suffering’: Three Moments of American Devotional Poetics” (awarded high honors in English)
 Carlos Nugent (2011), “Modernism’s Novel Subject: Interrogating the Inner Life in Conrad, Ford, and Joyce” (awarded honors in English)
 Loren Cappelson (2010), “The Realist Self and the Reducible Thing: Representations of Character and Economy in the Nineteenth-Century British Novel” (essay)
 Jacqueline Stavis (2009), “Suddenly, Opportunity for Adventure: The Interplay of Madness and Narrative in *Don Quixote*” (essay awarded honors in the College of Letters)
 Samantha Sommers (2009), “A Tangled Text: William Wells Brown’s *Clotel* (1853, 1860, 1864, 1867)” (awarded high honors in English and American Studies, Dorchester Prize for best-thesis in English)

SERVICE

Wesleyan University Service

Director, Social, Cultural, and Critical Theory Certificate, Fall 2014-present.

Center for the Humanities Advisory Board, Fall 2013-present.
 Center for the Americas Advisory Board, Fall 2016-present.
 Presidential Task Force on Equity and Inclusion, Spring 2016.
 Educational Policy Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
 University Major Committee, Fall 2013-Spring 2015 (chair, Fall 2014-Spring 2015).
 Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Eighteenth-Century Studies Group, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.
 Faculty Committee on Rights and Responsibilities, Fall 2013-Spring 2014.
 Faculty Happy Hour Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2014.
 Faculty advisor, Eclectic Society, Fall 2009-Spring 2011, Spring 2014.
 Organizing committee, Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Conference, Fall 2011-Spring 2012.
 Committee for the Evaluation of Nontraditional Scholarship for Tenure and Promotion, Fall 2010-Spring 2011.
 Tenure-Track Representative to the Academic Council, Fall 2009-Spring 2011.
 Faculty guest, Sophomore Supper, February 2011.

Wesleyan University Talks and Event-Organizing

“Reading Being Read: Gil Blas to Mary Wollstonecraft,” Eighteenth-Century Studies Working Group, November 2016.
 “A Revolution Is Not a Luncheon: Work in Progress on Adorno and Marcuse,” Division 1 (Arts & Humanities) lecture, with Ulrich Plass, February 2015.
 “The American Revolution and the Politics of Format,” Division 1 (Arts & Humanities) lecture, February 2013.
 “On the Social History of the Literary Episode,” Division 2 (Social Sciences) seminar, February 2013.
 1831 WESeminar speaker, “Freedom to Fail in the Early United States,” Homecoming/Family Weekend, October 2012.
 Panelist, Conference on Academia and Activism, February 2011.
 Guest lecture, “Jefferson's Liberties,” Wesleyan Center for Prison Education: Political Philosophy (Lori Gruen), October 2010.
 Guest lecture, “Dying to Gain and Living to Christ during the Great Awakening,” AMST 205-01, Junior Colloquium: The Study of Material Culture: Marking the Past in Middletown (Elizabeth Milroy), October 2009.
 Organizer (with Indira Karamcheti and Typhaine Leservot), Aimé Césaire: A Celebration of His Life and Work. The Americas Forum, Center for the Americas, April 2009.
 Radio discussion of Aimé Césaire, WESU, Middletown, CT, April 2009.

Wesleyan English Department Service

Curriculum Coordinator, Fall 2013-Spring 2015, Fall 2016-present.
 Visiting Assistant Professor search, Spring 2017.
 Transfer-of-Credit Coordinator, Spring 2016.
 Judge, Herbert Lee Connelly Prize for non-fiction writing, Spring 2016.
 Judge, Geraldine J. Murphy Prize for outstanding critical essay on a work of fiction, Spring 2014.
 Honors Thesis Coordinator, Fall 2012.
 Eighteenth-Century British Literature Search Committee, Fall 2010-Spring 2011.

Panelist, "Lessons American Literature Teaches About History and Social Change," October 2010.

Participant, English Department student residence information sessions, Fall 2009 and Fall 2010. English 201 Committee, Fall 2009-Spring 2010.

English Department Assessment Planning Committee (mandated by University Educational Policy Committee), Fall 2009-Spring 2010.

Organizer, English Department Lecture Series and Theory Certificate faculty seminar by Ian Baucom, Professor of English and Director of the Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, October 2010.

Organizer, "Radical Teaching in Hard Times," Department Colloquium with Louis Kampf and Richard Ohmann, founding editors of *Radical Teacher*, December 2009.

Professional Service

Panel chair and organizer, "The Public Life of Poems," Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Savannah, March 2013.

Panel chair and organizer, "The Politics of Plotting," Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Philadelphia, March 2011.

Invited participant, Mellon Early American Literature and Material Texts Workshop, McNeil Center for Early American Studies and Library Company of Philadelphia, July 20-24, 2009.

Panel organizer, "Interruption," International Conference on Narrative. Birmingham, United Kingdom, June 2009.

Tenure and promotion reviewer (institution list available upon request).

Manuscript referee:

Cambridge University Press

Oxford University Press

University of Virginia Press

Journal of the Early Republic, quarterly journal of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (University of Pennsylvania Press)