

CHRISTOPHER CASTIGLIA

The Pennsylvania State University
Department of English

Burrowes Building
University Park, PA 16802

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature

Ph.D with distinction, 1991

M.Phil, 1987

M.A., 1984

Amherst College

B.A. *magna cum laude*, 1983

EMPLOYMENT

2007-present	The Pennsylvania State University Distinguished Professor, 2016-present. Liberal Arts Research Professor, 2009-2016. Professor, Department of English, 2007-2009. Senior Scholar, Center for American Literary Studies, 2007-2009.
1996-2007	Loyola University Chicago Professor, 2000-2007. Associate Professor, Department of English, 1996-2000.
Winter 2003	Northwestern University Visiting Associate Professor, Department of English.
1994-1996	Bryn Mawr College Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English.
1991-1994	University of Southern Maine Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English.
1990-1991	The Colorado College Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English.
1989-1990	Bowdoin College Visiting Instructor, Department of English.
Fall 1987	Yale University

Visiting Instructor, American Studies Department

BOOKS

Neither the Time Nor the Place: New Approaches to Nineteenth-Century American Literature (edited with Susan Gillman). University of Pennsylvania Press, Under contract.

The Practice of Hope: Literary Criticism in Disenchanted Times. NYU Press, Spring 2017.

If Memory Serves: Gay Men, AIDS, and the Promise of the Queer Past (with Christopher Reed). University of Minnesota Press, 2011. 259 pp.

Interior States: Institutional Consciousness and the Inner Life of Democracy in the Antebellum U.S. New Americanist Series, Duke University Press, 2008. 366 pp.

Bound and Determined: Captivity, Culture-Crossing and White Womanhood From Mary Rowlandson to Patty Hearst. Women in Culture and Society Series, University of Chicago Press, 1996. 268 pp.

SCHOLARLY EDITIONS

Walt Whitman, *Franklin Evans* (with Glenn Hendler, Notre Dame University). Duke University Press. July 2007. Second printing 2009.

EDITORSHIP

Co-editor (with Dana Nelson, Vanderbilt University) *J19: the Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*, a twice-yearly publication from the University of Pennsylvania Press.

EDITED JOURNALS

Early American Literature 37.1 (2002).
Special Issue: Early American Interiority.
Co-edited with Julia A. Stern, Northwestern University.

American Literature 76.3 (2004).
Special Issue: Aesthetics and the End(s) of American Cultural Studies.
Co-edited with Russ Castronovo, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

ESQ (2009).
Special Issue: Come Again? New Approaches to 19c. Sexuality/Textuality.
Co-edited with Christopher Looby, University of California, Los Angeles.

Leviathan 12.3 (2010).

Special Issue: "Melville and His Critics"

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS

ESQ, 2007-2011.

PMLA, 2006-2008.

American Literature, 1999-2002.

ARTICLES

"Reading Whitman in Disenchanted Times." *New Approaches to Walt Whitman*. Ed. by Matt Cohen. Cambridge University Press, in progress.

"Approaching Ahab Blind." *J19: the Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*. March 2018.

"Not-at-Home Movies: the Short Films of Cyrus Pinkham" (with Christopher Reed). *Poets of their Own Acts: the Aesthetics of New England's Amateur Films*. Ed. Martha McNamara and Karan Sheldon. Indiana University Press, 2017.

Winner, Society for Cinema and Media Studies Society Best Edited Collection Prize, 2018.

"Twists and Turns" in *Turns of Events*, ed. Hester Blum. Philadelphia: Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2016.

"Mourning and Memory" (with Christopher Reed). *Art AIDS America*. Ed. Jonathan Katz and Rock Hushka. Exhibition Catalog, Tacoma Museum of Art, Fall 2016.

"Hope for Critique?" *Critique and Post-Critique*. Ed. Elizabeth Anker and Rita Felski. Duke University Press, Fall 2016.

"Revolution is a Fiction," *Early American Literature*, 51.2 (Fall 2016): 397-419.

"Same-Sex Friendship and the Rise of Modern Sexuality." *The Cambridge Companion to Gay and Lesbian Literature*. Ed. Ellen McCullum, 2014.

"Cold War Allegories and the Politics of Criticism" in *The Cambridge Companion to Herman Melville*, ed. Robert S. Levine, 2014.

"Crittiquiness." *English Language Notes*, 51.2 (Fall/Winter 2013): 79.

"Aesthetics Beyond the Actual" in *Aesthetic Dimensions of American Literature*. New York: Columbia University Press (2012): 117-136.

"Melville and His Readers," *Leviathan*, 13.1 (2011): 5-9.

- "Teaching, Hopefully." *Journal of Narrative Theory*, 41.2 (2011): 182.
- "Community Reading and Social Imagination" (with Michael Berube, Hester Blum, and Julia Kasdorf), *PMLA* (March 2010): 418-425.
- "Past Burning: the (Post-)Traumatic Crisis of (Post-)Queer Theory" in *States of Emergency*. Ed. Russ Castronovo and Susan Gillman. Chapel Hill: Univ. of North Carolina Press (2009): 67-89.
- "'A Democratic and Fraternal Humanism': The Cant of Pessimism and Newton Arvin's Queer Socialism." *American Literary History* 21, 1. (Spring 2009): 159.
- "Alienated Affections: Hawthorne and Melville's Trans-Intimate Relationship." *Hawthorne and Melville: Writing Relationship*. Ed. Jana Angersinger and Leland S. Person, Jr. Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press (2008). Solicited essay.
- "Interiority." *Keywords of American Cultural Studies*. Ed. Bruce Burgett and Glenn Hendler. NYU Press (2007). Solicited essay.
- "*Pierre's* Bad Associations: The Future of Public Life in the Institutional Nation." *Global Melville*. Ed. Wyn Kelly. Blackwell (2006): 197-213. Solicited essay.
- "A 'Hive of Subtlety': Aesthetics and the End(s) of Cultural Studies" (with Russ Castronovo), *American Literature* 76.3. September (2004): 423-435.
- "Reform and Nineteenth-Century American Fiction," *The Blackwell Companion to American Fiction, 1780-1865*. Ed. Shirley Samuels. Blackwell (2004): 274-284. Solicited essay.
- "The Marvelous Queer Interiors of *The House of the Seven Gables*," *The Cambridge Companion to Hawthorne*. Ed. Richard Millington. Cambridge Univ. Press (2004): 186-206. Solicited essay. Reprinted in *The House of the Seven Gables: a Critical Edition*. Ed. Robert S. Levine. Norton, 2005. Solicited essay.
- "I found a life of freedom all my fancy had pictured it to be': Hannah Crafts's Visual Speculation and the Inner Life of Slavery," *In Search of Hannah Crafts*. Ed. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Hollis Robbins. Basic Books (2003): 231-253. Solicited essay.
- "'Ah yes, I remember it well': Memory, Mass Media, and Queer Culture in *Will & Grace*" (with Christopher Reed). *Cultural Critique* 56 (winter 2004): 158-188. Reprinted in *Television: the Critical View*, ed. Horace Newcomb, Oxford University Press, and in *Sexual Identities and Communication in Everyday Life*, ed. Karan Lovaas and Lee Jenkins, Sage Publications, 2007.
- "Early American Interiority" (w/ Julia A. Stern). *Early American Literature* 37.1 (2002): 1-7.

- "Abolition's Racial Interiors and the Making of White Civic Depth." *American Literary History* 14.1 (Spring 2002): 32-59. Reprinted in *Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism*, Vol. 149. Gale, 2005.
- "The Genealogy of a Democratic Crush" in *Materializing Democracy*. Ed. Dana D. Nelson and Russ Castronovo. Duke Univ. Press (2002): 195-217.
- "Where I'm Coming From: Memory, Location, and the (Un)Making of National Subjectivity" in *Personal Effects*. Ed. David Bleich and Deborah Holdstein. Utah State University Press (December 2001): 317-334.
- "The Way We Were: Remembering the Gay '70s" in *The Seventies: The Age of Glitter in Popular Culture*. Ed. Shelton Waldrep. Routledge (1999): 206-223.
- "The Wideness of Fiction: From Captivity Narrative to Captivity Romance" (reprint). *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism* Gale (1999).
- "Pedagogical Discipline and the Creation of White Citizenship: John Witherspoon, Robert Finley, and the Colonization Society." *Early American Literature* 33.2 (Summer 1998): 192-214.
- "Captives in History: Susanna Rowson's *Reuben and Rachel*" in *Redefining the Political Novel*. Ed. Sharon Harris. Univ. of Tennessee Press (1995): 23-42.
- "Rebel Without a Closet," in *Engendering Men*. Ed. Joseph Allen Boone and Michael Cadden. Routledge (1990). Reprinted in *Homosexuality and Homosexuals in the Arts*. Ed. Wayne R. Dynes and Stephen Donaldson. Garland (1992): 207-221.
- "In Praise of Extra-vagant Women: Catharine Sedgwick and the Captivity Romance," *Legacy* 6.2 (January 1990): 3-16.

MEDIA

- Nippon Television. Taped television interview about Patricia Hearst. Aired in Japan, December 3, 2000.
- NPR "Odyssey" with Gretchen Halfrich. Live interview on captivity narratives. February 17, 2003.

REVIEWS

- Martha Schoolman, *Abolitionist Geographies*. *Journal of American History*, 102.3 (April 2015): 877-878.

- Robert S. Levine, *Dislocating Race and Nation: Episodes in Nineteenth-Century Literary Nationalism*. *Modern Philology*, 109.3 (2012): 200-203.
- Marianne Noble, *The Masochistic Pleasures of Sentimental Literature*. *Modern Philology*, 101.4 (2004): 641-645
- Christopher Nealon, *Foundlings: Lesbian and Gay Historical Emotion Before Stonewall*. *Journal of American History*, 89 (March 2003): 1590-1591.
- Harold Bush Jr., *American Declarations: Rebellion and Repentance in American Cultural History*. *Journal of American History*, 88 (June 2001).
- Rebecca Faery, *Cartographies of Desire: Captivity, Race, & Sex in the Shaping of an American Nation*. *Early American Literature*, 36 (August 2001): 127- 132.
- James Hartman, *The Providential Tale and the Birth of American Literature*. *Modern Philology*. (August 2001): 118-121.
- Nancy Schnog and Joel Pfister, Eds., *Inventing the Psychological: Toward a Cultural History of Emotional Life in America*. *American Literature* (December 1999): 829-830.
- William Scheick, *Authority and Female Authorship in Colonial America*. *ANQ: a Quarterly of Short Articles, Reviews, and Notes* (Winter 1999): 53-56.
- John Carlos Rowe, *At Emerson's Tomb: The Politics of Classic American Literature*. *American Literature* (March 1999): 177-178.
- Michele Burnham, *Captivity and Sentiment: Cultural Exchange in American Literature, 1682-1861*. *Early American Literature* (Winter 1998): 328-330.
- Christopher Newfield, *The Emerson Effect: Individualism and Submission in America*. *American Literature* (September 1997): 624-625.
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, *Between Men*. *Critical Texts* (Fall 1986).

INVITED LECTURES

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|------|--|
| 2017 | UCLA
Respondent, Workshop on <i>The Practices of Hope</i> |
| 2017 | Smith College
"Newton Arvin, Critic: a Response to <i>The Scarlet Professor</i> " |
| 2016 | Washington College
"Not-At-Home Movies" (with Christopher Reed) |

- Dartmouth College
 “The Queer History of American Literary Studies”
- 2013 Dartmouth College
 “Cold War Melancholy and the Practice of Hope”
- Brown University
 University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana
 “Epidemics of Memory”
- Harvard University
 “The Practices of Hope”
- 2012 Fordham University
 “Melville’s Cold War Allegories and the Politics Allegories and the Politics of Criticism”
- Penn State University
 “Turning Back,” Turn, Turn, Turn Symposium
- 2010 The University of Pittsburgh
 The University of Utah
 “The Practices of Hope and Other Critical Dispositions”
- Pennsylvania State University
The Rhetorical President in Early America, sponsored by Center for Democratic Deliberation and the Institute for the Arts and Humanities.
 “The Sentimental Executive; or, Why I Don’t Care for the Early American Presidency.”
- 2009 Pennsylvania State University
 IAH Resident Fellows Presentation
 “I Like America: Granville Hicks’ Smalltown Aestehtics”
- Pennsylvania State University
Weiss Seminar, Philadelphia in the Age of Franklin
 Respondent. Samuel Otter, “Philadelphia Stories.”
- University of Alabama, Birmingham
Alumni Lecture
 “Intimations: What Literature can Teach about Democracy”
- Dartmouth Institute for American Studies
 “Ideality Politics”

- Bates College
 “De-Generation: Queer Theory’s Bad Memories”
- 2008 Notre Dame University
 “Humanism Without Humans”
- 2007 The Huntington Library
Symposium on Nineteenth-Century Literary Aesthetics
 “Aesthetic Sociality”
- 2006 Vanderbilt University
 “Humanism without Humans”
Political Feelings Symposium
- 2005 University of California, Los Angeles
 “Bad Associations: Interiority, Institutionalality, and Anti-Catholicism”
- 2005 Chicago Historical Society
 “Lincoln’s Queer Intimacies”
Panel presentation with Jay Grossman (Northwestern), Martha Vicinus (Michigan), and Victoria Brown (Grinnell).
- University of Chicago
 “Aesthetics and the End(s) of Cultural Studies” (with Russ Castronovo)
Workshop in American Culture
- 2003-2007 Pennsylvania State University, 2007
 University of Maryland, 2005
 Northwestern University, 2003
 Vanderbilt University, 2003
 “Nervous States, Anxious States, and States of Desire”
- 2002 Duke University
 Dartmouth College
 “The Queer Economies of Desire”
Futures of American Studies Institute
- University of Arkansas, Little Rock
 “Hawthorne’s Queer Emotions”
- 2001 University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
 University of Chicago
The Workshop in American Culture
 University of Wisconsin, Madison, March 2001

“Abolition’s Racial Interiors and the Making of White Civic Depth”

Dartmouth College
Michigan State University
“The Genealogy of a Democratic Crush”

2000 Lake Forest College
"Queer Outlaws? Angels in America, Bowers V. Hardwick, and the Queering of Law"

1999 Northwestern University
"Citizenship and Sexual Difference"
Contested Citizenship Symposium

Newberry Seminar in Early American History
"The Crying Game: William Lloyd Garrison's Sympathetic Address and the Whitening of the Civil Sphere"

1998 The University of Chicago
"Sex Panics, Sex Publics, Sex Memories"
The Workshop in Gay and Lesbian Studies

Lake Forest College
"Cruising Foucault"

1997 The Newberry Library
"Performing Unfreedom: Three Suburban Tales of Racial Discipline and National Belonging"
Fellows Seminar

1996 University of Pennsylvania, April 1996
"The Way We Were: The Politics of Memory in the Queer Public Sphere"

University of Western Ontario
"That Was Not My Idea of Independence: The Captivity of Patty Hearst"

1992-1993 Columbia University (1993)
Wellesley College (1992)
"Bound and Determined: Class, Gender, and Ethnicity in Civil War Captivity Narratives"

Southern Methodist University (November 1992)
Washington College (December 1993)

"Catherine Did It: The Theory and Performance of Gay Activism and the Basic Instinct Protests"

- 1993 University of Southern Maine
"Creating New England." I delivered three lectures on New England Puritanism and American Studies methodology, colonial women's literature, and Benjamin Franklin for a summer institute sponsored by the NEH and the Maine Humanities Council.
- Bowdoin College
"The Great Gatsby and American Modernism: Urban Sexuality and the Unreliable Narrator"
- State University of New York/Binghamton
Keynote address, *Subjectivity and Agency Conference*
- 1992 Newberry Library, Chicago
"The Wilderness of Fiction: Women's Literature and the 'Autobiographical' Captivity Narrative"
- 1991-1992 Bates College (1992)
University of Maine/Farmington (October 1991) (with Leigh Gilmore)
"En/gendering American Modernism: Gertrude Stein and Djuna Barnes."
Maine Humanities Council and the Maine Educational Collaborative.
- 1989-1991 University of Colorado (April 1991)
University of Chicago (January 1991)
Bowdoin College (October 1989)
"Rebel Without a Closet"

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Respondent, "Margaret Jane Sweat and the Queer Imagination," MLA

"Approaching Ahab Blind," *Herman Melville Society Conference*, Kings College London, July 2017

"Returning the Vision to *Visionary Compacts*." MLA, 2017.

"Reframing Literary Formalism." Division in Lesbian and Gay Studies Panel. MLA, 2017.

"Imagination." C19: the Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, UNC-Chapel hill, 2016.

Chair and respondent. "Other Dimensions in/for the Nineteenth Century." C19: the Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, 2016.

"Democracy? Really?" MLA, 2015.

"Cyrus Pinkham's Not-at-Home Movies" (with Christopher Reed). Gay Studies in Language and Literature Panel. MLA, 2015.

"Visionary Commons." C19: the Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, 2014.

"Intimations: Queer Subculture and Social Vision in the Antebellum Novel." Gay and Lesbian Division Panel. MLA, 2013.

"Cold War Melancholy, Cold War Hopes." Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel. MLA, 2013.

"Citizenship and Belonging? A Call for Imaginative Belonging." Keynote Roundtable. Society for the Study of American Women Writers, October 2012.

"Imagining After History." Society of Early Americanists Conference, February 2011.

"Aesthetics Beyond the Actual." American Literature Association Conference, May 2010.

"Sustainable Revolution in a Post-Interior Democracy; or, the Other 9/11." MLA Convention, December 2009.

Roundtable participant. New approaches to Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century American Literature. MLA Convention, December 2009.

Roundtable participant. New approaches to Democratic Studies. ASA Convention, November 2009.

"Teaching, Hopefully." President's Forum. MLA Convention, December 2008.

Chair. Melville and His Critics. Melville Society panel. MLA, December 2008.

"Publishing in PMLA." MLA, December 2008.

"Talking Heads" (with Eric Norton). Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel. MLA, December 2007.

"Gray Gardening." Pleasure Now! Panel. MLA, December 2007.

Chair. "New Approaches to Early American Interiority." American Literature Before 1800

Division Panel. MLA, December 2006.

Chair. "Nineteenth-Century American Literature and the State." Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel. MLA, December 2005.

Panel in Honor of Gillian Brown. ASA, November, 2005.

Chair. Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel on the Bicentennial of the Haitian Revolution. MLA, December 2004.

"Melville's Institutions." Melville-Douglass Conference, New Bedford, MA, June 2005.

"Francis Lieber and the Problematics of Publicity." American Studies Association, Atlanta. November, 2004.

"Aestheticizing Modernity." Modernist Studies Association, Vancouver. October 2004.

"Nervous States." Division on Literary Criticism panel. MLA, December 2003.

Roundtable discussion of Herman Melville's *Pierre*. Herman Melville Society panel. MLA Convention, December 2003.

Chair. "Nowhere Near Parnassus: Sensational Aesthetics in Antebellum America." MMLA Convention, November 2003.

"America the Beautiful." American Studies Association Conference, Hartford, CT, October 2003.

Chair. "'New' Aesthetics in the Nineteenth Century." Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel. MLA Convention, New York City, December 2002.

"The Intimate Nation." American Literature Before 1800 Division Panel. MLA Convention, New York City, December 2002.

"Hawthorne's Queer Emotions." Modern Language Association Conference, New Orleans, December 2001. Also delivered at the Hawthorne Society Conference, Smith College, June 2002.

Chair (with Ivy Schweitzer), "Louisiana and the Crossing of Cultures." Nineteenth-Century American Literature Division Panel. MLA Conference, New Orleans, December 2001.

"The Revolution Will Not Be Novelized: Insurrectory Organization in Martin Delany's *Blake*." American Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 2001.

"A Living Sermon Against Sin: Public Scandal, Private Desire." Nineteenth-Century

American Literature Division Panel. MLA Convention, Washington D.C. I also chaired this panel. December 2000.

"Beginning in Death: The Citizen's Character and the End of Potential." American Literature to 1800 Division Panel. MLA Convention, Washington D.C., December 2000.

"A Good Head for Empire: Phrenology and Whitman's Franklin Evans." American Studies Association Convention, Detroit. October 2000.

Respondent. "Queer Unions, Then and Now." Future of the Queer Past Conference, University of Chicago. September 2000.

"Monica: the Musical." Narrative Conference, Atlanta. April 2000. Also delivered at the International Conference on Social Theory. Lexington, KY., May 2000.

Chair, "Sexing the Republic." First Annual Conference of the Society for Early Americanisms. Charleston. March 1999.

"Whose Side Are You On? Relational Identity and the Ethics of Reading (in) Mary Rowlandson's Captivity Narrative," written with Lorryne Carroll (University of Southern Maine). First Annual Conference of the Society for Early Americanisms. Charleston. March 1999.

"A Stupendous Republican Imposture: Abolition Anti-Nationalism and the Citizen-Form" American Studies Association Conference, Seattle. November 1998.

"The Open Secret of Sex and Nation: On Personal Criticism," Narrative Conference, Northwestern University, April 1998.

"Abolition Pedagogy, Cultural Conflict, and the Whitening of America," American Literature Before 1800 Division Panel, MLA Convention, Toronto. December 1997.

"Abolition and the Race of National Address," American Studies Association Conference, Washington D.C., November 1997.

"Capturing America: Captivity Narratives and the Dis-figuration of National Identity," American Literature Association, San Diego. June 1996.

Chair, "Celluloid Closets." 6th North American Conference on Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies, University of Iowa. November 1994.

"'Race' and 'Gender' in the American Captivity Narratives." American Ethnic Studies Association Conference, Salt Lake City. March 1993.

"Catherine Did It: The Theory and Performance of Gay Activism and the Basic Instinct

Protests," Unnatural Acts Conference, University of California/Riverside. February 1993. Also presented at the "What Is Modern?" Conference at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. October 1992.

"Captivity, Colonization, and the Domestication of Columbus," American Literature Before 1800 Division Panel, MLA Convention, New York City. December 1992.

"Patty Hearst Among the Ministers," Maine Women's Studies Conference, Bowdoin College. April 1990.

"Nightsweats on Elm Street: Disease, Desire, and the Horror Film," Politics and Pedagogy Conference, Yale University. October 1989.

"Who's Afraid of Lytton Strachey?: Feminism, Essentialism, and the Problem of 'Men'," NEMLA Convention, Providence, R.I. March 1988.

"The Narrative Critique of A Consenting Adult," Facing the Future Conference, Yale University. April 1985.

"Rebel Without a Closet," MLA Convention, New York City. December 1985.

"What Difference Does It Make? Deconstruction 'In the Waiting Room'" Mid-Hudson MLA Convention, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. November 1984.

FELLOWSHIPS AND PRIZES

Spring 2019	Penn State Center for Information and the Humanities fellowship
Spring 2013	Mellon Distinguished Scholar, American Antiquarian Society
Fall 2009	Faculty Residency, Institute for Arts & Humanities, Penn State
Spring 2001	GLAAD Center for the Study of Media and Society Grant
1996-1997	National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
Summer 1995	NEH Summer Fellow, The Newberry Library
Summer 1992	Research Fellowship, The Newberry Library
May 1992	Distinguished Dissertation in the Humanities, Columbia University
1987-1989	President's Fellowship, Columbia University
1983	Phi Beta Kappa, Amherst College Academy of American Poets Prize

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2018-2021	MLA William Riley Parker Prize Selection Committee
2012-2017	Co-editor (with Dana Nelson), J19: the Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
2017	Hench Fellowship Application Reviewer, American Antiquarian Society.

- 2010 Co-founder (with Hester Blum) C19: the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
- 2010 Co-organizer (with Hester Blum and Sean Goudie), Imagining a New Century: the First Convention of C19: the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
- 2007-2009 Elections Committee, MLA.
- 2004-2007 Elected (Midwest Region) Delegate, MLA Delegate Assembly.
- 2004-2005 American Literature Section Advisory Board, MLA.
Advisory Board, Queer Folk/Colored Folk, a lecture series/workshop at Northwestern University.
- 2000-2001 Davis Prize Selection Committee.
- 2000-2004 MLA Nineteenth Century American Literature Division Executive Committee.
- 2004-2005 President, Division in Nineteenth-Century American Literature, MLA.

Manuscript reviewer: the University of Chicago Press, Duke University Press, the University of Minnesota Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, University of North Carolina Press, Harvard University Press, Broadview Press, Southern Michigan University Press, PMLA, Early American Literature, American Literature, American Quarterly, American Literary History, ESQ, Signs, differences.

Promotion/tenure reviewer: University of Pittsburgh, Boston University, Hunter College, Haverford College, University of California, Los Angeles, Ohio State University, University of Southern Alabama, CUNY, Tulane University, NYU, University of Pennsylvania, Fordham University, Gettysburg College, Oakland University, Duke University, Brown University, Purdue University, University of California, Davis, University of Texas-Arlington, Georgetown University, University of Albany, Louisiana State University, Lewis & Clark, Queens University, Brown University, University of Massachusetts, Lowell, Fordham University, SUNY Albany, University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, CUNY Graduate Center, King's College London, Syracuse University, Boston University, Northeastern University, University of Pittsburgh, Hunter College.

DEPARTMENT/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

At Penn State:

- March 2018, Paper presenter, CALS Symposium, "Critique and Institutions"
- Feb. 2018 Mentoring Program, "Ready for Publication" Workshop
- Spring 2018 Ad Hoc Committee on Climate and Civility
- 2016-2018 Personnel Committee (Chair, 201-2018)
- 2016-2017 Ad Hoc Committee on Hiring Priorities (Chair)
- 2016 Ad Hoc Committee on Assessment Indicator List.
- 2008-2010 Personnel Committee.
Co-founder (with Hester Blum) of C19: the Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists.
- May 2010 Co-organizer (with Hester Blum and Sean Goudie) of "Imagining: A New Century," the inaugural conference of C19.

2008- Administrator, Imaginary Vistas lecture series.
 Co-author (with Hester Blum and Sean Goudie) of an NEH Collaborative Research Grant.

2007-2008 Chair, Search Committee, Early American Literature.
 Advisory Board, Center for American Literary Studies.

Sept-Dec. 2010 Advisory Board, Taxing Visions: Financial Episodes in Late Nineteenth-Century American Art, Palmer Museum of Art.
 Advisory Board, Committee on Early Modern Studies.
 Affiliate Faculty, Center for Democratic Deliberation.
 Chair, Committee on One Department Dispersed.

At Loyola:

2005 Internal Tenure Reviewer.

2005-2006 Director, Reading Group in American Studies.

2006 Crown Fellowship Committee member.

2005-2006 Search Committee Chair.

2004-2005 Search Committee member.

Fall 2003 Core Curriculum Learning Outcomes Committee.

2002-2004 Placement Officer.

2001 Coordinator, "Beyond Criticism" lecture series.

2004-2005 Search Committee member.

Spring 2001 Chair, Search Committee.

Spring 2001 M.A. Exam committee.

Spring 2001 Co-coordinator (with Pamela Caughie) of tribute to Carolyn Heilbrun

March 1998 Faculty Coordinator, Graduate Symposium in American Literatures and Cultures.

Feb. 1998 Conversation in the College, "How Do I Pass?: Teaching Within/Against/Across Race" (with Pamela Caughie and Laura Miller).

Sept. 1996 Inaugural Gay & Lesbian Employees lecture.

1997, 2000 Outside the Envelope talks.

1996-1997 Participant, American Literature and Culture Workshop.

1997-1999 Director, American Literature and Culture Workshop.

1997-2002, Graduate Programs Committee.

2003-2005 Department Council (elected).

2000-2003 Theory Committee.

1996-1999 American Literature Committee.

Graduate Student Placement:

Danielle Glassmeyer, Tenured, Bradley University
 Gale Temple, Tenured, University of Alabama, Birmingham
 Shelly Jarenski, Tenured, University of Michigan, Dearborn
 Rick Rodriguez, Tenure Track, Baruch College
 Carina Pasquesi, Lecturer, Baruch College
 John Schlueter, Tenure Track, St. Paul College
 Kristen Egan, Tenure Track, Mary Baldwin College

Eric Norton, Tenure Track, Marymount University
Sarah Salter, Fixed Term, Texas A&M, Corpus Christi