

## GORDON FRASER

Lecturer in American Studies, University of Manchester

School of Arts, Languages, & Cultures  
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Revised May 2023

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D.	University of Connecticut, English	(with Honors)	2015
M.A.	University of Connecticut, English	(with Honors)	2010
B.A.	Plymouth State University, English/Theater	<i>Summa cum laude</i>	2004

### PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

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Lecturer	University of Manchester	2023-
Lecturer and Presidential Fellow	University of Manchester	2019-2023
Visiting Fellow	The Pennsylvania State University	2018-2019
Assistant Professor	North Dakota State University	2016-2018
Graduate Instructor	University of Connecticut	2008-2015

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### MONOGRAPH

*Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021)

- Winner of the Arthur Miller First-Book Prize from the British Association for American Studies (BAAS)
- Selected by *Choice* magazine as an Outstanding Academic Title
- Reviewed in the *Journal of American History*, *Early American Literature*, and *American Literary History*

#### PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

“Novel Democracy: Readers, Evidence, and the Commonplace Book of Elizabeth Phillips Payson, 1806-1825.” *Transactions of the American Philosophical Society* [Forthcoming]

“Freedom by the Book: Novels and the Future of Liberal Democracy,” *American Literary History* 35, no. 1 (2023): 491-498. [Invited Article]

“Earth/Atmosphere: The Leonid Meteor Shower, 1833,” in *Crossings in Nineteenth-Century American*

*Culture: Junctures of Time, Space, Self and Politics*, ed. Edward Sugden (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2022): 29-40.

“Chapter 9: Antebellum Anticipations of Complete Annihilation,” in *Apocalypse in American Literature and Culture*, ed. John Hay (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020): 122-33.

“The Nineteenth-Century Origins of Nuclear Deterrence.” *Journal of the British Academy* 8, no. 3 (2020): 7-24.

“Distributed Agency: David Walker’s *Appeal*, Black Readership, and the Politics of Self-Deportation,” *ESQ* 65.2 (2019): 109-145.

- Winner of the 1921 Prize in American Literature from the American Literature Society

“Conspiracy, Pornography, Democracy: The Recurrent Aesthetics of the American Illuminati.” *Journal of American Studies* 54.2 (2020): 273-294. [Published online by Cambridge University Press: 12 November 2018]

“The End of Reconstruction, Again: Dylann Roof, Thomas Dixon, Jr., and the Transhistorical Structures of Racist Feeling.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 6.1 (2018): 174-181. [Invited article]

“Emancipatory Cosmology: *Freedom’s Journal*, *The Rights of All*, and the Revolutionary Movements of Black Print Culture.” *American Quarterly* 68.2 (2016): 263-286.

- Honorable Mention for the Research Society for American Periodicals Article Prize (2018)

“Troubling the Cold War Logic of Annihilation: Apocalyptic Temporalities in *The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven*.” *PMLA* 130.3 (2015): 599-614.

- Winner of the William Riley Parker Prize for outstanding article published in *PMLA*

“Circulation and Resistance: *The Marrow of Tradition* and the 1900 New Orleans Race Riot.” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1.2 (2013): 363-85.

“Transnational Healing in Pauline Hopkins’ *Of One Blood; Or, the Hidden Self*.” *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 46.3 (2013): 364-385.

“The Anxiety of Audience: Economies of Readership in James’ *Hawthorne*.” *The Henry James Review* 34.1 (2013): 1-15.

“‘To be indifferent and to be young’: Disraeli, *Sybil*, and the Preservation of an American ‘Race,’ 1879-1912.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 39.2 (2011): 463-482.

“Finding a Voice: Reconciling Competing Discourses in Student Work.” *The WAC Journal* 20 (2009): 63-74.

#### COMMENTARY

“Professors in Space: Universities are already part of the scramble for outer space,” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review* August 9, 2021. [Link](#).

“U.S. worries about space aliens and UFOs are older than you think: UFO fears have long exposed humans’ terrestrial concerns,” *Washington Post* June 25, 2021. [Link](#).

- Reprinted: “U.S. worries about space aliens and UFOs are older than you think,” *MSN News* June 25, 2021. [Link](#).
- Reprinted: “Gordon Fraser: A brief history of America's fascination with aliens,” *National Post* [Toronto, Canada] June 28, 2021. [Link](#).

“The Twitterization of the Academic Mind.” *Chronicle of Higher Education Review*. March 22, 2019.

## PUBLIC HUMANITIES

“A New Planet in the System,” *Lapham’s Quarterly* Roundtable. July 8, 2021. [Link](#).

“Makandal and the African Wild Boar: Reprinting and Race Science in the American Literature Classroom.” *Common-place: Just Teach One* 8 (Spring 2016). [Link](#).

“Yellow Bird and the Thunder: On Finding the Earliest Known Poem by John Rollin Ridge, the First Native American Novelist.” *Common-place* 14.4 (2014). [Link](#).

## BOOK REVIEWS

“Bouncing Back: How Emerson, Thoreau, and James found their way back to terra firma,” *Times Literary Supplement* May 26, 2023, <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/three-roads-back-robert-d-richardson-book-review-gordon-fraser/>.

Rev. of *Gems of Art on Paper: Illustrated American Fiction and Poetry, 1785–1885*, by Georgia Brady Barnhill. *American Literary History* 35, no. 1 (2023): 499-501. [muse.jhu.edu/article/883741](https://muse.jhu.edu/article/883741).

Rev. of *Book Traces: Nineteenth-Century Readers and the Future of the Library*, by Andrew M. Stauffer, in *Modern Philology* 19, no. 3 (2022): E125-27.

Rev. of *Plagiarama! William Wells Brown and the Aesthetic of Attractions*, by Geoffrey Sanborn, and *The Moral Economies of American Authorship: Reputation, Scandal, and the Nineteenth-Century Marketplace*, by Susan Ryan. *American Literature* 90.1 (2018) 174-6.

Rev. of *The Haitian Revolution and the Early United States: Histories, Textualities, Geographies*, eds. Elizabeth Maddock Dillon and Michael Drexler. *MELUS*. 42.4 (2017): 221-223.

## INTERVIEWS

With Max Laitman Chapnick and Allison Fulton, *The G19 Collective* August 2022. [Link](#).

With Jim Ambuske and Alexandra Montgomery, *Conversations at the Washington Library*, episode 217, 6 January 2022, [georgewashingtonpodcast.com](https://georgewashingtonpodcast.com).

With Marshal Zeringue, “Gordon Fraser’s ‘Star Territory,’” *The Page 99 Test*, July 3, 2021. [Link](#).

With Kate Rivington, *ANZASA Online*, Australia and New Zealand American Studies Association, June 27, 2021. [Link](#).

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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**NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL**

- 2023 Botein Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA
- 2022 Arthur Miller First-Book Prize from the British Association for American Studies
- 2019 1921 Prize in American Literature from the American Literature Society
- 2019 Knowledge Frontiers Symposium Grant [Declined]  
British Academy & UK-China Humanities Alliance
- 2018-2019 Visiting Fellowship, Center for Humanities and Information  
The Pennsylvania State University
- 2018 Reese Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA
- 2018 British Academy Seed Grant (as co-applicant)
- 2018 Honorable Mention, Research Society for American Periodicals (RSAP) Article Prize
- 2017-18 Knowledge Frontiers Symposium Grant  
British Academy & American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2016 First-Book Institute Grant, Center for American Literary Studies  
The Pennsylvania State University
- 2016-17 North Dakota Humanities Council Grant  
For the American Studies Colloquium at NDSU
- 2015 William Riley Parker Prize for outstanding article published in *PMLA*
- 2013 Jay and Deborah Last Fellowship, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA

**UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

- 2023 “Highly Commended” (First Runner Up), Outstanding Teaching Award, School of Arts  
Languages and Cultures

**NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

- 2017 Dean’s Challenge Grant, College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- 2016 Mart and Lois Vogel Teaching Award

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

- 2014-15 Draper Dissertation Fellowship, Humanities Institute
- 2014-15 Provost’s Commendation for Teaching Excellence
- 2013 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School
- 2013 Dean's Summer Research Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- 2010 Research Excellence Award, English Department
- 2009 Aetna Graduate Works-in-Progress Grant
- 2009 Long River Graduate Writing Award
- 2009 Edwin Way Teale Writing Award

**SEMINAR PARTICIPATION**

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- 2020-2022 British Academy works-in-progress forum for junior scholars
- 2019 First-Book Institute, Center for American Literary Studies [As institute faculty]

- 2018 The Pennsylvania State University  
UK-US Knowledge Frontiers Symposium  
British Academy & American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- 2016 First-Book Institute, Center for American Literary Studies [As institute participant]  
The Pennsylvania State University
- 2016 Digital C19: Project Development Workshop  
C:19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
- 2015 Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College

### CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, AND COLLOQUIA

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- 2023 “Engineering Peace: Technology and the End of Politics in the American Nineteenth Century,” Oxford Early American Republic Seminar. Oxford University. June 7, 2023.
- “Biography and Democracy: The Problem of Evidence in the Early American Republic,” *Rethinking the Matter of Biography* conference. University of Manchester. May 12, 2023.
- Panel Chair. Roundtable on a New Edition of Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Women and Economics*. *British Association for American Studies*. Keele University. April 14, 2023.
- “Inventing Justice: Race, Gun Violence and the Nineteenth-Century Promise of Peace,” *British Association for American Studies*. Keele University. April 12, 2023.
- Panel Chair. “Boom and Bust Cycles in American Literature.” Modern Language Association. San Francisco, California. 5-8 January 2023.
- 2022 Participant. “Democracy on the Front Lines.” Salzburg Global Seminar in American Studies. Salzburg, Austria. 3-7 November 2022.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” Invited Talk. University of New Hampshire. 3 April 2022.
- “The State and the Almanac in Nineteenth-Century America,” C19: Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists Biennial Conference, “Reconstructions,” Coral Gables, Florida, March 31-April 2.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” New Book Panel. C19: Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists Biennial Conference, “Reconstructions,” Coral Gables, Florida, March 31-April 2.
- “Engineering Peace,” British Academy Works-in Progress Forum. 23 March 2022. Online.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” Invited Talk. University of Nottingham American Studies. 16 March 2022.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” C19 New Book

- Forum. 3 February 2022.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” Invited Talk. Online. Americanists Abroad Forum. 28 January 2022.
- Panel Chair. “Novel Democracy,” Modern Language Association Conference, Washington, DC, Jan. 6-9, 2022.
- “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” Invited Talk, Philadelphia Athenaeum, Philadelphia, PA, Jan. 6, 2022.
- 2021 “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” Invited Talk, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, Sept. 30, 2021.
- “Seizing ‘Star Territory’: The US National Almanac and the Nineteenth-Century Space Age,” European Association of American Studies Conference, Warsaw [Online]. 2 May 2021.
- Panel Chair. “Citizenship and Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies,” Modern Language Association Convention, Toronto [Online]. 8 January 2021.
- 2020 “What did eighteenth-century readers know and when did they know it?” *Evidence: The Use and Misuse of Data*, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. June 2020.
- Panel Organizer. “New Approaches to Reading (in) Nineteenth-Century America,” Modern Language Association Conference, Seattle, January 10, 2020.
- 2019 “Collusion, Robert Wilcox, and the Kingdom of Hawai‘i,” “Corruption” Conference. Center for American Literary Studies. Pennsylvania State University. 25 March 2019. Invited talk.
- Panel Chair. “Science and the Arts of Resistance,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, January 5, 2019.
- 2018 “Astronomical Abolition: The US Almanac Office in a Time of Civil War.” American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. 8-11 Nov. 2018. [Talk cancelled]
- “Conspiracy, Pornography, Democracy: The Recurrent Aesthetics of the American Illuminati,” King’s College London, Oct. 15, 2018. Invited Talk.
- “Astronomical Memory: Douglass, the Leonid Meteor Shower, and the Fugitive Science of Black Astronomy.” Frederick Douglass across and against Times, Places, and Disciplines. Université Paris Diderot. 11-13 Oct. 2018.
- “Emancipatory Cosmology: *Freedom’s Journal*, *The Rights of All*, and the Revolutionary Movements of Black Print Culture.” American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA. 24-27 May 2018.

- 2017 “Stargazing like a State: Blackness, Astronomy, and Government Printing in the Early Republic.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL. 9-12 Nov. 2017. [Panel Organizer: “Technologies of State Power, Technologies of Dissent.”]  
 “Stargazing like a State: Blackness, Astronomy, and the Birth of American Empire.” American Studies Colloquium, North Dakota State University. 24 April 2017.
- 2016 Panel Chair. “Home Spaces: Representing Domestic Vulnerability.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Denver, CO. 17 Nov. 2016.  
 “The Solar Apex as Genre of Unsettlement: Poe’s *Eureka*, Predictive Nationalism, and the ‘Perturbations’ of the Cosmos.” C19 Biennial Conference. State College, PA. March 2016.  
 “Post-Reconstruction Afterlives.” Modern Language Association. Austin, TX. 5-8 January 2016.
- 2015 “Anonymous Circulations: Unnamed Southern Correspondents for *Freedom’s Journal* and *The Rights of All*.” Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute. Hanover, NH. 24 June 2015.  
 “Anonymous Circulations: Unnamed Southern Correspondents for *Freedom’s Journal* and *The Rights of All*.” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. 21-24 May 2015.  
 “Nations in Revolution: Hawaiian Literature, Political Violence, and U.S. Imperial Desire.” University of Connecticut Humanities Institute Public Talk. Storrs, CT. 5 March 2015.
- 2014 “Imagined Overthrow: Synodic Revolution and the American Illuminati Crisis.” American Literature Association. Washington, D.C. 22-25 May 2014.  
 “Working Class Heroes: Jack London, Kaluaikoolau, and the Cultural Limits of Socialist Revolt.” C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. University of California, Berkeley. 12-15 April 2012.  
 “American Cosmologies: Race and Revolution in the Nineteenth Century.” American Antiquarian Society Fellow’s Talk. Worcester, MA. 8 January 2014.
- 2011 “God Will Give you a Hannibal: Mob Action in David Walker’s *Appeal* and Martin Delany’s *Blake*.” NeMLA. Rutgers University. 7-10 April 2011.  
 “God Will Give you a Hannibal: Mob Action in David Walker’s *Appeal* and Martin Delany’s *Blake*.” COR: Colloquium in Ongoing Research. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 31 May 2011.
- 2009 “Woman/Man and Man/God: Hierarchy and Male Sexual Identity in Puritan New England.” University of Rhode Island: Interdisciplinary Conference. 28 March 2009.

**SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS (UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER)**

- 2021 Book Launch, *Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America*, School of Arts, Languages, and Cultures, University of Manchester. 11 May 2021.
- 2019 “Star Territory: Printing the Universe in Nineteenth-Century America,” University of Manchester, 23 October 2019.

**SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS (NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY)**

- 2016 “Preparing Materials for the Academic Job Market: Cover Letter and Curriculum Vitae.” Department of English. North Dakota State University. Fargo, ND. 26 Sept. 2016.
- “Organizing an Academic Article: A Discussion for New Graduate Students.” Department of English. North Dakota State University. Fargo, ND. 20 Sept. 2016.
- “Finding Nineteenth-Century Readers: Undergraduate Research in Library and Publishing Records.” Department of English. North Dakota State University. Fargo, ND. 13 Sept. 2016.

**DEPARTMENTAL TALKS (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT)**

- 2013 “Teaching Honors Students: A Roundtable.” Conference on the Teaching of Writing. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 5 April 2013.
- 2012 “The Self-Presentation Presentation: A Roundtable for Teachers on Developing a Classroom Persona.” First-Year Writing: New TA Orientation. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 28 Aug. 2012.
- “Classroom Activities Panel: A Roundtable for Teachers on Developing Student-Centered Activities for the First-Year Writing Seminar.” First-Year Writing: New TA Orientation. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 29 Aug. 2012.
- “From Seminar Paper to Article: Toward a Strategy for Graduate Student Publication.” English Graduate Professional Development Panel. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 30 Jan. 2012.
- 2009 “Works in Progress: A Semiannual Panel Series which Aims to Demystify Academic Writing/Publishing.” English Graduate Student Association Professional Development Committee. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 30 Sept. 2009.
- “Designing a Course Schedule.” Freshman English: New TA Orientation. University of Connecticut, Storrs. 24 Aug. 2009.

**COURSES**


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**University of Manchester, American Studies**

2019-present

*As course unit director*



American Literature to 1900	(1 section)
Jamestown to James Brown	(1 sections)
Novel Democracy	(1 section)
Uncle Tom's Cabin as a Global Media Event	(2 sections)
<i>As lecturer and seminar leader</i>	
Jamestown to James Brown	(2 sections)
Twentieth-Century American Literature	(2 section)
<b>North Dakota State University, English Department</b>	2016-2018
Race Science in the Nineteenth Century [Graduate Seminar]	(1 section)
Indigenous Print Cultures to 1888 [Graduate Seminar]	(1 section)
Print Revolutions, 1775-1848 [Graduate Seminar]	(1 section)
Nineteenth-Century American Fiction	(2 section; 25 students)
American Literature I: Origins to 1865	(2 section; 25 students)
Themes in American Culture: Racial Reconstruction	(1 section; 20 students)
Themes in American Culture: Revolution, Reaction, Revolt	(1 section; 20 students)
<b>University of Connecticut, English Department</b>	2008-2015
American Literature: Origins to 1880	(1 section; 35 students)
Major Works of British and American Literature	(1 section; 15 students)
Literary Study through Reading and Research	(1 section; 18 students)
Seminar in Academic Writing	(6 sections; 20 students)
Seminar in Writing through Literature	(4 sections, 20 students)
Introduction to Academic Writing	(4 sections; 15 students)

## SERVICE

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### TO THE PROFESSION

Grant Reviews:	Austrian Science Fund and the National Endowment for the Humanities (USA)
Monograph Reviews:	Yale University Press and Bedford/St. Martin's, Gale Cengage
Article Reviews:	<i>American Quarterly</i> , <i>Atlantic Studies</i> , <i>African American Review</i> , and <i>MELUS</i>
2022-	Steering Committee member, British Association of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
2023	Mentor, CARA: Council for At-Risk Academics
2023	Book Prize Committee, British Association for American Studies
2021-22	Chair, Literatures, Languages, and Culture (LLC) Committee for Nineteenth-Century American Literature, Modern Language Association
2020-21	Secretary, Literatures, Languages, and Culture (LLC) Committee for Nineteenth

Century American Literature, Modern Language Association  
 2017-20 Member, Literatures, Languages, and Culture Committee (LLC) for Nineteenth  
 Century American Literature, Modern Language Association

#### **TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER**

2021- Academic Exchange Advisor, English, American Studies, and Creative Writing  
 2020-2021 Member, Employability Committee, School of Arts, Languages, and Cultures (SALC)  
 2019-2020 Organizer, American Studies academic staff work-in-progress panel  
 2019-2020 Organizer, American Studies postgraduate reading group

#### **TO NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

2016-2017 Director, American Studies Colloquium  
 2016-18 Member, Graduate Education Committee  
 2016-17 Faculty Advisor, English Graduate Student Organization  
 2016 Member, Curriculum Reform Subcommittee

#### **TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT**

2015 Chair, First-Year Experience Writing Program Pilot  
 2014-15 Outside Speaker Coordinator, English Graduate Student Association  
 2010, 2012-13 Member, Implementation Subcommittee, Freshman English Instructor Orientation  
 2013 Instructor, Humanities House Learning Community  
 2012-12 Orientation Leader, Basic Writing (ENGL 1004) Instructor Orientation  
 2012 Workshop Leader, Early-College Experience Program training  
 2009 & 2011 Member, Oversight Subcommittee, Freshman English Instructor Orientation  
 2009-10 Chair, AETNA Graduate Student Teaching Award Committee  
 2009-10 Administrator, Seminar in Freshman Writing with Tutorial Support  
 2009-10 Chair, Writing Center Staff Orientation Planning Committee  
 2009 Liaison, Writing Center & First-Year Experience program

#### **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Modern Language Association  
 American Studies Association  
 C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
 British Association for Nineteenth-Century Americanists

#### **LANGUAGE**

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Spanish (reading)