

Sarah Ehlers

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English, University of Houston, 2014-present
Assistant Professor of English, University of South Dakota, 2012-2014

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2012
Chair: Alan Wald
M.A., English Language and Literature, University of Connecticut, Storrs, 2006
B.A., English and Women's Studies, Illinois State University, 2004
Magna cum laude, Honors in English

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

Left of Poetry: Depression America and the Formation of Modern Poetics (University of North Carolina Press, Spring 2019)

"Black Mountain Modernity" (in progress, in conversation with University of North Carolina Press)

"The Poetics of Other Archives" (in progress)

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

"Late Modernisms, Latent Realisms: The Politics of Literary Interpretation." *American Literature in Transition, 1940-1950*. Ed. Chris Vials. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018. 229-245.

"Jorie Graham's Passion for the Reel: The Lyric Subject Encounters the Image." *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* 50.2 (Summer 2017): 29-46.

"What's Left of Lyric: Genevieve Taggard and the Invention of Song." *Lineages of the Literary Left*. Ed. Howard Brick, Robbie Lieberman, and Paula Rabinowitz. Ann Arbor: Maize Books (an imprint of University of Michigan Press), 2015. 20-37.

"Mourning the Modernist Undead: Robert Duncan's Company and the Felt Silence of the Lost Generation." *Contemporary Literature* 55.1 (Spring 2014): 89-117.

"Making It Old: The Victorian/Modern Divide in Twentieth-Century American Poetry." *Modern Language Quarterly* 73.1 (March 2012): 37-67.

"Ezra Pound's Perverse Anthology." *Paideuma* 39 (2012). 115-42.

"Robert Duncan's Miltonic Persuasion: The Emergence of a Radical Poetic." *Reading Duncan: Reading: Robert Duncan and the Poetics of Derivation*. Ed. Stephen Collis and Graham Lyons. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2012. 3-24.

"Here Lies Harriet Monroe: The Death of *Poetry* in the Depression." Under submission at *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies*. 8000-word MS.

ESSAYS IN PROGRESS

- “The Trotskyite Menace on Campus: Robert Duncan in the Thirties.” Invited submission.
 “Transfiguring Propaganda: W. E. B. DuBois’s Poetic Radicalism.” Preparing for submission.
 “Lessons from Other Archives.” Preparing for submission.
 “Modernists, Unite? Or, the Laboring of Modern Poetics.” Preparing for submission.

BOOK REVIEWS & OTHER WRITINGS

- Review of Sonya Posmentier, *Cultivation and Catastrophe: The Lyric Ecology of Modern Black Literature*. *ALH Online Review, Series XVII* (December 2018): 1-4.
 “Popular Front Counter-Memories and the Legacies of Anti-Imperialist Modernism.”
 Review of Benjamin Balthaser, *Anti-Imperialist Modernism: Race and Transnational Culture From the Depression to the Cold War. Against the Current* (May/June 2018): 35-37.
 “Revolutionary Poetics: Reading and Returning to Denise Levertov.” Review of Donna Hollenberg, *A Poet’s Revolution: The Life of Denise Levertov. Against the Current* 181 (March/April 2016): 17-18; 20.
 Review of Mike Chasar, *Everyday Reading: Poetry and Popular Culture in Modern America. Comparative Literature* 67.4 (December 2015): 452-54.
 “Accursed: On John Wheelwright and Muriel Rukeyser.” *spoKe: a poetry annual* 3 (December 2015). 222-229.
 “Martha Millet, the *New Pioneer*, and the Popularity of the Old Left.” *Poetry and Popular Culture*. Ed. Mike Chasar. Web. 18 April 2013.
 “American Poetry’s Labor Problem.” Review of John Marsh, *Hog Butchers, Beggars, and Busboys: Poverty, Labor, and the Making of Modern American Poetry. Against the Current* 160 (September/October 2012): 29-30; 32.
 “U.S. Poetry and the Politics of Form.” Review of Alan Filreis, *Counter-revolution of the Word: The Conservative Attack on Modern Poetry, 1945-1960. Against the Current* 140 (May/June 2009): 37-38, 40.

HONORS & GRANTS

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

- Belbas-Larson Award for Teaching Excellence Nominee, University of South Dakota, 2014.
 Robert L. Platzman Memorial Fellowship, Special Collections Research Center, University of Chicago, 2013.
 Pro-Quest Distinguished Dissertation Award Honorable Mention, 2012.
 Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2011-2012.
 Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2007.

GRANTS RECEIVED

- University of North Carolina Press Authors Fund Recipient. For *Left of Poetry*. 2018.
 UH CLASS Project Completion Grant. For *Left of Poetry*. 2018, 2019.
 UH Provost’s Travel Grant. For conference travel. 2017, 2018.
 UH New Faculty Research Grant. For W.E.B. DuBois Research. 2017.
 UH CLASS Research Funds Grant (with J. Kasteley and Michael Snediker). For lecture and poetry reading featuring Fred Moten. 2016.
 UH CLASS Research Funds Grant (with Paul Butler). For Digital Humanities symposium and pedagogy workshop. 2016.
 UH Martha Gano Houston Distinguished Visiting Professor Grant (with Michael

Snediker). For lecture and poetry reading featuring Daniel Tiffany. 2015.
 University of South Dakota College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant. For *Left of Poetry*. 2013.
 USD Center for Teaching and Learning Course Redesign Fellowship. For Honors Digital Humanities course using USD Wounded Knee and Native American Oral History Collections. 2013.
 USD College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant. For conference travel. 2012, 2013, 2014.

PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

“Ballads on Roosevelt: Writers Respond to the New Deal.” Texas Humanities Forum on 1932 Presidential Election, University of Houston, October 2016.
 “Left of Lyric: Depression-era Poetry and Collective Life.” *Lineages of the Literary Left: A Conference in Honor of Alan M. Wald*. Ann Arbor, MI, March 2013.

PRESENTATIONS AND PAPERS FOR ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

“Mother is a Marxist” / Mother is a Market / *M*: The Poetics of Other Archives.” American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii, November 2019. (paper accepted)
 “The Trotskyite Menace on Campus: Robert Duncan in the Thirties.” *Passages: The Robert Duncan Centennial Conference*. Paris, France, June 2019.
 “Transfiguring Propaganda: W.E.B. DuBois’s Radical Poetics.” American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, November 2018.
 “Fusing an Alloy: Muriel Rukeyser at the Limits of Poetry/Documentary.” American Literature Association (ALA) Conference. San Francisco, CA, May 2018.
 “Archive Love.” American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, November 2017.
 “Anti-fascist Poetry and the Counter-Archives of Modernity.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention. Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.
 Participant, Roundtable on “New Poetic Fronts and University ‘Culture Industries.’” Modernist Studies (MSA) Conference. Pasadena, CA, November 2016.
 “Toward a Poets’ International: Black Writers and Communism in the Thirties.” Pre-circulated paper for Modernist Studies (MSA) Conference. Pasadena, CA, November 2016.
 “Genevieve Taggard’s Lyric Effects.” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Conference. Boston, MA, November 2015.
 “From Cheap Signals to Cheap Labor.” American Studies Association (ASA) Conference. Toronto, Ontario, October, 2015.
 “Toward a Poets’ International: Langston Hughes and Jacques Roumain.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference. Seattle, WA, March 2015.
 “The Joys of the Picket Line: Reading the Rhythms of the Left.” American Studies Association (ASA) Conference. Los Angeles, CA, November 2014.
 “The Harriet Monroe Doctrine: *Poetry’s* Interwar Internationalism.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention. Chicago, IL, January 2014.
 “Recession-era Poetry’s Unacknowledged Debt to Depression-era Dissent.” American Studies Association (ASA) Conference. Washington, DC, November 2013.
 “The Left Needs Rhythm: Poetry Speaks the Depression.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention. Boston, MA, January 2012.

- “Haiti to the Universe: Jacques Roumain, Langston Hughes, and the Radical Politics of Form.” American Studies Association (ASA) Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico, November 2012.
- “Langston Hughes’s Snapshots of Haiti: Scrapbooking the Subject in Interwar Political Poetry.” American Literature Association (ALA) Conference. San Francisco, CA, May 2012.
- “Photography and the Development of Radical Poetry: Muriel Rukeyser’s *The Book of the Dead*.” Pre-circulated paper for Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Conference. Buffalo, NY, October 2011.
- “A Poetry International: Historicizing Poetry’s Global Communities.” *Contingent Communities*. Minneapolis, MN, October 2010.
- “Reading Judy Grahn Now: Midcentury Women Poets from the Mimeograph to *You Tube*.” American Literature Association (ALA) Conference. San Francisco, CA, May 2010.
- “Jorie Graham’s Passion for the Reel: The Lyric Subject and the Symptom.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Convention. Montreal, Quebec. April 2010.
- “Vital Threads: Judy Grahn, Ntozake Shange, and the Bay Area Women’s Poetry Scene.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) Convention. San Francisco, CA, November 2009.
- “Ezra Pound Editing: The Perverse Anthology in *The Pisan Cantos*.” Society for Textual Scholarship Conference. New York, NY, March 2009.
- “Changing Contexts/Changing Self in Adrienne Rich’s *An Atlas of the Difficult World*.” College English Association Conference. San Antonio, TX, April 2006.

DEPARTMENTAL COLLOQUIA AND PUBLIC LECTURES

- “Modernism and Class.” University of Houston English/Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Roundtable on Intersectional Approaches to Modernism. Houston, TX, October 2018.
- “The Jazz Age.” Houston High School for the Performing and Visual Arts. Houston, TX, February 2018.
- “Bankrupt Modernisms: From Archival Debts to New Aesthetic Regimes.” University of South Dakota English Department. Vermillion, SD, December 2013.
- “Left of Lyric: Depression-era Poetry and Collective Life.” University of South Dakota Humanities Research Colloquium. Vermillion, SD, February 2012.

PANEL AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZING

- Session Organizer, “Learning the Radical Past: Left Studies, Disciplinarity, and Dissent,” American Studies Association (ASA) Convention, 2017.
- Roundtable Organizer, “New Poetic Fronts and University ‘Culture Industries,’” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Conference, 2016.
- Seminar Co-Organizer, “The Global Lives of Poems,” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) Conference, 2015.
- Session Co-Organizer, “Chicago’s *Poetry* and the Making of Literary Modernism,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, 2014.
- Session Organizer and Chair, “Poetic Occupations: From the Great Depression to the Great Recession,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, 2013.
- Panel Chair & Respondent, “Gender and Identity,” USD Biennial Research Conference on Women and Gender, 2012.

Session Organizer, “The Radical Langston Hughes,” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA) Conference, 2012.

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

Assistant Professor, University of Houston

Undergraduate:

Senior Seminar: Labor and Literary Studies (ENGL 4396)
African American Poetry and Drama (ENGL 3364)
American Literature Since 1865 (ENGL 3351)
Modern American Fiction (ENGL 3353)
Introduction to Literary Studies (ENGL 3301)
Houston Early Research Experience (HERE)

Graduate:

African American Poetry (ENGL 8383)
American Literature Since 1865 (ENGL 7368)
Graduate Reading and Research Hours, Archival Theory and Practice
Graduate Reading and Research Hours, Modern American Poetry
Graduate Reading and Research Hours, Modernist Women’s Writing
Graduate Reading and Research Hours, Twenty-first Century Prose Narrative
Graduate Independent Study, Twentieth-Century Women’s Poetry
Graduate Independent Study, Southern Literary Studies
Graduate Independent Study, Documentary Poetics
Graduate Independent Study, American Working-Class Literature, 1865-1940

Assistant Professor, University of South Dakota

Undergraduate:

African American Literature (ENGL 451/551)
Survey in Twentieth-Century American Literature (ENGL 242)
Introduction to Literature (ENGL 210)
Honors English (UHON 110)
Honors Interdisciplinary Civilizations (UHON 210)

Graduate:

Seminar in Twentieth Century Studies: The Matter of Poetry in the American Century (ENGL 734)
Seminar in Special Topics: Chicago and the Archives of Modernity (ENGL 792)
Graduate Independent Study, Twentieth Century American Poetry

Part-time Instructor, University of Connecticut

Basic Composition (ENGL 104)
Introduction to Academic Writing (ENGL 110)
Introduction to Writing through Literature (ENGL 111)

Part-time Instructor, Manchester Community College

Foundations for College Study, Reading, and Writing (ENGL 066)

ADVISING

Undergraduate:

Honors Thesis Director, Florencia Caceres Ferreira (current student)
 Honors Thesis Committee Member, Abigale Ramos (2019)
 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Advisor, Lida Hedayatpour (2018)
 Honors Thesis Director, Christina Escamilla (2017)
 Houston Scholars Program Advisor, Lida Hedayatpour (2017-2018)
 Honors Thesis Committee Member, Rachel Cecil (2017)
 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Advisor, DeMointé Wesley (2017)

Graduate Dissertation & Thesis Advising:

Ph.D., Literature, Dissertation Committee Chair, Grete Norquist (current student)
 Ph.D., Literature, Dissertation Committee Chair, Donna Pauley (current student)
 Ph.D., Literature, Dissertation Committee Member, Samantha Chesters (current student)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Fiction), Dissertation Committee Member, Matthew Krajniak (current student)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), Dissertation Committee Member, Luisa Muradyan (2019)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), Dissertation Committee Member, Erika Jo Brown (2019)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), Dissertation Committee Member, Chris Murray (2018)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Non-fiction), Dissertation Committee Member, Rhianna Brandt (2018)
 Ph.D., Literature, Dissertation Committee Member, Prity Bhalla (2017)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), Dissertation Committee Member, Henk Rossouw (2017)
 Ph.D., Literature, Dissertation Committee Member, Erin Singer (2017)
 Ph.D., Literature and Creative Writing (Poetry), Dissertation Committee Member, Elizabeth Lyons (2015)
 M.A., Literature, Master's Essay Director, Alissa Christopherson (2016)
 M.A., Communication Studies, Thesis Committee Member, Jennifer VonEhwegen (2014)
 M.A., English, Thesis Committee Member, Megan Sinner (2013)

Graduate Doctoral Exam Advising (after the University of Houston moved to a committee-based doctoral exam system in Fall 2018)

Committee Member, Niki Herd, Documentary Poetics & Nonfiction (current student)
 Committee Member, Joshua Gottlieb-Miller, Documentary Poetics (current student)
 Committee Member, Alex McElroy, Contemporary Prose & Theories of Embodiment (current student)
 Committee Member, Matt Bizell, Contemporary American Literature & Trauma Theory (current student)
 Committee Chair, Grete Norquist, Modernist Women's Writing & Theories of Affect and Intimacy (Spring 2019)
 Committee Chair, Donna Pauley, American Literature 1865-1945 & Southern

Literary Studies (Fall 2018)
 Committee Member, Rose Pentecost, American Literature 1865-1945 & Western Women's
 Writing (Fall 2018)

Doctoral Exam Evaluation/ Advising (before the University of Houston moved to a committee-based doctoral exam system in Fall 2018):

Examiner for Poetry and Poetics Exam (Fall 2016, Spring 2018)
 Examiner for Contemporary Literature Exam (Spring 2015, Spring 2017)
 Examiner for Twentieth-Century American Literature Exam (Fall 2015)
 Specialist Exam, Committee Member, "Contemporary Women's Poetry" (Spring 2018)
 Specialist Exam, Committee Member, "Twentieth-Century Satire" (Fall 2017)
 Specialist Exam, Committee Member, "The Modern and Contemporary Long Poem" (Fall 2016)

SERVICE

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editorial Board, Pleiades Press/Gulf Coast Books *Unsung Masters* Book Series, 2016-present
 Referee for: *PMLA*; *Mosaic: A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*; *LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Member, Dean's task force to respond to ADVANCE faculty climate survey (2018-2019)

SERVICE TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AT UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

UH Critical Studies of the Americas Group, Steering Committee, 2019
 UH Poetics Group, Steering Committee, 2014-present
 English Department Planning Committee, Fall 2019-Spring 2021
 English Department Roy Cullen Design Review Committee, Summer 2019
 Graduate Committee, Member, 2016-present
 Graduate Curriculum Revision Sub-Committee, Member, 2018-2019
 Assistant Professor in Asian American Literature Job Search, Committee Member, 2017
 Graduate Admissions Sub-Committee, Member, 2017-2018
 Graduate Exam Revision Sub-Committee, 2016-2017
 Elections, Rules, and Grievances Committee, Chair, 2016-2017
 Assistant Professor in Mexican American Literature Job Search, Committee Member, 2017
 1303 Writing Awards Selection Committee, Member, 2017
 Wyman H. Herendeen Award Selection Committee, Member, 2016, 2017
 Technology Committee, Chair, 2015-2016
 Elections, Rules, and Grievances Committee, Member, 2015-2016
 Upper Division Committee, Member, 2014-2015

ACADEMIC SERVICE WHILE AT UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA

"U Discover" Scholarship Selection Committee, Member, 2014
 English Department Internship Coordinator, 2013-2014
 English Department Student and Alumni Relations Committee, 2013-2014
 Assistant Professor of Creative Writing Job Search, Committee Member, 2012-2013
 Research and Library Committee, Member, 2012-2013
 English Department Colloquium Committee, Member, 2012-2014

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association
Modernist Studies Association

References available upon request.