

June 2022

**PETER COVIELLO**

curriculum vitae

University of Illinois, Chicago  
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**Employment**

Professor of English, University of Illinois, at Chicago, 2014-present  
Director of Graduate Studies, 2018-2021

Member, Institute for Advanced Study, at Princeton, in the School of Social Science, 2017-18

Professor of English, Bowdoin College, 2011-2014  
Chair, Department of English, 2010-2012  
Acting Director, Program in Africana Studies, 2006-2008  
Chair, Program in Gay and Lesbian Studies, 2002-2006 (co-chair, '02-3)

Visiting Associate Professor of English, Northwestern University, 2009

Associate Professor of English, Bowdoin College, 2004-2011

Assistant Professor of English, Bowdoin College, 1998-2004

**Education**

Cornell University, 1993-1998  
Ph. D. in English, May 1998 (M.A. 1996)  
Northwestern University, 1989-1993  
B.A. with Highest Distinction, 1993; with Honors in English and in Poetry

**Books**

*Vineland Reread* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2020), inaugural volume in the “Rereadings” series.

**Selected as “New & Noteworthy” title, the *New York Times*, Jan. 2021**

*Make Yourself Gods: Mormons and The Unfinished Business of American Secularism* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019), in the “Class 200: New Studies in Religion” series.

**Finalist for the 2020 John Whitmer Historical Association Best Book Prize**

*Long Players: A Love Story in Eighteen Songs* (New York: Penguin Books, 2018).

**Selected for ARTFORUM’s Ten Best Books of 2018**

*Tomorrow’s Parties: Sex and the Untimely in Nineteenth-Century America* (New York: New York University Press, 2013), in the “America and the Long 19<sup>th</sup> Century” series.

**Finalist for a 2013 Lambda Literary Award in LGBT Studies**

**Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize (honorable mention), 2014**

*Intimacy in America: Dreams of Affiliation in Antebellum Literature* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2005).

(Forthcoming):

*Is There God After Prince? : Love in a Time of Last Things*, in press at the University of Chicago Press, expected 2023.

*After Ahab: Tyranny in the Wake of the Age of Revolutions*, under contract with the University of Chicago Press.

#### Editions:

*Billy Budd, Bartleby, and Other Stories*, by Herman Melville (New York: Penguin Classics, 2016).

*Leaves of Grass and Selected Poems and Prose*, by Walt Whitman (New York: Penguin Books Drop Cap Series, 2014).

*Memoranda During the War*, by Walt Whitman (New York: Oxford UP, 2004).

#### Awards and Honors

The John Whitmer Historical Association Best Book Prize, Finalist (*Make Yourself Gods*), 2020

The Heller Visiting Fellow, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, 2019

Member, The Institute for Advanced Study, at Princeton, School of Social Science, 2017-18

Hurst Family Visiting Professorship, Washington University at St. Louis, 2015

The Edith Baine Lecture at the University of Mississippi, 2015

Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize (from the GL/Q caucus), Honorable Mention (*Tomorrow's Parties*), 2014

Lambda Literary Award in LGBT Studies, Finalist (*Tomorrow's Parties*) 2013

Faculty Leave Fellowship, Bowdoin College, 2008-09

Instructor for "Hawthorne and Longfellow: A Literary Friendship," an NEH Institute at Bowdoin College, Summer 2006

The Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture Prize, 2004 (and 1999)

The Kenan Fellowship, Bowdoin College, 2001-03

Moses Coit Tyler Prize in American Studies for "Intimate Property: Race and the Civics of Self-Relation," Cornell University, 1997

Clark Distinguished Teaching Award, Cornell University, 1997

Corson-Bishop Poetry Prize, Cornell University, 1997 (second prize, 1996)

Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 1997

Bonbright Award in the Humanities, Northwestern University, 1993

Edwin L. Shuman Essay Award, Northwestern University, 1993

Farcy Award for Poetry, Northwestern University, 1991, '92, and '93

Shuman Award in the Writing Major, Northwestern University, 1992 and 1993

#### Articles, Chapters, Introductions (\*=blind peer review)

\*"Did God Write *Moby-Dick*?" forthcoming in *MLQ*, "Talking About Religion" special issue, ed. Charles LaPorte and Mark Knight, fall 2022.

"Secularism, Race, Sex," in *American Literature in Transition, 1876-1910*, ed. Lindsay V. Reckson (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2022), 59-77.

"Mormon Dialectics," *American Religion*, concluding essay in the "Mormons, Race, and the History of Sexuality" dossier (responses to *Tabernacles of Clay*, by Taylor Petrey, and *Make Yourself Gods*), April 15, 2022

<https://www.american-religion.org/mormons-race-sexuality/coviello>

"Remediations in an Emergency," *American Literary History* 34:1 (Spring 2022): 77-90.

“Empire, Biopolitics Secularism,” *Political Theology*, for “Body Politics,” a forum on Jasbir Puar’s *The Right to Maim*, May 25, 2021.

<https://politicaltheology.com/empire-biopolitics-secularism/>

“So-Called Normal People,” *Post45*, “Reading Sally Rooney” cluster, ed. Gloria Fisk, June 15, 2020.

<http://post45.org/2020/06/so-called-normal-people/>

“Violence and Thinking about Violence,” *Political Theology*, for “Laws, Attention, and the Question of Violence: A Roundtable on Thoreau,” April 16, 2020.

<https://politicaltheology.com/violence-and-thinking-about-violence/>

“Phoebe Bridgers, ‘Motion Sickness,’ SZA, ‘Love Galore,’” *ASAP Journal*, “Crisis Harmonies” cluster, ed. Michael Boyce Gillespie, April 2, 2020.

<http://asapjournal.com/phoebe-bridgers-motion-sickness-sza-love-galore/>

“Secularism and Viable Life,” *American Quarterly* 71:3 (September 2019): 889-894. Special issue on “Origins of Biopolitics in the Americas,” ed. Greta LaFleur and Kyla Schuller.

“How the Mormons Became White: Scripture, Sex, Sovereignty,” in *Americanist Approaches to The Book of Mormon*, ed. Elizabeth Fenton and Jared Hickman (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019), 259-276.

“Hollow: ‘Cactus Tree’ and the Signs of Freedom,” in *Joni Mitchell: New Critical Readings*, ed. Ruth Charnock (London: Bloomsbury, 2019), 185-200.

“Introduction: Relation, Exception, and the Horizons of Critique in Jasbir Puar’s Work,” co-authored with Hentyle Yapp, *Social Text: Periscope*, October 25, 2018.

[https://socialtextjournal.org/periscope\\_article/introduction-relation-exception-and-the-horizons-of-critique-in-jasbir-puars-work/](https://socialtextjournal.org/periscope_article/introduction-relation-exception-and-the-horizons-of-critique-in-jasbir-puars-work/)

“Volatile Signs: Feminism, Secularism, Political Economy,” *The Immanent Frame* (in the “Sex, Secularism, and Femonationalism” forum), May 18, 2018.

<https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/05/18/volatile-signs/>

“Civil War,” in *Walt Whitman in Context*, ed. Joanna Levin and Edward Whitley (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), 269-277.

\*“The Wild Not Less Than the Good: Thoreau, Sex, Biopower,” *GLQ* 23-4 (Fall 2017): 509-532.

“Plural: Mormon Polygamy and the Biopolitics of Secularism,” *History of the Present: A Journal of Critical History* 7:2 (Fall 2017): 219-241.

“A Conversation with Peter Coviello,” conducted by H el ene Quanquin and C ecile Roudeau, *European Journal of American Studies* 11:1 (2016), document 7, <http://ejas.revues.org/11532>

“Peculiar Tendernesses: *Cecil Dreeme* and the Queer Nineteenth Century,” introduction to *Cecil Dreeme*, by Theodore Winthrop (1861; New York: New York University Press, 2016), ix-xx.

“Introduction,” in *Billy Budd, Bartleby, and Other Stories* (New York: Penguin Classics, 2016), vii-xxviii.

“Difficult Love,” *The LARB Quarterly Journal*, “The NO CRISIS Issue” (Fall 2015), 30-35.

“Probable Chaos” (part of “Gimme Gimme This, Gimme Gimme That: Listening to, with, and through José Muñoz,” [328-342]), *JPMS: Journal of Popular Music Studies* 27:3 (September 2015), 332-334.

“Introduction: After the Postsecular,” co-authored with Jared Hickman, *American Literature* 86:4 (December 2014): 645-654.

“Homobonding and the Nation,” in *The Cambridge History of Gay and Lesbian Literature*, ed. Mikko Tuhkanen and Ellen McCallum (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014), 241-53.

“What Came Before,” in *Unsettled States: Nineteenth-Century American Literary Studies*, ed. Dana Luciano and Ivy Wilson (New York: New York University Press, 2014), 298-306.

“Love in the Ruins” in *Should I Go to Graduate School?: 41 Answers to an Impossible Question*, ed. Jessica Loudis et al (New York: Bloomsbury, 2014), 105-109.

\*“The Pistol in the Suitcase: Motive, Temporality, Queer Youth Suicide,” *ESC: English Studies in Canada* 38:3-4 (2013): 63-82. Special double issue entitled “Childhood and Its Discontents,” ed. Natasha Hurley.

“Alone and In Company: Some Pleasures of the Text,” *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1:1 (Spring 2013): 6-14.

\*“Whitman’s Children,” *PMLA* 128:1 (2013): 73-86.

“Never the Usual Terms: A Song for Twenty-First Century Occupations,” co-authored with Elizabeth Freeman, *Social Text: Periscope*, March 28, 2013.  
<http://www.socialtextjournal.org/periscope/2013/03/never-the-usual-terms-a-song-for-21st-century-occupations.php>

“Call Me Morbid,” *JPMS: Journal of Popular Music Studies* 23:4 (Winter 2011): 381-392.

“Battle-Music: Melville and the Forms of War,” in *Melville and Aesthetics*, ed. Geoff Sanborn and Samuel Otter (New York: Palgrave, 2011), 193-212.

“Desire My Pilot Is,” in *Shakesqueer: The Queer Companion to The Complete Works of Shakespeare*, ed. Madhavi Menon (Duke University Press, 2010), 278-285.

\*“The Sexual Child; or, This American Life,” *Raritan* 27:4 (Spring 2008): 134-157.

“How to Do Things with Joy,” *theory@buffalo* 12 (2008): 61-85. Special issue on “(Re)Visions of Excess: Language of the Outside”

“World Enough: Sex and Time in Recent Queer Studies,” *GLQ* 13:2-3 (Spring/Summer 2007): 387-401. Special double issue on “Queer Temporalities,” ed. Elizabeth Freeman.

“Whitman at War,” in *Memoranda During the War* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), ix-liv.

\*“Poe In Love: Pedophilia, Morbidity, and the Logic of Slavery,” *ELH – English Literary History* 70:3 (Fall 2003): 875-901.

\*"Intimacy and Affliction: DuBois, Race, and Psychoanalysis," *MLQ - Modern Language Quarterly* 64:1 (March 2003): 1-32.

\*"Agonizing Affection: Affect and Nation in Early America," *Early American Literature* 37:3 (Fall 2002): 439-468.

\*"The American in Charity: 'Benito Cereno' and Gothic Anti-Sentimentality," *Studies in American Fiction* 30:2 (Autumn 2002): 155-180.

\*(Reprinted in *Short Story Criticism* [Thompson Gale Press, 2007])

\*"Intimate Nationality: Anonymity and Attachment in Whitman," *American Literature* 73:1 (March 2001): 85-119.

"Apocalypse From Now On," in *Queer Frontiers: Millennial Geographies, Genders, and Generations*, ed. Joseph Allen Boone, et al (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2000), 39-63.

### Essays

"Praisesongs, Descants, Whatever," *Chicago Review*, in the "Memoir" dossier, January 28, 2022.

<https://www.chicagoreview.org/praisesongs-descants-whatever/>

"Done, and Done," *Paideuma* 46, 2019 [2021]: 207-212.

"Anthony and Carmela Get Vaccinated", *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 19, 2021.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/anthony-and-carmela-get-vaccinated/>

"The Novel and the Secret Police," *Boston Review*, September 11, 2020.

<http://bostonreview.net/arts-society/peter-coviello-pynchon-and-coming-police-state>

"Our Man Foucault," *BullyBloggers*, June 29, 2020.

<https://bullybloggers.wordpress.com/2020/06/29/our-man-foucault-by-peter-coviello>

"Mercy Hours," *Boston Review*, April 10, 2020.

<http://bostonreview.net/arts-society/peter-coviello-mercy-hours>

"Secularism's Saints," *Boston Review*, October 29, 2019.

<https://bostonreview.net/gender-sexuality/peter-coviello-women-mormons-secularism>

"Struggles of the Nineteenth Century Persist for the Mormons," *The Salt Lake Tribune*, October 15, 2019, A11.

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2019/10/15/peter-coviello-struggles/>

"Where I Want to Be," *Hyped on Melancholy*, June 28, 2019.

<https://www.hypedonmelancholy.com/pete>

"Killing Joke," *Public Books*, April 22, 2019.

<https://www.publicbooks.org/killing-joke/>

"The Last Psychedelic Band," *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 9, 2019.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-last-psychedelic-band/>

"Encores of Love and Listening: Sarah Blackwood and Peter Coviello Discuss *Long Players*," *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, August 26, 2018.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/encores-of-love-and-listening-sarah-blackwood-and-peter-coviello-discuss-long-players/>

"I Was Her Stepdad. Now I'm Just Pete," *Elle*, June 14, 2018.

<https://www.elle.com/life-love/a21350189/what-do-you-call-an-ex-stepdad/>

"Playlist," *Largehearted Boy* (essay and playlist for *Long Players*), June 19, 2018.

[http://www.largeheartedboy.com/blog/archive/2018/06/peter\\_coviellos.html](http://www.largeheartedboy.com/blog/archive/2018/06/peter_coviellos.html)

"Graceless," *The Immanent Frame* (in the "Is This All There Is?" forum, ed. Courtney Bender and Nancy Levene), January 8, 2018.

<https://tif.ssrc.org/2018/01/08/graceless/>

"Say Chi City," *Public Books*, November 22, 2017.

<http://www.publicbooks.org/say-chi-city/>

- “Same Drugs,” *Avidly*, June 27, 2017.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2017/06/27/same-drugs/>
- “Thugs Scum Punks Freaks,” *Avidly*, February 23, 2017.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2017/02/23/getting-us-through-thugs-scum-punks-freaks/>
- “My Thoughts Are Murder,” *Avidly*, December 9, 2016.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2016/12/09/my-thoughts-are-murder/>  
 reprinted in *Longreads* “Top Five Longreads of the Week,”  
<https://longreads.com/2016/12/23/the-top-5-longreads-of-the-week-149/>
- “Is There God After Prince?” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 22, 2016.  
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/is-there-god-after-prince/>
- “Our Noise,” *Avidly*, April 18, 2016.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2016/04/18/our-noise/>
- “Ghost Stories; or, What To Do With the Words You Do Not Have,” *Avidly*, June 25, 2015.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2015/06/25/ghost-stories-or-what-to-do-with-the-words-you-do-not-have/> (linked in the *New York Times* “What We’re Reading Now,” 3 July 2015: <http://news.blogs.nytimes.com/2015/07/03/what-were-reading-69/>)
- “Difficult Love,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, February 1, 2015.  
<http://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/difficult-love>
- On Chrissie Hynde’s cover of Radiohead’s “Creep,” Critical Karaoke 2014 dossier, *The Journal of Popular Music Studies*, October 2014.  
<http://popmusicstudies.org/ck/?p=21>
- “Reading Jeter’s Joy,” *Avidly*, September 28, 2014.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2014/09/28/reading-jeters-joy/>
- “... and Circumstance,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, May 19, 2014.  
<https://lareviewofbooks.org/essay/circumstance>
- “What Like Abandonment” (response to John Modern’s “Vinyl Prayers”), *Reverberations*, January 10, 2014.  
<http://forums.ssrc.org/ndsp/2014/01/10/what-like-abandonment/>
- “Easy,” *Avidly*, June 27, 2013.  
<https://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2013/06/27/easy/>
- “Love in the Ruins; or, Should I Go to Grad School?” *Avidly*, November 13, 2012.  
<https://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2012/11/13/love-in-the-ruins-or-should-i-go-to-grad-school/>
- “The Talk That Does Not Do Nothing,” *The Believer* 10:6 (July-August 2012): 7-11.
- “Call Me Always,” *Avidly*, June 26, 2012.  
<https://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2012/06/26/call-me-always/>
- “Talk, Talk,” *Frieze* 148 (June-July-August 2012): 23-24.

### **Special Issues**

- Co-editor, with Hentyle Yapp, of “Jasbir Puar: From *Terrorist Assemblages* to *The Right to Maim*,” a *Social Text: Periscope* dossier, October 2018.  
[https://socialtextjournal.org/periscope\\_topic/jasbir-puar-from-terrorist-assemblages-to-the-right-to-maim/](https://socialtextjournal.org/periscope_topic/jasbir-puar-from-terrorist-assemblages-to-the-right-to-maim/)
- Co-editor, with Jared Hickman, of “After the Postsecular,” a special issue of *American Literature* 86:4 (December 2014).

### **Reviews**

- “The Secular Alibi” (review of Joan Wallach Scott’s *Sex and Secularism*), in *Tocqueville* 21 June 18, 2018  
<https://tocqueville21.com/focus/the-secular-alibi/>
- Review of Daniel Kane’s “Do You Have A Band?": *Poetry and Punk Rock in New York City*, in *Journal of Popular Music Studies* 30:1-2 (March-June 2018): 183-186.

- Review of *Collected Poems: Joseph Ceravolo*, in *Italian Americana* 32:1 (Winter 2014): 109-10.
- Review of Christopher Castiglia's *Interior States: Institutional Consciousness and the Inner Life of Democracy in the Antebellum U.S.*, in *MLQ* 71:3 (September 2010): 374-376.
- Review of Justus Nieland's *Feeling Modern*, Leo Bersani and Adam Phillips's *Intimacies*, and Lauren Berlant's *The Female Complaint*, in *American Literature* 81:2 (June 2009): 407-9.
- "Real Men" (review of David A. Gerstner, *Manly Arts: Masculinity and Nation in Early American Cinema*), *GLQ* 14:2-3 (2008): 439-441.
- Review of David Greven's *Men Beyond Desire: Manhood, Sex, and Violation in American Literature*, in *Studies in American Fiction* 36:2 (Autumn 2008): 244-6.
- Review of Kristin Boudreau's *Sympathy in American Literature* and Marietta Messmer's *A Vice For Voices*, in *American Literature* 75:1 (March 2003): 179-181.
- "Love American Style" (review of Jonathan Ned Katz's *Love Stories: Sex Between Men Before Homosexuality*), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter* 29:2-3 (Summer / Fall 2002): 3.
- Review of Jacqueline Foerstch's *Enemies Within*, in *South Atlantic Review* 67:1 (Winter 2002): 145-147.
- "Better Than Normal" (review of Michael Warner's *The Trouble With Normal*), *The Lesbian and Gay Studies Newsletter* 28:1 (Spring 2001): 7-8.

### **Keynotes and Lectures by Invitation**

- "Love in a Time of Last Things: Notes on Writing, Criticism, Disaster."  
Keynote address for the DePaul English Graduate Conference, May 2022
- "Did God Write *Moby-Dick*?"  
University of Texas-Dallas, April 2022
- "Inside the Queer Parenthesis"  
On Dr. Beth McClean's mss. *The Topographical Parenthesis: Henry James's Spaces of Desire*,  
University of Melbourne, February 2022
- "Extinction and World-Making"  
First Book Workshop for Prof. Sarah Ensor's *Terminal Regions: Queer Environmental Ethics in the Absence of Futurity*, University of Wisconsin, Madison, November 2021
- "Does Sex Make You a God?: Mormonism, Polygamy, Secularism"  
Texas A&M, Texarkana, PLACE Center, November 2021, POSTPONED
- "*Make Yourself Gods*: A Symposium"  
Rutgers University, with Dana Luciano, John Modern, Nancy Bentley, and Jasbir Puar,  
September 2021
- "Thoreau's Taste"  
Roundtable on Alda Balthrop-Lewis's *Thoreau's Religion*, Haverford College, February 2021
- "Affection and Antagonism"  
Roundtable on Jane Bennett's *influx & efflux*, for Duke University Press, November 2020
- "Heresy, Barbarism, Depravity: Imperial Secularism and the Mormon Dilemma"  
Utah Valley University, inaugural lecture for the "Mormonism and the Challenges of Whiteness" speaker series, October 2020; April 2021
- "Sex and the Gods: Mormonism, Secularism, Biopolitics"  
University of Virginia, February 2020
- "Does Sex Make You a God?"  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, April 2019
- "Long Players: A Love Story in Eighteen Songs"  
Readings in Chicago; Portland, ME; Fairfield, CT; Brooklyn; Washington D. C.; Aurora, IL; Cambridge, MA; Milwaukee; Toronto; Cleveland; Princeton, NJ; and St. Louis; as well as at Bowdoin College, Boston College, Franklin & Marshall College, University of Tampa, University of Dubuque, Bethany College, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, and for *The Believer* at the Mission Creek Festival in Iowa City, June 2018 – April 2019

- “Make Yourselves Gods: Sex, Secularism, and the Radiant Body of Early Mormonism”  
Case Western Reserve University, November 2018
- “Gods in Subjection: Women, Polygamy, and the Biopolitics of Secularism”  
History and Literature Program, Harvard University, October 2018  
-University of South Florida, October 2018  
-Bonham Center for Sexual Diversity Studies, University of Toronto, October 2018  
-Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University, March 2018
- “Annihilation and Unknowing in the Anthropocene; or, *The Shining*”  
“Sándor Ferenczi: Interdisciplinary Approaches,” Center for Advanced Research, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, September 2018
- “Make Yourselves Gods”  
“18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Secularities,” Princeton University, April 2018
- “The Sentimental Politics of Life”  
Roundtable on Kyla Schuller’s *The Biopolitics of Feeling*, Women’s and Gender Studies, Rutgers University, March 2018
- “Sex, Tears, & Rock-n-Roll: Notes on Criticism, Heartbreak, Writing”  
University of Missouri, November 2017
- “Sex and the Gods: Early Mormonism and the Biopolitics of Secularism”  
“Queer Trans Race Empire” symposium, University of North Carolina-Greensboro, February 2017
- “The Wild Not Less Than the Good: Thoreau, Sex, Biopower”  
Oberlin College, October 2016  
-University of California-Irvine, February 2016  
-Haverford College, November 2015  
-Keynote address, “Queertopia” conference, Northwestern University, May 2015  
-Columbia University, American Studies Seminar, March 2015  
-The Edith Baine Lecture at the University of Mississippi, March 2015
- “Plural: Mormon Polygamy and the Biopolitics of Secularism”  
“The Ontology of the Couple” symposium, the ICI-Berlin, June 2016
- “The Polygamist’s Complexion: *The Book of Mormon* and the Biopolitics of Secularism”  
University of California-Davis, March 2016
- “The Polygamist’s Complexion; or, *The Book of Mormon* Goes West”  
University of California-Los Angeles, February 2016  
-Franklin & Marshall College, November 2015
- “Not For This World”  
“Words Unofficial” graduate student conference, University of Chicago, November 2015
- “Why I Love This”  
Stonecoast Writers Conference, University of Southern Maine, July 2015
- “How the Mormons Became White”  
Brown University, April 2015  
-Hurst Visiting Professorship Lecture at Washington University, St. Louis, March 2015  
-Ohio State University, April 2014  
-Princeton University, April 2013  
-Keynote speaker, “Sexual Sovereignty: Citizenship, Governmentality, Territory,” American University of Beirut, March 2013
- “A Confusion of Tongues; or, Doing Things with Joy”  
Seminar for “Between Camps: Writing In and Beyond the Academy” series, Brown University, April 2015
- “Queer Children, Queer Theory, Queer Suicide”  
Hurst Visiting Professorship Seminar, Washington University, St. Louis, March 2015
- Invited panelist for “On Moving Ground: The Unsettled States of American Studies”  
Northwestern University, October 2014



- “What Does the Polygamist Want?”  
Whitman College, April 2014  
- University of Illinois, Champagne-Urbana, seminar, February 2014  
- University of Utah, March 2013  
- Haverford College, November 2011
- “Words on Fire: Literature and Secularization”  
Yale University, roundtable on Caleb Smith’s *The Oracle and the Curse*, January 2014
- “How to Do Things with Joy”  
Stonecoast MFA Program in Creative Writing, January 2014  
- Brown University, MFA “Demitasse” reading, November 2013
- “Prophets in Love: Polygamy and Indigeneity in Early Mormonism”  
“Credulity” conference, Columbia University, April 2013
- “The Unspeakable Past: Earliness and Sex in Nineteenth-Century America”  
Keynote speaker, “Rising Early: An Imaginary Vistas Symposium,” Penn State, November 2012  
- Fordham University, March 2010
- “The Pistol in the Suitcase: Motive, Temporality, and Queer Youth Suicide”  
Keynote speaker, “Low Affects / High Stakes,” University of Sussex, November 2012
- “Joseph Smith in Love: Polygamy, Indigeneity, Sovereignty”  
Cornell University, October 2012
- “Writing and Talking About Writing”  
Stonecoast MFA Program in Creative Writing, July 2012
- “Never the Usual Terms: A Song for 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Occupations” (with Elizabeth Freeman)  
“As Yet Unnamed: Queer Theories and the Nineteenth Century,” Pomona College, March 2012
- “Fighting About Steely Dan: Notes on Joy”  
“Moonlighter Presents” reading series, Brooklyn, NY, July 2011
- “The Tenderness of Beasts: Hawthorne and the American History of Sexuality”  
University of Texas at Austin, April 2009
- “How to Do Things with Joy: Pynchon and *Vineland*”  
Northwestern University, February 2009  
- University of Sussex, October 2008
- “Pip’s Descent: Freedom and Terror in *Moby-Dick*”  
Maine Historical Society, April 2008
- “Walt Whitman’s *Memoranda During the War*”  
South Street Seaport Museum, NYC, July 2005
- “No Covenants but Proximities: Intimacy and History”  
Keynote speaker, “Intimacy / Proximity” national interdisciplinary graduate student conference, Indiana University, April 2005
- “The Sexual Child; or, This American Life”  
Johns Hopkins University, April 2005
- “Intimacy and History”  
Cornell University, April 2005
- “The Heart of a Stranger: Whitman, War, and the American History of Sexuality”  
University of Connecticut, April 2005
- “Intimacy in America: Notes on Affect and History”  
Williams College, March 2005
- “Whitman at War”  
Harvard University, November 2004
- “Agonizing Affection: Belonging and Belief in Early American Literature”  
University of Maine, Augusta, July 2004
- “Canker’d, Crude, Superstitious, and Rotten’: Whitman’s America and Our Own”

Bowdoin College Common Hour, the Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture,  
January 2004  
“Poe In Love: Pedophilia, Morbidity, and the Logic of Slavery”  
Johns Hopkins University, October 2002

### **Conferences Organized**

“Tomorrow’s Parties: A Queer Americanist Colloquium”  
April 30-May 1, 2010, Bowdoin College, featuring Kathryn Bond Stockton, Katherine Biers,  
Elizabeth Freeman, Kara Keeling, Dana Luciano, Molly McGarry, Jordan Stein, and Pamela  
Thurschwell

### **Other Media**

Featured on “Scholars and Saints: The University of Virginia Mormon Studies Podcast,” entitled  
“Mormonism, Secularism, and Biopolitics, with Peter Coviello and Kathleen Flake.”  
Originally aired 4 January 2021.  
Featured on Youth Southpaw’s “Etcetera Etc” podcast, entitled “Peter Coviello on Thomas  
Pynchon’s *Vineland*.” Originally aired 21 December 2020.  
Featured on the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore’s “Open Stacks” podcast, entitled “A Not Uncritical  
Openheartedness.” Originally aired 30 September 2018.  
Featured on “This Is Your Mixtape” podcast, entitled “More Than I Have Words For.” Originally  
aired 7 September 2018.  
Featured on WKUM’s “Marginalia,” hosted by Beth Golay. Originally aired June 2018.  
Commentator in “American Icons: The Scarlett Letter,” national NPR broadcast of “Studio 360,”  
hosted by Anna Sale. Originally aired November 2013.  
Commentator in “Walt Whitman: Song of Myself,” on New York Public Radio, hosted by Carl  
Hancock Rux. Originally aired November 2005.  
“Walt Whitman’s War,” on *The Connection* from WBUR Boston and NPR, hosted by Dick  
Gordon. Originally aired 20 December 2004.

### **Teaching**

Courses (from first-year writing classes to large lectures to graduate seminars) in 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>-  
Century American Literatures and Queer Theory, as well as in literary theory, histories of dissident  
American religion, race and psychoanalysis, the Harlem Renaissance, poetry and poetics, creative  
nonfiction.

### **Academic Service**

Director of Graduate Studies, 2018-2021  
Graduate Committee, 2014-15, 2016-17  
(at Bowdoin College)  
Chair, Department of English, 2010-2012  
Acting Director, Program in Africana Studies, 2006-2008  
Chair, Program in Gay and Lesbian Studies, 2002-06 (co-chair, ’02-3)  
Member (elected), Committee on Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure, 2004-06  
Member (elected), Committee on Appeals (Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure),  
2002-03, 2012-2014  
Member, Bias Incident Group, 2006-2008  
Faculty advisor to the Bowdoin Gay-Straight Alliance, 1999-2001  
Member, Committee on Gay and Lesbian Studies, 1998-2012  
Member, Committee on Women’s Studies, 1999-2001 (co-chair of the sub-committee on  
planning, 2000-01)  
Member (elected), Committee on Governance, 1999-2001 (junior faculty representative  
to the Board of Trustees, 2000-01)

### **Professional Activities and Memberships**

*History of the Present*, editorial board, 2020-present

*American Literature*, editorial board, 2011-13

American Literature Section of the MLA, Advisory Council (elected; Chair), 2014-16

Member (elected), Delegate Assembly of the MLA, 2006-2009; 2012-15

Chair, Allen Bray Memorial Book Prize Committee, for the GL/Q Caucus of the MLA, 2013

Member (elected), Elections Committee of the Delegate Assembly of the MLA, 2012-14

Reader of manuscripts, Chicago, Duke, NYU, Columbia, Princeton, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, UNC, Minnesota, Penn, Harvard, Oxford, Virginia, Fordham, Edinburgh, Broadview

Reader of submissions, *American Literature*, *GLQ*, *J19*, *American Literary History*, *PMLA*, *American Religion*, *The Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *American Quarterly*, *Arizona Quarterly*, *Diacritics*, *Criticism*, *Early American Studies*, *History of the Present*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *ESQ*, *Modernism / Modernity*, *Modern Language Studies*, *Mediations*, *Poe Studies*, *Papers on Language and Literature*, *Religion and American Culture*, *Modern Philology*, *Legacy*, *Textual Practice*, *Contemporary Literature*

Member, Modern Language Association, 1994-present

Member, American Studies Association, 1997-present

Member, C19, 2010-present

Co-organizer, Cornell Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Studies Colloquium Series, 1994-96

Member, Dean's Advisory Committee on LBG Studies at Cornell, 1994-1998

### **Conference Papers, Panels, and Lectures**

“Melville’s Misery”

“Whose Rooster?: A Roundtable on Thoreau, Melville, and Environmental Politics”

American Academy of Religion (AAR), November 2021

“Make Yourselves Gods”

Respondent to a roundtable discussion of *Make Yourselves Gods*, ASA, October 2021

“A Lawful Rigor: Sex and Security in Melville”

“Melville and Sex and...” panel of the Melville Society, MLA, January 2021

“Make Yourselves Gods”

Respondent, “Mormonism and the History of Sexuality” panel discussion of Taylor Petrey’s *Tabernacles of Clay* and my *Make Yourselves Gods*, AAR, December 2020

“Sex and Imperial Secularism”

“Postsecular Queer Theory,” panel, American Academy of Religion (AAR), December 2020

“Secularism and Empire”

Roundtable Chair and convener, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, October 2020

“Extermination and End Times: Notes on the Biopolitics of Secularism”

“Apocalypse (Then and) Now” panel, MLA, Seattle, January 2020

“Protohomonalism: Biopolitics and the Mormons”

“Religion, Colonialism, and Postcolonialism” unit roundtable on the work of Jasbir Puar, American Academy of Religion (AAR), San Diego, November 2019

“Monogamy and Its Others”

“Queer Kinship After Critical Race Theory” panel, ASA, Honolulu, November 2019

“Secularism and Viable Life”

*American Quarterly*’s “Origins of Biopolitics in the Americans” roundtable, ASA, Honolulu, November, 2019

“Secularism in 1846”

“Emergent Modernities” roundtable, MLA, Chicago, January 2019

“The Last Psychedelic Band,”

“Impossible Times” roundtable, ASAP, New Orleans, October 2018

- “Pop Voices and #MeToo”  
 “Crisis Harmonies” roundtable, ASAP, New Orleans, October 2018
- “Sex”  
 ACLA, for “Our Secular Concepts” panel, UCLA, March 2018
- “Reluctant Monogamy: Early Mormonism and the Biopolitics of Secularism”  
 C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, March 2018
- “Histories of Sexuality in the Wake of the Postsecular Turn”  
 Roundtable, ASA, Chicago, November 2017
- “Bad Belief”  
 “Histories of Sexuality in the Wake of the Postsecular Turn” panel, Omohundro Institute Annual Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, June 2017
- “Sex and the Postsecular”  
 “Unknown Pleasures: Living Deliciously in the Winthropocene, and Beyond” roundtable, Society of Early Americanists, Tulsa, March 2017
- “The Biopolitics of Secularism: Mormon Polygamy and Expendable Life”  
 “Beyond the Gay Male Archive in 19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Studies” panel, MLA, Philadelphia, January 2017
- “Defunct Sexualities”  
 Panel chair, MLA, Philadelphia, January 2017
- “Histories of Sexuality and Gender Before the 20<sup>th</sup> Century”  
 Panel chair, Organization of American Historians, Providence, RI, April 2016
- “Untimely Erotics”  
 Seminar co-led with Elizabeth Freeman, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Penn State, March 2016
- “Capacious Anachronism?”  
 Panel chair, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Penn State, March 2016
- “Strayaways: Jewett On the Brink”  
 “Rethinking Sexuality at the Fin de Siècle” panel, MLA, Austin, January 2016
- “Annihilation and Unknowing in New Millennial Capital; or, *The Shining*”  
 ASA, Toronto, October 2015
- “Sorrows of the Algorithm”  
 “Listening in Public” roundtable, ASAP annual conference, Greenville, SC, September 2015
- “Hollow: ‘Cactus Tree’ and the Signs of Freedom”  
 “Court and Spark: an international symposium on the work of Joni Mitchell,” University of Lincoln, July 2015
- “Probable Chaos”  
 “Gimme Gimme This Gimme Gimme That’: Listening with, to, and through José Muñoz” plenary session, IASPM-US annual conference, Louisville, Feb 2015
- “The Wild Not Less Than the Good: Erotics and Biopower in Thoreau”  
 “Wildness” panel, ASA Los Angeles, October 2014
- “Creep”  
 Critical Karaoke at the EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, April 2014
- “Fables of Mobility: Woody, Joni, Jimmy”  
 Panel chair and respondent, EMP Pop Conference, Seattle, April 2014
- “Brother Laman”  
 Roundtable on the Book of Mormon, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Chapel Hill, March 2014
- “The Politics of Close Reading”  
 Panel chair, C19: Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Chapel Hill, March 2014

- “Whitman in the House Divided”  
 “Melville, Whitman, and the Civil War” roundtable, “Melville and Whitman in Washington: The Civil War Years and After,” The International Conference of the Melville Society, June 2013
- “Midnight Train”  
 The EMP-LA Pop Conference, USC, April 2013
- “Joseph Smith in Love: Polygamy, Indigeneity, Sovereignty”  
 “Early American Sex” panel, MLA, Boston, January 2013  
 – “Dimensions of Empire and Resistance: Past, Present, and Future” panel, ASA, Puerto Rico, November 2012
- “How to Do Things with *Twilight*: Young-Adult Fiction in the College Classroom”  
 Panel chair, MLA, Boston, January 2013
- “Melville in the Darbies: Of Bonds, Binds, and Bondage”  
 Invited panel organizer and chair for the Melville Society, ALA, San Francisco, May 2012
- “What Does the Polygamist Want?: Joseph Smith and the American History of Sexuality”  
 “Spirits that Matter: Nonsecular Embodiments in Antebellum America” panel, C19 Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Berkeley, April 2012
- “Unceremoniousness: Melville’s Marriages”  
 “Melville in Rome” conference of the International Melville Society, panel sponsor, and participant (for “Sex and the Foreign in Melville” panel), Rome, Italy, June 2011
- “Call Me Morbid”  
 “Post-45” National Conference, “Adolescence and Abjection” panel, Rock-n-Roll Hall of Fame, April 2011
- “Made for Love: Olive Chancellor, Henry James, Oscar Wilde”  
 MLA, “Form, Genre, and Judgment: Law and Literature Beyond New Historicism” panel, Los Angeles, January 2011
- “Whitman’s Children”  
 “Tomorrow’s Parties: A Queer Americanist Colloquium,” Bowdoin College, May 2010
- “Rethinking Sex in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”  
 Roundtable participant, C19 Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Inaugural Conference, Penn State, May 2010
- “Failures of Imagination: Reading Wrong and Feeling Bad in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century”  
 Panel Chair and Respondent, C19 Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Inaugural Conference, Penn State, May 2010
- “Disappointment, or, Thoreau in Love”  
 ASA, Washington D.C., November 2009  
 – International Conference on Narrative, Birmingham, UK, June 2009
- “Sentiments of Slavery: Power and Resistance in Fictions of the Plantation”  
 Panel chair, American Literature Association, Boston, May 2009
- “Desire My Pilot Is”  
 Cornell University, “Shakesqueer” conference, September 2008
- “The Tenderness of Beasts: *The Blithedale Romance* and the American History of Sexuality”  
 British Association for American Studies, University of Edinburgh, March 2008
- “Race, Place, and Story in American Literature”  
 Invited panel discussant, sponsored by APSA’s “Politics, Literature, and Film” division, American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 2006
- “Whitman and War”  
 “Walt Whitman’s *Leaves of Grass*: A Sesquicentennial Roundtable,” American Studies Association, Washington D.C., November 2005
- “Ghosts of Freud”  
 Invited gallery talk for “The Disembodied Spirit” exhibition, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, November 2003

- "Exile, Imagination, and Sexuality"  
Invited panel chair, ASA, Houston TX, November 2002
- "Boys on Lonely Walks: Vernacular Utopias in American Pop"  
British Association for American Studies, Oxford University, April 2002
- "The American in Charity: 'Benito Cereno' and Gothic Anti-Sentimentality"  
MLA, New Orleans, December 2001  
- The International Gothic Association, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, British Columbia, June 2001
- "Whitman's Secrets"  
Crossroads of Cultural Studies International Conference, University of Birmingham, UK, June 2000
- "Foucault and Freud"  
Panel organizer and chair, MLA, Chicago, December 1999
- "The Intimate Life of Children"  
Invited gallery talk for "The Sexual Child" photography exhibit, Bowdoin College Museum of Art, November 1999
- "Conspiracies of Pleasure; or, in Praise of Secret Publics"  
Invited all-campus lecture, Bowdoin College Common Hour, September 1999
- "The Sexual Child"  
Faculty Lecture Series, Bowdoin College, April 1999
- "The Bonds of Sane Affection: Intimacy and Nationality in the American Renaissance"  
British Association for American Studies, University of Glasgow, March 1999
- "Works in Progress"  
Invited talk to the Cornell Literature Group, Cornell University, February 1999
- "Other Than Oedipus: Race, Attachment, and an Agnostic Psychoanalysis"  
"Oedipus Today," the fourth annual conference of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, Emory University, November 1998
- "White Desire: Poe and Heterosexuality"  
ASA, Washington, D.C., November 1997
- "Race Without Flesh: Identification and Genre in New White Cinema"  
MLA, Forum on Psychoanalysis and Race, Washington D.C., December 1996  
- "Psychoanalysis and Social Change," the second annual conference of the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture and Society, George Washington University, November 1996  
- "Recycling Culture," Cornell University's Society for the Humanities, April 1997
- "Bowels and Fear: Nationalism, Sodomy, and Whiteness in *Moby-Dick*"  
MLA, the Melville Society, Washington D.C., December 1996
- "Apocalypse From Now On"  
"Millennium Reproaches," Tufts University, October 1995  
- "Queer Frontiers," the fifth annual national lesbian, gay, and bisexual graduate student conference, University of Southern California, March 1995
- "Selling Kids: Punk and its Reproductions"  
"Literature and Popular Culture," SUNY Binghamton, April 1995
- "Desire and Another Person: John Ashbery's Poetics."  
"Constructing Queer Cultures," Cornell University, February 1995
- "The Queer at the End of the World"  
"At Loose Ends," Cornell University, April 1994