

Department of English, Drake University, Des Moines, IA 50311 lisa.west@drake.edu

Academic Positions

Professor, Drake University, 2020-present
Associate Professor. Drake University, 2009-2020
Assistant Professor. Drake University, 2002- 2009
Lecturer. Stanford University, 2002
Visiting Assistant Professor. Santa Clara University, 1999
Teaching Assistant. Stanford University, 1994-1998

Education

Ph.D., English and American Literature, Stanford University, 2001
Student, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 1992-93
B.A., Williams College, Phi Beta Kappa/Magna Cum Laude, 1989

Scholarship

Peer-Review Journals

“Six Lessons in Teaching Susanna Rowson’s *Sincerity* through the *Just Teach One* Project.”
Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers 34.1. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press. 2017.

“The Nature of ‘The Flourishing Village’ in America: Prospects in Sedgwick’s *Hope Leslie*.”
Literature in the Early American Republic. Volume 2. Brooklyn, NY: AMS Press, Inc. 2010.

“‘I may be a stranger to the grounds of your belief’: Constructing Sense of Place in *Wieland*.”
Early American Literature 38:1. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press. 2003.

Book Chapters

“Applying Pedagogies of Recovery to *The Pioneers*.” *Teaching the Novels of James Fenimore Cooper*. Eds. Stephen Arch and Keat Murray. Forthcoming, Modern Languages Association, 2020.

“Toward a Political Ecology in Lydia Maria Child’s ‘Chocorua’s Curse.’” *Gendered Ecologies: New Materialist Interpretations of Women Writers in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Eds. Dewey Hall and Jillmarie Murphy. Intro. by Stacy Alaimo. Afterward by Jane Bennett. Clemson University Press, 2020.

“Charles Brockden Brown: Early Years, 1771-1795.” *Oxford Handbook of Charles Brockden Brown*. Eds. Philip Barnard, Hillary Emmett and Stephen Shapiro. Oxford University Press, 2019.

Forward. *Popular Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers and the Literary Marketplace*. Eds. Yarrington and De Jong. Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2007, pp ix-xi.

“Susan Fenimore Cooper’s ‘Home Book of the Revolution’: *Mount Vernon: A Letter to the Children of America*, Patriotism, and Sentiment.” *Susan Fenimore Cooper: New Essays on Rural Hours and Other Works*. Eds. Rochelle Johnson and Daniel Patterson. Foreword by Lawrence Buell. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2001, pp 39-60.

In Progress

“Picturing the Incomplete Ruins of an Imaginary People: Visual Representations of Mound-Builder Sites in the Early Republic,” *Incomplete Forms*. Eds. Matthew Pethers and Daniel Couch. University of Virginia Press.

“Melville’s Ecogothic: Tortoises, Widows, and the Dog-King,” *Gothic Melville*. Ed. Jeffrey Weinstock.

Reprints

“Fragments, Ruins, and Artifacts of the Past: The Reconstruction of Reading in *The Deerslayer*.” *Nineteenth Century Literary Criticism*. Columbia, SC: Layman Poupard. Library Database. NCLC is part of the survey of criticism and world literature that is contained in Gale’s Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC), Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism (TCLC), Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800 (LC), Shakespearean Criticism (SC), and Classical and Medieval Literature Criticism (CMLC). www.lppub.com/nineteenth-century-criticism.

Book Reviews

Review of Steven Epley, *Susanna Rowson: Sentimental Prophet of Early American Literature*. *American Literary History Online Book Reviews*. February, 2018.

Review of Jeffrey Steele, *Transfiguring America: Myth, Ideology, and Mourning in Margaret Fuller’s Writing*. *Conversations: Margaret Fuller Society Newsletter*. November, 2018.

Other Print Publications

“Cooper’s Pacific: *The Crater* and Theories of History in the South Seas.” *James Fenimore Cooper Miscellaneous Papers 2004*. Oneonta: State University of New York at Oneonta, 2004.

“The Nature of Consent: Marriage Choices in *A New England Tale*,” *Catharine Maria Sedgwick Newsletter*. Salem, MA: Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society, 2004.

“Fragments, Ruins, and Artifacts of the Past: Reconstructing Reading in *The Deerslayer*.” *James Fenimore Cooper Miscellaneous Papers 2003*. Oneonta: State University of New York at Oneonta, 2003.

“Using Graphic Arts as Primary Sources: The 2001 AAS Summer Seminar.” *The Book: A Newsletter for the American Antiquarian Society*. Worcester, MA: American Antiquarian Society, 2001.

“Domesticating Revolutionary Sentiment in Susan Fenimore Cooper’s *Mount Vernon: A Letter to the Children of America*.” *James Fenimore Cooper: His Country and His Art* (papers from the 1999 Cooper Seminar), 2000.

Web Publications

“Onlookers, Rescuers, and a ‘Melancholy Witness,’” *Just Teach One, Common-Place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, American Antiquarian Society, 2019.

<http://www.jto.common-place.org/justteachone/>

“*Sentimental Fragments, Absence, and “Writing” Issues*,” *Just Teach One, Common-Place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, American Antiquarian Society, 2018.

<http://www.jto.common-place.org/justteachone/>

“‘The Afric-American Picture Gallery’ Reflection,” *Just Teach One African-American Literature, Common-Place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, American Antiquarian Society, 2015. <http://www.jtoaa.common-place.org>

“*Sincerity, Mary Kelley, and Jane Austen*,” *Just Teach One, Common-Place: An Interactive Journal of Early American Life*, American Antiquarian Society, 2015. <http://www.jto.common-place.org/justteachone/>

“Cooper’s Pacific: *The Crater* and Theories of History in the South Seas.” *James Fenimore Cooper Society Website*, 2004. <http://www.oneonta.edu/external/cooper/articles.html>

“Fragments, Ruins, and Artifacts of the Past: Reconstructing Reading in *The Deerslayer*.” *James Fenimore Cooper Website*, 2003. <http://www.oneonta.edu/external/cooper/articles.html>

“Domesticating Revolutionary Sentiment in Susan Fenimore Cooper’s *Mount Vernon: A Letter to the Children of America*.” *James Fenimore Cooper Website*.

<http://www.oneonta.edu/external/cooper/articles.html>

Dissertation

“Grounds for the New Nation: Constructing Sense of Place from 1780-1860.” Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford University, 2001.

Selected Conference Presentations

“Apathy, Forbearance, or Dissent? How to Read Stupor in Early American Texts,” Charles Brockden Brown Society Symposium, October, 2019.

“Gothic, Supernatural, or Enchanted Flights in Sedgwick’s Novels,” American Literature Association, May, 2019.

“Visual Representations of Mound-Builder Sites,” Society of Early Americanists, February 2019.

- “Flights of Fancy? Or Resisting Reason,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, November 2018.
- Material and Visual Culture Work in Progress, Transatlantic Conversations Workshop, Obama Institute/SEA, October 2018.
- “Domestic Ecology in Lydia Mara Child’s ‘Chocorua’s Curse,’” American Literature Association, May 2018.
- “*Sincerity, Secret History, and the Changing Boundaries of Domestic Secrets*,” Charles Brockden Brown Symposium, October 2017.
- “Geologic and Narrative Time in Sedgwick and Hawthorne Short Stories,” Catharine Maria Sedgwick Symposium: Where and When: Evolving Concepts of Place, Space, and Time in the Writings of Sedgwick and Her Contemporaries, June 2017.
- “*Sincerity, Epistolarity, and Bystanders*,” Society of Early Americanists, March 2017.
- “*The Anarchiad and the Ruse of Nature*,” Charles Brockden Brown Society Symposium, October 2015.
- “Margaret Fuller and Sedgwick on the Upper Midwest, Tourism, and History,” Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society Symposium: Great Excursions: Travel and the 19th-Century Literary Imagination, June 2014.
- “Revolutionary Reconstruction: Marietta, Ohio,” Charles Brockden Brown Society, March, 2012.
- John Neal’s *Battle of the Niagara* and Constructing the War of 1812,” American Studies Association, November 2010.
- “Abusive or Unhappy Marriage?: Rowson’s *Sarah; Or, The Exemplary Wife*,” Catharine Maria Sedgwick Symposium, June, 2010.
- “Economic and Religious Discourse in Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Writing,” American Literature Association, May 2010.
- “Domestic Abuse in Rowson’s *Sarah; Or, the Exemplary Wife*,” American Literature Association, May 2009.
- “The War of 1812 and the Geographic Imagination,” Society of Early Americanists, March 2009.
- Roundtable on Charles Brockden Brown’s “The Man at Home” papers. Charles Brockden Brown Symposium - Empire, Revolution, and New Identities: Geoculture and Geopolitics in Brown and His Contemporaries, October 2008
- “Revising the ‘Rake’ in *Ormond*: Or, How to Tell a Tale of Domestic Violence from one of Seduction.” Charles Brockden Brown Symposium - Empire, Revolution, and New Identities: Geoculture and Geopolitics in Brown and His Contemporaries, October 2008.
- “Body Language and Conversation: Community and Communication in *Redwood*’s Shaker Scenes,” Catharine Maria Sedgwick Symposium: De-Domesticating the Countryside, June 2007
- “Hannah Cooper Pomeroy’s Writings about Travel: Personal, Regional and Generic Writing about Place,” Constance Fenimore Woolson Society Conference, February 2007
- “‘Conversation’ as Genre in Segwick’s *Redwood*,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, November 2006
- “Imagining Mississippi as the Center of Empire: St. Louis, New Orleans, and Old and New Civilizations,” Charles Brockden Brown Symposium: Brown and the Bayou, November 2006

- “Rock Formations and Memory in Fuller’s *Summer on the Lakes*,” Midwest Modern Language Association, November 2005
- “The Panic of 1837 and the Sentimental Mode,” American Antebellum Writers and the City, September 2005
- “Re-Orienting Ourselves to James Fenimore Cooper’s Later Writings: Surveying and *The Chainbearer*,” Constance Fenimore Woolson Society Conference, October 2004
- “Narratives of Natural History and Cooper’s *The Crater*,” American Literature Association, May 2004
- “The Nature of Consent: Marriage Choices in *A New England Tale*,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, September 2003
- Roundtable Discussion on Susan Fenimore Cooper and the Natural History Tradition, Society for the Study of American Women Writers, September 2003
- “Fragments, Ruins, and Artifacts of the Past: Reconstructing Reading in *The Deerslayer*,” American Literature Association, May 2003
- “Completing the Place in the Text: Abandoned Mound-Builder Sites and their Literary Representations,” Society of Early Americanists, April 2003.
- “Natural Features, Monuments, and Memorials: ‘Nature Writing’ and the Legibility of Cultural Remains in Early America,” Modern Language Association (Division on American Literature to 1800), December 2001
- “Domesticating Revolutionary Sentiment in Susan Fenimore Cooper’s *Mount Vernon: A Letter to the Children of America* and *Rural Hours*,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, February 2001

Teaching and Research Interests

Landscape aesthetics and visual culture of landscape; writings on natural history, botany, geology; antebellum American women writers and writing communities; early American fictionality 1790-1825, especially epistolarity and other narrative forms; expressions of domestic violence; Sedgwick novels.

Teaching Experience

American Literature to 1900

1820s

Authorship: Alcott and Melville

Bestsellers and Popular Print Culture Before 1900

Captivity Narratives

Early American Women Writers and the Politics of Recovering Women’s Voices

Family, the Nation, and the Novel

Natural and National Histories

Popular Genres and Literary Culture

Public and Private Emotion

Salem Witch Trials and Questions of Evidence

Transatlantic Landscapes, Britain and American Art and Literature 1750-1850

Writing, Inscription, and Art: Cultures of Writing about Writing

Environmental Literature

Natural and Unnatural Histories
Property and Propriety in Jane Austen's Novels
Reading/Writing Creative Nonfiction: Writing Nature
Reading/Writing Nature
Winter Landscapes
Writing, Environment, Activism
Writing Places

Sample Independent Studies or Honors Thesis Projects

More Witches (2019)
Transcendentalism and Philosophy (2018)
Approaches to American Literature for High School Curriculum (2017)
Moby Dick and its Contexts (2015)
Titanic, Wealth and Class (2013)
The American Canon and the 21st Century Reader (2008)
Melville and the Law (2008)
Women Writing Utopias (2008)
Literature and the South (2007)
Classics in American Literature (2007)
King Philip's War and Captivity Narratives (2006)

Awards and Fellowships

Drake University Center for Humanities Research Scholar Award, 2020-2023
Drake University Center for Humanities Research Grant, 2019-2020
Obama Institute/Society of Early Americanists Stipend for Transatlantic Conversations Workshop, 2018
College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Grant 2017-2018
Council of Independent Colleges Seminar on Landscape and Identity 2017
Green Foundation Course Development Grant, Drake Center for Humanities 2017
Drake University Center for Humanities Leadership Grants 2016-2017 (two) and 2017-2018 (two)
Drake University Office of the Provost Faculty Development Grant 2016-2017
Brown Fund, English Department Faculty Development 2014-2015, 2018-2019, 2019-2020
Drake University Faculty Development Grant 2009-2010
Short-term Faculty Development Grant, Drake University 2009
Affiliated Scholar, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University, 2001-2002
Richard and Virginia P. Morgan Fellow, American Antiquarian Society, 2001
Stanford University English Department Dissertation Fellowship, 1998-99
Mellon Dissertation Fellowship, 1997-98
Mellon Summer Fellowship, 1997

Mellon Summer Fellowship, 1995

Stanford University Fellowship, 1993-97

Service

English Department:

Department Curriculum Committee, 2017 - present

Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society, 2016-present

Reader, Payton Prize Submissions, 2015-2017

Department Recruiting and Outreach Committee, 2015-2017

Department Teaching Development Committee, 2013-2014

Chair, *ad hoc* committee on Brown Endowed English Faculty Fund, 2011-2012

Department Program Assessment Committee, fall 2010

Department Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2009-present

Search Committee for Fiction and Narrative/Novel Positions, English Department, 2006-2007

Ad-hoc Committee on Assessment of Capstone Papers, 2006

Chair, Department Curriculum Committee (Senior Capstone and Portfolio), 2005-2006

Search Committee for Post-Colonial Position, English Department, 2004-2005

Advisor and Mentor

College:

Technology Committee, 2019-2020

Search Committee, Environmental Science and Sustainability, 2018-2019

Organizer, Guest Speaker Dr. Romita Ray 2019

Drake Delegate, Phi Beta Kappa Triennial Council, 2018

Director, numerous Honors Thesis Projects

Academic Integrity Committee, 2017-2018

Proactive Advising Initiative, 2016-2017

Treasurer, Phi Beta Kappa, 2008-present

Chair, Sabbatical Review Committee, 2011-2012

Member, Academic Integrity Committee, 2010-2011

Chair, Academic Integrity Committee, 2009-2010

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee for Environmental Studies and Policy Program, 2009- 2014

President (Acting), Phi Beta Kappa, 2007-2008

Liaison, Teagle Project for Phi Beta Kappa, 2007-2008

Vice-President, Phi Beta Kappa Chapter, Drake University, 2005-2008

Drake Arts and Sciences Cabinet, 2006-2007

Drake Arts and Sciences Cabinet subcommittee on Strategic Plan Implementation, 2006

Drake Arts and Sciences Council, 2004-2006

Drake Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, 2003-2005

University:

Faculty Development Grant Advisory Board, 2019-2021

Ad Hoc Senate Task Force on Sabbatical Policy, 2018-2019

Levitt Teacher of the Year Selection Committee, 2017-2018
Ad Hoc Committee on GPA and Athletic Participation Appeals, 2016-2017
Written Communication AOI Assessment Committee, 2015
Faculty Development Committee, 2012-2014
University Curriculum Committee, 2009-2010
Critical Thinking AOI Assessment Committee, 2009
Chair, University Curriculum Committee, 2008-2009
Vice-Chair, University Curriculum Committee, 2007-2008
DCAP, Drake Curriculum Assessment Project, 2007-2008
Drake University Curriculum Committee, 2004-2006
Drake Honors Advisory Board, 2002-2006

Drake and Des Moines Community:

Lecture, Walt Whitman and War, Drake Community Chorus, 2018
Presentation, "Dangers of Botanical Knowledge," Des Moines Social Club, 2016
Volunteer, Challenge of the Books Program, West Des Moines Schools, 2008-2012
Volunteer, Book Clubs, Jordan Creek Elementary School, 2007-2013
Volunteer, Talking Canvas, Art lectures for Elementary School, 2008-2011

Professional Service: Professional Organizations

Charles Brockden Brown Society Advisory Board Member, 2007-2009 and 2016-2019
Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society Vice-President Programs 2004-2010 and 2015-2018
Organize panels and sessions for national conferences

Professional Service: Referee or Reader

ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment 2019, 2010
ESQ 2019
Sigma Tau Delta reader for Continuing Education Scholarships 2019
Society for the Study of American Women Writers reader for graduate essay prize 2015-2016
Literature of the Early Republic: referee for essay on Timothy Dwight, 2011
Broadview Press: referee for book-length manuscript, 2011
Studies in American Fiction: referee for two essays on Susanna Rowson 2011
Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies 2011

Professional Service: Other

External Reviewer for promotion, Idaho State University, 2020
External Reviewer for promotion, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, 2018
Expert Panelist, Cengage-Gale International Webinar on "American Fiction: Exploring the American Experience Through Literature," Gale American Fiction 1774-1928 database, July 2017.
Just Teach One early American scholars pedagogy project, 2015-present
Heath Anthology: participated in session at the regarding early American selections, 2006
Bedford Anthology: sent in written comments (solicited) on introduction and section on the Puritans, 2005

Professional Affiliations

Author Societies (Charles Brockden Brown, Margaret Fuller, Catharine Maria Sedgwick and others)

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Society of Early Americanists (SEA)

Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)