

Jesse A. Goldberg
Humanities Institute, The Pennsylvania State University

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of American Literature, Dept. of English, New Mexico Highlands University, 2022-
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, The Humanities Institute, Penn State University, 2021-2022
Visiting Research Fellow, Department of English, Auburn University, 2020-2021
Visiting Assistant Professor, Dept. of English & Modern Languages, Longwood University, 2018-2020
Instructor, Cornell Prison Education Program and Cayuga Community College, 2016-2018
Instructor, Department of English and Program in American Studies, Cornell University, 2013-2018

Education

Ph.D., M.A., English Language and Literature, Cornell University, 2018
B.A. English/B.A. Philosophy, State University of New York at Geneseo, 2012, *Summa Cum Laude*

Research and Teaching Areas

Black Studies	African American Literature	American Studies
Feminist Theory	American Literature	Carcerality Studies
Critical Race Theory	Queer U.S. Literature	Legal Humanities
Queer Theory	Theater and Dramatic Literature	Abolitionist Thought

Publications

Books, Journal Issues, Collections

Queer Fire: Liberation and Abolition, co-edited with Marquis Bey. Special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* (Forthcoming: to be published as issue 28.2 in April 2022).

Abolition Time: Grammars of Law and Poetics of Justice in Black Atlantic Literature (book, in progress)

Journal Articles

“Demanding the Impossible: Scales of Apocalypse and Abolition Time in N.K. Jemisin’s *Broken Earth Trilogy*.” *ASAP/Journal* (2023): forthcoming.

“The Unspeakable Whiteness of Whitman’s Democracy: Empire and the Limits of American Literature.” *College Literature* (2022/2023): forthcoming.

“Queer as in Abolition Now!” Co-written with Marquis Bey. *GLQ* 28.2 (April 2022): forthcoming.

“Scenes of Resurrection: Black Lives Matter, Die-Ins, and the Here and Now of Queer Futurity.” *Women & Performance: A Journal of Feminist Theory* 30.2 (March 2021): 127-139.

“James Baldwin and the Anti-Black Force of Law: On Excessive Violence and Exceeding Violence.” *Public Culture* 31.3 (September 2019): 521-538.

“The Restored Literary Behaviors of Neo-Slave Narratives: Troubling the Ethics of Witnessing in the Excessive Present.” *Callaloo* 40.4 (Fall 2017): 57-77.

“Slavery’s Ghosts and the Haunted Housing Crisis: On Narrative Economy and Circum-Atlantic Memory in Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy*.” *MELUS* 41.4 (December 2016): 116-139.

“Theorizing and Resisting the Violence of Stop and Frisk-style Profiling.” *CLA Journal* 58.4 (July 2016): 256-276.

Essays/Chapters in Edited Collections

“‘the strength of no separation’: A Poethics of Inseparability After the End of the World.” *The Routledge Guide to Alternative Futurisms*. Eds. Grace Dillon, Isiah Lavender III, Taryne Jade Taylor, & Bodhisattva Chattopadhyay (Routledge): forthcoming, 2022.

“‘This will incite a riot’: Black Studies, Academic (Un)Freedom, and Surveilled Pedagogy in Prison Education.” *Teaching Literature and Writing in Prisons*. Eds. Sheila Smith McKoy and Patrick Elliot Alexander (Modern Language Association): forthcoming, 2021.

“Performative Paratexts: Post-Blackness, Law, and Periodizing African American Literature.” *Against a Sharp White Background: Infrastructures of African American Print*. Eds. Brigitte Fielder and Jonathan Senchyne (Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, May 2019): 147-178.

“From Sweetness to Toya Graham: Intersectionality and the Im/Possibility of Maternal Ethics.” *Toni Morrison on Mothers and Motherhood*. Eds. Lee Baxter & Martha Satz (Ontario, Canada: Demeter Press, July 2017): 140-157.

Public Writing

“Justice is Not an Event.” *The Platform*. Forthcoming September 2021.

“The Urgency of Abolition.” *The New Rambler Review*. October 2019.

Review essay on Jeffrey Insko’s *History, Abolition, and the Ever-Present Now in Antebellum American Writing* (Oxford UP, 2018).

“And she was loved: Remembering Toni Morrison, Builder of Worlds.” *The Platform*. August 2019.

“Ethics and Troubled Kinship in the Wake of Still-Unfolding Disaster.” *ASAP/J*. May 2019.

Review essay on Christina Sharpe’s *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2016) and Donna Haraway’s *Staying with the Trouble: Making Kin in the Chthulucene* (Durham, NC: Duke UP, 2016).

“Male Ego Bulls**t: On martial arts training, violence, and toxic masculinity.” *The Feminist Wire*. November 2016.

Academic Book Reviews

Zakiyyah Iman Jackson’s *Becoming Human: Matter and Meaning in an Antiblack World* (NYU Press: 2020). *QED: A Journal of GLBTQ Worldmaking* (2021): forthcoming.

Bjørn F. Stillion Southard’s *Peculiar Rhetoric: Slavery, Freedom, and the African Colonization Movement* (UP of Mississippi, 2019). *Nineteenth-Century Prose* (Fall 2020): 221-226.

Lindon Barrett’s *Racial Blackness and the Discontinuity of Western Modernity* (U of Illinois Press, 2014). *Journal of Black Studies* 46.8 (November 2015): 843-846.

Salamishah Tillet’s *Sites of Slavery: Citizenship and Racial Democracy in the Post-Civil Rights Imagination* (Duke UP, 2012). *Callaloo* 38.1 (2015): 228-231.

Honors and Awards

Competitive Teaching, Research, and Academic Awards

2020	Longwood University “Advocate of the Year” Award
2019	Blackwell Series Speaker’s Award Honorarium
2017	Knight Institute Peer Collaboration Program Grant

2016	Shin Yong-Jin Teaching and Research Fellowship at Cornell University
2015	Cornell American Studies Program Graduate Research Grant
	John S. Knight Institute Award for Writing Exercises
2012	Department of English Sage Fellowship at Cornell SUNY Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

Honors Society Affiliations

Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Tau Delta English Honors Society, Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society

Conferences | Presentations | Workshops

“Apocalyptic Thinking as Abolitionist Imagination: Slavery, Surveillance, and Creative Revolt in N.K. Jemisin’s *Broken Earth*”; American Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meeting (Nov. 2021)

**Invited Panelist*: “The University and the Police” at Michigan State University (online: Jan. 29, 2021)

“‘This is the way the world ends’: Past and Future Apocalypse in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and N.K. Jemisin’s *Broken Earth Trilogy*”; MLA Annual Convention (online: Jan. 7-10, 2021)

“Harriet Jacobs and the Carceral Epistemology of Un/Gendered Race” as part of “Abolitionist Feminisms Reimagined” roundtable; C19 Biannual Conference (online: Oct. 2020)

**Invited Speaker*: “The Dangers of Performative Allyship – Understanding Intent vs. Impact” in the *Building Allyship Series* at Cornell University (online: Oct. 2020)

**Invited Speaker*: Opening Remarks for “Remaking the University in Our Image” Conference organized by *The Activist History Review* (online: Sept. 12, 2020)

“But what about Sycorax? Gender, Violence, and Justice in *The Tempest*”; featured speaker in “Wednesdays with Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies” series at Longwood University (Farmville, VA: Feb. 4, 2020)

“Impossible Futures: Black Aspiration and Queer Futurity in Angelina Weld Grimke’s *Rachel*”; featured speaker in “Blackwell Talks” series at Longwood University (Farmville, VA: Nov. 4 2019)

Chair and Commentator for panel: “Black Bodies and the State”; ASA (Honolulu, HI: Nov. 7-10, 2019)

“Sinking in order to Breathe: Escaping Without Leaving in Jordan Peele’s *Get Out*”; ASA (Atlanta, GA: Nov. 8-11, 2018)

**Invited Speaker*: Keynote Address for the Longwood University chapter of the NAACP (Oct. 30, 2018)

“Black Studies and Academic (Un)Freedom in Prison Education Programs”; *Corrections, Rehabilitation, and Reform* Conference by the Prison University Project (San Quentin, CA: Oct. 5, 2018)

“The Problem of Whiteness for an Abolitionist Politics”; ASA (Chicago, IL: Nov. 9-12, 2017)

**Invited Panelist*: “Prison Abolition in Theory and Practice”; Screening and Panel Discussion on *13th* organized by Global Health Student Advisory Board (Ithaca, NY: April 12, 2017)

“Overwhelming Pessimism; Or, Why the 19th Century, Now?”; Tenth Annual Global 19th-Century Day (Ithaca, NY: March 25, 2017)

“Black Lives Matter and the Ambivalence of Performing Resistance”; Celebrating African American Literature and Culture Conference: Race and Resistance (State College, PA: Oct. 28-29, 2016)

“Thinking the Excessive Present: The (Non-)Event of the Civil War in *The Escape and Peculiar Sam*”; Ninth Annual 19th-Century Day (Ithaca, NY: April 16, 2016)

“‘He was already Dead’: Social Death and the Racist Foundations of Law in *Song of Solomon*”; Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities Annual Conference (Hartford, CT: April 1-2, 2016)

“‘Blessed are the barren’: Angelina Weld Grimke’s Queer Resistance to White Supremacy”; Society for the Study of American Women Writers Annual Conference (Philadelphia, PA: Nov. 4-8, 2015)

“On the (Extra)Legal Killing of Eric Garner and the Law’s Imaginary Archive”; American Studies Association Annual Meeting (Toronto, ON, Canada: Oct. 8-11, 2015)

“Restored Literary Behaviors: History, Form, and the Time of Witnessing in Neo-Slave Narratives”; Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth (Hanover, NH: June 22-28, 2015)

“The Post-Black FIRE!! of the Harlem Renaissance”; Northeast MLA (NeMLA) Annual Convention (Toronto, ON, Canada: April 30 – May 3, 2015)

“Which *Contending Forces*?: Pauline Hopkins and the Civil War that does and does not happen”; Eighth Annual Global 19th-Century Day (Ithaca, NY: March 21, 2015)

“The ‘Post’ as Preface: Paratext, Post-Blackness, and African American Literature”; University of Wisconsin-Madison’s Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture conference *African American Expression in Print & Digital Culture* (Madison, WI: Sept. 20, 2014)

“Harriet Jacobs’s Theory in the Flesh: Reading *Incidents* as African American Literary Jurisprudence”; Seventh Annual Global 19th-Century Day (Ithaca, NY: April 26, 2014)

“Singing in the Dark: Blackness and Walt Whitman’s Civil War Poetry”; American Literature Association Symposium *War and American Literature* (New Orleans, LA: Oct. 11, 2013)

Panels Organized:

Rethinking “Alternative Worlds”: Emerging in the Here and Now of Emergency (2018 ASA Meeting)

The Problem of Whiteness (2017 ASA Annual Meeting)

Blackness and the Miseries of Law in the Long Aftermath of Slavery (2015 ASA Annual Meeting)

50 Years after the Civil Rights Act: Post-Black but not Post-Race (2014 NeMLA convention)

Teaching

Instructor of Record

Longwood University

“Law, Literature, and Difference: Racism & US Law” (Spring 2020)

“Forms & Genres: Afrofuturism – Beyond Black Panther” (Spring 2020)

“American Literature: Realism to Contemporary” (Fall 2019)

“Histories & Contexts: Major Black Writers” (Spring 2019)

“Independent Study: Walt Whitman, Queer Theory, and Trans Studies” (Spring 2019)

“Forms and Genres: Neo-Slave Narratives” (Fall 2018)

“Introduction to Literary Analysis” (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

“Writing & Rhetoric: Prisons, Policing, and the Movement for Black Lives” (Fall 2019)

“Writing & Rhetoric: The New Jim Crow” (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

Cornell University

- “The Legal Life of American Racism” (Spring 2018)
- “Black Plays and Performance” (Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2017)
- “Race, Law, and the Black Lives Matter Movement” (Spring 2017)
- “Great New Books: Memory, Identity, and Rupture” (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

Cornell Prison Education Program

- “American Drama and Theater” (Summer 2018, Elmira Maximum-Security Prison)
- “World Lit I: Drama, Theater, & Performance” (Summer 2017, Five Points Max-Security Prison)
- “Introduction to College Writing and Study” (Summer 2017, Cayuga Medium-Security Prison)
- “Freshman English I: Writing with/against Other Voices” (Summer 2016, Five Points)

Invited Guest Lectures

- “Abolitionist Geographies”
 - in GEOG 462: “Geographies of Race and Racism” (Spring 2021)
- “W.E.B. DuBois, Afrofuturism, and Apocalypse”
 - in ENGL 1191: “Science Fiction” (Fall 2020)
- “Grammars of Anti-Blackness”
 - in ENGL 1102: “Composition II: Linguistic Justice” (Fall 2020)
- “Activist Teaching and Prison Education”
 - in ENGL 6000: First-Year Graduate Colloquium (Fall 2017)
- “Black Studies In the Wake”
 - in ENGL 1111: “Race and (Dis)Ability” (Spring 2017)
 - “Future Phantoms: Introducing Derrida’s *Specters of Marx*”
 - in ENGL 1157: “American Ghosts” (Fall 2016)
- “Designing a Writing Seminar: Craft and Content”
 - in ENGL 6001: “Adv. Pedagogy Workshop for Graduate Instructors” (Fall 2016)
- “Accumulating time in Claudia Rankine’s *Citizen*”
 - in COML 1126: “What is Contemporaneity?” (Fall 2016)
- “Blackness as Position: Law and Hegemony”
 - in ENGL 1111: “Theories of Blackness from Around the Globe” (Fall 2016)
- “Laughing in the face of violence: Dave Chappelle’s *Killin Them Softly* in the wake of Black Lives Matter”
 - in ENGL 1158: “African American Comedy” (Spring 2016)
- “Slavery and the beginnings of the African American Literary Tradition”
 - in ENGL 2650: “Introduction to African American Literature” (Spring 2016)
- “Hip Hop Feminism” (2 sessions)
 - in ENGL 1105: “Madwomen, Bad Girls, Spinsters” (Fall 2015)
- “Introducing Sojourner Truth’s ‘Ain’t I a Woman’ and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*”
 - in ENGL 1167: “Great New Books” (Fall 2013)

Service

To the profession:

Co-Organizer, Center for Mark Twain Studies 2022 Quarry Farm Symposium: “Abolition Studies”

Reviewer: *MELUS* Journal; *Humanities* Journal

To Longwood University:

Committee on the Creation of a Race & Ethnic Studies Minor

2019-2020

To Cornell University:

Cornell Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

Division Chief for the Humanities	2017-2018
Voting Member for the Humanities	2014-2018
Co-Chair, Student Advocacy Committee	Spring 2015
Committees: Advocacy, Appropriations, Diversity & International Students, Communications	