

# NICHOLAS T RINEHART

*Curriculum vitae, July 2020*

Department of English and Creative Writing ♦ Dartmouth College  
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## EMPLOYMENT

### **Dartmouth College**

2019-22 Postdoctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows and Lecturer, Department of English and Creative Writing

## EDUCATION

### **Harvard University**

2019 Ph.D. in English, Secondary Field in African and African American Studies

2015 M.A. in English

### **Harvard College**

2014 B.A. in Comparative Literature, Secondary Field in History  
 Senior Honors Thesis: “Finding Francophone Equiano (in All the Wrong Places)”

## RESEARCH & INTERESTS

**Book Project:** *The Event of Witness: Slave Testimony and Social Practice* (in progress)

**Abstract:** Studies of the slave narrative, as well as theories of testimony derived from psychoanalysis and trauma theory, overwhelmingly privilege autobiographical accounts that describe traumatic experience through recollective narration. *The Event of Witness* investigates Afro-Atlantic testimonial forms that diverge from these norms. By centering hemispheric, multilingual archives of slave testimony that do not render past “experience,” the book draws on feminist and queer theory to reveal how enslaved mystics, correspondents, poets, and storytellers, among others, produced testimony as a mode of mutual witness. It thus frames slave testimony not as a site of memory but as a worldmaking practice—a way of imagining and enacting forms of social life beyond those imposed by regimes of enslavement and their afterlives.

**Research Fields:** African American literature; Black writing in the Americas; comparative literature, world literature, and translation; comparative history of Atlantic slavery; time/temporality, philosophy of history, and historical anthropology; queer studies

**Languages:** English (native), French (reading, writing, speaking), Spanish (reading), Portuguese (reading), Dutch (beginning)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Articles

----- "Slavery in Paper and Polychrome: Materiality and Temporality in the Dioramas of Gerrit Schouten," *Winterthur Portfolio: A Journal of American Material Culture*, Special Issue: "Enslavement and Material Culture," edited by Catharine Dann Roeber and Jennifer Van Horn (proposal accepted).

2018 "Vernacular Soliloquy, Theatrical Gesture, and Embodied Consciousness in *The Marrow of Tradition*," *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, vol. 43, no. 2, pp. 1-28.

"Native Sons; or, How 'Bigger' Was Born Again," *Journal of American Studies*, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 164-192.

2016 "The Man That Was a Thing: Reconsidering Human Commodification in Slavery," *Journal of Social History: Societies & Cultures*, vol. 50, no. 1, pp. 28-50.

"'I Talk More of the French': Creole Folklore and the Federal Writers' Project," *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, vol. 39, no. 2, pp. 439-456.

### Edited Volumes

2017 *American Literature in the World: An Anthology from Anne Bradstreet to Octavia Butler*, edited by Wai Chee Dimock, with Jordan Brower, Edgar Garcia, Kyle Hutzler, \*Nicholas Rinehart, Columbia UP.

### Book Chapters

----- "Radio, Dynamo, Loom, Gun: Du Bois's Theatrical Plantation Machine," *Looking Forward into the Past: W. E. B. Du Bois and the Revolutionary Uses of History*, edited by Phillip Luke Sinitiere and Stephen G. Hall (volume at proposal stage).

2019 "Richard Wright's Globalism," *The Cambridge Companion to Richard Wright*, edited by Glenda Carpio, Cambridge UP, pp. 164-184.

### Magazine Articles (Web)

2020 "Shadow Acts: On Tavia Nyong'o's *Afro-Fabulations: The Queer Drama of Black Life* and Stephen Best's *None Like Us: Blackness, Belonging, Aesthetic Life*," *Los Angeles Review of Books*, June 29.

2018 "Zora Neale Hurston in the Making," *Public Books*, June 12.

### Magazine Articles (Print)

2018 "Sandoval Redux," *ReVista: The Harvard Review of Latin America*, vol. 17, no. 2, pp. 30-32.

2015 "On Élie and Eric," *Transition: The Magazine of Africa and the Diaspora*, no. 117, p. 13.

2013 "Black Beethoven and the Racial Politics of Music History," *Transition: An International Review*, no. 112, pp. 117-130.

### Reference Works

2020 "David Dabydeen," *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Franklin W. Knight, Oxford UP.

2018 "Edgar Austin Mittelhölzer," *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin American Biography*, edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Franklin W. Knight, Oxford UP.

### Book Reviews

2018 *Reaping Something New: African American Transformations of Victorian Literature* by Daniel Hack (Princeton UP, 2016), *MLQ: A Journal of Literary History*, vol. 79, no. 2, pp. 237-240.

### Manuscripts in Preparation

----- "Slave Testimony, Historical Poetics, and the Queer Phenomenology of Genre"  
 ----- "Lateral Reading Lyric Testimony; or, the Difficult Miracle of Black Poetry in the Americas"  
 ----- "Nabokov's Interracial Imagination"

## AWARDS & HONORS

### External Awards

2019 Dorothy Porter & Charles Harris Wesley Fellowship, Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University (\$14,000)  
*One semester residential fellowship at W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute to support research*

2016 Du Bois Library Fellowship, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, UMass Amherst Libraries (\$2,500)  
*To support research residency at the W.E.B. Du Bois collection*

### Internal Awards

2019 Helen Choate Bell Prize, English Department, Harvard University (\$5,000)  
*For an outstanding dissertation on any subject in American literature*

Luisa Vidal de Villasante Award, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University (\$100)  
*For the best essay on any subject in the field of Comparative Literature*

Short-Term Field Research Grant, Afro-Latin American Research Institute/Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University (\$2,000)  
*To support summer research travel in any discipline within Afro-Latin American Studies*

2018 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University  
*For overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations*

Merit/Graduate Society Term-Time Research Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University (\$14,430)  
*One-semester research fellowship awarded to most outstanding students across all fields*

2017 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University  
*For overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations*

Dexter Summer Fellowship, English Department, Harvard University (\$2,500)  
*To support summer travel necessary for dissertation research*

2016 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University  
*For overall rating of 4.50 or above on 5-point scale, based on student evaluations*

Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities, Harvard University (\$4,000)  
*To support creative, innovative initiatives in the arts and humanities*

Summer Travel Grant, Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History, Harvard University (\$3,000)  
*To support summer travel necessary for dissertation research*

2015 Bowdoin Prize for Graduate Essays in English, Harvard University (\$10,000)  
*For essay of high literary merit in any field*

2014 Bowdoin Prize for Undergraduate Essays in English, Harvard University (\$10,000)  
*For essay of high literary merit in any field*

Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize, Harvard College (\$4,000)  
*For outstanding scholarly work or research*

Kwame Anthony Appiah Prize, Harvard College (\$500)  
*For most outstanding thesis relating to the African diaspora*

George B. Sohier Prize, Harvard College (\$250)  
*For best thesis in English or in modern literature*

James Buell Munn Prize, Harvard College  
*For outstanding academic record and strong literary talents*

2013 Franklin Ford Award, Harvard College  
*For strong intellectual ability and dry wit*

2012 Maurice Pechet Fellowship, Harvard College (\$1,200)

*For student opera production with Lowell House Opera*

## PRESENTATIONS & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Invited Talks

2019     "Fugitive Mysticism: Visionary Testimony and the Archive of Slavery," W.E.B. Du Bois Research Institute, February 20.

2018     "The Plays and Dramatic Criticism of W.E.B. Du Bois; or, Theatrical Failure in the Life of a Prophet," University of Massachusetts Amherst, December 7.

### Conference Presentations

2021     "Slave Testimony and Political Ecology in the Lesser Guianas," ASECS Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON, April 8-10.

              "Teresa Chicaba's Queer Mysticism: Desire, Language, Archive," MLA Annual Convention, Toronto, ON, January 7-10.

2020     "Enslaved Complaint as Social Form," Biennial C19 Conference, Coral Gables, FL, October 21-25.

              "Blackness, Mysticism, Opacity," ACLA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 20. [*canceled*]

              "Slave Testimony and Political Ecology in the Lesser Guianas," ASECS Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO, March 19. [*canceled*]

              "What Was American Negro Poetry?," ALA Symposium, Washington, DC, February 22.

              "Testimony and Event in the Historiography of Slavery," Literature and Event: Reformulations of the Literary in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, University of Warwick, February 15.

2019     "Fugitive Mysticism: Visionary Testimony in the Afro-Iberian Atlantic," Biennial ASWAD Conference, Williamsburg, VA, November 8.

              "Enslaved Complaint: Testimonial Sanctuary, Colonial Sovereignty, and Subaltern Social Life," Racial Disposability and Cultures of Resistance, Pennsylvania State University, October 11.

              "Fugitive Mysticism: Visionary Testimony, Vernacular Theology, and the Archive of Slavery," MLA International Symposium, Lisbon, Portugal, July 25.

              "The Slaves' Complaint: Rhythm, Redress, Refuge," Caribbean Philosophical Association Annual Meeting, Providence, RI, June 7.

              "Theatrical Gesture and Embodied Consciousness in the Fiction of Charles Chesnutt," Annual ALA Conference, Boston, MA, May 25.

“Peer-Review as Resource; or, Outsourcing Intellectual Labor,” SEA Biennial Conference, Eugene, OR, March 1.

“Nabokov’s Africanist Appendix,” Annual AATSEEL Conference, New Orleans, LA, February 10.

“‘The African Thing’: Hurston, Ethnography, Testimony,” Annual MLA Convention, Chicago, IL, January 4.

2018      “Fugitive Mysticism; or, de Jesús and de Certeau,” Slave Subjectivities in the Iberian World, Lisbon, Portugal, July 4.

“Genre and Event: Enslaved Testimony and Historical Poetics,” Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 20.

“Enslaved Complaint, Institutional Rhythm, Lateral Agency,” OIEAHC Annual Conference, Williamsburg, VA, June 16.

“‘These illegitimate children of my thought’: The Plays of W.E.B. Du Bois,” Annual ALA Conference, San Francisco, CA, May 27.

“Genre as Event, Event as Genre: Slave Testimony and Historical Poetics,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 31.

“‘The Most Enthusiastic Antiquarian’: Enslaved Testimony and New Negro Recovery,” Biennial C19 Conference, Albuquerque, NM, March 23.

“‘Wild Speech’ in the Archives of Slavery,” Annual MLA Convention, New York, NY, January 6.

2017      “Between Timely and Timeless; or, Emily Dickinson and the Civil War Poet She Never Became,” Annual ALA Conference, Boston, MA, May 27.

“‘My Complaint Book’: Enslaved Testimony and Legal Inquest in British Guiana, 1819-1832,” Biennial SEA Conference, Tulsa, OK, March 3.

“Richard Wright’s Globalism: Before and Beyond Bandung,” Annual MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 6.

2016      “Theatrical Space in the Novel; or, Chesnutt’s Narrative Stage,” New Work in Novel Studies Symposium, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard University, December 7.

“The Contemporary Novel of Slavery in the Shadow of Toni Morrison,” International Conference on Narrative, Amsterdam, NH, June 17.

“Jerry and Hamlet, Chesnutt and Shakespeare,” ACLA Annual Meeting, Cambridge, MA, March 19.

“Native Sons: Richard Wright and Genetic Criticism,” Annual NeMLA Convention, Hartford, CT, March 18.

“Toussaint Louverture, Frederick Douglass, and Enslaved Testimony in the French Atlantic,” Biennial C19 Conference, State College, PA, March 17.

“William Dunbar, Beast Fables, and Premodern Black-ness,” Annual ACMRS Conference, Phoenix, AZ, February 6.

2015      “‘Far-Flung Kinships’: The Global Richard Wright,” Tufts Graduate Humanities Conference, October 16.

“Thackeray’s Sambo and Transatlantic Blackface,” NAVSA Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI, July 11.

“‘He died with all his words in his heart’: Legal Inquest and Enslaved Testimony in Martinique, 1847,” The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 23.

“‘And render Hell/More tolerable’: Slaves’ Internal Economies and the Limits of Resistance,” OIEAHC-SEA Joint Conference, Chicago, IL, June 19.

“Talking Book: Chesnutt’s Soliloquies and the Melodrama of Race Conflict,” ALA Annual Conference, Boston, MA, May 22.

“The Rhetoric of Diaspora: Diaz, Cole, Mengestu,” Annual NeMLA Convention, Toronto, ON, May 2.

“Enslaved Testimony and Religious Institutions in Colonial Latin America,” Locating and Connecting Latin America and the African Diaspora, UNC-Charlotte, April 30.

“Nabokov and African American History,” Annual AATSEEL Conference, Vancouver, BC, January 10.

2014      “Melville’s Prophecy: War, Emancipation, and ‘Bartleby,’” Annual PAMLA Conference, Riverside, CA, November 2.

“Enslaved Testimony in the Publications of Victor Schoelcher,” Annual RMMLA Convention, Boise, ID, October 11.

“Creole Folklore, the Federal Writers’ Project, and the Quest for the Francophone Equiano,” American Literature in the World Conference, Yale University, April 11.

“Ralph Ellison and Russian Authors,” Annual MELUS Conference/ Ralph Ellison Centennial Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, March 8.

#### Conferences/Symposia Organized

2018      Graduate Prospectus Conference and Teaching Workshop, Harvard English Department, April 6.

2017 "Research Practicum: Tips, Tricks, and Techniques," Harvard English Graduate Symposium, November 17.

Graduate Prospectus Conference and Teaching Workshop, Harvard English Department, May 5.

2016 "How To Do Things with Disciplines," Harvard English Graduate Symposium, November 10-11.

#### **Conference Panels Organized**

2019 "Slavery and Silence: Mysticism, Marronage, Manumission, Memory," Biennial ASWAD Conference, Williamsburg, VA, November 5-9.

2018 "The Return of Generic Criticism," ACLA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 29-April 1.

"The Work of the Anthology in American Literature," Annual MLA Convention, New York, NY, January 4-7.

2017 "Afro-Asian Americana: Food, Fiction, Film," Annual MLA Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8.

2016 "Unsettling the Slave Narrative," Biennial C19 Conference, State College, PA, March 18-21.

2015 "Legal History and Slave Resistance," OIEAHC-SEA Joint Conference, Chicago, IL, June 18-21.

"World Literature/Immigrant Literature," Annual NeMLA Convention, Toronto, ON, April 30-May 1.

2014 "Black and White and Red All Over: Literary Allegiances and Lineages between African America and Russia," Annual MELUS Conference/Ralph Ellison Centennial Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK, March 6-9.

#### **Campus Talks**

2018 "Complaining: Institution, Agency, Testimony," Harvard English Department Graduate Symposium, November 16.

"Fugitive Mysticism: Visionary Testimony, Vernacular Theology, and the Archive of Slavery," Afro-Latin American Research Institute, November 2.

2017 "Can Caterpillars Have Interracial Sex?: Race, Incest, and Plot-Metonymy in Nabokov's *Ada or Ardor: A Family Chronicle*," English 90nb, November 15.

"Constituent Elements of Conference Paper and Panel Proposals," Long 18<sup>th</sup> Century and Romanticism Colloquium, May 3.

2015 "Pushkin, Nabokov, and Intertextual Interracialism," American Literature Colloquium, Harvard University, April 16.

2014 "Close Reading 'Unwritten Literature': Slave Narratives of the Federal Writers' Project, 1936-38," Harvard English Department Graduate Symposium, November 21.

"'Far-Flung Kinships': The Global Richard Wright," African and African American Studies 130x, Harvard College, October 1.

## PROFILES & MEDIA COVERAGE

2019 "Society of Fellows Welcomes Six New Members" by Bill Platt, *Dartmouth News*, October 10.

2018 "Zora Neale Hurston in the Spotlight: Fresh Efforts to Understand the Writer's History and Craft" by Brandon J. Dixon, *Harvard Magazine*, August 28.

2016 "Opening Dialogue: How Nicholas Rinehart Aims to Connect Historians and Literary Scholars" by Fernanda Ferreira, *GSAS Bulletin*, December 27.

2015 "Locating and Connecting Latin America and the African Diaspora" by Chris Cameron, *Black Perspectives*, May 27.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **As Lecturer, Department of English and Creative Writing, Dartmouth College**

2021 English 63.09/AAS 82.10: "Queer Literatures of Slavery"  
*Junior Colloquium introduces advanced research to prepare for senior seminars and honors theses*

### **As Primary Instructor, English Department, Harvard University**

2017 English 98r: "World Literature and the African Diaspora"  
*Small group tutorial for honors students focusing on research skills and critical writing*

### **As Teaching Fellow, English Department, Harvard University**

2018 English S-177v: "American Literary Expatriates in Europe"  
 Professor Glenda Carpio, Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School

English 178x: "The American Novel: Dreiser to the Present"  
 Professor Philip Fisher, Harvard College

2017 English S-177v: "American Literary Expatriates in Europe"  
 Professor Glenda Carpio, Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School

English 68: "Migrations: American Immigrant Literature"

Professor Glenda Carpio, Harvard College

2016 English 166: "American Modernism"  
Professor David Alworth, Harvard College  
*Guest lecture on "Du Bois, Toomer, and New Negro Modernism"*

English S-177v: "American Literary Expatriates in Europe"  
Professor Glenda Carpio, Ca' Foscari-Harvard Summer School

**As Undergraduate Tutorial Board Teaching Fellow, Department of Comparative Literature, Harvard University**

2019 Comparative Literature 99a: "Tutorial—Senior Year"  
*Individual directed reading and writing tutorial toward completion of senior honors thesis*

Comparative Literature 99b: "Tutorial—Senior Year"  
*Individual directed reading and writing tutorial toward completion of senior honors thesis*

2018 Comparative Literature 99a: "Tutorial—Senior Year"  
*Individual directed reading and writing tutorial toward completion of senior honors thesis*

Comparative Literature 98b: "Tutorial—Junior Year"  
*Individual directed research tutorial on "Transgression: Space, Mysticism, and Ways of Meaning"*

Comparative Literature 98b: "Tutorial—Junior Year"  
*Individual directed research tutorial on "The HIV/AIDS Crisis in Public Art and Media"*

Comparative Literature 98b: "Tutorial—Junior Year"  
*Individual directed research tutorial on "Portrayals of Adolescence in Hip-Hop Culture"*

2017 Comparative Literature 98a: "Tutorial—Junior Year"  
*Individual directed reading tutorial on contemporary Hip-Hop and European Modernism*

Comparative Literature 98a: "Tutorial—Junior Year"  
*Individual directed reading tutorial on queer of color critique and contemporary cinema*

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

**English Department, Harvard University**

2017-18 **GRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE, AFRICAN AMERICANIST JOB SEARCH COMMITTEE**  
Elected to serve as student representative on hiring committee for tenure-track assistant professor of African American literature in the departments of English and African and African American Studies.

2016-18 **LEAD COORDINATOR FOR GRADUATE COLLOQUIA**  
Oversaw financial and logistical administration of seven graduate colloquia; conceptualized and planned annual departmental graduate symposium, annual graduate student teaching

workshop, and annual dissertation prospectus conference; streamlined financial procedures among colloquia; reviewed applications for continued funding; produced content for weekly departmental newsletter.

**FOUNDER/COORDINATOR, RACE AND ETHNICITY GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM**

Arranged visits for invited speakers, planned graduate student workshops, developed and administered annual budget, and co-sponsored events with other departmental colloquia.

**2015-16 Co-CHAIR, COMMITTEE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS (COGS)**

Elected to serve as student representative on the Graduate Committee, faculty committee charged with administering the department's graduate program.

**ORGANIZING MEMBER, DIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

With two other students, worked under auspices of COGS to develop initiatives aimed at increasing departmental diversity and inclusion in faculty hiring, graduate admissions, undergraduate recruitment, teaching, and research.

**2014-15 COMMITTEE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

With three other students, worked to draft and circulate letter to English Department faculty requesting more writers of color be added to reading list for Generals Examination, an oral exam required of all first-year students in the graduate program.

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

**Harvard University**

**2018-20 BGLTQ+ SPECIALTY PROCTOR**

Served as resource for first-year students wanting counseling, information, and support pertaining to issues of gender, sexuality, and identity more broadly; provided programming to enhance awareness of these issues; connected students to other resources either on or off campus as necessary.

**2017-20 FIRST-YEAR PROCTOR AND ACADEMIC ADVISER**

Provided important personal and social counsel to first-year students adjusting to independent life at college; worked with team of undergraduate Peer Advising Fellows (PAFs) to build community through weekly study breaks; served as primary Academic Adviser to several first-year students; trained facilitator for Community Conversations, a required orientation program emphasizing issues of diversity, identity, and inclusion.

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2019 The Caribbean Philosophical Association Summer School, Williams College, June 16-23.

2018 The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 18-24.

2015 The Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 22-28.

2013 The Institute for World Literature, Harvard University, June 24-July 19.

## MEMBERSHIPS

African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS)  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)  
American Historical Association (AHA)  
American Literature Association (ALA)  
Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD)  
C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Society of Early Americanists (SEA)

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.