

Erin Kappeler

Academic Employment

Assistant Professor of English, Tulane University, 2019–present
Assistant Professor of English, Missouri State University, 2016–2019
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Bentley University, 2015–2016
Long-term Research Fellow, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2014–2015
Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Maine at Farmington, 2013–2014

Education

Ph.D., Department of English, Tufts University, 2014
Advisor: Virginia Jackson
Readers: Meredith Martin, Lee Edelman, Katie Peterson
M.A., Department of English, Tufts University, 2007
B.A., *magna cum laude*, Department of English, Princeton University, 2005

Publications

Book (in progress)

The Secret History of Free Verse: American Prosody and Poetics 1880–1933

The Secret History of Free Verse reveals the untold intellectual history behind the development of free verse poetry. Against scholarship that understands free verse as a strictly aesthetic innovation, I argue that the growth of free verse into the dominant form of modernist poetry was driven by an ideal of white American identity. I show that, as late nineteenth-century literary scholars encountered work in the newly institutionalized fields of ethnology and anthropology, they abstracted social relations into verse traits, positioning free verse rhythms as the natural expressions of an imagined white American race. I demonstrate that Walt Whitman was not automatically recognized as the originator of free verse, as so many scholarly accounts have assumed, but that scholars used the discourse of racialized poetic rhythm to elevate Whitman to this position in the 1920s. I show that editors and anthologists of the New Poetry, including Harriet Monroe, Amy Lowell, and Louis Untermeyer, popularized the idea that free verse was the expression of a white race, and I explore how anthologists of African-American and Native American poetry, including James Weldon Johnson and Mary Austin, responded to and worked against the limitations created by this framework. By restoring to view this forgotten history, my research significantly revises literary-historical accounts of modernism.

Essays

- “The Return of the Nineteenth Century,” *Paideuma* vol. 45, in press.
- “Free Verse, Historical Poetics, and Settler Time,” *Literature Compass*, forthcoming special issue on Historical Poetics, edited by Jonathan Sachs and Anna Barton, spring 2020.
- “Constructing Walt Whitman: Literary History and Histories of Rhythm,” *Critical Rhythm*, edited by Jonathan Culler and Ben Glaser, Fordham University Press, 2019, pp. 128–150.
- “Counting with Crapsey,” *Unsung Masters: Adelaide Crapsey*, edited by Jenny Molberg and Christian Bancroft, Pleiades Press, 2018, pp. 166–183.
- “Editing America: Nationalism and the New Poetry,” *Modernism/modernity*, vol. 21, no. 4, 2014, pp. 899–918.

“The Georgian Poets and the Genteel Tradition” (with Meredith Martin), *A Companion to Modernist Poetry*, edited by David E. Chinitz and Gail McDonald, Wiley-Blackwell, 2014, pp. 199–208.

Edited Works/Journals/Collections

“‘This is What Makes Us Girls’: Gender, Genre, and Popular Music” (co-edited with Ryan Tracy), special issue of *New American Notes Online*, forthcoming fall 2020.

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

Faculty Research Award, School of Liberal Arts, Tulane University, 2020–2021

Classroom Enhancement Grant, Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching, Tulane University, Spring 2020

New Faculty Summer Research Award, College of Arts and Letters, Missouri State University, 2016

NEH Long-Term Fellowship, Massachusetts Historical Society, 2014–2015

NEH Summer Institute Fellowship, “Making Modernism: Literature and Culture in Twentieth-Century Chicago,” Newberry Library, 2013

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies, 2012–2013

Dissertation Fellowship, Center for the Humanities at Tufts University, 2011–2012

Graduate Institute for Teaching Fellowship, GSAS, Tufts University, 2007–2008

Provost Fellowship, GSAS, Tufts University, 2006–2008

Selected Conference Presentations

“Reexpressed from the Originals: Locating Voice in Late-Nineteenth-Century Native American Poetry Collections,” paper to be delivered at the biennial meeting of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Coral Gables, Florida, April 2020

“Indigenous Challenges to Transnational Feminisms,” paper to be delivered at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago, March 2020

“A Provocation from an Americanist,” invited talk at the Historical Poetics Now biennial conference, Austin, Texas, November 2019

“Modernism’s Settler Poetics,” paper delivered at the annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association, Toronto, Ontario, October 2019

“Mary Austin: Rhythm, Indigeneity, Literature,” panel co-organizer (with Sharon Kunde) and presenter, annual convention of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, January 2019

“‘Nostalgia for those happy states’: Mary Austin’s Communal Poetics,” paper delivered at the annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association, Columbus, November 2018

“Lana Del Rey, Poetess,” paper delivered at the biennial meeting of C19: The Society of 19th-Century Americanists, Albuquerque, March 2018

“The Anglo-Saxonist Academy,” paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, March 2018

“Poetic Form and Racial Formation,” paper delivered at the annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2017

“National Meters and Global Rhythms,” paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017

“Whitmanian Modernism,” panel co-organizer (with Tim Robbins) and presenter, annual conference of the Modernist Studies Association, Pasadena, November 2016

“Playing Games with Poetry,” keynote address, second annual Undergraduate Literature Conference at Missouri State University, Springfield, April 2016

“Nineteenth-Century Modernisms,” keynote address, “Modernisms and Manifestos” undergraduate conference, University of Maine at Farmington, March 2015

“The Global Lives of Poems,” panel co-organizer (with Sarah Ehlers), annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, March 2015

“Everyday Laureates,” presentation at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, February 2015

Teaching Experience

Tulane University, Department of English
Assistant Professor of English, 2019–present
English 2000, “Literary Investigations”
English 5010, “Native Modernism”

Missouri State University, Department of English
Assistant Professor of English, 2016–present
English 235, “Critical Approaches to Literature”
English 289, “Literature, Culture, and Conflict”
English 351, “Survey of American Literature II, 1870 to Present”
English 554/654, “Topics in Ethnic American Literature: Contemporary Native American Poetry”
English 580/682, “Gender Issues in Language and Literature: Feminism Without Gender”
English 711, “Graduate Seminar in Poetry: Shaping Free Verse”
English 758, “Graduate Seminar in 20th-Century American Literature: Contemporary Indigenous Poetry”

Service at Missouri State University

Recruitment and Retention Committee member, College of Arts and Letters, 2018–present
Outreach and Recruitment Committee chair, Department of English, 2018–present
Interim Course Coordinator for English 289, Committee on General Education and Intercollegiate Programs, Fall 2017

Professional Service

Faculty Facilitator, ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellows Seminar, “Preparing for the Academic Job Market,” American Council of Learned Societies, Atlanta, August 2018
Historical Poetics Working Group Member, 2016–present
Midwest C19 Americanists Working Group Member, 2016–present
Editorial Board Member, *New American Notes Online*, February 2015–present

Professional Memberships

American Comparative Literature Association

C19: The Society of 19th-Century Americanists
Modern Language Association
Modernist Studies Association