

February 2018

**PETER COVIELLO**  
curriculum vitae

University of Illinois, Chicago  
Dept. of English, 2027 University Hall  
601 S Morgan St.  
Chicago, IL 60607-7120

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**Employment**

Professor of English, University of Illinois, at Chicago, 2014-

Member, Institute for Advanced Study, 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**

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

**Under contract:**

"Make Yourselves Gods: Secularism, Biopolitics, Mormonism"

(under contract with the University of Chicago Press, in the "Class 200: New Studies in Religion" series, expected 2019)

"Rereadings: *Vineland*"

(under contract with Columbia University Press, in the "Rereadings" series, expected 2020)

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).

Journals

Co-editor, with Jared Hickman, of “After the Postsecular,” a special issue of *American Literature* 86:4 (December 2014).

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

\*“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 Hélène Quanquin and Cécile 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,” 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 *Shakespeareer: 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.

“Transcendentalism,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature, Vol. 4*, ed. Jay Parini (New York, Oxford University Press, 2004), 199-207.

\*“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

“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/>

“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” (a 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, <http://www.avidly.org/2013/06/27/easy/>

“Love in the Ruins; or, Should I Go to Grad School?” *Avidly*, November 13, 2012, <http://www.avidly.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, <http://www.avidly.org/2012/06/26/call-me-always/>.

“Talk, Talk,” *Frieze* 148 (June-July-August 2012): 23-24.

**Reviews**

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.

**Conferences Organized and Chaired**

"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

**Keynotes, Lectures, and Seminars by Invitation**

"Make Yourself Gods: Mormons, Polygamy, and the Biopolitics of Secularism"  
Princeton 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

### **Other Media**

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

### **Awards and Honors**

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

Hurst Family Visiting Professorship, Washington University at St. Louis, 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  
 Faricy Award for Poetry, Northwestern University, 1991, '92, and '93  
 Shuman Award in the Writing Major, Northwestern University, 1992 and 1993  
 Phi Beta Kappa, 1992

### **Professional Activities and Memberships**

*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, New York UP, Columbia UP, Johns Hopkins UP, Duke UP, U of Minnesota P, Oxford UP, U of Virginia P, Cornell UP, Fordham UP, Broadview  
 Reader of submissions, *American Literature*, *GLQ*, *J19*, *American Literary History*, *American Quarterly*, *Diacritics*, *Criticism*, *Early American Studies*, *Studies in American Fiction*, *Modernism / Modernity*, *Modern Language Studies*, *Poe Studies*, *Papers on Language and 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

### **Academic Service**

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)  
 Courses cross-listed in Gay and Lesbian Studies, Africana Studies, and Gender and Women's Studies

**Conference Papers, Panels, and Lectures**

“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, Sept 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,” 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," 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