With seventeen faculty teaching and publishing in twentieth and twenty-first century literature and culture, the English Department at Northwestern offers superb graduate training in the period’s literary and cultural histories, genres, theory, approaches, and methods. Drawing on resources within and beyond the department, graduate students specializing in the period have amassed an extraordinary record of publications, pre- and postdoctoral fellowships, and tenure-track positions.

Faculty include Chris Abani, John Alba Cutler, Nick Davis, Brian T. Edwards, Betsy Erkkilä, Harris Feinsod, Christine Froula, Reginald Gibbons, Susannah Gottlieb, Jim Hodge, Rebecca Johnson, Christopher Lane, Susan Manning, Juan Martinez, Evan Maina Mwangi, Natasha Trethewey, and Ivy Wilson. (Field specialties on reverse.)

Concentrations within the period include poetry and poetics; narrative, drama, theatre, and performance; literary, gender, critical race, and political theory; African literatures and film; ethnic and diasporic literatures; Anglophone literature and film in transnational and global contexts; interdisciplinary modernism; genetic and textual criticism, among others.

Job Placement

Northwestern’s English Ph. D. program enjoys a strong record of tenure-track placement. Since 2005, North-western Ph.D.s in English have been offered tenure-track and post-doctoral positions at a variety of colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada, including Boston University, Columbia University, Cornell University, Ohio State University, Trinity College-Hartford, University of British Columbia, University of Michigan, University of Pennsylvania, University of Pittsburgh, the University of Texas at Austin, Marquette University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Trinity University in San Antonio, and Franklin and Marshall College.

Our specialists in 20th- and 21st-century literature have secured tenure-track positions at institutions including Columbia, the University of Pittsburgh, Marquette, Ohio State, and SUNY at Stony Brook. During their studies, our students have placed or published articles in major journals such as *PMLA, Modern Fiction Studies, Callaloo, Novel, The Yale Journal of Criticism*, and *Modernism/Modernity*.
Christopher Abani (Ph.D. USC) teaches creative writing (fiction and poetry) and literature. He is a novelist, poet, essayist, screenwriter and playwright. His fields of interest include African Poetics, World Literature, 20th-century British and American Literature, African Presence in Medieval and Renaissance Cultural Spaces, The Architecture of Cities and their Potential Symbolic Relationship with their Populations, West African Music, Postcolonial and Transnational Theory, Robotics and Consciousness, Yoga and Igbo Philosophy and Religion. He is the recipient of the PEN USA Freedom-to-Write Award, the Prince Claus Award, a Lannan Literary Fellowship, a California Book Award, a Hurston/Wright Legacy Award, a PEN Beyond the Margins Award, the PEN Hemingway Book Prize and a Guggenheim Award.


Nick Davis (Ph.D. Cornell) works in cinema studies, queer theory, gender studies, and 20th-century American literature. His book *The Desiring-Image* (Oxford UP, 2013) explores Deleuzian models of film and desire to re-theorize contemporary queer cinema and reassess some of its key films. He has published many articles and book chapters and also reviews movies at *NickFleckPicks.com*.

Brian D. Edwards (Ph.D. Yale) has been jointly appointed in Comparative Literary Studies and Film & Media Studies. He works in the areas of modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, continental philosophy and political theory, and Asian American literary traditions. He is the author of *Regions of Sorcery: Anxiety and the Movement for Human Rights in Indonesia and W. H. Auden* and the editor of *Hannah Arendt: Reflections on Literature and Culture*. He regularly teaches courses on poetry, poetics, and literary theory. His current projects include a book-length study entitled *The Importance of Metaphors: The Intellectual Heresies of W. H. Auden*.

Jim Hodge (Ph.D. Chicago) specializes in comparative media aesthetics with an emphasis on digital media. He also works on media theory, film theory, and experimental media art genres including new media art, electronic literature, and avant-garde film. He has written essays on new media art, contemporary cinema, and the phenomenological tradition. His book project argues for the significance of animation for the expression of history in the digital age.

Rebecca Johnson (Ph.D. Yale) teaches courses in Middle Eastern literary and cultural studies with a special focus on modern Arabic literature. Her research focuses on the history and theory of the novel in Arabic and English, the literature of the nineteenth-century Arab Nationalists, and the late-nineteenth century Middle East. Her wider interests include pre-modern Arabic prose genres, cosmopolitanism, and the politics and politics of translation. Her current book project studies the intertwined early histories of the Arabic and English novels, using translation as a lens through which to understand the form and function of the genre.

Christopher Lane (Ph.D. University of London) specializes in Victorian culture and also publishes in Edwardian and modern literature, including essays on Conrad (in *Dorothy*); D. H. Lawrence, Saki, and Wyndham Lewis (in *Modernist/Moderernity*); Joyce and others (in *Varieties of Joyce*); Sassoon and other First World War poets (in *Kantian*); and Forster (in *The Cambridge Companion to E. M. Forster*).

Susan Manning (Ph.D. Columbia), jointly appointed in Theatre and Performance Studies, specializes in modernist and experimental art, film, and performance art. She is the author of *Ecstasy and the Demon: The Dance of Mary Wigman and Modern Dance, Negro Dance: Race in Motion*, curator of *Dances mates/Blanche Américaine*, and co-editor of *New German Dance Studies*.

Juan Martinez (Ph.D. UNLV) is a fiction writer, with critical work focusing on the post-war and contemporary novelists, the sociology of literature, and Vladimir Nabokov's role in the field of contemporary cultural production.


Joyce, To Write Paradise: Style and Error in Ezra Pound’s Cantos; and A Guide to Ezra Pound’s Selected Poems.

Reginald Gibbons (Ph.D. Stanford) has published over thirty volumes, including poems; translations from ancient Greek and Spanish; fiction; edited collections of essays, fiction and poetry; and editions of modern fiction. He edited *TriQuarterly* magazine from 1981 to 1997, was a co-founder of the Humanities Institute workshop on Poetry and Poetics, and is jointly appointed in Classics and in Spanish and Portuguese.

Susannah Gottlieb (Ph.D. Chicago) works in the areas of modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, continental philosophy and political theory, and Asian American literary traditions. She is the author of *Regions of Sorcery: Anxiety and the Movement for Human Rights in Indonesia and W. H. Auden* and the editor of *Hannah Arendt: Reflections on Literature and Culture*. He regularly teaches courses on poetry, poetics, and literary theory. His current projects include a book-length study entitled *The Importance of Metaphors: The Intellectual Heresies of W. H. Auden*.

Jenny Thrall, which makes use of both personal and historical materials, also continues her work in ekphrastic mode. Threthwas joined the faculty of Northwestern in fall 2017, having taught for a number of years at Emory University.


Interdisciplinary Faculty

• African American Literature & Theory: Alex Weheliye

• American Studies: Kate Baldwin, Janice Radway

• Caribbean & Latin American Literature: Jorge Coronado, Boris Gorzawski

• Film & Media Studies: Scott Curtis, Miriam Petry, Ariel Rogers, Jeff Sconce, Domietta Torlasco

• Gender Studies: Alex Owen, Jane Winston

• Latino/a Literatures: Frances Aparicio

• Philosophy & Critical Theory: Chris Bush, Penelope Deutscher, Scott Durham, Peter Frennes, Sam Weber

• Sound Studies: Neil Verma, Jacobs Smith

• Television Studies: Lynn Spigel, Mimi White

• Theatre & Performance: (E. Patrick Johnson, Soumi Madison, Ramon Rivera-Servera, Harvey Young)

• Visual Culture: Huey Copeland, Christina Kaier, Krista Thompson

Specialists in the period in other departments augment our students’ training in many areas, for example:

- African American Literature & Theory
- American Studies
- Caribbean & Latin American Literature
- Film & Media Studies
- Gender Studies
- Latino/a Literatures
- Philosophy & Critical Theory
- Sound Studies
- Television Studies
- Theatre & Performance
- Visual Culture

Through the CIC, our students may take courses and attend seminars, lectures, and workshops at other Chicago institutions, including the University of Chicago and the University of Illinois at Chicago. They may also work in relevant collections held by the Newberry Library and make use of other area libraries. The Paris Program in Critical Theory offers students the unique opportunity to spend one year in Paris familiarizing themselves with French and European theoretical research.

Chicago enjoys a lively theatre and music scene and an array of world-class museums. The Chicago Film Seminar regularly hosts screenings and discussions with filmmakers and scholars. The annual Humanities Festival and the Poetry Foundation sponsor readings and events.