

Highlights of the Ph.D. Program

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, Betsy Erkkilä, Harris Feinsod, Christine Froula, Reginald Gibbons, Susannah Gottlieb, Jim Hodge, Michelle Huang, 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.

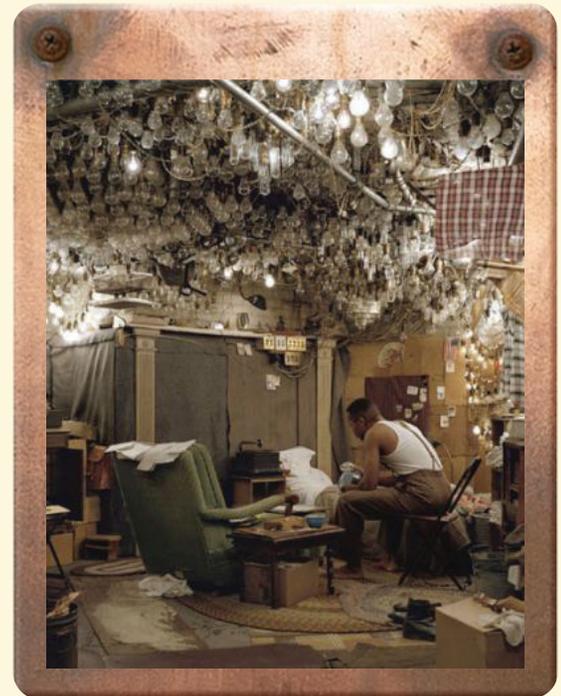
Job Placement

Northwestern's English Ph.D. program enjoys a strong record of tenure-track placement. Since 2005, Northwestern 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 the University of Maryland - College Park, 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*.

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Twentieth and Twenty-first Century Literature & Culture



"After *Invisible Man* by Ralph
Ellison, the Prologue" Jeff Wall

Department of English
Northwestern University

Chris 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 Presences in Medieval and Renaissance Cultural Spaces, The Architecture of Cities and their Potential Symbiotic Relationship with their Populations, West African Music, Postcolonial and Transnational Theory, Robotics and Consciousness, Yoruba 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.

John Alba Cutler (Ph.D. UCLA) teaches and researches US Latino/a literatures, multiethnic American poetry, contemporary American literature, and print culture studies. He is the author of *Ends of Assimilation: The Formation of Chicano Literature* (Oxford, 2015), as well as essays in *American Literary History*, *American Literature*, MELUS, Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies, and the Los Angeles Review of Books.

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) employs 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 NicksFlickPicks.com.

Betsy Erkkilä (Ph.D. Berkeley) specializes in Revolutionary and 19th-century American literature and modern and contemporary poetry and poetics, with a particular interest in gender, race, and political theory and transatlantic literary exchange. She is the author of *Walt Whitman Among the French*, *Whitman the Political Poet*, *The Wicked Sisters*, *Mixed Bloods and Other American Crosses*, and recent essays on Wheatley, Jefferson, Poe, Melville, Dickinson, and Lincoln. Her current projects include a book entitled *Imagining the Revolution*. She received Northwestern's Graduate School Faculty Award for Service in 2014 for her distinguished work as a graduate teacher and mentor.

Harris Feinsod (Ph.D. Stanford) teaches 20th- and 21st-century U.S. and Latin American literature and culture. He is currently writing a book entitled *The Poetry of the Americas from Good Neighbors to Countercultures*. His research focuses on modern poetry and the avant-garde in Europe and the Americas, hemispheric literary and cultural relations, environmental and inter-ethnic literatures of the U.S. "new west," and oceanic studies. Recent writing appears in *American Literary History*, *American Quarterly*, *Arcade*, *Centro*, *Chicago Review*, and the *Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics*.

Christine Froula (Ph.D. Chicago) specializes in American, British, and European modernist literature, visual art, and culture; feminist and gender theory; and editorial theory and practice. Books include *Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury Avant-Garde*; *Modernism's Body: Sex, Culture, and Joy*; *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 volumes of contemporary fiction and poetry and of twentieth century poetics; and editions of modern fiction. He was the editor of *TriQuarterly* magazine from 1981 to 1997, was a cofounder of the Humanities Institute workshop on Poetry and Poetics, is jointly appointed in English and Classics, and is the Director of Graduate Studies of the Litowitz Graduate Program in Creative Writing (MFA+MA). His research interests include the history of poetic practice, translation studies and practice, and all aspects of the art and situation of poetry. He was a member of the Content Leadership Team of the American Writers Museum, an interactive literary museum in Chicago that opened in 2017. He was also a founder and an officer of The Guild Complex, a Chicago literary presenting organization, and in 2013 was one of the co-founders of the annual (Gwendolyn)

"BrooksDay," a June 7 presentation of her work in readings and performances. His recent books include *How Poems Think* (2015) and *Last Lake* (2016; both books University of Chicago Press), and *An Orchard in the Street* (short fiction; BOA Editions). He has won a Guggenheim fellowship, the Folger Shakespeare Library O. B. Hardison, Jr. Poetry Prize, and has been a Finalist for the National Book Award. His work in progress includes poems, translations, and fiction.

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 Sorrow: Anxiety and Messianism in Hannah Arendt and W.H. Auden* and the editor of *Hannah Arendt: Reflections on Literature and Culture*. She regularly teaches courses on poetry, poetics, and literary theory. Her current projects include a book-length study entitled *The Importance of Metaphysics: 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.

Michelle N. Huang (Ph.D. Penn State) has research and teaching interests in contemporary Asian American literature, posthumanism, and feminist science studies. She is currently at work on her book project, "Molecular Aesthetics: Race, Form, and Matter in Contemporary Asian American Literature." Recently, her writing has appeared in *Twentieth-Century Literature*, *Journal of Asian American Studies*, *Amerasia*, and *Post45: Contemporaries*.

Rebecca Johnson (Ph.D. Yale) Rebecca Johnson 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 period known as the Nahda, and literary orientalism and occidentalism, and her wider interests include pre-modern Arabic prose genres, cosmopolitanism, and the poetics 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 *Novel*); D. H. Lawrence, Saki, and Wyndham Lewis (in *Modernism/Modernity*); Joyce (in *Quare Joyce*); Sassoon and other First World War poets (in *Raritan*); and Forster (in *The Cambridge Companion to E. M. Forster*).

Susan Manning (Ph.D. Columbia), jointly appointed in Theatre and Performance Studies, specializes in modernism in theatrical performance and is the author of *Ecstasy and the Demon: The Dances of Mary Wigman and Modern Dance*, *Negro Dance: Race in Motion*, curator of *Danses noires/blanche Amerique*, 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.

Evan Maina Mwangi (Ph.D. Nairobi) specializes in literary theory and global Anglophone cultural studies. The co-author of *The Columbia Guide to East African Literature in English since 1945*, his books include *Africa Writes Back to Self: Metafiction, Gender, Sexuality* and, most recently, *Translation in African Contexts: Postcolonial Texts, Queer Sexuality, and Cosmopolitan Fluency*. His current projects cover studies of African popular culture, memory, global modernisms, Indian Ocean cultural expression, and posthumanism in postcolonial literature.

Natasha Trethewey (M.F.A. University of Massachusetts - Amherst) won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for her book, *Native Guard*, and served two terms as Poet Laureate of the United States. She has based many poems on historical events and figures, including those of the Civil War, her poems also often explore race and gender. She has said that she considers her creative work a form of research as well as an artistic practice. Her poem-cycle *Bellocoq's Ophelia* fictionalizes—on the basis of early 20th-century photographs by E. J. Bellocoq—the life of a prostitute in New Orleans. *Beyond Katrina* is a mixed-genre book that constitutes a meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Her most recent book, *Monument: Poems New and Selected*, was published in November of 2018.

Ivy Wilson (Ph.D. Yale University) teaches courses on the literatures of the black diaspora, with a particular emphasis on African-American culture. He has published editions on two 19th-century African-American poets: James Monroe Whitfield and Albery Allson Whitman. His book *Specters of Democracy: Blackness and the Aesthetics of Politics in the Antebellum U.S.*, includes chapters on the poetry of Frances E.W. Harper and Walt Whitman. He has taught courses on African-American poetry and poetics from Phillis Wheatley to hip hop.

Interdisciplinary Faculty

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

- **African American Literature & Theory** (Alex Weheliye)
- **American Studies** (Janice Radway)
- **Caribbean & Latin American Literature** (Jorge Coronado, Doris Garraway)
- **Film & Media Studies** (Scott Curtis, Miriam Petty, 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 Fenves, Sam Weber)
- **Sound Studies** (Neil Verma, Jacob Smith)
- **Television Studies** (Lynn Spigel, Mimi White)
- **Theatre & Performance** (E. Patrick Johnson, Soyini Madison, Ramón Rivera-Servera, Harvey Young)
- **Visual Culture** (Huey Copeland, Christina Kaier, Krista Thompson)

Through the Big Ten Academic Alliance and the Metropolitan Exchange Program, 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 holdings and 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.