

Maria Seger

Assistant Professor of English | University of Louisiana at Lafayette
PO Box 43719 | Lafayette, LA 70504 | maria.seger@louisiana.edu

Education

PhD, English, University of Connecticut, 2016
MA, English, University of Connecticut, 2012
BA, *summa cum laude*, English, University of Pittsburgh, 2010

Professional History

Assistant Professor of English, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2017–
Visiting Assistant Professor of English, United States Military Academy at West Point, 2016–17

Book Projects

At All Costs: Extralegal Violence and Liberal Democracy in American Culture. Manuscript in preparation.

Killing Them Softly: Motherhood, Violence, and the State in the American Cultural Imaginary. Manuscript in preparation.

Reading Confederate Monuments. Co-edited with Randi Tanglen. Manuscript in preparation.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Deferred Lynching and the Moral High Ground in Charles W. Chesnutt’s *The Marrow of Tradition*.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 73.1 (2018): 94–118.

“Ekphrasis and the Postmodern Slave Narrative: Reading the Maps of Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World*.” *Callaloo* 37.5 (2014): 1181–95.

Book Reviews

Rev. of *American Literature, Lynching, and the Spectator in the Crowd: Spectacular Violence*, by Debbie Lelekis. *Studies in American Naturalism* 11.1 (2016): 102–04.

Presentations

Conference Presentations

“Maternal Filicide and the State in Women’s Progressive Era Short Fiction.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), Washington, DC, March 2019.

“Maternal Filicide and the State in the Interwar Cultural Imaginary.” American Studies Association (ASA), Atlanta, GA, November 2018.

“Redeeming White Women as Property in *The Birth of a Nation*.” American Literature Association (ALA), San Francisco, CA, May 2018.

“Tolerating and Coopting Dissent: Examining the State’s Role in (Anti-)Lynching.” American Studies Association (ASA), Chicago, IL, November 2017.

“Deferred Lynching and the Moral High Ground.” Futures of American Studies Institute (FASI), Hanover, NH, June 2017.

“Extralegal Violence and Liberal-Democratic Governance in Frank J. Webb’s *The Garies and Their Friends*.” American Literature Association (ALA), Boston, MA, May 2017.

“Convict Labor and the Moral Calculus of the Nineteenth-Century Carceral Economy.” Modern Language Association (MLA), Philadelphia, PA, January 2017.

“Theft and Self-Protection in the Wild West.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA), Pasadena, CA, November 2016.

“Being or Owning Property? Rethinking White Women’s Role in Multiethnic Lynching Narratives.” Nineteenth Century Studies Association (NCSA), Lincoln, NE, April 2016.

“Preserving Capitalism in Crisis: Recalling Extralegal Violence in the Post-Reconstruction Era.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Hartford, CT, March 2016.

“Extralegal Rhetoric and the State of Exception in Charles W. Chesnutt’s *The Marrow of Tradition*.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Harrisburg, PA, April 2014.

“‘No Trespassin’”: The Property-Based Logic of Racial Violence in Richard Wright’s *Uncle Tom’s Children*.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS), Oklahoma City, OK, March 2014.

“Detecting Capital Criminals: The Case of Mistaken Identity in Lynching Narratives.” American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA), New York, NY, March 2014.

“‘I’ve Been Seeing It Ever Since’: Grievability, Affective Frames, and Lynching as Spectacle in the Post-Reconstruction American Novel.” American Literature Association (ALA), Boston, MA, May 2013.

“The Ethics of Child Murder: Maternal Filicide and American Exceptionalism in Women’s Progressive Era Short Fiction.” Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS), Pittsburgh, PA, March 2013.

“Reading the Two Maps of ‘The Known World’ in Edward P. Jones.” Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA), Rochester, NY, March 2012.

“Abandoning the ‘Maternal Instinct’: A Study of Four Canonical Feminist Texts.” College English Association (CEA), San Antonio, TX, March 2010.

Invited Presentations

“Program Innovation/Pedagogical Innovation.” Association of Departments of English—Association of Departments of Foreign Languages (ADE–ADFL) Summer Seminar, Atlanta, GA, June 2018.

“Dismantling Structural Racism.” Perspectives 360: Reimagining Civil Society, Lafayette, LA, March 2018.

“Race, Resources, and Real Estate.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, New York, NY, January 2018.

“Lessons of the Connected Academics Proseminar on Careers.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Convention, New York, NY, January 2018.

“The Jim Crow Monuments Controversy.” University of Louisiana at Lafayette Constitution Day, Lafayette, LA, September 2017.

Courses

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

English 205: American Literature to 1865

English 206: American Literature since 1865

English 210: Literary Genres: Black Poetry Now!

English 212: Literature and Other Media: Slavery on Film

English 212: Literature and Other Media: The Women of the Harlem Renaissance

English 371: Introduction to Ethnic Literatures: From Slavery to Jim Crow: Nineteenth-Century Black Radical Thought (cross-listed)

English 433G: Approaches to African American Literature: African American Novels of the “Nadir” (partial graduate)

English 435G: American Realism and Naturalism: Justice and Violence in the Gilded Age (partial graduate)

English 533: Studies in Ethnic Literature: The Present Past: History in Contemporary African American Fiction (graduate)

English 550: Studies in Nineteenth-Century American Literature: Citizenship and Sovereignty in the Long Nineteenth Century (graduate)

Humanities 200: Ideas and Issues: Introduction to Africana Studies

United States Military Academy at West Point

English 101: Composition

English 102: Literature

University of Connecticut

English 1004: Introduction to Academic Writing

English 1010: Seminar in Academic Writing

English 1011: Seminar in Writing through Literature

English 2201W: American Literature to 1880 (writing-intensive)

English 2411W: Popular Literature (writing-intensive)

Service

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Committee Memberships

Books from the Bayou Committee, Ernest J. Gaines Center, 2018–
Master of Arts Committee, Department of English, 2018–
Graduate Recruitment Committee, Department of English, 2018–
Equal Justice Initiative Coalition, Lafayette Parish, 2018–
Graduate Placement Committee, Department of English, 2017–
Graduate Faculty Committee, Department of English, 2017–
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of English, 2017–
Africana Studies Minor Curriculum Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2017–
Diversity Committee, Department of English, 2017–
Symposium Committee, Department of English, 2017–18

Graduate Advising

Wandeka Gayle, “Desire, Displacement, Disillusionment: The Afro Caribbean Immigrant Experience in America and *Motherland and Other Stories*,” 2018, dissertation committee member.

Matthew M. Pincus, “Talented and Expendable: American Women Crime Writers of the 1940s and 50s,” in progress, dissertation committee member.

Jude Marr, “Listening to News from Another Country,” in progress, dissertation committee member.

Jennifer Morrison, in progress, dissertation committee member.

Francisco J. Farrera, “The Celebration of Cultural Diversity: An Architectural Proposal Inspired in Music,” in progress, thesis committee member (architecture).

United States Military Academy at West Point

Duty Officer, Department of English and Philosophy, 2016–17

Guest Lecturer, Bard Prison Initiative, 2016–17

Panel Moderator, States of the Book Symposium, 2016

Faculty Representative, Superintendent’s Convocation, 2016

University of Connecticut

Elections Committee, Graduate Employee Union–United Auto Workers Local 6950, 2015–16

Founding Organizer, Graduate Employee Union–United Auto Workers Local 6950, 2014–15

President, English Graduate Student Association, 2013–14

Assistant Editor, *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, 2012–14

Graduate Executive Committee, Department of English, 2012–14

Vice President, English Graduate Student Association, 2012–13

Graduate Student Mentor, English Graduate Student Association, 2011–14

Professional Development Committee Chair, English Graduate Student Association, 2011–12

Orientation Implementation Committee, First-Year Writing Program, 2011

Professional Development Committee, English Graduate Student Association, 2010–11

Awards

Dr. Mary Ann Wilson Award, University of Louisiana at Lafayette English Graduate Student Association, 2018

Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, Department of the Army, 2017

Fox Prize for Administrative Excellence, United States Military Academy at West Point Department of English and Philosophy, 2016

Predocctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2016

Connected Academics Proseminar Fellowship, Modern Language Association (MLA), 2015–16

Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut Graduate School, 2015

Predocctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 2015

Aetna Graduate Critical Essay Second Prize, University of Connecticut, 2014

Aetna Graduate Critical Essay First Prize, University of Connecticut, 2012

Six competitive external travel grants totaling \$1,350

Six competitive internal travel grants totaling \$3,750

Professional Associations

Modern Language Association (MLA)

American Studies Association (ASA)

Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)

American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)