

SARAH MICHELLE OSMENT

Literary Arts and Studies, Rhode Island School of Design
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Literary Arts and Studies, Rhode Island School of Design, Fall 2013-present
Lecturer

Department of English, Providence College, Spring 2016, Lecturer

Writing, Literature and Publishing, Emerson College, Spring 2015
Lecturer

Writing Studies, Rhetoric and Composition, Roger Williams University, Fall 2014
Instructor

Literary Arts and Studies, Rhode Island School of Design, Fall 2012-Spring 2013
Visiting Assistant Professor

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Brown University, Department of English, May 2016

M.A. Brown University, Department of English, May 2008

B.A. The University of Arizona, Department of English, *magna cum laude*, 2004

DISSERTATION

Title: *Indexical Modernism: Autonomy, Commitment, Aesthetics*

Director: Timothy Bewes, Professor of English, Brown University

Readers: Stuart Burrows, Associate Professor of English, Brown University
Deak Nabers, Associate Professor of English, Brown University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Twentieth- and Twenty First-Century American Literature; North American Poetry and Poetics; Critical Theory; Environmental Studies; Literature and the Visual Arts; Film and Media Studies; Aesthetic Theory

PUBLICATIONS

"Eight Notes on Blankness." *The Capilano Review* 3.29 (Summer 2016)

"James Agee's Indexical Modernism." (under review)

PAPERS DELIVERED

"The Politics of Modernist Abstraction"

Modernist Studies Association, seminar leader, Duquesne University. Seminar co-organized with David Alworth (Harvard U) and Deak Nabers (Brown U) (November 2014)

"The Politics of Belonging: William Carlos Williams's Indigenous Index"

New England Americanist Collective, colloquium, Brown University (June 2014)

“Indexical Modernism”

American Comparative Literature Association, seminar on “Mimesis and Capital,” New York University (March 2014)

“Affects of Writing: Some Notes”

Modernist Studies Association, roundtable on “How We Write (and How We Feel About It),” Las Vegas, NV (Oct. 2012)

“Aesthetics and Its Discontents: Flannery O’Connor’s Violent Signs”

Post45 Group Conference, panel on “Midcentury Form,” Cleveland, OH (Apr. 2012)

“Ideology of the Anaesthetic: Adorno, Agee”

The World Picture Conference, panel on “Hiatus,” Oklahoma State University (Oct. 2010)

“Chilly Hospitality”

The Future of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth University (July 2010)

“Opacity is *Not* an American Quality”

Modern Culture Workshop, Brown University (May 2010)

“Ideology of the Anti-Aesthetic”

Andrew W. Mellon Symposium on “Politics and Forms: Practices of Misreading”
Brown University (Apr. 2010)

“Manifest Destiny? or, New Formalism as a Means without End”

Modernist Studies Association, seminar on “New Formalisms,” Montreal, QC (Nov. 2009)

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Editor and Board Member (Fall 2009-Summer 2012)

NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction

Copy Editor (Summer 2010)

Georg Lukács: The Fundamental Dissonance of Existence: Aesthetics, Politics, Literature, eds. Timothy Bewes and Timothy Hall (Continuum, 2011)

Editorial Assistant and Board Member

NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction (Spring 2007-Summer 2009)

COURSES TAUGHT

LITERARY ARTS AND STUDIES, RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN

Modern and Contemporary Poetry, Fall 2016. Seminar in North American poetry, exploring verse as a vehicle for self-expression, thought experiment, critique, political transformation, world-building, and as a thing in its own right. Poets include Conrad, Dickinson, Kim, Moten, Nelson, Olson, Pound, Rankine, Reznikoff, Spahr, Stein, Whitman, Williams, Yau.

Contemporary Critical Theory, Fall 2016. Survey in the vast, variegated field of critical theory which explores key contributions in psychoanalysis, semiotics, structuralism and post-structuralism, Marxism and ideology critique, feminist and queer theory, critical race theory and postcolonial studies.

First Year Literature Seminar, Fall 2015. Introduction to literary studies intended for freshmen, focusing on poetry from the Renaissance to the contemporary, fiction by Nabokov, literary theory by Barthes, Foucault, and others.

The Lives of Objects, Spring 2015, Fall 2012. Elective seminar in American literature, film, and critical theory focused on the representation of material objects and objectified subjects. Texts by Benjamin, Caldwell, Chaplin, Ellison, Freud, James, Marx, Metcalf, Ray, Stein Wright, and Yau.

From Literary to Cultural Study, Spring 2014, Spring 2013. Elective seminar on the emergence and development of Cultural Studies focused on the Birmingham School, critical race theory, gender studies, queer theory, theories of nationalism and postnationalism.

Media Ecologies, Spring 2013. Elective seminar on how media shape our sense of the natural environment. Texts by Bennett, Cronon, Grosz, Heidegger, Kittler, Lippit, Manovich, Morton, Thoreau, and Williams.

Uninhabitable Worlds, Winter 2013. Five-week seminar on literary and cinematic representations of spaces hostile to human life. Texts by Barthes, Flaherty, Haynes, Hersey, Johnson, Lovecraft, Poe, Tetsuo and Yamashita.

Design in Words: Portraits of the Artist, Fall 2012, 2014. Introduction to literary studies intended for freshman, with texts by Joyce, Sinclair, Toomer, Whitman and Warhol.

DEPARTMENT OF WRITING, LITERATURE AND PUBLISHING, EMERSON COLLEGE

The American Short Story, Spring 2015. Survey on the evolution of American short fiction, featuring writers and critics from 1840 to the present.

SUMMER STUDIES, BROWN UNIVERSITY

Putting Yourself Into Words, Summer 2016. One-week workshop for prospective college students on analytic and experiential modes of writing and how they work in tandem.

The Social Network, Summer 2014-2016. Two-week workshop for prospective college students on critical analysis and academic writing, with focus on social media and the sprawling debates around its uses and abuses.

Putting Ideas Into Words, Summer 2012-2013. One-week workshop on critical reading and writing for prospective college students.

WRITING STUDIES, RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION, ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Academic Writing, Fall 2014. Freshman workshop on rhetorical analysis, argumentation and research methods across disciplines.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, BROWN UNIVERSITY

How to Read a Poem, Spring 2012. Teaching Assistant / Section Leader for Professor Melinda Rabb.

Literature of the Fantastic, Fall 2011. Teaching Assistant / Section Leader for Professor Vanessa Ryan.

The Lives of Objects, Spring 2009. Undergraduate seminar exploring how inanimate objects impress themselves on the literary and cinematic imagination. Independently designed.

Writing the Academic Essay, Fall 2008. Writing-intensive freshman seminar on writing and research methods across disciplines. Independently designed.

The Literature of Relationships, Spring 2007. Teaching Assistant / Section Leader for Professor Arnold Weinstein.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Professional Development Grant Committee Member, Rhode Island School of Design (2012-2013)
Liberal Arts Advisor, Rhode Island School of Design (2012-2013)
Co-organizer, Modern Culture Workshop (interdisciplinary graduate student workshop), Brown University (2011-2012)
Zucker Lecture Organizing Committee Member (culminating in Bill Brown lecture), Brown University Department of English (2009-2010)
Writing Tutor, The Office of Minority Affairs, The Ohio State University (Summer 2005)

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Brown University (2011-2012)
Travel grant to attend The Future of American Studies Institute, Brown University (Summer 2010)
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Brown University (2009-2011)
Summer Graduate Fellowship, Brown University (2007-2009)
Teaching Assistantship, The Ohio State University (2004-2006)
Presidential Award for Excellence, The University of Arizona (2000-2004)
Achievement Award, The University of Arizona (2000-2004)
Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (inducted 2003)
Fielder Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Department of English (May 2003)
Tucker Scholarship, The University of Arizona, Department of English (May 2002)
Duncan Scholarship, The University of Arizona, School of Journalism (May 2002)
Honors Award, Honors College, The University of Arizona (May 2002)

LANGUAGES

French, Spanish

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION (MLA); MODERNIST STUDIES ASSOCIATION (MSA);
AMERICAN COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION (ACLA); SOCIETY FOR NOVEL STUDIES
(SNS); NEW ENGLAND AMERICANIST COLLECTIVE (NEAC)

REFERENCES

Nancy Armstrong, Gilbert, Louis, and Edward Lehrman Professor of English, Duke University
n.b.armstrong@duke.edu, (919) 613-6827
Patricia Barbeito, Professor of Literary Arts and Studies, Rhode Island School of Design
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Stuart Burrows, Associate Professor of English, Brown University
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Rey Chow, Anne Firor Scott Professor of Literature, Duke University
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