

CURRICULUM VITAE

NICOLE M. MEROLA

Department of Literary Arts & Studies
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. English Literature, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, December 2003
Dissertation: "Mountains, Discourses, Lines, and Deserts: Close Reading Ethical Land Practices in Twentieth-Century America" (Director: Katherine Cummings)
- M.A. English Literature, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, June 1998
Master's Thesis: "National Belongings and Particular Affiliations: 1950s Identities in Don DeLillo's *Underworld*" (Readers: Katherine Cummings and Susan Jeffords)
- B.A. English and Religion, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, June 1994
External Examination Program with Honors

CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Department Head, Literary Arts & Studies, Rhode Island School of Design, July 2013-present
Graduate Program Director, Master of Nature-Culture-Sustainability Studies, September 2017-present
Professor of Environmental Humanities and American Literatures, Department of Literary Arts & Studies, Rhode Island School of Design, July 2017-present

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Environmental Humanities; Literature and the Environment; Visual Studies and the Environment; the Anthropocene; Biodiversity and Extinction Studies; Climate Change Cultures; Critical Animal Studies; Science Studies; Theories of NatureCulture; Socioecological Pasts and Presents of Narragansett Bay; Post-1945 American Literature and Culture; Polar Regions; American Literature and Culture from 1800-1945; Critical Theory; Cultural Studies; Theories of Place and Spatial Production; Community-Based Learning

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "what do we do but keep breathing as best we can this / minute atmosphere": Juliana Spahr and Anthropocene Anxiety." *Affective Ecocriticism*, eds. Jennifer Ladino and Kyle Bladow, forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press.
- "Engaging the 'Eearth': Teaching and Making Climate Change Cultures in an Art and Design Context." *Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities*, eds. Stephanie LeMenager, Stephen Siperstein, and Shane Hall. New York: Routledge, 2016. 146-152.
- "for terror of the deadness beyond': Arctic Environments and Inhuman Ecologies in Michelle Paver's *Dark Matter*." *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture, and Environment* 5.2 (2014): 22-40.
- "Materializing a Geotraumatic and Melancholy Anthropocene: Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods*." *the minnesota review* 83 (2014): 122-132.
- "Mediating Planetary Attachments and Planetary Melancholy: Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*." *Design, Mediation, and the Posthuman*, eds. Amy Proppen, Colbey Emmerson Reid, and Dennis Weiss. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014. 249-267.
- "T. C. Boyle's Neoevolutionary Queer Ecologies: Questioning Species in 'Descent of Man' and 'Dogology.'" *America's Darwin: Darwinian Theory in U.S. Culture*, eds. Tina Gianquitto and Lydia Fisher. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2014. 534-575.
- "Cosmopolis: Don DeLillo's Melancholy Political Ecology." *American Literature* 84.4 (2012): 827-853.
- "The Muse of Difference: Race and Writing Placement at Two Elite Art Schools." Co-authored with Anthony Lioi. *Race, Writing, and Writing Assessment*, eds. Mya Poe and Asao B. Inoue. New York: Peter Lang Press, 2012. 155-167.

- "Monkeys, Apes, and Bears, Oh My!: Illuminating the Politics of Human-Animal Relationship in Jill Greenberg's *Monkey Portraits* and *Bear Portraits*." *JAC: Rhetoric, Writing, Culture, Politics* 30.3-4 (2010): 645-681.
- "Connecting to Narragansett Bay: Fostering Ecological Citizenship through Environmental Humanities and Art and Design." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy* 21.1 (2010): 60-78.

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

A Dark Archive: Materializing the Risks of the Anthropocene in Contemporary North American and British Literatures

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Making Climate Change Cultures at the Rhode Island School of Design." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. 17-20 March 2016.
- Deep Times: Imagining Geomaterial Horizons Seminar Participant. "Embracing Cryomateriality." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. 23-27 June 2015.
- "Environmental Melancholies." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. 30 April-3 May 2015.
- "Environmental Melancholies." Modern Language Association Conference. 8-11 January 2015.
- "Film and Planetary Feeling in the Digital Era: Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*." The Society for Philosophy and Technology Conference. 4-6 July 2013.
- "Perhaps the universe is the memory of our mistakes': Materializing the Anthropocene in Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods*." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. 28 May-1 June 2013.
- Climate Change Ecocriticisms Seminar Participant. "Confronting Climate Denial: Helen Simpson's *In-Flight Entertainment*." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. 28 May-1 June 2013.
- "Perhaps the universe is the memory of our mistakes': Materializing the Anthropocene in Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods*." American Comparative Literature Association. 4-7 April 2013.
- "Litter on the Beach: The Insect Phenomenologies and Carrion Poetics of Jim Crace's *Being Dead*." Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference. 27-30 September 2012.
- "Litter on the Beach, 'a heavy price for their nostalgia': The Entomological Poetics of Decay in Jim Crace's *Being Dead*." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 29 March-1 April 2012.
- "The Spoils of War: Psychological, Physical, and Environmental Violence in J. Robert Lennon's *Castle*." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. 15-18 March 2012.

SELECTED ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- Organizer and Chair, "The Idea of Anthropocene Literature." American Literature Association Conference. 25-28 May 2017.
- Attendee, "Anthropocene Reading." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 17-20 March 2016.
- Attendee, Association of American Colleges & Universities Conference. 18-20 February 2016.
- Invited Chair and Respondent, "Modes of Misery, Genres of Grief: Narrative Forms of Environmental Suffering." American Studies Association Conference. 8-11 October 2015.
- Organizer and Chair, "Biodiversity and Extinction Narratives." American Literature Association Conference. 21-24 May 2015.
- Co-organizer and Chair, "Native Literary Ecologies." American Literature Association Conference. 21-24 May 2015.
- Attendee, "Anthropocene Historicism." American Comparative Literature Association Conference, 26-29 March 2015.
- Attendee, "The Future of the Anthropocene." American Comparative Literature Association Conference, 26-29 March 2015.
- Attendee, "The Opening of the Field: New Approaches to Ecopoetics." American Comparative Literature Association Conference, 26-29 March 2015.

Attendee, 2014 ADE-ADFL Summer Seminar West. Seattle, 19-22 June 2014.

Co-Organizer and Co-Chair, "Littered with Meaning: Environmental Pollution and Waste in Literature and Other Arts." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 29 March-1 April 2012.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rhode Island School of Design, Courses Designed and Taught

Undergraduate Literature, Theory, and Film Courses

- LAS-E280 "Narrative Evolution" (Spring 2007, 2008, 2011)
- LAS-E320 "Contemporary Ecological Fictions" (Fall 2005, 2007, 2010)
- LAS-E321 "Representing 'Unrepresentable' Environments: Climate Change" (Spring 2012, Fall 2013)
- LAS-E324 "Ecopoems/Ecopoetics" (Wintersession 2016)
- LAS-E503 "Theories of NatureCulture" (Spring 2010, Fall 2011)
- LAS-E521 "Theorizing the Anthropocene" (Fall 2014)
- LAS-E522 "Geographical Imaginations: Wilderness" (Spring 2006)
- LAS-E561 "Green Theory/Green Reading: Pollution" (Spring 2006)
- LAS-E713 "Posthumanisms: Critical Animal Studies" (Spring 2011)
- LAS-E714 "Investigating Narragansett Bay" (Fall 2010)
"Investigating Water: Connecting to Narragansett Bay" (Fall 2008)
- LAS-E715 "Green Cultural Studies: Film" (Spring 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017)
- LAS-E717 "Exploring the Art & Science of Biodiversity in Guyana" (Wintersession 2014, 2015, 2017;
co-taught with Lucy Spelman [HPSS]; co-requisite with LAEL-LE97)

Undergraduate First-Year Literature Seminars

- LAS-E101 "The Animal Other" (Fall 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011)

Undergraduate Liberal Arts Elective Courses

- LAEL-LE98 "Digital [LEGO] Analog: Phase 1: Research Seminar" (Wintersession 2015)
- LAEL-1584 "Portugal: Material Practices" (Wintersession 2018; co-taught with Laura Briggs
[ARCH]; co-requisite with ARCH/IDISC-1584)

Graduate Commons Courses

- 132G "Theories of NatureCulture" (Fall 2011)
- 162G "Advanced Research Seminar: Putting Your Work in Context" (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

M.F.A. Thesis Advisor

Elaina Runge, Textiles, (2016-2017)
Melissa J. Tyson, Jewelry + Metalsmithing (2016-2017)
Genevieve Lowe, Printmaking (2011-2013)
Amber Heaton, Printmaking (2011-2012)
Amanda Thackray, Printmaking (2011-2012)
Peiqi Tang, Industrial Design (2011-2012)

B.A. Thesis Advisor

Bryna Cofrin-Shaw, Environmental Studies, Brown University (2013-2014)