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## EDUCATION

- 1991 – 1999**      **Department of English and Comparative Literature**  
**Columbia University, New York, New York**  
**Degrees:** Ph.D., 1999; M. Phil., 1995; M.A., 1992.  
**Dissertation:** *Prudence, Blasphemy, Slavery: Ethics in Law and Literature in the Age of Emerson*. Written under the direction of Professors Robert A. Ferguson and Andrew Delbanco, it investigates the concepts of prudence and blasphemy as they are discussed in legal opinions and literary texts between 1830 and 1860 and as they relate to the ideologies of the abolitionist movement.
- 1983 – 1986**      **Harvard Law School**  
**Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts**  
**Degree:** J.D., 1986
- 1979 – 1983**      **Department of History**  
**Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey**  
**Degree:** A.B., 1983  
**Honors:** Cum Laude; Phi Beta Kappa Society.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

#### ***The Annotated Little Women***

W. W. Norton, Inc., November 2015.

“[A] good time ... [H]umanizes Alcott’s characters ... [Professor Matteson’s] populist approach should be welcomed by a wide readership.” — *Library Journal*. “Matteson, who won the Pulitzer for his biography of Alcott and her father, brings all his knowledge to bear on this behemoth edition of the novel, brimming over with artifacts and sidebars that ... illuminate this classic novel without defining it.” — Genevieve Valentine, *National Public Radio*.

#### ***The Lives of Margaret Fuller: A Biography***

W. W. Norton, Inc., January 2012.

Starred review from *Library Journal*. Warmly reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The New Yorker*, *The Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, *The Cleveland Plain Dealer*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Review of Books*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Hailed by *The New Yorker* as “superb” and “psychologically rich” and by *The Boston Globe* as “unfailingly intelligent, nuanced, and intriguing.” *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* observes, “John Matteson ... is an extraordinary biographer [who] infuses his research with an unparalleled comprehension, sensitivity and empathy.” The *Christian Science Monitor* writes that *The Lives of Margaret Fuller* is “a thorough and sympathetic examination,” presenting its subject “with insight and nuance.” *The Washington Post* calls it “a substantial and satisfying biography.” Recognized by Carl Rollyson in *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the five best biographies of 2012. Named finalist for the PEN/Jacqueline

Bograd Weld Award. Named finalist for the inaugural Plutarch Award, given to the best biography of the year by the Biographers International Organization (BIO). Winner of the 2012 **Ann M. Sperber Award** for best biography of a journalist or major media figure.

***Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father***

W.W. Norton, Inc., August 2007.

*Eden's Outcasts* received starred reviews from *Kirkus Reviews* and *Booklist* and was cited by *The Christian Science Monitor* and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* as one of the best biographies of 2007. It was awarded the **2008 Pulitzer Prize in Biography or Autobiography**. It was also named as an Honors Book in Nonfiction by the 2008-09 **Massachusetts Book Awards** and received a commendation from the Massachusetts State Legislature.

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

***Critical Insights: Louisa May Alcott***

Eds. Gregory Eiselein and Anne Phillips

“‘When Rude Hands Shake the Hive’: Louisa May Alcott and the Transformation of America.”  
Ipswich, Massachusetts: Salem Press, 2016.

***Margaret Fuller and Her Circles***

Eds. Brigitte Bailey, Katheryn P. Viens, and Conrad Edick Wright  
Durham, New Hampshire: University of New Hampshire Press, 2013.

Published in association with the Massachusetts Historical Society.

“‘Woes ... of Which We Know Nothing’: Fuller and the Problem of Feminine Virtue,” pp. 32-51.

***Hearts of Darkness: Melville, Conrad, and Narratives of Oppression***

Eds. Pawel Jedrzejko, Milton M. Reigelman, and Zuzanna Szatanik

Zabrze, Poland: M-Studio, 2010.

“‘Unfathomable Cravings’ and ‘Enchanted Heysts’: The Ironic Rescuer in *Pierre* and *Victory*,” pp. 185-200.

***Now Write Nonfiction: Memoir, Journalism and Creative Nonfiction from Today's Best Writers and Teachers***

Ed. Sherry Ellis

New York: Tarcher, 2009.

“Simultaneity: Stepping Out of Line,” pp. 99-105.

***Whole Oceans Away: Melville and the Pacific***

Eds. Christopher Sten, Jill Barnum, and Wyn Kelley

Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2007.

“‘Duty and Profit Hand in Hand’: Melville, Whaling, and the Failure of Heroic Materialism,” pp. 170-182.

***Ungraspable Phantom: Essays on Moby-Dick***

Eds. John Bryant, Mary K. Bercaw Edwards, and Timothy Marr

Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2006.

“‘Deadly Voids and Unbidden Infidelities: Death, Memory and the Law in *Moby-Dick*,” pp. 117-131.

***A Companion to American Fiction, 1865-1914***

Eds. Robert Lamb and G. R. Thompson

Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

“‘An Idea of Order at Concord: Soul and Society in the Mind of Louisa May Alcott,” pp. 451-467.

**ARTICLES, INTRODUCTIONS, PUBLISHED ABSTRACTS,  
AND ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES**

***The Wall Street Journal***

“Building an Earthly Eden.”

A review of Chris Jennings’s book *Paradise Now: The Story of American Utopianism*  
15 January 2016

***Nineteenth-Century Prose***

“Overcoming Fragmentation in *Summer on the Lakes*.”

Volume 42, Number 2 (Fall 2015), pp. 63-92.

***Review of International American Studies***

“Innocence to Experience (and Back Again?): Uncertain Passages through the Intercontinental Looking Glass”

Volume 8:1 (Spring/Summer 2015), pp. 23-45.

***New England Quarterly***

“Finding Private Suhre: On the Trail of Louisa May Alcott’s ‘Prince of Patients.’”

Volume 88:1 (March 2015), pp. 104-125.

***Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies***

“Hershel Parker: *Melville Biography: An Inside Narrative*.” (Book review)

Volume 16:3 (2014), pp. 83-89.

**TheRoot.Com**

“From Slavery to Ferguson: America’s History of Violence Toward Blacks.” An interview concerning slavery in the context of American law and its current influence on today’s attitudes and behaviors. Posted 27 September 2014.

[http://www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2014/09/from\\_slavery\\_to\\_ferguson\\_america\\_s\\_history\\_of\\_violence\\_toward\\_blacks.html](http://www.theroot.com/articles/culture/2014/09/from_slavery_to_ferguson_america_s_history_of_violence_toward_blacks.html)

**Time.Com**

“Slavery Matters More Than Ever.” An essay relating the slave era to more current events, like the Trayvon Martin case and the riots in Ferguson, Missouri. Posted 19 September 2014.

<http://time.com/3403773/slavery-ferguson/>

***America: The National Catholic Review***

“A War of the 1 Percent.”

A review of Bruce Levine’s *The Fall of the House of Dixie: The Civil War and the Social Revolution That Transformed the South*, 22 April 2013.

“Introduction” to *Little Men* by Louisa May Alcott. Signet Classics, 2012.

***The Wall Street Journal***

“Twelve Months of Reading”

Contribution to an invited column, 14 December 2012.

***The Wall Street Journal***

“Five Best Books: Portraits of Pioneering Women”

An invited column for the newspaper’s “Five Best Books” series. 4 February 2012.

“Introduction” to *Hope Leslie, or, Early Times in Massachusetts*, by Catharine Maria Sedgwick. Dover Publications, 2011.

“Introduction” to *Wieland, or, The Transformation*, by Charles Brockden Brown.  
Dover Publications, 2010.

***The Wall Street Journal***

“Frederick Douglass’s Eloquent Autobiography”

An invited essay for the newspaper’s *Masterpieces: Anatomy of a Classic* series. 19 June 2010, p. W16.

***Humanities: The Magazine of the National Endowment for the Humanities***

“Little Woman: The Devilish, Dutiful Daughter Louisa May Alcott.”

An invited article. Volume 30, Number 6 (November/December 2009), pp. 10-13; 53.

***The New York Times***

“Ordinary People”

An invited essay on Barack Obama and Harvard Law School for *The Week in Review*,  
18 January 2009, p. 15.

***Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies***

“A New Race Has Sprung Up”: Prudence, Social Consensus and the Law in “Bartleby the Scrivener”  
Volume 10, Issue 1 (March 2008), pp. 25-49.

***Melville Society Extracts***

“‘A New Race Has Sprung Up’: ‘Bartleby’ and the Prudent Person Standard.”  
Number 129 (July 2005), p. 15.

***Streams of William James*** (A Publication of the William James Society)

“‘The Echo of a Certain Mode of Thought’: William James and the Emerson Centenary Address.”  
Vol. 6, No. 1 (Spring 2004), pp. 11-15.

***Melville Society Extracts***

“‘In the Dust of Wisdom’: Melville and the Search for Transcendent Meaning.”  
Number 124 (February 2003), p. 4.

***Architectural Record***

“Ethics and the Architect: Resolving the Architect’s Dilemma: How We Represent the Interests  
of Our Clients without Betraying Our Own.”

Co-authored with Mary Z. Donovan. October 2002, pp. 96-102.

***CrossCurrents: The Wisdom of the Heart and the Life of the Mind***

“Constructing Ethics and the Ethics of Construction: John Ruskin and the Humanity of the Builder.”  
Vol. 52, No. 3 (Fall 2002), pp. 1-10.

***Streams of William James*** (A Publication of the William James Society)

“‘Their Facts Are Patent and Startling’: William James and Mental Healing  
(Part Two).” Vol. 4, No. 2 (Summer 2002), pp. 1-5.

***Streams of William James*** (A Publication of the William James Society)

“‘Their Facts Are Patent and Startling’: William James and Mental Healing  
(Part One).” Vol. 4, No. 1 (Spring 2002), pp. 2-8.

***New England Quarterly***

“Grave Discussions: The Image of the Sepulchre in Webster, Emerson, and Melville.” Vol. 74, No. 3  
(Sept. 2001), pp. 419-446.

***Walt Whitman: An Encyclopedia***

Entries titled “Clarke, MacDonald”; “*Galaxy*”; “Harris, Thomas Lake”; “Humboldt, Alexander von”;  
“Liebig, Justus”; “Neruda, Pablo”; “Time”; “*West Jersey Press*.” Garland Publishing. New York, 1998.

**Harvard Theological Review**

“The Little Lower Layer: Anxiety and the Courage to Be in *Moby-Dick*.” Vol. 81, No. 1 (Jan. 1988), pp. 97-116.

**FILM*****The Literature and Law of American Slavery***

A Massive Open Online Course that I wrote and delivered under the auspices of John Jay Online, Fall 2014.

***Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Who Wrote Little Women***

I served as a consultant and on-camera commentator for this documentary film, directed by Harriet Reisen and produced by Nancy Porter Productions. It has received the Grand Award of the Providence (Rhode Island) Film Festival and appeared on PBS in December 2009 as part of the acclaimed *American Masters* series.

**WORK IN PROGRESS****“A Place Worse than Hell”: The Battle of Fredericksburg in American Culture”**

This book, which is under contract with W. W. Norton, Inc., is to be completed by 2017.

**CONFERENCE PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND ADDRESSES**

**Autobiography as Education: Adams and Beyond.** 9 January 2016. I co-organized and chaired this panel, presented to the Modern Language Association under the auspices of the GS Committee on Life Writing and the Committee on Late Nineteenth-Century America. Austin, Texas.

**“Little Women: A Book Among Books.”** 2 November 2015. An invited lecture delivered at the Boston Athenaeum in conjunction with an exhibit of books that Louisa May Alcott selected from the Athenaeum’s collections. Boston, Massachusetts.

**“Louisa May Alcott: Subversive Advocate for Women’s Reform.”** 17 July 2015. A lecture delivered at Concord NEH 2015: “Transcendentalism and Reform in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller.” Concord, Massachusetts.

**Aspects of *The Confidence-Man*.** 28 June 2015. I moderated this panel at Melville in a Global Context: The Tenth International Conference of the Melville Society. Tokyo, Japan.

***Melville and Other Writers.*** 27 June 2015. I moderated this panel at “Melville in a Global Context: The Tenth International Conference of the Melville Society. Tokyo, Japan.

***Is Biography True?*** 24 March 2015. An invited panel discussion with Ron Chernow and Stacy Schiff, sponsored by the Center for the Study of Transformative Lives and the NYU Biography Seminar and moderated by James Atlas. New York, New York.

**"Mine are Well-Spent Days: Margaret Fuller and the Re-Invention of American Womanhood."** 18 November 2014. An invited lecture at the Center for the Study of Transformative Lives, New York, New York.

**"The Lives of Margaret Fuller: A Biography."** 23 September 2014. An invited lecture and reading at the National Arts Club, New York, New York.

**"The Mind in the Full Glow of Power': Margaret Fuller and the Problem of Female Genius."** 17 July 2014. An invited lecture delivered at the 2014 Summer Conversation Series at Orchard House, Concord, Massachusetts.

**"Getting It Right: From the Proposal to the Last Word."** 17 May 2014. A panel with Anne C. Heller, Kai Bird, and Neal Gabler at the Fifth Annual Compleat Biographer Conference of the Biographers International Association. Boston, Massachusetts.

**"And Then What?': Creating Suspense in Biography."** 17 May 2014. A panel with Gayle Feldman, John Aloysius Farrell, and Carla Kaplan at the Fifth Annual Compleat Biographer Conference of the Biographers International Association. Boston, Massachusetts.

**"Self and Society: An Emersonian Reflection."** 3 April 2014. An invited lecture delivered to the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood. Ridgewood, New Jersey.

**"Louisa May and the Influential Mr. Alcott."** 20 August 2013. An invited lecture delivered at Ventfort Hall. Lenox, Massachusetts.

**"Innocence to Experience (and Back Again?): Uncertain Passages through the Intercontinental Looking-Glass."** 4 August 2013. A keynote address delivered at Oceans Apart: In Search of New Wor(l)ds: The Sixth World Congress of the International American Studies Association. Szczecin, Poland.

**"Margaret Fuller: First American Feminist."** 20 July 2013. A lecture delivered at Concord NEH 2013: "Transcendentalism and Social Action in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller." Concord, Massachusetts.

**"Louisa May Alcott: Subversive Advocate for Women's Reform."** 19 July 2013. A lecture delivered at Concord NEH 2013: "Transcendentalism and Social Action in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller." Concord, Massachusetts.

**"Innocence and Experience: Alcott, Moods, and the Emersonian Prism."** 18 July 2013. A lecture delivered at the 2013 Summer Conversation Series at Orchard House, Concord, Massachusetts.

**"Interesting . . . Difficult': Turning Risk into Play in the Writing of an Alcott Biography."** 15 June 2013. A conference paper delivered at the Fortieth Annual Conference of the Children's Literature Association. Biloxi, Mississippi.

**"The Core of Fire Below': Extra-Human Force and the Twilight of the Individual in *Battle-Pieces*."** 5 June 2013. A conference paper delivered at the Ninth International Conference of the Melville Society, "Melville and Whitman in Washington, DC: The Civil War and After." George Washington University, Washington, DC.

**“With a Firm Faith in the Good Time Coming’: The Civil War and Louisa May Alcott’s Errand of Redemption.”** 5 June 2013. A conference paper delivered at the Ninth International Conference of the Melville Society, “Melville and Whitman in Washington, DC: The Civil War and After.” George Washington University, Washington, DC.

**“One Can Discuss Greek Poetry and Chop Meat’: Margaret Fuller, Louisa May Alcott, and the Transformation of American Womanhood.”** 3 June 2013. An invited talk to the Retirees’ Chapter of PSC-CUNY at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York.

**“Some Ideal Image of the Man and His Mind’: Melville and Biography.”** 16 April 2013. A public conversation with John L. Bryant, Professor of English, Hofstra University.

**“To Kindle a Fire for the Mind’: Bronson Alcott and the Educational Culture of Family.”** 4 April 2013. An invited lecture in a series on the Alcott family (also including presentations by Eve LaPlante and Jan Turnquist) at New North Church, Hingham, Massachusetts.

**“Writing across the Gender Line: How One Man Found Success and Happiness Writing about Women.”** 3 April 2013. An invited lecture at Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

**“One Can Discuss Greek Poetry and Chop Meat’: Margaret Fuller, Louisa May Alcott, and the Transformation of American Womanhood.”** 22 March 2013. An invited lecture at the Lone Star College, Kingwood Campus, Houston, Texas.

**“One Can Discuss Greek Poetry and Chop Meat’: Margaret Fuller, Louisa May Alcott, and the Transformation of American Womanhood.”** 21 March 2013. An invited lecture, with an accompanying talk for teachers, at the Lone Star College, Cy-Fair Campus, Houston, Texas.

**“Writing the American Renaissance.”** 18 March 2013. I moderated and contributed to this invited panel, which included Jeffrey S. Cramer (editor of *The Annotated Walden*), Pulitzer Prize finalist Megan Marshall (author of *The Peabody Sisters*), and Bancroft Prize winner David S. Reynolds (author of *Walt Whitman’s America: A Cultural Biography*). New York, New York

**“Giuseppe Verdi and Richard Wagner: A Bicentennial Retrospective.”** 6 February 2013. I served as moderator for this public presentation of the Leon Levy Center for Biography, featuring Will Berger, Mitchell Cohen, Gwen D’Amico, and Helen Greenwald. New York, New York.

**“Prose and Proposals: The Technical Aspects of Writing Biographies.”** 24 and 25 January 2013. A pair of lectures delivered at the inaugural Leon Levy Center Biographers’ Clinic, hosted by Gary Giddins. New York, New York.

**“Louisa and Me and Margaret Makes Three: Empathy and Interpretation in the Writing of Biography.”** 3 January 2013. A conference paper delivered at “The Boundaries of Biography: A Genre at the Crossroads,” a special session at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association. Boston, Massachusetts.

**“The Boundaries of Biography: A Genre at the Crossroads.”** 3 January 2013. I served as moderator for this special session at the annual conference of the Modern Language Association. Boston, Massachusetts.

**“On the Ethics of Biography: A Panel Discussion.”** 10 December 2012. A public event of the Leon Levy Center for Biography with Carol Levine, Benjamin Anastas, and Gary Giddins. New York, New York.

**“How Is It That I Seem to Be This Margaret Fuller?’ Fuller, Romanticism, and the Life of the Spirit.”** 17 November 2012. The keynote address at “Forging Identities Through the Humanities,” a conference of the Community College Humanities Association, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

**“Fuller and Alcott: What They Can Teach about Teaching.”** 15 November 2012. An invited Gotham Center Lecture for Teachers delivered at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, New York.

**“Becoming Margaret Fuller: An Introduction to the First Lady of Transcendentalism.”** 21 August 2012. An invited lecture at Ventfort Hall, Lenox, Massachusetts.

**“‘Something Fatal in My Destiny’: An introduction to *The Lives of Margaret Fuller*.”** 14 August 2012. An invited lecture at the Princeton Club of New York, New York, New York.

**“Mystic Sprites and German Knights: Interweaving the Mythic Feminine and the Ordering Masculine in *Little Women* and the Writings of Margaret Fuller.”** 15 July 2012. An invited paper, followed by a panel discussion with John Stauffer and George Stoneham at a joint session of the Thoreau Society and the Alcott Summer Conversation Series, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Alcott, Fuller, and Reform.”** 13 and 18 July 2012. An invited presentation as Scholar-in-Residence at the National Endowment of the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History and Culture program: Concord, Massachusetts: A Center of Transcendentalism and Social Action in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Visions of America: The Boston Pops Salute the Red, White and Blue.”** 26 May 2012. An on-stage appearance with the Boston Pops Orchestra to commemorate the centennial of Louisa May Alcott’s Orchard House. Boston, Massachusetts.

**“The Arrival of the ‘Queen’: Solving a Textual Mystery in *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.”** 24 May 2012. An invited paper at a panel titled “The Lives of Margaret Fuller” (in honor of my book of the same name) at the annual convention of the American Literature Association, San Francisco, California.

**“The Lives of Margaret Fuller.”** 3 May 2012. Annual Conrad Wright Lecture of the Unitarian-Universalist History and Heritage Society. Newton Center, Massachusetts.

**“Louisa May Alcott’s Centennial: Celebrating 100 Years of What We Know and Love — Or Do We?”** 21 April 2012. Respondent. Spring 2012 Conference of the New England Historical Association. Nashua, New Hampshire.

Discussant, **“Ethnographies of Violence: Writing the Familiar.”** 20 April 2012. *Anthropologists Engage the World*, a conference of the American Ethnological Society, New York, NY.

**“Evolutions in Jurisprudence.”** 30 March 2012. Session moderator. Third Biennial Literature and Law Conference at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY.

**“Crossing the Line: Men Who Write about Women, Women Who Write about Men.”** 29 March 2012. I moderated and contributed to this invited panel, which included Brad Gooch (author of *Flannery: A Life of Flannery O’Connor*), Pulitzer Prize finalist Sylvia Nasar (author of *A Beautiful Mind*), and Pulitzer Prize winner Debby Applegate (author of *The Most Famous Man in America: The Biography of Henry Ward Beecher*).

**“Who Is This Margaret Fuller?”** 22 March 2012. An invited lecture to the New York State Writers’ Institute, Albany, New York.

**“‘One Can Discuss Greek Poetry and Chop Meat’: Reflections on Margaret Fuller and Louisa May Alcott, Two Women for the Ages.”** 15 March 2012. An invited lecture, with an accompanying talk for teachers, at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

**“My Heart Is A Large Kingdom”:** An Introduction to Margaret Fuller. 12 March 2012. An invited lecture at the Westport Public Library, Westport Connecticut.

**“Orchard House and the Power of Place.”** 29 January 2012. An invited keynote address to the centennial meeting of the Louisa May Alcott Association, Concord, Massachusetts.



**“Violently Virtuous’: Louisa May Alcott and Her Circle of Reform.”** 29 October 2011. An invited talk at the Hingham Public Library, Hingham, Massachusetts.

**“A Very Sweet Doctrine’: Mapping the Spectrum of Cultural Optimism in *Little Women* and *The Secret Garden*.”** 29 July 2011. An invited talk delivered at “*The Secret Garden: A Centenary Conference*,” Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

**“The World is Full of Work’: The Alcotts, Margaret Fuller and Reform.”** 15 and 22 July 2011. An invited presentation as Scholar-in-Residence at the National Endowment of the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History and Culture program: Concord, Massachusetts: A Center of Transcendentalism and Social Action in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Concord, Massachusetts.

Session Moderator, **“The Melville Text: Alternative Modes.”** 24 June 2011 *Melville and Rome: Empire, Democracy, Belief, Art*, an international conference of the Melville Society, Rome, Italy.

**“Instincts ... Beyond his Thinking Powers’’: Melville, Fuller, and Pio Nono.”** 22 June 2011. A conference paper given at *Melville and Rome: Empire, Democracy, Belief, Art*, an international conference of the Melville Society, Rome, Italy.

**“The Alcotts as a Transcendental Family.”** 13 March 2011. An invited talk delivered at the Friends of CSI Literary Brunch, for the benefit of the College of Staten Island Library. Staten Island, New York.

**“Full Circle: An Introduction to Richard Francis and *Fruitlands*.”** 13 November 2010. Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts.

**“These Beautiful Limits’: Emerson and ‘Experience.’”** 8 November 2010. An invited reading and conversation at Shelter Rock Church, New York, New York.

**“Clouded by Secret Sin’: Margaret Fuller and the Darker Side of *Woman in the Nineteenth Century*.”**

7 November 2010. An invited lecture delivered at Arlington Street Unitarian-Universalist Church, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“Radical Times, Radical Minds: Eddy and the Alcotts.”** 28 October 2010. A live web forum with Jonathon Eder and Lisa Stepanski for the Mary Baker Eddy Library.

**“One of the Fair Saints’: Bronson Alcott and Mary Baker Eddy.”** 19 October 2010. An invited presentation at “Radical Minds, Radical Times: Eddy and the Alcotts,” a panel discussion at the Mary Baker Eddy Library, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“To Kindle a Fire for the Mind’: The Alcotts and the Culture of Education.”** 16 and 23 July 2010. An invited presentation as Scholar-in-Residence at the National Endowment of the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History and Culture program: Concord, Massachusetts: A Center of Transcendentalism and Social Action in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Concord, Massachusetts.

**“The Summary of All Gifts’: The Educations of Margaret Fuller and Louisa May Alcott.”** 11 July 2010. An invited talk, followed by a panel discussion: “What Were We Born to Do? The New Women of the Transcendental Era,” with Helen Deese, Megan Marshall, and Phyllis Cole. Presented at the Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Experiences of the Deepest Interest’: The Alcotts at Fruitlands.”** 13 June 2010. An invited talk delivered at the Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, Massachusetts.

**“In the Face of Cruellest Facts’: Margaret Fuller, Working Girls, and the Trouble with Chastity.”** 27 May 2010. An invited paper, delivered to the Louisa May Alcott Society at a conference of the American Literature Association, San Francisco, California.

**“Speak, Memory: Getting Biographies to Tell the Truth.”** 20 May 2010. An invited paper at a conference of C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, State College, Pennsylvania.

- “Fragments of Destiny’: Sex, Chastity, and Margaret Fuller.”** 11 May 2010. An invited lecture delivered at the Center for Independent Publishing, New York, New York.
- “Interesting ... Difficult’: Getting a Book Contract in the Current Market.”** 11 May 2010. An invited panel discussion with Mary Gibson, Maki Haberfeld, and Gerald Markowitz. John Jay College, CUNY, New York, New York.
- “Monster Throwdown: Vampires, Werewolves, and Alcott.”** Invited panel discussion with Lynn Messina and Porter Grand, 6 May 2010. Symphony Space, New York, New York.
- “The Alcotts as a Transcendental Family.”** 5 May 2010. An invited talk delivered at the Unitarian Church of Summit, Summit, New Jersey.
- “The Terrible Freedom’: Law, Literature, and the Struggle for the Soul in the Age of Emerson.”** 16 April 2010. An invited keynote address delivered at the second biennial Literature and Law Conference, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York.
- “Woes ... of Which We Know Nothing’: Fuller and the Problem of Feminine Virtue.”** 9 April 2010. An invited paper delivered at Margaret Fuller and Her Circles, a conference of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.
- “Why Orchard House Matters Now.”** 31 January 2010. An invited talk delivered to the Louisa May Alcott Association at Trinity Church, Concord, Massachusetts.
- “Toward the Celestial Country’: An Introduction to Bronson, Louisa, and *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 3 December 2009. An invited talk delivered at the Redwood Library and Athenaeum, Newport, Rhode Island.
- “In Preparation for the New Fire’: The Politicization of Margaret Fuller.”** 19 November 2009. An invited lecture delivered to the Columbia University Faculty Seminar on American Studies. New York, New York.
- “Emerson and Experience.”** 12 November 2009. An invited reading and conversation at All Souls Unitarian-Universalist Church, New York, New York.
- “If You Build It: A Retrospective on *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 9 October 2009. An invited lecture delivered at the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center, Hartford, Connecticut.
- “Alcotts 101: An Introduction to Bronson, Louisa, and *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 21 September 2009. An invited talk delivered at the City College Center for Worker Education, CUNY, New York, New York.
- “Toward the Celestial Country’: The Alcotts as a Transcendental Family.”** 10 August 2009. An invited presentation at Books and Authors 2009, a lecture series at Edith Wharton’s The Mount, Lenox, Massachusetts.
- “To Kindle a Fire for the Mind’: The Alcotts and the Culture of Education.”** 17 and 24 July 2009. An invited presentation as Scholar-in-Residence at the National Endowment of the Humanities’ Landmarks of American History and Culture program: Concord, Massachusetts: A Center of Transcendentalism and Social Action in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Concord, Massachusetts.
- “Transcendentalists in the Abolition Movement.”** 13 July 2009. A panel discussion with Joel Myerson, Ron Bosco, and Len Gougeon. Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.
- “Equal to Anything He Dares’: Bronson Alcott and John Brown.”** 13 July 2009. Delivered at the Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.
- “Waldo on the Common, Margaret on the Stairs: The Origins of the Transcendental Self.”** 12 July 2009. An invited paper, followed by a panel discussion with Lawrence Buell, John Stauffer, and Daniel

Malachuk at a joint session of the Thoreau Society and the Alcott Summer Conversation Series, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Most Careful Bravery’: Thoreau and the Problem of Prudence in Antebellum Reform.”** 11 July 2009. The Dana S. Brigham Memorial Keynote Address, delivered to the Thoreau Society, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Factualizing the Fiction: Reconstructing the Alcotts on Film.”** Remarks delivered at “Roundtable: Making the Documentary *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*.” 23 May 2009. An invited panel discussion organized by the Louisa May Alcott Society for a conference of the American Literature Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“Follow Your Leader: Teaching “Benito Cereno” in a Law and Literature Elective.”** Remarks delivered at “‘Past, Present, and Future Seemed One’: Approaches to Teaching Melville.” 21 May 2009. An invited panel discussion organized by the Melville Society for a conference of the American Literature Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“Writing the Second Act: Reflections at a Crossroads.”** 17 May 2009. An invited address delivered at the induction ceremony of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of the Columbia University School of General Studies. New York, New York.

**“Literary Biography for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.”** 26 March 2009. An invited presentation with Benita Eisler at *New Forms: Biography for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, the First Annual Conference on Biography at the Leon Levy Center for Biography. New York, New York.

**“The Alcotts and Their World.”** 22 March 2009. An invited lecture and reading presented at “Writing Massachusetts: A Literary Festival.” Hingham Public Library, Hingham, Massachusetts.

**“Interesting. ... Difficult’: The Writing of *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 15 March 2009. An invited lecture delivered to the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York.

**“Ring Out the New; Ring In the Old: Revolutionary Virtue in Alcott’s *An Old-Fashioned Girl*.”** 9 February 2009. An invited lecture delivered to the Peter Minuit chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Fraunces Tavern, New York, New York.

**“The Pure Hope of Giving ... Pleasure’: May Alcott, John Ruskin and the Moral Aesthetic.”** 6 December 2008. An invited lecture delivered at the Concord Free Public Library in conjunction with the exhibit “*Lessons, Sketching, and Her Dreams*”: *May Alcott as Artist*. Concord, Massachusetts.

**“The University We Make: An Address to the New Faculty of CUNY.”** 29 October 2008. An invited address at the New York Historical Society, New York, New York.

**“The Pulitzer and I.”** 21 October 2008. An invited address in the 2008-09 President’s Lecture Series on the Pulitzer Prizes at Dominican College, Orangeburg, New York.

**“I Love the Part about the Lilacs’: A Stroll through *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 7 October 2008. An invited lecture and reading to the Princeton Association of New York City. New York, New York.

**“An Eloquent Beginning.”** 22 September 2008. An invited reading at the Leon Levy Center for Biography at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, New York, New York.

**“I Have a Religion in This Business’: Bronson Alcott and the Gardens of Orchard House.”** 21 September 2008. An invited lecture delivered at the Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Louisa and Bronson Alcott: The Father-Daughter Bond.”** 20 September 2008. An invited lecture delivered at a screening of *Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women*. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“Why the Alcotts? Why Now?”** 11 September 2008. An invited lecture delivered at the Cosmos Club, Washington, DC.

**“A Larger Synthesis of Spirits’: An Introduction to the Alcotts.”** 16 August 2008. An invited lecture and reading delivered as part of the Community Read celebration at the Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca, New York.

**“The Reverent Naturalist, the Devout Divine’: Bronson Alcott and the Spirit of the Republican Gardener.”** 17 July 2008. Delivered at the Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Hitherto Unexplored Crypts of Psychology’: The Alcotts and the Spiritual Healing Movement.”** 24 May 2008. Delivered at the conference of the American Literature Association, San Francisco, California.

**“Weaving the Golden Band.”** 7 January 2008. An invited talk with the staff of Orchard House, the Home of the Alcotts, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Unfathomable Cravings’ and ‘Enchanted Heysts’: The Ironic Rescuer in *Pierre* and *Victory*.”** 6 August 2007. Delivered at *Hearts of Darkness: Melville and Conrad in the Space of World Culture, A Conference of the Melville Society*, Szczecin, Poland.

Session Moderator, **“Etymologies, Symmetries, and the Absent Presence.”** 5 August 2007. *Hearts of Darkness: Melville and Conrad in the Space of World Culture, A Conference of the Melville Society*, Szczecin, Poland.

**“Excerpts and Illuminations: A Stroll through *Eden’s Outcasts*.”** 17 July 2007. Delivered at Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“An ‘Indelible Scroll’: Bronson Alcott’s Journals on the Early Childhoods of Anna and Louisa.”** 11 July 2006. Delivered at Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Little Feminine Weapons’: Reassessing the Realist Woman Writer.”** 2 December 2005. Delivered at *Reframing the Real: Recent (Re)Visions of American Realism* at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, New York.

**“A New Race Has Sprung Up’: ‘Bartleby’ and the Prudent Person Standard.”** 11 November 2005. Delivered at the conference of the American Society for Legal History, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Session Chair, **“Women Writers as Observers/Critics.”** 25 September 2005. *Antebellum American Women Writers and the City: A Conference of the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society*, Fordham University, Bronx, New York.

**“Family as School, School as Family: The Alcotts and the Subculture of Education.”** 13 July 2005. Delivered at Summer Conversation Series, Concord School of Philosophy, Concord, Massachusetts.

**“Insurrection on the Lonely Billows’: The Ocean as a Contested Emblem of Liberty in the Work of Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville.”** 25 June 2005. Delivered at *Herman Melville/Frederick Douglass: A Conference of the Melville Society*, New Bedford, Massachusetts.

**“A New Race Has Sprung Up’: ‘Bartleby’ and the Prudent Person Standard.”** 26 May 2005. Delivered at the conference of the American Literature Association, Boston, Massachusetts.

**“An Idea of Order at Concord: The Origins of Louisa May Alcott’s Feminist Vision.”** 13 April 2005. Delivered at the CUNY Graduate Center, New York, New York.

**“Thir Gibrish Lawes’: Milton, the Norman Yoke, and the Guilt of the Colonized Subject.”** 14 June 2003. Delivered at *Guilt: A Conference on Law and the Humanities*, University of New England, Portland, Maine.

**“Duty and Profit Hand in Hand’: Melville, Whaling, and the Failure of Heroic Materialism.”** 3 June 2003. Delivered at *Whole Oceans Away*, an international conference of the Melville Society, Ka’anapali, Hawaii.

**“In the Dust of Wisdom’: Melville and the Search for Transcendent Meaning.”** 28 December 2002. Delivered at the convention of the Modern Language Association, New York, New York.

**“Constructing Ethics and the Ethics of Construction: John Ruskin and the Humanity of the Builder.”**

6 April 2002. Delivered at *Ethics and Architecture*, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, New York, New York.

**“Deadly Voids and Unbidden Infidelities’: Death, Memory, and the Law in *Moby-Dick*.”** 19

October 2001. Delivered at *Moby-Dick 2001: An Interdisciplinary Celebration*, Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York.

**“Reflections on the Sublime and the Images of Crime and Punishment.”** A Response to Professor Sara Knox’s “A World Made of Glass: Crime, Culture and Community in an Age of Hypermedia.” 11 April 2000. Delivered at the *Conference on Law and the Humanities*, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, New York.

**“Grave Discussions: The Image of the Sepulchre in Webster, Emerson, and Melville.”** 9 March 2000. Columbia University Faculty Seminar on American Civilization, New York, New York.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**1997 – Present**      **Department of English, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY**

I am currently a distinguished professor at John Jay, where I have served as the Faculty Director of the Honors Program and have taught the following courses:

**College Composition** — Introducing first-year students to the fundamentals of composition and basic methods of research and argument, placing a strong emphasis on the mastery of grammar.

**College Composition and the Common Good** — An interdisciplinary Honors course in college composition stressing the mechanics of writing and the basics of research and argument, with an emphasis on the Common Good as it relates to the institution of the family.

**Radical Individualism vs. The Common Good** — A second-semester writing-intensive course for first-year Honors students, addressing the contested and conflicting values of individualism and communitarianism in contemporary America.

**Aspects of the Hero in Modern European Literature** — Spanning three centuries and a variety of genres, this course invites students to explore the changing images of hero and anti-hero in European literature since the Enlightenment.

**Ideas of Human Conduct in Early Modern European Literature** — Ranging chronologically from Dante to Molière, this course focuses on drama and epic poetry, placing emphasis on issues of ethics, belief, and behavior.

**Literature of Crime and Punishment**—Representations of the prisoner in twentieth-century fiction, with emphasis on concepts of surveillance, personality, loss and redemption.

**Classical Literature**—A survey of the early Western tradition from Homer to Seneca.

**Constructions of the Self in American Literature**—A survey of the literature of the United States from the Puritans to Kurt Vonnegut, emphasizing the creation through narrative of American identities.

**American Literature and the Law**—An in-depth investigation of slavery and segregation in America, seen through the twin perspectives of 19th-century legal and literary culture.

**Legal Writing**—An introduction to the craft of writing in the legal profession, with emphasis on legal reasoning, argumentation, and the art of persuasive legal prose.

**The Bildungsroman in England and America**—A course in Anglo-American literature since 1865, dealing with fictional, autobiographical, and cinematic coming-of-age narratives.

**The Epic: Deeds and Destinies**—An honors course in the genre of the epic poem from Homer to Milton.

**The Post-Modern Era in Fiction and Drama**—An honors course devoted to Western literature in the post-World War II era.

I have also taught the following graduate seminars at the CUNY Graduate Center:

**American Women's Writing, 1637-1913** — An investigation of the written legacy of American women prior to the twentieth century, with an emphasis on reform writing and the sentimental novel.

**Biography as Genre** — An exploration of the art of biographical prose from 1791 to the present, with an emphasis on the poetics of biography.

1999

**Department of English, Fordham University, Bronx, NY**

As an adjunct, I taught composition to first-year students.

1993 – 2001

**Columbia University, New York, NY**

I taught the following courses.

**Columbia College:**

**Logic and Rhetoric**—This course introduces first-year college students to the discipline of academic writing, emphasizing grammar and argumentative structure while encouraging students to develop their use of inductive method.

**Columbia School of General Studies:**

**College Composition**—This course introduces first-year students to the fundamentals of composition and basic methods of research and argument, while preparing them for more sophisticated inquiries into literature. I used a broad variety of materials, ranging from advertising copy to lyric poems, to help students in their analysis of written expression.

**Introduction to Literary Study: American Literature**—Readings spanned from Puritan America to the present day. Students became conversant both in concepts of genre and in major recurrent themes in American literature, including freedom and captivity, nature and civilization, the struggles of women and minorities, and the definition of the American self.

**Master of Arts in Liberal Sciences Program:**

**Introduction to American Studies**—This course introduces beginning master’s degree candidates to the study of American culture. Emphasizing literature, law, visual arts, and music, the course considers the problem of individual freedom in the decades of the 1850s and 1950s.

**Serrano Scholars Bridge Program:**

**Introduction to College Composition**—Taught as part of a special program to prepare minority B.A. candidates for the study of international and public affairs, this course introduces disadvantaged students to collegiate academic writing.

**1996 – 1998 Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), Columbia University**

**Introduction to Composition**—For three summers, I taught a course in the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), which assists disadvantaged students in preparing for collegiate academic work. The class features an intensive review of basic grammar and also requires a series of short papers, intended to prompt students to think about narrative voice and poetic forms.

**1986 Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA**

**Legal Writing**—I served as teaching assistant to Professor George Gopen in his legal writing course.

### RECENT SERVICE (SELECTED)

**2014 – Present Committee on GS Life Writing, The Modern Language Association**  
Secretary, 2016

**2011 – 2013 Deputy Director, Leon Levy Center for Biography**  
Liaison between the Levy Center and the City University of New York. Responsible for joint programs and events and for coordination of review of fellowship applications.

**2010 – 2012 Faculty Director, John Jay College Honors Program**  
Responsible for admissions process, development of curriculum, staffing of courses, fund-raising outreach, revision of Honors mandate.

### OTHER EMPLOYMENT

**1988 – 1991 Maupin, Taylor, Ellis & Adams, Raleigh, NC**  
Attorney at law.

**1987 – 1988 Titchell, Maltzman, Mark, Bass, Ohleyer & Mishel, San Francisco, CA**  
Attorney at law.

**1986 – 1987 United States District Court, Elizabeth City, NC**  
Law Clerk to the Honorable Terrence W. Boyle, U.S. District Judge. Eastern District of North Carolina.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

- 2009-2010 Leon Levy Center for Biography Fellowship, Graduate Center, City University of New York
- 2002-2003 PSC-CUNY Fellowship

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association  
 The Melville Society (Treasurer, 2006 – 2008)  
 The Louisa May Alcott Society (Member, Advisory Board, 2008 –)  
 The Louisa May Alcott Association (Member of the Corporation, 2009 –)  
 Biographers International Organization (Member, Advisory Council, 2010 –)  
 Massachusetts Historical Society (Fellow, 2011 –)  
 The William James Society  
 The Century Association, New York, NY  
 The National Arts Club, New York, NY  
 The Cosmos Club, Washington, DC

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Pulitzer Prize in Biography or Autobiography, 2008  
 Honors Book in Nonfiction, Massachusetts Book Awards, 2008-09  
 Honorary Member, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, John Jay College Chapter, 2010  
 Distinguished Faculty Award, John Jay College Alumni Association, 2011  
 Dean's Award for Distinguished Achievement by a Ph.D. Alumnus/a, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2011  
 Ann M. Sperber Award for Biography of a Journalist or Major Media Figure, 2012  
 Plutarch Award for Best Biography, 2013 (named finalist)  
 PEN/Weld Prize for Biography, 2013 (named finalist)

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

Juror, 2015-16 Ann M. Sperber Awards for Biography  
 Juror, 2012 NEH Fellowships, administered by the Massachusetts Historical Society  
 Juror, 2010 Pulitzer Prize in Biography or Autobiography  
 Judge, 2009 Dashiell Hammett Prize for Best Literary Crime Novel  
 Advisory Committee Member, American Library Association Public Program on Louisa May Alcott