

OLIVIA MILROY EVANS

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EMPLOYMENT

The Joseph F. Martino '53 Lecturer in Undergraduate Teaching, Department of Literatures in English,
Cornell University (2021 – 2022)

EDUCATION

Cornell University, PhD in English (August 2021)

Concentration: Contemporary Transnational American Literature, Poetry and Poetics, Rhetoric
Committee: Roger Gilbert (chair), Jonathan Culler, Ishion Hutchinson, Caroline Levine

The University of Virginia, MA in English (May 2016)

Concentration: 19 – 20th Century Literature

Thesis: “The Ekphrastic Poetry of Tourism,” Professor Stephen Cushman, advisor

Wake Forest University, BA in English (May 2011)

Honors in English, Magna Cum Laude, with a minor in Classical Studies

DISSERTATION

“Archiving Otherwise: Contemporary Documentary Poetry”

This dissertation considers how the documentary mode transforms poetic forms in twenty-first-century book-length poems. The recent “archival turn” has produced a surge in research-based poetry that uses documents like court cases, medical records, and news clippings as the “raw material of poetry.”

Documentary poets like Claudia Rankine, Anne Carson, M. NourbeSe Philip, and Solmaz Sharif write both with and against the archive: gathering counter-archives or turning the language of the state against itself. Even when it fictionalizes, documentary makes claims about the world; it asserts language’s power to constitute collectivities and influence action. Reading post-9/11 North American poetry, this project gives an account of documentary poetic innovation in forms like elegy, sonnets sequences, and ekphrasis.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Scholarship

“Ekphrasis as Evidence: Forensic Rhetoric in Contemporary Documentary Poetry,” *Word & Image: A Journal of Verbal/Visual Enquiry*, 37.2 (2021): 142-151.

“Archive as Underworld in the Modern Long Poem,” *Callaloo: A Journal of African Diaspora Arts and Letters*, 41.2 (2018): 44–58, forthcoming.

Reviews and Public Writing

“Archival Assemblages: Conceptualism and Documentary Poetics in the Twenty-First Century,” Book Review on *Contested Records: The Turn to Documents in Contemporary North American Poetry* by Michael Leong (Iowa University Press, 2020), for *Contemporary Literature*, forthcoming.

“Activist Documentary Poetics: On Susan Briante’s *Defacing the Monument*,” under review at *Jacket2*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Joseph F. Martino '53 Lecturer in Undergraduate Teaching, Cornell University, 2021 – 2022

English 2890 Expository Writing: “Living with Death,” Spring 2022 (scheduled)

Addresses perspectives on death from philosophy, psychology, medicine, literature, film, and tv (*Antigone*, *The Good Place*). We move from personal mourning to public memorials (archives, monuments) and end with political death and climate crisis. Students write personal narratives, oral histories, multimedia public essays, and create an annotated digital map of monuments.

First-Year Writing Seminar Instructor, Cornell University, 2017 – Present

“Traveling Poetry: Diaspora & Tourism,” Spring 2022 (scheduled, part two of two-part survey)
Places the poetry of diaspora (exile, the Middle Passage, immigration, and migration) in conversation with the poetry of tourism (from the Grand Tour to the modern vacation). Is tourism always voyeuristic? Is reading a kind of tourism? Treating writing a vehicle for thought rather than a destination, we practice moving through ideas and across drafts.

“Traveling Poetry: Conquest & Pilgrimage,” Fall 2021 (part one of two-part survey)
From tales of meandering conquest in Homer to Dante’s underworld, poetry ferries readers across time and space. Beginning with *The Odyssey*, Part One of this two-part course (each can be taken separately) interrogates narratives of discovery in poetry about colonization (*The Tempest*, Hart Crane) and pilgrimages both earthly (Chaucer) and otherworldly (Dante). We’ll compare the sonnet’s epiphany to narratives of discovery and epic’s authority to manifest destiny.

“Documentary, Now?,” Spring 2021 (online course during COVID19), Fall 2021
Designed with generous support from the Shin Yong-Jin Fellowship.
As both art and argument, documentary models investigative, citational, interpretive, and aesthetic practice. We discuss the recent surge in documentary to ask: What is the relationship between propaganda and data? What counts as evidence? Whose voices are heard and whose are silenced? Students gather oral histories, write film reviews, and create their own documentary poem, essay, podcast, or film for our [class blog](#).

“Dramedy from Ancient Greece to NBC,” Fall 2018
Considered how genre-bending plays, novels, films, and TV shows walk the line between drama and comedy. Who gets to laugh and at whom? How do texts adapt or parody other genres? What is the role of race and gender in comedy? [Students write](#) essays, reviews, and creative pieces.

“The Mystery in the Story,” Fall 2017, Spring 2018
Course explored the tropes, conventions, narrative structures of mystery from Sophocles to Ishiguro. Assignments aimed to demystify academic writing and develop students’ unique voices.

Writing 7100: “Teaching Writing,” Co-facilitator: Jessica Sands, The Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University, Summer 2019
Intensive course preparing graduate students to teach First-Year Writing seminars. Led discussion and provided individualized feedback on course syllabi, assignment sequences, and activities.

Upper School Literature and Rhetoric Teacher, Ad Fontes Academy, Centreville, VA, 2011 – 2014
Designed and taught five concurrent preps emphasizing analytical writing and discussion-based classes at a classical school. Collaboratively developed curricular requirements and assessment standards for composition and literature courses for grades 7 through 12. Served in administrative role as founder and co-director of a schoolwide House System.

Courses designed and taught:

- Contemporary Literature, 7th grade (2011 – 2014)
- Ancient Literature, 8th grade (2012–2014)
- European Literature, 10th grade (2011 – 2014)
- American Literature, 11th grade (2011 – 2014)
- Great Books, 12th grade (2011 – 2014)
- Creative Writing Elective (2013 – 2014)
- Rhetoric I, 11th grade (2011 –2013)
- Introduction to Epic Poetry for Entering Students (Summer 2013)

Writing and Public Speaking Instructor, Four Star Camps, Charlottesville, VA, Summer 2016
Designed and taught Academic Writing, Public Speaking, and Critical Reading courses for college-prep program.

Creative Writing Instructor, Learning Support Ministry, Centreville, VA, Summer 2014
Designed and led creative writing workshop for English language learners.

Teaching Assistant

Cornell University

ENGL 2080: “Shakespeare in the 20 and 21st Centuries,” Professor Stuart Davis, Spring 2019

The University of Virginia

SOC 1010: “Intro to Sociology,” Professor Paul Kingston, 3 sections, Spring 2015

ARCH 2050: “Global Sustainability,” Professor Carla Jones, 1 section, Fall 2014

Guest Lecturer

Teaching Mentorship with Caroline Levine, Department of English, Cornell University, Spring 2020

Gave a guest lecture on “The (In)Hospitality of Tourism in Jamaica Kincaid’s *A Small Place*” for 2000-level course, “The Idea of Hospitality.” Designed and managed asynchronous discussion boards for over 100 students during the COVID19 pandemic.

Writing Tutor

Writing Center Intern, Cornell Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Summer 2017

Private Writing Tutor, specializing in working with ELL students, 2015 – 2019

Writing Center Tutor, The University of Virginia, 2014 – 2016

ELL Reading Tutor, Old Town Elementary, Winston-Salem, NC, 2008 – 2011

PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOPS

“American Meridian,” workshopped documentary film pitch-decks, Ethics and Representation in Documentary Filmmaking, led by Angela J. Aguayo and James Chase Sanchez, Rhetoric Society of America Summer Institute, Syracuse, NY, June 2021. (Virtual)

“Close Listening: Collective Composition and Paratextual Performance in Blunt Research Group’s *The Work-Shy*,” Panel on (Meta)Narratives, English Graduate Student Organization Conference on Vulnerability, Cornell University, April 2021. (Virtual)

“Anaphora’s Anti-Economy: Documentary Poetry and Legal Discourse,” English Department Roundtable, Cornell University, March 2021. (Virtual)

“Unraveling Elegy in Anne Carson’s *Nox*,” Panel on American Elegy, Now, American Literature Association Symposium on American Poetry, Washington, DC, February 2020.

“Teaching and Assessing Non-Traditional and Creative Assignments in First-Year Writing Seminars,” Planned and co-led public workshop with Bojan Srbinovski for graduate instructors and faculty hosted by the Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University, July 2019.

“The Poetics of...Poetics?” Panel on Metatexts, English Graduate Student Organization Colloquium, Cornell University, March 2019.

“Speaking a Cemetery: Alice Oswald’s *Memorial: an Excavation of Homer’s Iliad*,” Emily Dickinson International Society’s panel on Poems of War, SAMLA 90: Fighters from the Margins: Socio-Political Activists and their Allies, Birmingham, AL, November 2018.

“Narrating Napping in *Mrs. Dalloway*,” graduate workshop with Rebecca Walkowitz, Novel Theory: Society for Novel Studies Conference, Cornell University, May 2018.

“Teaching World Literature,” invited guest on the *Circulating Spaces Podcast: Literary and Language Worlds in a Global Age*, Public Humanities Lab at the Institute for the Humanities and Global Cultures, University of Virginia, November 2017.

“Strategies for Helping Tutees Develop and Structure Arguments,” Knight Institute Writing Center Staff

Meeting, Cornell University, July 2017.

“‘A spectacle to which there is no end’: Narrative Looping as Self-Crossing in *The Prelude*,” Panel on Forms of Knowledge Production, The Global Nineteenth Century Colloquium: Overwhelming Pessimisms, Cornell University, March 2017.

“Heteroglossic Monologue in ‘Annie Pengelly,’” Panel on Poetry and Poetics, PAMLA Conference, Portland State University, November 2015.

“Heteroglossic Monologue in ‘Annie Pengelly,’” Panel on Caribbean Voices, Human Terrains: Identity, Geography, Politics Conference, The University of Virginia, April 2015.

“Dismantling the Five-Paragraph Essay,” Ad Fontes Academy Faculty Training, August 2013.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

20 – 21 st C transnational American literature	documentary poetics	postcolonial theory
contemporary poetry and poetics	epic and the long poem	narrative theory
media studies, film, and television	African-American poetry	classical rhetoric

COMPETITIVE AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alan Young-Bryant Memorial Graduate Award in Poetry, Cornell University (2021)

Shin Yong-Jin Fellowship for excellence in scholarship and teaching, Cornell University (2020 – 2021)

Interdisciplinary Dissertation Writing Group Grant, Cornell Society for the Humanities (2020 – 2021)

Martin Sampson Teaching Award, Cornell University (2020)

Corson-Browning Poetry Prize for the long poem *Teichoscopia*, Cornell University (2018)

Knight Institute Peer Collaboration Pedagogy Grant, Cornell University (2018)

Bashir El-Beshti Prize in Renaissance Studies, Wake Forest University (2011)

William Louis Poteat Scholarship for academic achievement and leadership, Wake Forest (2007 – 2011)

Beulah Lassiter Raynor Scholarship in English, Wake Forest University (2010)

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Graduate School Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University (2018, 2020, 2021)

Dissertation Year Sage Fellowship, Cornell University (2019 – 2020)

Sage Fellowship for Graduate Studies, Cornell University (2016 – 2017)

Graduate Research and Travel Grant, The University of Virginia (2015)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN TEACHING

Teaching and Learning in the Diverse Classroom, Cornell Center for Teaching Innovation, Summer 2020

Completed course on evidence-based learning strategies for designing inclusive courses, supporting diverse student engagement, and facilitating discussions on difficult topics.

Peer Collaboration, The Knight Institute, Cornell University, Spring 2018

Completed a semester-long collaboration with an upper-level graduate student: observed one another teach, exchanged teaching materials, discussed instruction and assignment sequencing.

ENGL 6001, “Pedagogy Workshop,” Department of English, Cornell University, Fall 2017

Discussed English-specific pedagogical methods and workshopped teaching materials.

Writing 7100, “Teaching Writing,” The Knight Institute, Cornell University, Summer 2017

Course on pedagogical theory and practice for teaching first-year writing seminars.

Harkness Method Workshop, Exeter Humanities Institute, August 2013

Attended a workshop with Ralph Sneed training teachers to orient their classroom around student-driven discussion, including methods of encouraging and assessing student participation.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Founder and Co-Director of House System, Ad Fontes Academy, Centreville, VA, 2012 – 2014
Engaged with community stakeholders to design and build a new schoolwide program that would foster connections across grades. Trained and supervised student leaders, addressed discipline issues, and planned four annual house competitions.
- Program Specialist, Camp Cedar Cliff, Asheville, NC, Summer 2010
Designed and executed a new program for 100 campers weekly (including skits, activities, games, and music). Supervised 20 employees, led daily meetings, performed staff evaluations.
- Program Ambassador, Center for International Studies, Wake Forest University, 2010 – 2011.
Represented the Casa Artom study abroad program in Venice, Italy at fairs and information sessions. Prepared presentations, posters, and advertisements for events about the program.
- Youth Programming Intern, Parkwood Baptist Church, Gastonia, NC, Summer 2009
Created, organized, and implemented events and trips for 200 middle and high school students; mentored individual students; informed parents of events by phone, meetings, and newsletters.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Invited Panel Member to discuss preparation for first-time teaching, First-Year PhD Student Benchmarks Q&A Session, English Graduate Student Union, Cornell University, March 2021.
- Mentor to Undergraduate Students, Chesterton House, Cornell University, 2019 – 2020.
Provided guidance and support to two seniors in weekly meetings; discussed anti-racist readings.
- Moderator, English Department Roundtable, Cornell University, March 2020.
Moderated workshop for a colleague's dissertation chapter-in-progress on Derek Walcott.
- Prospective Student Contact, English Department, Cornell University, 2017, 2020.
Fielded questions and successfully recruited prospective students to join our department.
- Teaching Mentor, English Department, Cornell University, 2018.
First-year student observed my class and met to strategize designing their own course.
- Panel Member, "Knight Institute Summer Internship," invited to speak about working at the Writing Center during orientation for new graduate student instructors, Cornell University, May 2018.
- Budget Committee Chair, Graduate English Students Association Conference, *Terrible Beauty*, featuring keynote speaker Paul Muldoon The University of Virginia, 2016.
- Abstract Committee Member, Graduate English Students Association Conference, *Human Terrains: Identity, Geography, Politics*, keynote speaker Jasbir Puar, The University of Virginia, 2015.
- Thesis Advisor and Defense Panelist, Ad Fontes Academy, Centreville, VA, 2011 – 2015
Advised several senior theses each year. Served as an expert panelist for other defenses.

AFFILIATIONS

- Anti-Racist Pedagogy Reading Group, Cornell University
Contemporary Poetry and Poetics Reading Group, Cornell University
Modernist Reading Group, Cornell University
English Graduate Student Organization, Cornell University
Phi Beta Kappa, Wake Forest University

REFERENCES

- Jonathan Dwight Culler, Class of 1916 Professor Emeritus, Cornell University. Graduate Committee Minor Member (Narrative Theory, Poetry and Poetics). Email: culler@cornell.edu

Stuart Arrowsmith Davis, Senior Lecturer & Weiss Provost's Teaching Fellow Emeritus, Cornell University. Course leader and teaching mentor. Email: sad4@cornell.edu

Roger Stephen Gilbert, Professor of English, Cornell University. Graduate Committee Chairperson (American Poetry). Email: rsg2@cornell.edu

Ishion Ira Hutchinson, Associate Professor of English and Director of Creative Writing, Cornell University. Graduate Committee Minor Member (Contemporary Poetry, The Long Poem and Epic). Email: iih2@cornell.edu

Caroline Levine, David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of Humanities and Picket Family Chair of the English Department, Cornell University. Graduate Committee Minor Member (World Anglophone Literature and Cultural Studies). Email: cel235@cornell.edu

Dean Luckenbaugh, Head of School, Ad Fontes Academy. Head administrator and supervisor for high school teaching job at a classical Christian school. Phone: (571) 271-5660; Email: dluckenbaugh@adfontes.com