

## Laura Rigal

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**Department of English**, 308 English Philosophy Building  
Phone 319-335-0454 FAX 319-335-2535

**Department of American Studies**, 210 Jefferson Building  
Phone 319-335-0320 FAX 319-335-0314

University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242  
E-mail : laura-rigal@uiowa.edu

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### EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

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#### EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1989, Department of English, Stanford University

B.A. 1982, Oberlin College. majors: English; Greek Language and Literature

#### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, 9/97 - present, The University of Iowa,  
Departments of English and American Studies

Assistant Professor, 9/91 - 9/97, University of Chicago, Department of English

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#### SCHOLARSHIP

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**Invited Review Essay**, “Beyond ‘The Trouble with Wilderness’” *The American Quarterly*,  
Journal of the American Studies Association (Winter 2010), 989-1001.

**Invited Essay in a Collection** “Benjamin Franklin, The Science of Flow, and the Legacy of the  
Enlightenment,” *A Blackwell Companion to Benjamin Franklin*, ed. David Waldstreicher  
accepted and forthcoming, Wiley-Blackwell Publishers (Spring 2011).

**Essay in a collection** “Pulled by the Line: Speed and Photography in *Moby Dick*” *New Essays on  
Melville and Aesthetics*, eds. Samuel Otter and Geoffrey Sanborn, accepted and forthcoming,  
Palgrave-MacMillan (Spring 2011).

**Book Review** *Remembering Kensington and Fishtown: Philadelphia’s Riverward  
Neighborhoods* by KENNETH W. MILANO (Charleston, SC: The History Press 2008); *The  
History of Penn Treaty Park* by KENNETH W. MILANO (Charleston, SC: The History Press  
2009); *The History of the Kensington Soup Society* by KENNETH W. MILANO (Charleston, SC:  
The History Press 2009). Review published *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and  
Biography* 134 (January 2010): 97-100.

**Journal Article** "Watershed Days on the Treaty Line, 1836-1839" *The Iowa Review*, special issue on the Iowa River and the flood of 2008 (Fall 2009) 9:2 202-223.

**Journal Article** Invited article for Special Issue on "Politics."  
"Black Work at the Polling Place: The Color Line in *The County Election*," *Commonplace: The Journal of Early American Life* Volume 9, Number 1 (October 2008).

**Review Essay**, "The Comedy of Colonial Contact," *Wapsipinicon Almanac* 15 (December 2008), 124-130.

**Journal Article** "The Chickasaw County Massacre," *Wapsipinicon Almanac* 14 (December 2007), 116-123.

**Journal Article** (invited issue commentary), "In the Eye of the Pyramid: Geographic Enterprise from John Smith to America Incorporated," *American Literary History* (Winter 2003), 793-808.

**Book Review**, "Local Haunts," review of Judith Richardson. *Possessions, The History and Uses of Haunting in the Hudson Valley*. Cambridge, Mass.; London: Harvard University Press, 2003. *Commonplace: the Journal of Early American Life* (Winter 2003).

**Essay in a collection**, "Imperial Attractions: Franklin's *New Experiments* of 1751" in *Memory Bytes: Historical Perspectives on American Digital Culture*, eds. Lauren Rabinovitz, Abraham Geil, (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2003), 23-46.

**Journal Article**, "Electric Books of 1747: Franklin's Luminous Gilt," *Commonplace: the Journal of Early American Life* (December 2000).

**Journal Article**, "Framing the Fabric: A Luddite Reading of *William Penn's Treaty with the Indians of Pennsylvania*," *American Literary History* Special Issue: *History in the Making*, Summer 2000

**Journal Article**, (invited essay) "Whose Affirmative Culture?" response to Joel Pfister, "Complicity Critiques," *American Literary History* Special Issue: *History in the Making*, Summer 2000.

**Book Review** of David Brigham, *Public Culture in the Early Republic: Peale's Museum and Its Audience*. *William and Mary Quarterly*, Spring 1999.

**Book**: *The American Manufactory: Art, Labor, and the World of Things in the Early Republic* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, October 1998).

**Journal Article**: "Empire of Birds, Alexander Wilson's *American Ornithology, 1807-1814*," *The Huntington Quarterly* 59, Special Issue on Science and Art, Spring 1998.

**Journal Article**: "Raising the Roof: the Grand Federal Procession of 1788 as Republican Festival." *Theatre Journal* 48, Fall 1996.

**Essay in a collection**: "Peale's Mammoth," in *American Iconology: New Approaches to Nineteenth Century Art and Literature*, ed. David Miller (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).

**Book review** of Larzer Ziff, *Writing in the New Nation*. *Modern Philology*, Fall 1993.

**Book review** of Jeffrey A. Smith, *Franklin and Bache: Envisioning the Enlightened Republic*. *William and Mary Quarterly*, July 1991.

**Works in Progress**

**Book Manuscripts**

*Picturing Entitlement:*

*Rhetorics of Expansion in American Visual Culture, 1776-1900*

*Forgetting Ralston Creek: The Environmental History of an Urban Watershed*

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**HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS**

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2010 University of Iowa Faculty Support Award, Summer 2010

2009 University of Iowa Career Development Award, Fall 2009.

2007-2008 John Gerber Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of English, University of Iowa,

2005 University of Iowa Collegiate Teaching Award

2004 YAH, Year of the Arts and Humanities Award \$3000.00 The Office of the President, University of Iowa. for *The Arts In America: History, Politics, Practice* (lectures; performance; new media installation)

2001-3 University of Iowa Faculty Scholar Award, 9/2001-9/2004 (awarded 11/2000)

2000 Obermann Center For Advanced Studies Summer Seminar: The Useable Past: Historical Perspectives on Digital Culture (5/2000)

Chicago Humanities Institute Faculty Working Group, "Nation and Gender in Visual Culture: The Emergence of Modernity," University of Chicago, 1993-4.

Individual Research Fellowship, Chicago Humanities Institute, University of Chicago, Spring 1993.

University of Chicago Summer Research Fellowship, 1992.

Alden Dissertation Prize of 1990 for the most distinguished dissertation in the Department of English, Stanford University.

Stanford Humanities Center Dissertation Prize Fellowship, 1988-89.

CBS Bicentennial Narrators Scholarship, 1987-88.

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## INVITED LECTURES & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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**Invited Panel Commentator**, Causes and Consequences: Global Perspectives on Gender and the History of Slavery, October 13-15, 2010.

**Conference Paper** "Fear of the Water: Hydropower and Bio-power in the Newtonian Public Sphere," Green Politics, 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual European Studies Conference," Dec. 3-4, 2010.

**Invited Speaker**, "The Meskwaki of Johnson County, 1836-1839" "The Meskwaki in the Iowa River Valley: a Symposium," March 31, 2010, 1-5pm. Meskwaki Casino Veterans Convention Center, Tama Iowa (Meskwaki Settlement). Organized by the Iowa State Historical Society and the Iowa Valley Resource Conservation and Development, March 31, 2010.

Invited Speaker, "The Meskwaki, The American Fur Company, and the Founding of Iowa City," History Lecture Series, SHSI Centennial Building, Iowa State Historical Society, Iowa City, Wednesday, July 15, 2009

Invited Lecture, "Electric Sangha: Electricity and Enlightenment in Franklin's Book," *Reading the Book of Nature*, 5th Annual Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts, University of Iowa, April 4, April 3, 2009

Panel Chair, "Figuring Nature in Art and Literature: Cultural Approaches," *Reading the Book of Nature*, 5th Annual Conference on Religion, Literature, and the Arts, University of Iowa, April 4, 2009.

Invited Course Lecture, "Visual Sources for 19<sup>th</sup> Century Social History," Graduate Seminar in 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Social History, 016:265:001 (Leslie Schwalm), The University of Iowa, March 3, 2009.

Invited Speaker, "Cultures in Contact on the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Iowa River," Trinity Episcopal Church, Speaker Series on the Iowa River, February 1, 2009.

Conference paper, "Writing the Environmental History of the Iowa River," panel, "Writing the Iowa River," *Writing Science at the Writing University*, The University of Iowa, October 10, 2008.

Invited Reading, "The Chickasaw County Massacre," Prairie Lights Bookstore, Iowa City, Iowa, January 25, 2008.

Panel Chair and Commentator: "Imagined Empires" 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Society of Early American Studies/Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, June 9, 2007

Moderator for Maria Damon, "Textual Abjection, the Place of Bad Poetry in American Studies," Poetries Symposium, University of Iowa, April 5, 2007

Invited Lecture, "Hijacked Language," UMI Teach-in on the Second Iraq War, November 11, The University of Iowa, 2005.

Seminar Paper, "*Moby Dick* and the Politics of Terror," POROI Rhetoric Seminar, The University of Iowa, Sept 23, 2005

Chair, Conference Roundtable, *Arts in American Studies Scholarship Symposium*, February 25-6, 2005

Invited Presentation, "Mining Empire's Strata: Mark Tansey's *Constructing the Grand Canyon*," American Tableaux Exhibit, University of Iowa Art Museum, March 26, 2004

Panel Chair, "Grave Matters, Digging for History in Nineteenth Century America," Annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians, Memphis, TN, April 5, 2003

Conference Paper, "A Little Power: The Early National Tourist at the City Pump," Midwest American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Iowa City, IA, April 15, 2003

Panel Commentator, "Vision, Visuality, and Commerce in Nineteenth Century America, 1800-1850" (Sponsored by the Visual Culture/Art History Caucus) American Studies Associations, Houston, Texas, on November 14-17, 2002.

English Department Faculty Colloquium, Feb. 15, 2002, "Sunshine Law: Representing the Ballot in Bingham's The County Election"

Invited Lecture, "Imperial Attractions: Franklin's *New Experiments* of 1751," English Department, the University of Pennsylvania, November 13, 2001.

Conference Paper, "Representing the Ballot," in "The Technology of Democracy: Workshop on the Material History of the U.S. Ballot," Annual meeting of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) July 20, 2001, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Conference Paper, "Electric Books: Franklin's *New Experiments* of 1751," Obermann Center Symposium, "Fleeting Objects: Material Culture and Social Transformation," April 6, 2001.

Invited Lecture, "American Electricity: Technology and Consensus in the Digital State, 1750/2000," Boston University, Department of American Studies, March 15, 2001.

Panel Commentator, "What Stands between the Nation and the Novel? Races, Readerships, and Epidemic Pretexts; or, *Arthur Mervyn* at Two Hundred," Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association, Washington D.C. December 28, 2000.

Panel Commentator, "Early American Science: Boundaries, Bodies, and Exclusions," Society of Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Conference, Buffalo, New York, July 21-23, 2000.

Symposium paper, "Frame and Fabric: A Luddite Reading of *Penn's Treaty with the Indians of Pennsylvania*." History in the Making, a symposium sponsored by American Literary History, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 25-28, 1999.

Conference paper, "The Brothertown Letters," Cultural Crossroads of Religion and Literacy in Colonial America," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, December 28, 1998

### TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS 2010

Semester/ Yr	Advisees		COURSES TAUGHT	
	Undrgrad	Grad	Course Number and Title	Students Enrolled
<b>Fall 2010</b>	9 Amer. Studies	14 Amer. Studies	008:105:SCA Lit and Culture of 19 Century America	22
			045:258:001 Graduate Seminar, Technology and American Culture	12
			008:505:083 Advanced Studies in a Literary Period	1
			008:595:083 PhD Thesis	1
			045:320:03 Independent Study	4
			045:600:031 PhD Thesis	4
<b>Summer 2010</b>	9 Amer. Studies	12 Amer. Studies	008:595:083 PhD Thesis	1
			045:320:031 Independent Study	1
			045:600:031 PhD Thesis	2
<b>Spring 2010</b>	9 Amer. Studies	12 Amer. Studies	045:090:001 Seminar in American Cultural Studies: Eco-Criticism: The Culture of nature in the United States	24
			008:505:083 Advanced Studies in a Literary Period	1
			008:595:083 PhD Thesis	3
			045:320:031 Independent Study	3
			045:400:031 Masters Preparation	1
			045:600:03 PhD Thesis	3
<b>Winter 2009</b>	9 Amer. Studies	12 Amer. Studies	048:175:001 Topics in Film and Literature: 008:175:001 <i>Topics in Film and Literature:</i> "Reading The West"	17

**STUDENTS SUPERVISED 2010**

<u>DEGREE OBJECTIVE</u>	<u>STUDENT NAME</u>	<u>YEARS</u>	<u>OUTCOME</u>
<b>ENGLISH</b>			
PhD	Adam Bradford (Committee Member)	6	Degree Awarded Summer 2010
PhD	Chad A. Hines (Dissertation Director)	5	Degree Awarded Summer 2010
PhD	Jennifer McGovern (Committee Member)	9	ABD, Degree Expected Summer 2011
PhD	Joshua Raulerson (Committee Member)	9	Degree Awarded Spring 2010
PhD	Chad Wriglesworth (Dissertation Director)	5	Degree Awarded Summer 2010
PhD	Willis McDonald (Committee Member)	6	Degree Awarded Fall 2010
PhD	Robert McLoone (Dissertation Co-director)	5	Prospectus Approved Spring 2010
PhD	Matthew Lavin (Committee Member)	4	Prospectus Approved Spring 2010
PhD	Craig Carey (Committee Member: Special Interest Area)	4	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010 Prospectus Approved Fall 2010
PhD	Katherine Bishop (Committee Member)	4	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010
PhD	Carolyn Hall (Committee Member)	6	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010
<b>AM. STUDIES</b>			
PhD	Sharon Lake (Dissertation Director)	8	Degree Awarded Fall 2010
PhD	Mark Warburton (Dissertation Director)	7	Dissertation Defended Spring 2011

PhD	Ivana Takacova (Dissertation Director)	7	Prospectus Approved Fall 2009
PhD	Bradley Parsons (Committee Member)	10	Prospectus Approved Spring 2010, withdrawn from program as of Summer 2011.
PhD	Eric Johnson (Committee Member)	9	Prospectus Approved Spring 2009
PhD	Jennifer Ambrose (Dissertation Director)	6	Prospectus Approved Fall 2009
PhD	Mark Mattes (Committee Member)	5	Prospectus Approved Spring 2010
PhD	Steven Williams (Dissertation Director)	7	Prospectus Approved Fall 2008
PhD	Charles Williams (Committee Member)	9	Prospectus Approved
PhD	Jonathan Hansen (Field List Director)	4	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010 Prospectus Approved Spring 2011
PhD	Larissa Werhnyak (Field List Director)	3	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010
PhD	Nathan Titman (Committee Member)	3	Comprehensive Exam Spring 2010
PhD	David Barrett Gough (Field List Director)	3	Comprehensive Exam Fall 2010
MA	Julie Shanahan (Committee Member)	2	Degree Awarded Spring 2010
MA	Jennifer Hagedorn (Committee Member)	2	Degree Awarded Summer 2010
MA	Shannon Kelley (MA Preparation Supervisor)	2	Degree Awarded Spring 2010
<b>ART HISTORY</b>			
	Rachel Stephens (Committee Member)	8	Dissertation Defended Fall 2010

<b>COMMUNICATION STUDIES</b>	Jin Kim (Committee Member)	8	Degree Awarded Spring 2010
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### **TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS 2009**

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#### **Winter 2009**

048:175:001; 008:175:001

Topics in Film and Literature: "Reading The West" 16

#### **Fall 2009**

008:535:083

Advanced Studies in Literary Criticism 1

008:595:083

PhD Thesis 3

045:320:031

Independent Study 2

045:600:031

PhD Thesis 4

#### **Summer 2009**

008:595:083

PhD Thesis 1

045:320:031

Independent Study 1

045:600:031

PhD Thesis 4

#### **Spring 2009**

008:254:001

Graduate Readings Course,  
"Readings in American Literature II: The 19<sup>th</sup> Century" 1 9

008:595:083

PhD Thesis 2

045:320:031

Independent Study 2

045:600:031

PhD Thesis 3

## **STUDENTS SUPERVISED 2009**

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### **Ph.D. Supervision 2009**

#### **English**

Adam Bradford	Member	Defense Scheduled, 5/2010
Chad A. Hines	Director	Defense Scheduled, 5/2010
Jennifer McGovern	Member	Expected Summer 2010
Matthew Lavin	Member	Prospectus Meeting 2/1/10
Jennifer McGovern	Member	Degree Expected Summer 2010
Joshua Raulerson	Member	Defense Scheduled 3/16/ 2010
Chad Wriglesworth	Co-Director (w/Merrill)	Degree expected Summer 2010

#### **American Studies**

Wayne Anderson	Member	Prospectus meeting 4-27-09
Eric Johnson	Co- Director	Prospectus meeting 3-10-09
Sharon Lake	Director	Expected Summer Fall 2009
Bradley Parsons	Member	Prospectus in preparation
Sharon Romeo	Member	Degree Awarded Summer 2009
Barbara Shubinski	Co-Director	Degree Awarded, Summer 2009
Ivana Takacova	Co-Director	Prospectus meeting 12-15-09
Mark Warburton	Director	Expected Fall 2010
Charlie Williams	Member	Expected Summer 2011
Steven Williams	Director	Degree Expected Fall 2011

### **Ph.D. Comprehensive Exams 2009**

#### **English**

Bishop, Katherine	Member	4/7/10
Carey, Craig	Special Interest Essay	4/21/10

Lavin, Matthew                      Member                      5/5/09

McLoone, Robert                      Article Director                      4/28/09

**American Studies**

Jen Ambrose                      Field Director                      5-13-09

Mark Mattes                      Director                      5-12-09

**M.A. Advisees,**                      **American Studies**                      **2**

Shannon Kelley                      Degree expected Spring 2010

Jennifer Hagedorn                      Degree expected Spring 2010

**English MFA Non-Fiction Writing**

Amelia Bird                      Member                      Degree Awarded Spring 2009

**PhD Advisees**                      **American Studies**                      **14**

Brad Parsons

Nicholas Yanes

Mark Mattes

Steven Williams

Eric Johnson

Ivana Takacova

David Barrett Gough

Sharon Romeo

Philip Deslippe

Julie Shanahan

Sharon Lake

Larissa Werhnyak

Charlie Williams

**Undergraduate Advisees**                      **American Studies**                      **9**

Baker Kierra

Bodner Noah

Bush Jake

Messelheiser Heidi

O Shea Dennis

Overmire Whitney

Smith Mark

Stille Brittni

Sutterman Kelli

**TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS 2008**

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**Fall 2008**

008:135:002 Topics in American Literature I  
Gothic America 59

08:500:083 Advanced Studies in an Author 1

08:595:083 PhD Thesis 1

045:200:01 Theory and Practice of American Studies I 17

045:320:031 Independent Study 3

045:500:031 American Studies Position Paper 1

045:600:031 PhD Thesis 3

**Summer 2008**

08:595:083 PhD Thesis 1

045:320:031 Independent Study 1

045:500:031 American Studies Position Paper 1

045:600:031 PhD Thesis 3

**Spring 2008**

045:250:001 Graduate Seminar in American Studies  
The Culture of Nature 17

045:295:001 Graduate Book Studies Proseminar  
Book History, Queer Theory, and the Public Sphere:  
Reading Michael Warner 14

045:095:031 Undergraduate Honors Project 1

045:320:031 Independent Study 4

045:031 Masters Preparation 2

08:595:083 PhD Thesis 1

45:600:031 PhD Thesis 2

**TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS 2007**

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**Fall 2007**

008:005:AAA (6 TA Sections) Introduction to English Major 93

Theory & Practice of Literary Studies

045:175:001  
Revolution in American Culture 25

008:595:083 PhD Thesis 1  
Sean Scanlan

045:600:031 PhD Thesis 2  
Ulrich Adelt  
Erica Hannickel

045:320:031 Independent Study 2  
Eric Johnson  
Steven Williams

**Summer 2007**

008:595:083 PhD Thesis 1  
Jeffrey Swenson

045:100:031 Independent Study 1  
Steven Williams

045:500:031 American Studies Position Paper 1  
Ivana Takakova

045:600:031 PhD Thesis 1  
Erica Hannickel

**Spring 2007**

8:418 PhD Seminar 12  
“Bodies Politic”

045:090:001 Seminar in American Cultural Studies 20  
“Sex, Race, Class and the U.S. Frontier”

008:550:083 Advanced Studies in Interdisciplinary Topics 1  
Chad Wriglesworth

008:595:083 PhD Thesis 2  
Sean Scanlan  
Jeffrey Swenson

045:320:031 Independent Study 1  
Mark Warburton

045:500:031 American Studies Position Paper 1  
Eric Johnson

045:600:031 PhD Thesis 1  
Erica Hannickel

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**SERVICE**

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**UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL**

- Spring 2010 Sustainability Curriculum Advisory Committee (the Provost's Office)
- Spring 2010 Member, University of Iowa Graduate Council (3-year term)
- Spring 2010 Steering Committee, American Studies Department
- Spring 2010 Graduate Admissions Committee, English Department
- Spring 2010 Director/ Organizer, Graduate Dissertation Workshop. American Studies
- Summer 2010 Director/ Organizer, Graduate Dissertation Workshop, American Studies (co-led with Kim Marra in Summer 2010)
- Fall 2010 Director/ Organizer, Graduate Dissertation Workshop, American Studies
- Fall 2010 Sustainability Curriculum Advisory Committee (the Provost's Office)
- Fall 2010 Member, University of Iowa Graduate Council (3-year term)
- Fall 2010 Steering Committee, American Studies Department
- Spring 2009 Sustainability Curriculum Advisory Committee (the Provost's Office)
- Spring 2009 Member, University of Iowa Graduate Council (3-year term)
- Spring 2009 Ballard-Seashore Dissertation Fellowship Committee (Graduate College)
- Spring 2009 Faculty Judge, Jacobson Graduate Student Conference
- Spring 2009 member-at-large nominating committee, UI Graduate Council,
- Spring 2009 Director of Graduate Studies, American Studies
- Spring 2009 Steering Committee, American Studies Department
- Spring 2009 Plan of Study Committee, American Studies
- Spring 2009 Organizer, American Studies Floating Friday series: (4 lectures)
- Fall 2008 Member, University of Iowa Graduate Council (3-year term)
- Fall 2008 Sustainability Curriculum Committee (Provost's Office)
- Fall 2008 Director of Graduate Studies, American Studies

Fall 2008      Steering Committee, American Studies Department

Fall 2008      Plan of Study Committee, American Studies

Fall 2008      Organizer, American Studies Floating Friday series: (4 lectures)

Summer 2008   Sustainability Curriculum Task Force (Provost's Office)

Spring 2008    Director of Graduate Studies American Studies

Spring 2008    Chair, Tenure Committee, Nick Yablon

Spring 2008    Steering Committee, American Studies

Spring 2008    Organizer, American Studies Floating Friday series: (4 lectures)