

Kathryn H. Knapp
Associate Professor, Department of English
University of Connecticut

Date of first appointment: 2008

University of Connecticut
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EDUCATION

Ph. D. Fordham University
M.A. Fordham University
B.A. Georgetown University

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2014- Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
2019- Associate Director of Graduate Studies
2017- Book Review Editor, *TCL: Twentieth Century Literature*
2012- 2014 Director, Litchfield County Writers Project
2008- 2014 Assistant Professor and Writing Coordinator, Torrington Campus,
University of Connecticut
2007-2008 Postdoctoral Fellow, Fordham University
2008 Instructor, SUNY. Purchase

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

American Unexceptionalism: The Everyman and The Suburban Novel After 9/11. University of Iowa Press, 2014.

“Still Lives: The Millennial U.S. Bildungsroman and the Problem of Now.” In progress.

Articles:

“House Rules: *The New Yorker* and the Making of the White Suburban Liberal Woman,” *The City in American Literature and Culture*. Ed. Kevin McNamara. Cambridge UP, 2021, 118-135.

“‘How Did I Get Here?’: Roth, Updike, and the Embarrassment of Riches.” *Literature in Transition: 1980-1990*. Ed. Quentin Miller. Cambridge UP, 2018.

“*The Iron Heel* and the Contemporary Bourgeois Novel.” *Oxford Handbook of Jack London*. Ed. Jay Williams. Oxford UP. September 2016.

“The Business of Forgetting: Postwar Living Memorials, The Post-Traumatic Suburb, and Chang-rae Lee’s *Aloft*.” *Twentieth Century Literature*, 59:2 (Summer 2013), 196-231.

“Richard Ford’s Frank Bascombe Trilogy and the Post-9/11 Suburban Novel.” *American Literary History*, 23.3 (Fall 2011), 500-528.

“Life in the ‘Hood: Postwar Suburban Literature and Films.” *Literature Compass* 6.4 (July 2009), 810-823.

“ ‘Ain’t No Friend of Mine’: Immigration Policy, The Gated Community, and the Problem with the Disposable Worker in T. C. Boyle’s *Tortilla Curtain*.” *Atenea* Vol. 28.2 (December 2008), 121-134.

Miscellaneous:

Review of Mary Esteve’s *Incremental Realism: Postwar American Fiction, Happiness, and the Welfare State* (Stanford UP 2021) *American Literary History Review Series XXXI* Summer 2022.

Review of Theodore Martin’s *Contemporary Drift: Genre, Historicism, and the Problem of the Present* (Columbia UP 2017) *American Literary History Review* (Series XV 1), Winter 2018.

“The Return of the King: *Mad Men* and the Greatest Story Ever Sold.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, April 2, 2015. <http://lareviewofbooks.org/article/return-king-mad-men-greatest-story-ever-sold/>

Review of Heather Houser’s *Ecosickness in Contemporary Literature: Environment and Affect* (Columbia UP 2014). *American Literary History Online Review*, Fall 2015.

“Underneath, at the Edges, and in the Heart of the Urban Imagination.” Review Essay, *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies* 58.2 (Summer 2012), 363-373.

“Richard Ford.” Headnote and materials for Instructor’s Guide. *Heath Anthology of American Literature*, 7th Edition. Boston: Wadsworth Cengage, 2013, 3464-65.

“Manifest Destiny, The American Dream, and The Land of Opportunity.” *Encyclopedia of American Environmental Literature*. Ed. Brian Jones. Jefferson, NC: McFarland. 2013, 163-166.

CONFERENCE PAPERS, INVITED TALKS, AND COLLOQUIA

“House Rules: Hospitality, *The New Yorker*, and The Making of the White Liberal Woman.” Invited Talk. Universite de Toulouse, March 9, 2023.

“Becoming Utopian: The Post-Katrina Bildungsroman.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. December 2023,

“Lying Low: Beasts of the Southern Wild and the Historical Undercommons,” Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present Annual Conference (ASAP/10), University of Maryland, October 2019.

“Generation Moratorium and the Contemporary Anti-Bildungsroman.” Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present Annual Conference (ASAP/9), UC Berkeley, Oct. 2017.

“In Between: Emerging Writers and the 21st-Century Anti-Bildungsroman.” Society for Studies in the Novel Conference, University of Pittsburgh, May 2016.

“Time’s Up: Ben Lerner’s *10:04* and the Revision of the Me Decade.” Association For the Study of the Arts in the Present Annual Conference, (ASAP/7), Clemson University, September 2015.

“Blurred Lines: Super-Realism and the Contemporary Moment.” Session Organizer. Association For the Study of Arts in the Present Annual Conference (ASAP/7), Clemson University, September 2015.

Salon Talk: *American Unexceptionalism: The Everyman and the Suburban Novel after 9/11*. Sponsored by NYMASA (New York Metropolitan American Studies Association.) Invited speaker. November 2015.

“Diminished Expectations: Generation Me and the Post-2008 Coming-of-Age Novel.” MLA, Chicago, January 2014.

“Kids in the City: The Emerging ‘Creative Class’ and the Anti-Growth Growth Narrative.” Association for the Study of the Arts in the Present (ASAP) Annual Conference, Wayne State University, October 2013.

“*The Great Gatsby* and the Ethnic Novel.” University of Connecticut Alumni Association, Westport Public Library and Jeremy Richard Library, Stamford Campus, January 2013.

“The Predicament of Success: The Novel in the Age of Obama.” Session organizer and presenter (Paper entitled “ ‘How to live?’: Jonathan Franzen’s *Freedom* and the Case for Obsolescence.”). MLA, Seattle, January 2012.

“American Unexceptionalism: Rethinking the Role of the White Liberal Male in Jonathan Franzen’s *Freedom*.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 2011.

“Domesticated Terror: Toward a Post-9/11 Aesthetic.” Session organizer and presenter, MLA, Los Angeles, January 2011.

“Slouching Toward Community: The White Suburban Male in Contemporary Fiction.” Relation and Identity in American Identity Construction. International Conference organized by the Groupe Etudes Nord-Américaine, Université de Toulouse, June 2010.

“The Changing Face of the Suburbs in Recent Fiction and Film.” Session organizer and presenter, NeMLA, Montreal, Canada, April 2010.

“Chang-rae Lee’s *Aloft* and the Post-Traumatic Suburb.” Speakers and Symposia/Faculty Development Series, Storrs, CT, February 2010.

“White Like Me”: Privilege, Commodity Culture, and Lessons of Assimilation in *The Namesake*.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 2009.

“Home: The American Dream Reimagined in *The House on Mango Street* and Other Novels.” Invited speaker in conjunction with curated art exhibit, Westport Arts Center, May 2009.

“Life is a House: Chang-rae Lee’s *Aloft* and the Reimagination of the Suburban Home.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2009.

“Visions of Community: The Suburb in Recent Novels and Films.” Session Organizer and presenter, American Studies Association Meeting, October 2007.

Invited Speaker and Coordinator, “Stalking Suburbia,” Westport Arts Center, October 2007.

“Both Sides of the Fence’: T. C. Boyle’s *Tortilla Curtain* and the White Liberal Male’s Crash Course in the Humanities.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Puebla, Mexico, April 2007.

“There Goes the Neighborhood: Deconstructing the Gated Community in T. C. Boyle’s *Tortilla Curtain*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, February 2007.

“Exploding the Suburban Myth in A. M. Homes’ *Music For Torching*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, February 2006.

AWARDS

Fulbright Fellowship, University of Vilnius, Spring 2017.

Twentieth Century Literature’s annual Andrew J. Kappel Prize in Literary Criticism, 2013 for best essay.

Publication Expenses Associated with *American Unexceptionalism*, University of Connecticut Research Foundation (UCRF) Small Grant

NEH Summer Stipend Nominee, 2011.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Fordham University, 2007-2008.

Nominated for Horst Frenz Award (Best Graduate Student Paper), ACLA Annual Meeting 2007.

Research Support Grant, Fordham University, 2007.

SERVICE

Department:

Associate Director, Graduate Studies 2019-
Member: NAIS English Search Committee 2022
Member, Department Head Search Spring 2021
Member, English Department Executive Committee, 2015-2016; 2018-19; 2021-2022.
Member, Graduate Placement Committee, 2015-
Coordinator for the English Major, 2008-2016 Torrington.
Proposed new course, ENGL 3207, American Literature Since the Mid-Twentieth Century
Member, Assessment Committee, 2013-Present.
Member, Merit Committee, 2010-2011.
Member, AETNA Advisory Board, 2009-
Member, Committee for Undergraduate Writing Instruction, 2008-present
Chair, Faculty Development Committee, Torrington, August 2009-present.
Mentor, UConn Connects Mentoring Program, Torrington. August 2008- present.
Member, Academic Planning Committee, Torrington. August 2008 to present.
Chair, Summer Reading Committee, Torrington, 2008-present.
Member, Judiciary Committee, Torrington. August 2007-present
Judge, Academic Integrity Writing Contest, Avery Point and Stamford. December 2008.
Member, Collaborative Teaching Initiative, "Writers of Color," Fordham University English Department, Fall 2007-Spring 2008.
Member, Hiring Committee, American Literature Search, Fordham University English Department, 2000-2001.
Special Assistant, Mullarkey Chair Hiring Committee, English Department, 1999.
Publicity Manager, Fordham University Graduate School Student Conference, 1998.
Judge, Ratcliffe-Hicks/Freshman Prize Committee, 2009

The Field:

Book Review Editor, *Twentieth Century Literature*.
Member, Advisory Board *Miroirs* (Universite de Toulouse)
Outside Reviewer for Columbia UP, Palgrave Macmillan, *PMLA*, *American Literary History*, *Twentieth Century Literature*, *Asian American Studies*, *American Studies*, *Papers in Language and Literature*, *Journal of Narrative Theory*, *European Journal of American Culture (Intellect)*; *Miranda* (Universite de Toulouse); *Ariel* (University of Calgary); *MELUS*.

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT:

GRADUATE:

ENGL 6450: The Postwar Suburban Novel
ENGL 6450: The 21st Century Coming-of-Age Novel in an Era of Decline
ENGL 6450: The Contemporary American Novel and the Turn to Genre

UNDERGRADUATE:

ENGL 4203W (Capstone course, crosslisted with AFRA): Katrina as Context
ENGL 4201W (Capstone course): The American Coming-of-Age Novel in Context
ENGL 3699: American Fiction and the Post-Apocalyptic Frame of Mind
ENGL 3235W: The Post-9/11 Aesthetic in American Fiction
ENGL 3218W The American Dream and the Formation of National Identity
ENGL 2276W: American Utopias and Dystopias
ENGL 2600: Introduction to Literary Studies
ENGL 2411: The 21st Century Literary Genre Novel
ENGL 2411: The Literary Novel and the Popular Imagination
ENGL 2407: Train Reading: Short Fiction Since 1945
ENGL 1011: Seminar in Writing Through Literature
ENGL 1010: Seminar in Academic Writing

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Officer, Sasco Creek Redevelopment Committee, 2012-
Board Member, Westport Housing Authority. 2004- .
Advisor, Builders Beyond Borders, 1992-2003.
Board Member, Interfaith Housing Association, 1995-2000.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Literature Association
American Studies Association
Association for the Study of Arts of the Present (ASAP)
American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association

LANGUAGES

French (speaking and reading).