

# JOHANNA WINANT

Department of English, West Virginia University  
P.O. Box 6296, 229 Colson Hall, Morgantown, WV 26505-6296  
johanna.winant@mail.wvu.edu | 650.468.6665

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

Assistant Professor, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2016–present

N.E.H. Postdoctoral Fellow in Poetics at the Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2015–2016

Visiting Instructor, English Department, College of the Holy Cross, 2012–2015

## EDUCATION

---

University of Chicago, Ph.D. in English, June 2014

Dissertation: “The Poetics of Explanation in Modern American Poetry,” directed by Maud Ellmann. Committee: Srikanth Reddy, Oren Izenberg

University of Cambridge, M.Phil. in British Literature 1700–1830, English Faculty, June 2005

Stanford University, B.A. in English with Honors and Distinction, June 2004

## BOOKS

---

*Lyric Logic: Modern American Poetry and Reasoning*, under review

This book tells an original story about the relationship between poetry and philosophy. I argue that while many poems represent thinking, only some poems model philosophical reasoning, and for those that do, including poetry by the modern American poets in this book—Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson, Gertrude Stein, Marianne Moore, and Elizabeth Bishop—poetic forms are also logical forms.

*Close Reading for the Twenty-First Century*, co-written and co-edited with Dan Sinykin, under review.

This book serves as a guide to close reading for undergraduate students and early graduate students. In the first section, we provide an anatomy of our discipline’s fundamental practice, coining common terms for the steps of close reading, recounting its history, clarifying its relationship to argument, and outlining its future. The second section consists of eighteen very short essays by contributing scholars in which each close reads a favorite close reading, using our book’s shared terms. The substantial appendix includes a variety of practical teaching materials.

## **REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

---

- “Apostrophe, Animation, Abortion...and Allusion.” *The Barbara Johnson Collective*, eds. Devin Garofalo and Nathan Hensley (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, forthcoming)
- “Logical and Literary Form.” *Cambridge Companion to Philosophy and Literature*, eds. Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé and R. Lanier Anderson (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming)
- “Philosophy, Poetry, and the Principle of Charity.” *A Companion to American Poetry*, eds. Mary McAleer Balkun, Jeffrey Gray, and Paul Jaussen (Oxford and New York: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022): 120-133
- “Walt Whitman’s Formalism,” in the “Logic and Literary Form” Special Issue of *Poetics Today* 41.1 (2020): 59-81
- “Somewhere Beneath: Empathy and Other Minds in *Ulysses*,” *James Joyce Quarterly* 55.3-4 (2018): 371-389
- “Explanation in Composition: Gertrude Stein and the Contingency of Inductive Reasoning,” *jml: Journal of Modern Literature* 39.3 (2016): 95–113
- “Ezra Pound and the Value of Explanation,” *Paideuma: Studies in British and American Modernism* 42 (2015): 171–196

## **ACADEMIC BOOK REVIEWS**

---

- “Review of Marjorie Perloff, *Infrathin: An Experiment in Micropoetics*,” *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 46.1 (2022): 115-117
- “Review of Natalia Cecire, *Experimental: American Literature and the Aesthetics of Knowledge*,” *American Literary History* 34.2 (2022): 776-779, ALH Online Review, Series XXVIII
- “Review of Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé, *A Different Order of Difficulty: Literature After Wittgenstein*,” *Comparative Literature* 73.3 (2021): 382-384
- “Review of Marjorie Levinson, *Thinking Through Poetry: Field Reports on Romantic Lyric*,” *The Wallace Stevens Journal* 43.2 (2019): 279-281
- “Review of Michael LeMahieu and Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé, eds. *Wittgenstein and Modernism*,” *Modernism/Modernity* 25.1 (2018): 207–209
- “Review of Megan Quigley, *Modernist Fiction and Vagueness*,” *Modernism/Modernity* 23.2 (2016): 472–473

“Review of Edward T. Duffy, *Secular Mysteries: Stanley Cavell and English Romanticism*,” *Studies in Romanticism* 52.4 (2013): 625–628

## **PEDAGOGICAL WRITING**

---

“Teaching Difficulty,” *T.S. Eliot Studies Annual*, forthcoming in a special issue on teaching Eliot

“Choose Another Title” and “Don’t Get Stressed by Meter,” teaching exercises in *The Pocket Instructor: Literature*, ed. Diana Fuss and William Gleason (Princeton University Press, 2015)

## **SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING**

---

Essay on *Clueless*, *Avidly: A Channel of the Los Angeles Review of Books*, forthcoming

“A Century of Serious Difficulty,” *Boston Review* (December 7, 2022)

“Moby-Done: Are the Professors in The Chair the Whalers or the Whales?” *Slate* (August 25, 2021)

“Introduction to the Interpretive Difficulty Cluster: What to Know” and “Pessoa and Other Coincidences,” *Interpretive Difficulty Essay Cluster*, ed. Johanna Winant, *Post45 Contemporaries* (May 26, 2021)

“Dickinson Variations,” *Avidly: A Channel of the Los Angeles Review of Books* (January 8, 2021 and February 26, 2021)

“Dickinson Gets Emily Dickinson Right,” *Slate* (November 8, 2019)

“Acknowledging Cavell,” *ASAP/J*, *Stanley Cavell Memorial Cluster* (July 26, 2018)

“All Our Work Holds Good,” *Slate* (July 6, 2018), reprinted by *Arts and Letters Daily* (July 6, 2018)

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

---

*Close Reading for the Twenty-First Century*, co-edited with Dan Sinykin, under review

*Interpretive Difficulty Essay Cluster*, ed. Johanna Winant, *Post45 Contemporaries* (May 26, 2021)

## **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS**

---

***National/International***

Distinguished Fellowship, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, 2019

N.E.H. Postdoctoral Fellowship in Poetics, The Bill and Carol Fox Center for Humanistic Inquiry, Emory University, 2015-2016

Irish Research Council Postdoctoral Fellowship, Government of Ireland, 2015 (declined)

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, 2005

***West Virginia/West Virginia University***

Research and Scholarship Advancement Grant, West Virginia University, 2017, 2022

Philip Bordinat Award for Faculty Scholarship, Department of English, West Virginia University, 2021

Faculty Fellowship, West Virginia University Honors College, 2020-2021

West Virginia Humanities Council Fellowship Award, 2020

Sigma Tau Delta Award for Outstanding Teaching, West Virginia University, 2018

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Travel Award, West Virginia University, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022

Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Development Award, West Virginia University, 2016, 2018, 2021

Riggle Fellowship in the Humanities, West Virginia University, 2017

***University of Chicago***

Modernist Studies Association Travel Grant, 2013 (declined)

Marcia Tillotson Travel Grant, University of Chicago, 2007 and 2012

Rosenthal Foundation Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2011-2012

Maramarco Research Grant, University of Chicago, 2011

Wayne C. Booth Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Teaching, University of Chicago, 2011

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2006–2010

Provost's Summer Research Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2008

## **SELECTED INVITED TALKS**

---

“Close Readings” Podcast, hosted by Kamran Javadizadeh, guest on episode about Emily Dickinson’s “My Life had stood—a Loaded Gun—,” May 2023

“Looking into Elizabeth Bishop: Poetry and Philosophical Reasoning,” Comparative Literature Luncheon, Pennsylvania State University, March 2023

“Looking into Elizabeth Bishop: Poetry and Philosophical Reasoning,” Poetry and Poetics Workshop, University of Michigan, November 2022

“Looking into Elizabeth Bishop,” English Colloquium, Case Western Reserve University, October 2022

“Predictive Texts: Logic, Form, and Poetry,” WVU Humanities Center, speaker series on “The Future,” March 2020.

## **SELECTED PAPERS PRESENTED**

---

“Why didn’t I know enough of something: Elizabeth Bishop’s Extraneousness.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2023

“Teaching *The Waste Land*.” Annual Meeting of the International T.S. Eliot Society, Virtual, September 2021

“The Form of Problems.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting, Virtual, April 2021

“To Explain Grace.” Modernist Studies Association’s Annual Conference, Toronto, October 2019

“Radical Interpretation.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C., March 2019

“Emily Dickinson’s Ordinariness.” Modernist Studies Association’s Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, November 2018

“The Poetics of the Slowdown.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 2018

“The Work of Games: Elizabeth Bishop Exposes the Rules.” Modern Language Association’s Annual Convention, New York, NY, January 2018

“If that which is at all were not forever: Marianne Moore’s Expectations.” American Comparative Literature Association’s Annual Meeting, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017

“Walt Whitman’s Formalism.” Logic and Literary Form Conference, co-hosted by University of California, Berkeley, and Harvard University, Berkeley, CA, April 2017

“All Swans Are White: Walt Whitman’s Catalogues.” Modernist Studies Association’s Annual Conference, Pasadena, CA, November 2016

“Again the Sun!: Marianne Moore’s Embrace of Induction.” Modernist Studies Association’s Annual Conference, Boston, MA, November 2015

“What Is It Like to Be Another? Leopold Bloom and Empathy.” James Joyce Association Annual Conference, Charleston, South Carolina, June 2013

“Gertrude Stein’s ‘Composition As Explanation’ As Explanation.” Modernist Studies Association’s Annual Conference, Las Vegas, NV, October 2012

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

Mysteries and Diagnoses, West Virginia University (Honors College)

Capstone: Thesis Writing, WVU

Graduate Seminar: Studies in Poetry, WVU

American Women Writers, WVU

Foundations of Literary Study, WVU

American Literature 2 (1865-Present), WVU

Modern American Poetics, WVU

Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson, WVU

American Poetry, WVU

Graduate Seminar: Thinking Through the Modern American Lyric, WVU

Empathy and Modernist Literature, Emory University

Critical Reading and Writing, College of the Holy Cross

Masterpieces of British Literature, College of the Holy Cross

Modern British Poetry, College of the Holy Cross

American Exiles, College of the Holy Cross

Postmodern British Novels, College of the Holy Cross

Readings in 20th Century British Literature, College of the Holy Cross

Modern British Novels, College of the Holy Cross

Joyce’s *Ulysses*, University of Chicago, awarded the Wayne C. Booth Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Teaching

Marianne Moore, Elizabeth Bishop, Robert Lowell, and Sylvia Plath, University of Chicago,

## **SERVICE**

---

*Professional*

Peer reviewer, NEH Summer Stipend Fellowship (2021)  
Peer reviewer, English Literary History  
Peer reviewer, Paideuma  
Peer reviewer, Modernism/modernity  
Peer reviewer, Twentieth-Century Literature

*At WVU*

Member, Search Committee for 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Literature, 2022-2023  
Member, Search Committee for Appalachian Literature, 2021-2022  
Designer and Coordinator, Workshop on the Hidden Curriculum of Grad School, 2021-2022  
Advisor, Appalachian Prison Book Project Student Group, 2020-  
Member, Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2019-2020  
Member, Graduate Program Committee, 2017–2018  
Co-Founder and Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Faculty Reading Group in the Humanities, 2017– 2018  
Coordinator, Graduate Student Workshop Series on Job Placement, 2016–2017

**AFFILIATIONS**

---

*Professional*

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)

*At WVU*

Faculty Associate of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies