

ETHAN A. PLAUE

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Drue Heinz Postdoctoral Fellow in American Literature, 2024 – present
Early Career Researcher at St John’s College, Oxford
Research Fellow at the Rothermere American Institute, Oxford

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Ph.D., English, 2024
Graduate Certificate in Cinema and Media Studies
Teaching Certificate from the Center for Teaching and Learning

M.A., English, 2020

University of Iowa, Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Iowa City, IA
M.F.A., Poetry, 2018

Columbia University, New York, NY
B.A., *magna cum laude*, 2015
English and Comparative Literature with Honors and Art History

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Early American Literature	Media History and Philosophy
Comparative Race and Empire Studies	History of Global Capitalism
Science and Technology Studies	Critical Data and AI Studies
Global Romanticism	Intellectual History

BOOK PROJECT (IN PROGRESS)

Media Vita: American Romanticism and the History of Mediation

My project is an intellectual history of mediation told through the literature and archives of American Romanticism. Crafted out of Enlightenment science and philosophy, the etymologically linked concepts of “mediation,” “medium,” and “means” became seminal metaphors for nineteenth-century political economists, liberal philosophers, and Romantic writers to describe human existence as produced and perpetuated by means of another—whether another person, object, or even idea. Assembling a diverse array of sources—from American Transcendentalism to Black technical writing, from the Patent Act of 1790 to early photography manuals—my book tracks the emergence of mediated life as it shaped not only nineteenth-century ways of knowing but also the way we experience our mediated age today.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘To modell out a land of so much worth’: Model Thinking in Colonial New England,” in preparation.

“The Patent Form: Norbert Rillieux, Solomon Northup, and the Production of Means in the Atlantic World,” *PMLA*. Accepted and forthcoming.

“The Parasitical Trick: Mediating Dispossession in Early America,” *American Literature*, vol. 95, no. 1, March 2023, pp. 89-113. (Honorable Mention for the 2023 Norman Foerster Prize for the best essay published annually in *American Literature*).

“‘...And the Gods Made Love’: Jimi Hendrix, Édouard Glissant, and the Critique of Sonic Empiricism,” *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture*, vol. 44, no. 2, Spring 2022, pp. 213-37.

Conference Reviews

C19: Dissent. *Early American Literature*, vol. 56, no. 3, Fall 2021, pp. 994-1000.

Public Writing

With William Morgan. “Secrets and Machines: A Conversation with GPT-3,” *e-flux*, “Dialogues on Recursive Colonialisms, Speculative Computation, and the Techno-social,” no. 123. December 15, 2021. <https://www.e-flux.com/journal/123/437472/secrets-and-machines-a-conversation-with-gpt-3/>

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Drue Heinz Postdoctoral Fellowship in American Literature, University of Oxford, 2024-26
Dean’s Award for Distinguished Teaching by Graduate Students, University of Pennsylvania, 2024

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2023-24

Foerster Prize, Honorable Mention for best essay in *American Literature*, 2023

Stanford–Leuphana Academy for Media Studies Fellowship, Stanford University, 2023

The Poetry Studio in Paris, Trélex Residencies, 2023

Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Grad Students, University of Pennsylvania, 2022

Steinberg Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2020-21

Cinema and Media Studies Research Award, UPenn (canceled due to Covid-19), 2020

Sweeten Award for best essay in *American Literature*, University of Pennsylvania, 2019

William Patrick Day Award for outstanding graduate essay, University of Pennsylvania, 2019

Latin American and Latino Studies Research Award, University of Pennsylvania, 2019

William Carlos Williams Prize for Poetry, University of Pennsylvania, 2019

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2018-23

The Schupes and Maytag Prizes for Poetry, University of Iowa, 2018

Stanley Graduate Award for International Research, University of Iowa, 2017

Academy of American Poets Prize, Columbia University, 2015

INVITED LECTURES, CONFERENCES, AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“‘To modell out a land of so much worth’: Model Thinking in Colonial New England,” American Literature Research Seminar, University of Oxford, scheduled for November 28, 2024.

Conference Papers

“News and the Common Joy,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, scheduled for January 2025.

“Bamewawagezhikaquay Jane Johnston Schoolcraft’s Wind Harp Poetry,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Pasadena, CA, March 2024.

“Vanishing Media: Spiritualist Photography and the Concept of Disappearance,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.

“‘I fanceyed some spirit was touching the strings’: Bamewawagezhikaquay on Knowledge and Imagination,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024.

“Vanishing Media,” Stanford-Leuphana Academy for Media Studies, Berlin, Germany, June 2023.

“The Patent Form: Claims and Criteria in Solomon Northup’s *Twelve Years a Slave*,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Niagara Falls, NY, March 2023.

“A Patent Fiction,” Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy, Graduate Workshop Series, University of Pennsylvania, December 2022.

“The Patent Form: Black Romanticism and the Production of Means in the Atlantic World,” American Literature Graduate Working Group, University of Pennsylvania, October 2022.

“Emerson’s Economies of Life,” Marxist Literary Group Institute on Culture and Society, Philadelphia, PA, June 2022.

“Informational Labor and Immaterial Violence in *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*,” Culture Mapping @ NYU, New York, NY, April 2022.

“Sylvia Wynter and the Trauma of Sociogeny,” Collective Violence, Trauma, and Representation Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 2020.

“Riot in the Galleria: Futurism and Poetics,” Avant-Garde as Media Culture Conference, University of Iowa, May 2018.

Organizer

“Reproducibility: Image, Literature, Philosophy,” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 2024. With Junnan Chen.

“Ordinary Language Philosophy and Resilience,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Niagara Falls, NY, March 2023. With Nicole Ferrari and Marcus Dominick.

Moderator

“Bodies of Capitalism,” with David Bering-Porter and Shane Denson, Temporal Mediations in Digital Capitalism, 2023 Wolf Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February 2023.

“A Talk by Denise Ferreira da Silva,” Time Sensitive Reading Series, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, January 2022.

“Racialising Algorithms,” Recursive Colonialism, Artificial Intelligence, and Speculative Computation Conference, University of Pennsylvania, December 2021.

“A Reading and Conversation with Tyrone Williams,” Time Sensitive Reading Series, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, March 2021.

“A Reading and Conversation with Marjorie Welish,” Time Sensitive Reading Series, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, September 2019.

TEACHING

Democratizing Data? Critical Data Studies in Algorithmic Governance, Instructor of record, graduate course in the School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023).

Democratizing Data? Critical Data Studies in Algorithmic Governance, Section leader and mentor for new instructors, School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2023).

American Gothic Literature, Instructor of record, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2022).

Literature and Law, Teaching Assistant for Professor Nancy Bentley, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2020).

Monsters in Film and Literature, Recitation Instructor and Teaching Assistant for Professor Chi-ming Yang, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2020).

Creative Writing Studio Workshop, Instructor of record, University of Iowa (Spring 2018).

Literature of the Apocalypse, Instructor of record, University of Iowa (Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018).

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

- Coordinator**, Works-in-Progress Brown Bag Series, The McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2022-23
- Co-Coordinator**, American Literature Graduate Working Group, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, 2019-22
- Co-Founder**, *Time Sensitive* Reading Series, Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, 2019-22
- Adjudicator**, Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, Midwest Division, 2016-22
- Co-Curator**, Film Honeys: Experimental Film Screening, University of Iowa, 2016-18
- Committee Member**, Sexual Respect Curriculum: Arts, Columbia University, 2015

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Literature Society
 Modern Language Association
 Society for Cinema and Media Studies
 Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts
 Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

REFERENCES

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