

Mark B. Kelley, PhD

Associate Professor of Early American Literature
Florida International University
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EDUCATION

PhD in Literature, University of California-San Diego
Chairs: Nicole Tonkovich and Sara Johnson
Advisors: Mark Hanna, Michael Davidson, Daniel Vitkus

MA in American and British Literatures, Marquette University
Advisors: Jodi Melamed, Amy Blair, and Sarah Wadsworth

BA in English, History, *summa cum laude*, *phi beta kappa*, Marquette University

RESEARCH

EMPLOYMENT

2026-	Associate Professor of English, Florida International University
2018-2026	Assistant Professor of English, Florida International University
2022-2023	Family and Medical Leave (Academic Year)
2013-2017	Managing Editor, <i>Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies</i> (UPenn Press)

INTERESTS

Early American Literature; Transoceanic Studies; Archival Studies; Material Culture; Affect; American Women Writers; Piracy; Law and Literature; Disability.

MONOGRAPHS

Crimes Against Feeling: Piracy Sympathy, and Ocean Politics in Antebellum American Legal Culture, University of Massachusetts Press, 2026, <https://www.umasspress.com/9781625349637/crimes-against-feeling/>

Sentimental Seamen: Affective Labor and Literary Culture in an American Age of Sail. In Progress. Omohundro Institute First Book Workshop Awardee.

ARTICLES

“Pirates, Bloodhounds, and White Heirs: Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Fictions of Haiti.” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. 38.1 (2021): 1-25. muse.jhu.edu/article/863623

“Reconstructing the Racial Politics of Disability and Literary History in *Bricks Without Straw*.” *American Literary Realism*. 48.1(2016): 21-36. muse.jhu.edu/article/638958

“Sympathetic Reading and Sentimental Ownership in ‘Uncle Tom and Little Eva,’ a Card Game Adaptation of *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.” *The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association* 46.2 (2012): 127-52. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43150849>

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Ian D. Copestake, *Madness and the Sea: A Literary History* (Palgrave, 2026). Forthcoming in

BOOK CHAPTERS

“‘Every India Mail’: *The Lamplighter* & the Prospect of U.S. (Postal) Empire.” *India in the American Imaginary, 1780s- 1880s*. Eds. Rajender Kaur & Anupama Arora. Palgrave, 2017. [goo.gl/Frnct7](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-68117-7)

MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS

2020-2021	FIU Provost-WPHL Public Humanities Research Fellow
2019	American Historical Print Collectors Society Fellow, American Antiquarian Society
2019	Research Travel Awardee, UC-San Diego Special Collections
2018	NEH Fellow, “The American Maritime Commons” with the Munson Institute at Mystic Seaport Museum
2018	Lillian Gary Taylor Visiting Fellow in American Literature Harrison Institute, University of Virginia
2018	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow, the Library Company of Philadelphia & the Historical Society of Pennsylvania
2017	UC-San Diego Institute of Arts and Humanities Fellow, Residence, Providence Public Library.
2016	Hartland Memorial Fellow in Eighteenth-Century Maritime Social History, John Carter Brown Library
2015	Paul Cuffe Memorial Fellow for the Study of Minorities in American Maritime History, Munson Institute at Mystic Seaport
2015	Phillips Library Fellow in Residence, Peabody Essex Museum
Deferred	Fellow in Residence, The Global Sentimentality Project at Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany)

MAJOR ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS

Summer 2025	American Antiquarian Society, “Summer Seminar in the History of the Book: Sex, Gender, and Print.”
Summer 2019	Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, “First Book Institute.”
Summer 2019	Bavarian America Academy, Amerikahaus Munich, “Summer Academy: State Narratives in Comparative Perspective”
Summer 2017, 2018	Bavarian America Academy, Amerikahaus Munich, “Summer Academy: Questions from the Archive”
Summer 2018	NEH Institute, “The American Maritime Commons” with the Munson Institute at Mystic Seaport Museum

Spring 2018

German Historical Institute, Washington D.C., "Transoceanic American Studies"

CONFERENCES (PANEL ORGANIZER & PARTICIPANT)

"New Books in Legal Cultures of Abolition and Incarceration." American Studies Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, 22-25 October 2026

"*Disaffected* and Reconstructions of Unfeeling." Panel Organizer. Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. Coral Gables, FL, 31 March-2 April 2022

"*The Biopolitics of Feeling* & New Directions (or Dissents) in Sentimentalism." Panel Organizer. Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. Online. 15-18 October, 2020

"Cpt. Ahab: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Labor." Panel: Coming Beside Melville: Desiring Se(a)men. Melville International Conference. New York, NY, 17-20 June 2019.

"Transoceanic Fellow Feeling." Panel Organizer. Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference. Denver, CO, 8-11 November 2018.

"Affective Assent in Age of Sail Manuscripts." Panel: Oceanic Assent in Early American Maritime Manuscripts. American Studies Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, 9-12 November 2017.

"'A Sort of Affection': The Animating Sympathy of Hen Frigates." Panel: Home/Not Home on the Water: Early American Currents of Animacy, Disability, and Ecology. American Studies Association Annual Conference. Denver, CO, 17-20 November 2016.

"Is Liberal Sympathy Fun?: Textualizing 'Uncle Tom & Little Eva,' a Card Game Adaptation." Panel: Artifacts of Labor & Leisure: The "Serious Fun" of 19th-Century Transnational Material Culture. American Studies Association Annual Conference. Los Angeles, CA, 6-9 November 2014.

CONFERENCES (PARTICIPANT)

"To Define and Punish: Pirates, Migrants, and Legal Enclosures in the Trump Era," Encampment, Confinement, Community: Camps in U.S. American Media . TU Dortmund University, Germany, 3-5 Dec, 2026.

"Pirates of Antipathy: Melville's Oceanic Sentimental Politics." International Melville Conference. Mystic, Connecticut. 16-19 June 2025.

"The Florida Pirates: Antebellum Piracy's Legal Afterlives in Modern State Education." Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture. Louisville, Kentucky, 17-22 February 2025.

"Disability and Engineering: FiSci Lab Roundtable." International Conference on Narrative. Miami, Florida. 2-6 April 2025.

"On Transoceanic Impressibility." Chair and Commenter, "Gender and Sexuality on the High Seas." American Studies Association Annual Conference. New Orleans, LA, 3-6 November 2022.

"'Feeling Against a Pirate': Antebellum Piracy Law and Sedgwick Studies." Sedgwick Society Symposium. Stockbridge, MA, 8-11 June 2022

"Keeping Bodies in Line: Age of Sail Logbooks' Affective Fictionality and Colonial Power." Modern

Language Association Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, 3-6 January 2019.

“Carving Feelings: Interspecies Affect in Nineteenth-Century Whale-Tooth Scrimshaw.” American Studies Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, 8-11 November 2018.

“Sentimental Seamen: Archives of Transoceanic Fellow Feeling.” Transoceanic American Studies Conference. German Historical Studies Institute. Washington D.C. 17-18 May 2018.

“‘Creatures of feeling’: Pirates of Sympathy in Jacksonian-Era Trials & Fictions.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference. New York, NY, 4-7 January 2018.

“‘A pall hangs o’er the ship’: Weathering Feeling in American Sailors’ Logs & Journals.” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Biennial Conference. Detroit, MI, 20-24 June 2017

“Letters of Marque and Letters that Mark: Civil War Piracy Debates in Postal Envelopes.” American Culture Association Annual Conference. San Diego, CA, 12-15 April 2017.

“Laboring with Sentimental Seamen: Or, Feeling Through an Age of Sail Archive.” Conference on Maritime Masculinities, 1815-1940. Oxford Brookes. Oxford, UK, 19-20 December 2016

“Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s New England: Or, On Haitian Inheritances.” American Literature Association Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA, 26-29 May 2016.

“Confederate Pirates of Sympathy & Maria Cummins’s *Haunted Hearts* (1864).” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference. Philadelphia, PA, 4-8 November 2015.

“‘A sort of affection’: Fauna, Feeling, and Food in Travel Writing by Shipboard Nineteenth-Century Women.” American Literature Association Annual Conference. Boston, MA, 21-24 May 2015.

“Mobile Sympathy and Postal Empire in *The Lamplighter* (1852).” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Annual Conference. Atlanta, GA, 16-19 April 2015.

“Reception in Fuller’s *Summer on the Lakes* as Embeaded Anthological Narrative.” Reception Studies Society Biannual Conference. Milwaukee, WI, 26-29 September 2013.

“‘What a tragicomedy is life!’ Historical Tragicomedy in Hope Leslie.” Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society Symposium. Salem, MA, 17-20 June 2010.

INVITED INSTITUTIONAL & PUBLIC TALKS

“Understanding Asexual Identity.” With Nicole Derish MD. Florida Atlantic University Student Health Services. 25 July 2023.

“Disability in the Pandemic Classroom.” FIU Center for the Humanities in the Urban Environment (CHUE). Online. 16 March 2022.

“A Long Cruise: Exploring Quarantine Feelings with Nineteenth-Century Sailors.” Sleep Mode Virtual Exhibition Series. Providence Public Library. 12 April 2021.

“Adrift, Together: Tik Tok Shanties, 19th-Century Sailors, and Feelings of Shared Isolation.” Illumination Series at SOWELA Technical Community College. 23 February, 2021.

“Alone, Together: Feeling Through 19th-Century Sailors in Eras of Global Isolation.” Global Sentimentality Project Speaker Series. 12 November, 2020.

“My Pirate Booty’s Too Bootylicious For Ya, 1724-2019.” FIU Sigma Tau Delta Fall Event. Miami, FL, 22 October 2019.

“Bodies in Line: State Narratives in Age of Sail Lobgooks.” Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Nürnberg. Nürnberg, Germany, 27 May 2017.

“Pirates of Sympathy: Oceanic Inheritances in Antebellum Culture.” The Library Company of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA, 10 May 2018.

“Feelings I Know: Laboring Alongside Sentimental Seamen in an American Age of Sail.” UC-San Diego Arts and Humanities Institute. San Diego, CA, 26 Nov. 2017.

“Sentimental Seamen: Structures of Labor Feeling, and Bondage in an Age of Sail Archive.” Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Nürnberg. Nürnberg, Germany, 22 May 2017.

“Weathering Feeling in the Early American Maritime Archive.” Scripps Institute of Oceanography. La Jolla, CA, 31 May 2016.

“On Sentimental Seamen: Or, Feeling Through a Maritime Archive.” John Carter Brown Library. Providence, RI, 28 September 2016.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“On Sentimental Seamen: Or, the Fluidity of Maritime Studies” Global Maritime Studies. June 2018. <http://globalmaritimehistory.com/sentimental-seamen-maritime-studies/>

Catalogue Captions and Descriptions for “HairBrained.” Public Exhibit. Special Collections at Providence Public Library. March-June, 2018.

“Nero Waterman Leaves His Mark.” *John Carter Brown Library: I Found It at the JCB*. March 2017. <https://goo.gl/RbcVOE>

“A Stamped Whale or a Stove Boat: On Whalers’ Stamped Logs and Journals.” *Notes For Bibliophiles: Blog of the Providence Public Library Special Collections*. November 2016. <https://goo.gl/wp7Pqx>

“Feelings I know’: Laboring and Feeling Through Sailors’ Journals at the Phillips Library.” *Conversant: The Phillips Library Blog*. June 2015. <http://www.pem.org/library/blog/?p=7159>

TEACHING

EMPLOYMENT

Fall 2018-2022-2023	Assistant Professor, Florida International University
2012-2016	Teaching Fellow, FIU Honors College
2010-2012	Graduate Instructor/TA, University of California, San Diego
	Graduate Instructor/TA, Marquette University

AWARDS & CERTIFICATIONS

2019, 2020	Excellence in Teaching Award, FIU College of Arts and Sciences
2015-2016	Teaching Fellow, UC-San Diego
2016	Associate Certification, UCSD Center for Research, Teaching, & Learning

UNDERGRADUATE LITERATURE COURSES

Introduction to Colonial and Early American Literature
Approaches to Literature: “American Bodies”
Colonial and Early American Pirate Literature
Herman Melville and His Crew
Transoceanic Antebellum Memoirs
Introduction to American Literature to 1865
Introduction to Disability Studies
Disability Culture (Honors College)

GRADUATE LITERATURE COURSES

Transoceanic American Studies
Disability Studies

THESIS STUDENTS: CHAIR (BA)

Justin Hersey	Shanties and Tik Tok (Exile Studies, 2021)
Hannah Vivar	“Hansen’s Disease, Aesthetic Judgment, and Exile” (Exile Studies, 2020)
Michael Soriano	“The Smithereen” (HSI Pathways Project(2020)
Remington Simon	Disability Reading List for (Honors College ARCH Project, Incomplete)

THESIS STUDENTS: CHAIR (MA)

Xavier Richardson	“A General Fear and Fascination: Autism in Stephen King’s The Regulators (1996) and Beyond” (2025)
Kara Fracas	“Devouring Disability in a Japanese Neomedieval Fantasy: Ability Hierarchies in Ascendence of a Bookworm” (2023)
Adrian Salgado,	“A Sailor’s Intimacy: Homosocial Labor in Dana and Melville” (2020)
Lyndsey Schatzberg,	“Nancy Prince and Oceanic Feminist Rhetorics” (Incomplete)

THESIS STUDENTS: MEMBER (MA)

Lucas Viera,	A “Disease of Intolerance” in Every Frontier: Crippling the American Western Through The Virginian and Wounded (2026)
Ellie Gomero	“The Bones We Carry” (MFA Poetry Collection, 2025)
June Bravo	“Building Online Civil Communities: Understanding Online Responses to Transgender Embodiment” (Writing and Rhetoric, 2025)
Sophia Sanchez	The Internet Uncanny Turned Canny: Hyperrealism in Bo Burnham’s ‘Inside’ (2023)
Joy Serrano	“Going Native: Indigenous Representation in the American Popular Romance Novel” (2023)
Malena Pendola	“Disability and Gender in Nineteenth-Century Gothic Literature” (2022)
Tiffany Oharriz	“Transgressive Depictions of the Other in Gothic Literature” (2022)
Phillip A. LaPadula	“Shadows of the Morning Twilight “ (MFA Short Story Collection, 2020)

SERVICE

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT (FIU)

2024-Present	FIU English Assessment Committee (Chair since 2025)
2019-Present.	Graduate Program Committee
Spring 2022	Ad-Hoc Committee, Online FIU Literature Major Mission Statement
2022-Present	Disability Affinity Group, FIU

2022-Present	Out Professional Panthers Engagement Network, FIU
2018-2025	LGBTQ Mentor, FIU MPAS (Individual mentees and 20+ student cohort)
2019-2020	Faculty Mentor, HSI Pathways to the Professorate Program (Mellon-Funded)
2019	Faculty Judge, FIU "Three-Minute Thesis" Competition
Spring 2019	Panelist, MA Defense Workshop
Fall 2018, 2021	Organizer/Panelist, PhD Application Workshop and Forum

PROFESSIONAL

2022	Reader, <i>ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century Culture</i> .
2018	Reader, <i>Journal for Transnational American Studies</i> special issue on, "Oceans, Archipelagoes, and American Visuality."
2016-2018	UCSD Institute of Arts and Humanities Steering Committee.
2015-2016	UCSD Departmental Job Search in Early/19th-Century American Literature
2014-2017	UCSD Graduate Studies Committee

PRIOR OR ACTIVE AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association
 American Studies Association
 Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment
 Society of Early Americanists
 Society for the Study of American Women Writers
 Herman Melville Society
 Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists
 Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society (Lifetime Membership)

FIU STUDENT LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

PhD or Terminal Programs

Celia Canova: MD Program
 Hannah Vivar: MD Program
 Valentina Medina, MD Program
 Christopher Pelliccio: MD Program
 Neekesha Darus, MD Program
 Anthony Quintana: JD Program
 Sophia Scotti JD Program (Harvard Law Admit)
 Crystal Wright: JD Program
 Luis Alonzo: JD Program
 Alaya Idrees: MFA in Drawing and Painting
 Matthew Phelps: MFA in Directing/Screenwriting
 Angelique Patel: MBA in Library and Informational Sciences
 Michael Soriano: PhD in Literature (University of Miami)
 Adrian Salgado: PhD in Literature (Ohio State University)
 Tiffany Oharriz: PhD in Literature (University of Miami)
 Malena Pendola: PhD in Literature
 Sheila Gonzalez: PhD in Education
 Kara Frasca, PhD in Literature (University of Florida)
 Justin Hershey: PhD in Literature
 Anthony Vitiello PhD in Literature (University of Michigan)

Masters Programs

Ruth Dervil: Social Work
 Anita Thomas: Criminology
 Shakevia Only: Business Administration

Irene Vega: History
Katherine Jones, Psychology
Justin Hershey: English (Florida Atlantic University admit)
Yehudis Rivkin: English
Kevin Manning: English, Asian Studies
Naya Quintana: English
Genesis Pabon: Women and Gender Studies
Kevin Paz: English
Milton Balastegui, Architecture
Danielle Hoelle, Health and Human Behavior
Natalie Vargas, Research Design and Analysis
Ernesto Ferris: English
Davina Dyer: English
Yuliena Mosquera, Library and Information Services
Adrian Ramirez, Writing and Rhetoric
Milton Balastegui, Marriage and Family Counseling

Job or Grant Letters

Lucas Viera: National Museum of American History
Dominique Kent: National Museum of African American History
Amber Robinson: Millennium Fellows Program
Kimberly Castillo: Miami-Dade Public Schools
Maritza de Armas: Miami-Dade Public Schools
Natalie Almovidar: Miami-Dade Public Schools
Alicia Dimontova, Jorge and Darlene Perez Excellence Award
Danielle Hoelle, Johnson Scholarship for Disabled Students
Haley Moniz, Digital Organizer, New Hampshire Democratic Party
Raul Trochez, University of Miami Communications