

## Kevin M. Modestino, Ph.D.

Master Instructor of English, Howard University

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<http://kevinmodestino.wixsite.com/home>

### BOOK PROJECT

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#### “Providential Visions: The Aesthetics of History, Slave Revolution, and Imperial Time in Antebellum America”

An aesthetic analysis of antebellum historical writing focused on the problems of slavery, black freedom, and temporality in the works of nationalist romantic historians and abolitionists.

### EMPLOYMENT

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2018-Now	Master Instructor
2014-2018	Lecturer Department of English, Howard University
2010-2014	Teaching Assistant/Graduate Student Instructor Department of English, Duke University

### EDUCATION

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Duke University 2008 - 2014

*Ph.D. in English*

*M.A. in English*

- Dissertation: “No More Shall Be a Dull Book: The Aesthetics of History in Antebellum America”
- Dissertation Committee: Priscilla Wald, Thomas Ferraro, Timothy Marr, and Joseph Donahue
- Exam Committee: Priscilla Wald, Fred Moten, Thomas Pfau, Thomas Ferraro

New York University 2004-2007

*B.A. in English*

### INSTITUTES AND WORKSHOPS

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“Transnational Conversations” Obama Institute and the Society of Early Americanists  
Workshop, Mainz, Germany 2018

Bavarian American Academic Summer Institute, The Questions of the Archive  
Miami,

2018

Transcendentalism and Reform National Endowment for the Humanities Summer

Institute, Concord MA  
2017  
Seshet: A National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Workshop,  
Washington, DC  
2016  
Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College  
2013

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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Ashbel G. Brice Dissertation Fellowship	2013-2014
Summer Research Fellowship	2012, 2013

## PUBLICATIONS (Research)

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1. "William H. Prescott's Imperial Aesthetic," *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Culture* (Vol. 63, No. 4, 2017); 597-639.
2. "Running High on Feeling: Emotional Ecologies in Dreiser, Park, and Miéville," *Studies in American Naturalism* (Vol. 8, No.1, Summer 2013); pp. 52-78
3. "Renewed History for a Renewed Earth" *Cambridge Companion to Apocalypse in American Literature*, ed. John Hay (Chapter in progress, invited contribution)
4. "Octavia Butler's *Parables* and the Genealogies of African American Environmental Literature," (Under Review) 26 ms. pages
5. "Delano's Gaze: The Aesthetics of History and the Problem of Slavery" (under review); 33 ms. pages.

## PUBLICATIONS (Reviews)

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Film Review of *Ghostbusters* (Paul Feig, 2016). *Science Fiction Film and Television* (forthcoming)

Book Review of *Strange Nation: Literary Nationalism and Cultural Conflict in the Age of Poe* by J. Gerald Kennedy and *Novel Nostalgias: The Aesthetics of Antagonism in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature*, by John Funchion. (Vol. 89, No. 3, Sept. 2017): pp 627-629.

Book Review of *Ersatz America* by Rebecca Mark; *America Writes Its History* by Jude M. Pfister; and *Relativism, Alternate History, and the Forgetful Reader* by Derek J. Theiss. *American Literature* (Vol. 88 No. 2, 2016); pp 426-429

"Speaking Violence." Review of *The Prestige of Violence: American Fiction, 1962-2007*, by Sally Bachner. *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (Vol. 47, No. 3); pp 465-468

## DIGITAL PROJECTS

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“Mapping History: William C. Nell’s American Revolutions.”

<http://kevinmodestino.wixsite.com/kevinmodestino/digital-projects>

## INVITED TALKS

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“Environmental Humanities: Futures at GU” *2016-2018 Mellon-Sawyer Seminar*

“Approaching the Anthropocene: Global Culture and Planetary Change.” Georgetown University, April 24, 2018

“Form and Temporality in Hawthorne’s Prefaces,” Graceland University, March 2015

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“What is the Scene of the Plantationcene?” Presentation on Roundtable “The 500 Year Emergency: Ecological Catastrophe and the American Plantation Imaginary.” American Studies Association Conference, Oct., 2018, Atlanta, November 2018

“Reconstructing Digital Pedagogy” *Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black* African-American Digital Humanities Conference, University of Maryland, Oct. 2018

“Climates of Imperialism: Emerson and William C. Nell in Florida,” Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, March 2018

“William C. Nell’s Historical Materials at the Edge of Empire,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, UCLA, March 2018

Roundtable Participant “Activist Pedagogies: Thinking Beyond Solidarity and Allyship,” American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2017

“Romance as an Aesthetics of History” Society of Early Americanists Conference, Tulsa, March 2017

“Mapping Black History” Seshet: A National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Workshop, Howard University, July 2016.

“The Magisterial Mode in Criticism: Bancroft and Slotkin,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Washington, March 2015

“Form and Temporality in Hawthorne’s Prefaces,” Invited Talk, Graceland University, March 2015

“In the Time of Black History,” Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 2014

“Benito Cereno’s Time-Piece: Melville, History, and the Aesthetics of U.S. Imperialism,”  
Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, June 2013

“An Exemplary Conquest: Prescott and the Mexican-American War,” American  
Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of Toronto, April 2013

“Reading American Naturalism as Science Fiction,” American Literature Association  
Conference, San Francisco, May 2012

“Melville’s Exchange: Formal Anxiety and the Cosmopolitan Project in *Billy Budd*,”  
American Comparative Literature Association Conference, New Orleans, April 2010

#### CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

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“Can Non-Representation Space be Mapped?: The Case of Black Geographies,”  
Co-organized with Clare Callahan and Jonathan Schroeder, DH2018, July 2018, Mexico  
City

“Changing Climes: Geography, Mobility and Racial Justice in Antebellum Traveling  
Narratives” Co-organized with Katie Simon and Charles Baraw, Society of  
Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque,  
March 2018 (

“Americanist Criticism Back and Forwards,” Co-organized with Bradley King and  
Jonathan Schroeder, American Comparative Literature Conference, University of  
Washington, March 2015

“Uncommon Times: A Roundtable on Temporality and Antebellum Literature,”  
Co-organized with Kelly Ross, Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference,  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, March 2014

“Mapping History, Mapping Relation: The Production of U.S. History in a Transnational  
Context,” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, University of  
Toronto, April 2013

#### SERVICE

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Howard University

Environmental Sustainability Council

2017-current

Assessment Committee

2015-current

Freshman English/Writing Composition

2014-current

Event Committee

2015-2016

Burch Lecture Organizing Committee  
2014-2015

## Duke University

Organizer, Americanist Speaker Series 2010-2012  
Representative, Graduate English Association (GEA)  
2009-2010  
Volunteer, Society for the Study of the Novel Conference 2012  
Volunteer, W.E.B. Dubois' *Black Reconstruction* 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Symposium 2010  
Volunteer, North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference 2009

## TEACHING

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### Howard University

#### Master Instructor

- Environmental Justice, Environmental Humanities 2018 Spring, Fall

#### Lecturer

- Introduction to the Humanities II: Drama and Tragedy Fall 2017, Spring 2018
- Introduction to the Humanities I: Epic and Orature Fall 2016, Fall 2017
- English 105 Honors: Lives in Resistance Spring 2017
- The Bible as Literature Fall 2016
- English 105: Reflective Portfolio Writing (Pilot Year) Spring 2016
- English 104: Writing, Literacy, Discourse Fall 2015  
(Pilot year of advanced writers course)
- English 003: The Art of Protest and the Rhetoric of Abolition Fall 2015
- English 002: Freshman Writing Fall 2014
- English 003: Afro-Pasts and Futures Spring 2015, Fall 2016

### Duke University

#### Instructor

- The Science of Fiction from *Sister Carrie* to *Battlestar Galactica* Spring 2012  
(Course was featured in *Duke Magazine*, Jan. 2012)  
<http://www.dukemagazine.duke.edu/article/english-26s02-science-fiction-sister-carrie-battlestar-galactica>
- Freshman Writing: The Paranoid Style Fall 2010

## PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

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LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency Training Session, National Black Justice Coalition,  
Howard University 2018  
“Teaching at Howard” Certificate in Cultural Competency and Digital Pedagogy 2015

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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### OFFICES

Associate Digital Liaison, 2017-now  
American Studies Association Environmental Cultures Caucus

### MEMBERSHIP

The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)  
Society of Early Americanists (SEA)  
American Studies Association (ASA)  
American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)  
American Literature Association (ALA)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)

## EDITORIAL, RESEARCH, AND ARCHIVAL EXPERIENCE

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Production Assistant, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 2012-2013  
Assistant Archivist, Rubenstein Library, Duke University 2010  
Editorial Board, *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics* 2009-2010  
Research Assistant, Priscilla Wald 2009  
Editorial Intern, *The Paris Review* 2007-2008

## REFERENCES

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Priscilla Wald, Professor of English and Women's Studies, Duke University,  
pwald@duke.edu  
Frederick C. Moten, Professor of Performance Studies, New York University  
fred.moten@nyu.edu  
Dana A. Williams, Department Chair and Professor of English, Howard University,  
d\_williams@howard.edu  
Sandra Harbert Petrulionis, Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies,  
Pennsylvania State University, shp2@psu.edu  
Thomas J. Ferraro, Francis Hill Fox Professor of English, Duke University,  
ferraro@duke.edu  
Timothy Marr, Professor of American Studies, University of North Carolina-  
Chapel Hill, marr@unc.edu