

Gregg Hecimovich

64 Granville Rd
Cambridge, MA 02138

Professor Department of English
Furman University

Academic Positions

- 2022-present: Professor, Department of English, Furman University.
- 2023-2024: Hutchins Family Fellow, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University.
- 2022-2023: Duke Endowment Fellow, National Humanities Center.
- 2015-2022: Associate Fellow, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University.
- 2018-2022: Professor and Chair, Department of English, Furman University.
- 2012-2018: Professor and Chair, Department of English, Winthrop University.
- 2015-2016: Public Scholar Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities.
- 2015-2016: Josephus Daniels Fellow, National Humanities Center.
- 2014-2015: Sheila Biddle Ford Fellow, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University.
- 2010-12: Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English, Winthrop University.
- 2008-10: Associate Dean, Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, East Carolina University.
- 2002-10: Assistant and Associate Professor of English, East Carolina University.
- 2001-02: Assistant Professor of English, Seattle University.
- 1997-01: Assistant Professor of English, Eastern Illinois University.

Education

December 1997 Ph.D., Vanderbilt University
August 1993 M.A., Vanderbilt University
August 1991 B.A., University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill, *cum laude* English, *cum laude* Creative Writing, Louis D. Rubin Jr. Prize for Most Outstanding Creative Writer in Graduating Class, Phi Beta Kappa

Fellowships and Honors

Hutchins Family Fellowship, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University (2023-2024) [Residency Fellowship].
The Duke Endowment Fellowship, The National Humanities Center (2022-2023) [Residency Fellowship].
Public Scholar Fellowship, The National Endowment for the Humanities, Washington, DC (\$50,000) (2015-2016).
Josephus Daniels Fellowship, The National Humanities Center (2015-2016) [Residency Fellowship].
Shelia Biddle Ford Fellowship, W. E. B. Du Bois Institute at The Hutchins Center for African and African American Research, Harvard University (2014-2015) [Residency Fellowship].

Teaching Awards

Max Ray Joyner Award for Faculty Service Through Continuing Education, East Carolina University, 2008. University-wide competitive honor awarded annually to one faculty member to recognize “excellence in the delivery of courses offered through Continuing Studies, face-to-face and/or distance education.”

UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award, East Carolina University, 2006. University-wide competitive award bestowed by the UNC Board of Governors.

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Scholar-Teacher Award, East Carolina University, 2006. College-wide competitive award bestowed by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Department of English, Bertie Fearing Excellence in Teaching Award, East Carolina University, 2005.

Dean’s Award for Graduate Student Teacher of the Year in the College of Arts and Sciences, Vanderbilt University, 1997.

T. D. Young Teaching Award for Distinguished Teaching by a Graduate Student in the Department of English, Vanderbilt University, 1997.

Publications

Books:

The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of The Bondwoman’s Narrative.

Ecco/HarperCollins (October 2023). Kindle and Audible editions, 2023. Paperback edition, 2024. 432 pages. (Chosen as one of the “10 Best Books of 2023” by *The Washington Post*, starred reviews in *Publisher’s Weekly* and *Library Journal*)

Hardy’s Tess of the D’Urbervilles: A Reader’s Guide. London and New York: Continuum, 2010. Paperback edition, 2010. 157 pages.

Austen’s Emma: A Reader’s Guide. London and New York: Continuum, 2009. Paperback edition, 2008. Kindle edition, 2009. 119 pages.

Puzzling the Reader: Riddles in Nineteenth-Century British Literature. New York: Peter Lang, 2008. 136 pages.

Edited Volumes:

“*The Bondwoman’s Narrative by Hannah Crafts: A Fugitive Slave Recently escaped from North Carolina.* Edited by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. with a New Introduction and Notes by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Gregg Hecimovich. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2014. 381 pages.

Anthony Trollope’s Phineas Redux, Penguin Classics Edition, Edited with Notes and Introduction by Gregg Hecimovich, London and New York: Penguin Books, 2003. Kindle edition, 2003. 656 pages.

Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes:

“The Life and Times of Alfred, Delia, Drana, Fassena, Jack, Jem, and Renty,” in *To Make Their Way in the World: The Peabody Museum’s Daguerreotypes,* Edited by Ilisa Barbash, Molly Rogers, and Deborah Willis, Peabody Museum Press/Aperture (September, 2020). 72 pages.

“Searching for Hannah Crafts in Eastern North Carolina,” *North Carolina Literary Review* 16 (2007) 43-54.

“Rehearsing *Nicholas Nickleby*: Dickens, Macready, and the Pantomime of Life,” *Victorian Newsletter* 105 (2004). 16-24.

Technologizing the Word: William Blake and the Composition of Hypertext,” in *Language and Image in the Reading-Writing Classroom: Teaching Vision*, Edited by Kristie S.Fleckenstein, Linda Calendrillo, and Demetrice Worley. Mahwah, NJ: Earlbaum Press, 2002. 135-149.

“‘With pale blake I write tintingface’: Language and the Bounding Line of Joyce’s Aesthetic,” *James Joyce Quarterly* 36.4 (1999) (Published 2001) 259-271.

“‘Just the thing for the time’: Contextualizing Religion in Browning’s ‘The Bishop Orders His Tomb,’” *Victorian Poetry* 36.3 (1998) (Published 1999) 889-904.

“The Cup and the Lip and the Riddle of *Our Mutual Friend*,” *ELH* 62 (1995) 955-977

Works in Progress:

The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of Zealy Daguerreotypes.

Updated edition of *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*. Edited by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Gregg Hecimovich with a New Introduction and Notes. New York: Grand Central Publishing, 2024. 434 pages. (Under contract and due January 2024).

Curatorial/Exhibition Consultation

Hampton-Preston Mansion Reinterpretation, Columbia, South Carolina, Opened: May 2018.

Selected Media Coverage

“Professor Unveils Life of First African American Woman to Write and Novel,” *CBS Saturday Morning with Michelle Miller*, CBS, National, December 30, 2024. Television. (7.35 min)

Folarin, Tope. “The Years-Long Search for an Enslaved Author’s True Identity” (book review), *The Washington Post*, November 1, 2023.

“Gregg Hecimovich Joins Tavis Smiley,” *The Tavis Smiley Show*, KBLA, Los Angeles, California, Syndicated, October 30, 2023 (30 min)

Schuessler, Jennifer. “Searching for America’s First Black Woman Novelist” (feature), *The New York Times*, October 17, 2023. C1 C4.

“Staff Picks from *The Book Review*,” *To Make Their Own Way in the World: The Enduring Legacy of the Zealy Daguerreotypes*, Sunday Book Review: *The New York Times*, October 11, 2020.

Sehgal, Parul. “Giving Old Images New Power” (book review), *The New York Times*, September 29, 2020. C1.

Berman, Paul. “The True Story of America’s First Black Female Novelist,” *The New Republic*, February 10, 2014.

Winston, Hannah. “Q/A Profile: Gregg Hecimovich” *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, October 4, 2013.

“Professor IDs slave woman who wrote ‘The Bondwoman’s Narrative,’” *Take Two*, NPR Southern California Radio, Syndicated, September 20, 2013. (8.30 min)

“Her word was Bond’s,” *As it Happens*, Canadian Broadcast Corporation (CBC), Syndicated, September 20, 2013. (7.05 min)

“First female African American novelist revealed,” *The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell*. MSNBC, National, September 19, 2013. Television (7.20 min)

Gates, Henry Louis Gates Jr., “Discovery of the 1st Black Female Novelist: Discovery Will Change History of African American Literature,” *The Root.com* (<http://www.theroot.com/views/how-first-black-female-novelist-was-found>), September 19, 2013).

Bosman, Julie. “Professor Says He Has Solved a Mystery Over a Slave’s Novel,” *The New York Times*, September 19, 2013. A1, A3.

Selected Invited Talks

Skidmore College, “The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts, Question and Answers with Tammy Owens and Jamie Parra,” Tang Teaching Museum, Saratoga Springs, April 11, 2024.

Ballew Lecture, University of Georgia, “Reconstructing the Black Archive: The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts, the First African American Woman Novelist,” Athens, Georgia, March 21, 2023

New Orleans Book Festival, Tulane University, “Creative Nonfiction Panel,” New Orleans, Louisiana, March 15, 2024.

Vanderbilt University, “The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts,” Benson Hall, Nashville, Tennessee, February 8, 2024.

Hutchins Center for African and African American Literature, Loeb House, “Gregg Hecimovich and Henry Louis Gates Jr., in Conversation about *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts*,” Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, November 27, 2023

TAG Lecture, East Carolina University, “Gregg Hecimovich and Henry Louis Gates Jr., in Conversation about *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts*,” Joyner Library, Greenville, NC, November 2, 2023.

University of South Carolina Humanities Collaborative, “The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of the Zealy Daguerreotypes,” University of South Carolina at Columbia, Columbia, South Carolina, March 24, 2022.

Harvard Museums of Science & Culture, “Recovering the Histories of Seven Enslaved Americans”; Hosted by Henry Louis Gates Jr. and Ilisa Barbash, Zoom Public Event (<https://youtu.be/y3B3H94aQi4>), April 7, 2021.

Fordham University Literature Club, “Hannah Bond: The First Black American Female Novelist”; Hosted by Professor Susan Greenfield, Zoom Webinar, October 21, 2020.

Furman Humanities Center CLP (Cultural Life Program), “*To Make Their Own Way in the World: The Enduring Legacy of the Zealy Daguerreotypes* with Dr. Gregg Hecimovich, Ilisa Barbash, and Molly Rogers, Zoom Webinar, October 6, 2020.

Symposium on *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*, “Hannah Bond and *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*,” Susan D. Gubar Symposium Series, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, March 30, 2018.

Public Lecture Series, “The True Story of Hannah Crafts, America’s First Black Female Novelist,” The National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, February 11, 2016.

Earlie E. Thorpe Lecture Series, “Searching for Hannah Crafts, the First African-American Novelist,” North Carolina Central University, Durham, North Carolina, October 18, 2015.

Ruth Pauley Lecture Series, “Introducing the Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*,” with Wilma Laney. Pinehurst, North Carolina, February 5, 2015.

Fall Colloquium Series, W. E. B. Du Bois Research Institute at Harvard University, “The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*,” Cambridge, Massachusetts, September 10, 2014.

Selected Research Grants Awarded

Funded-External:

Visiting Research Fellow, Wilson Special Collections Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, “*The Columbia Seven: Research in UNC Special Collections*” (\$1,250) 2023-2024.

“Reconstructing the Black Archive: South Carolina as Case Study, 1739-1895,” National Endowment for the Humanities, Level I Summer Institute for College and University Teachers, Co-Director with Susanna Ashton and Rhondda R. Thomas (Clemson University) and Kaniqua Robinson (Furman University) (\$198,317), Clemson, Charleston, and Greenville, South Carolina, Summer 2023.

Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Seminar/Workshop Grant, “The Peabody Museum Daguerreotypes: An Interdisciplinary Interrogation,” Harvard University, November 18-21, 2015.

“Hannah Crafts/Hannah Bond, Research in Support of *The Life and Times of Hannah Crafts: The True Story of The Bondwoman’s Narrative* (book project), W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Studies, Harvard University (\$6,350) 2012-2013 and (\$10,000) 2013-2014.

Archie K. Davis Fellowship, The North Caroliniana Society, “Hannah Crafts and North Carolina” (\$1,240), 2006-2007.

National Endowment for the Humanities, “We the People” Summer Stipend Grant, “Searching for Hannah Crafts: Kate Wheeler Cooper and the First Novel by an African-American Woman and Fugitive Slave” (\$5000), 2004.

Funded-Internal:

Furman University, The Furman Standard Grant, “The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of the Zealy Daguerreotypes (Book Project),” (\$15,000), 2021-2024.

Winthrop University Research Council Grant, “Curating Slavery: The Life and Times of Alfred, Delia, Drana, Fassena, Jack, Jem, and Renty (Curatorial Projects),” (\$2,200), 2016-2017.

Winthrop University Research Council Grant, Research with Student Co-Investigator, “Who is ‘Hannah Crafts’? Finding the Author of *The Bondwoman’s Narrative*,” with Student Co-Investigator, Dylan Phillips, (\$5,450), 2010-2011.

Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Research Award, “Hannah Crafts and North Carolina” (semester research leave), 2006 (East Carolina University).

Faculty Senate Research/Creative Activity Grant with Project Expenses, “In Search of Hannah Crafts,” (\$3,335), 2005 (East Carolina University).

First-Prize, Innovative Uses of Technology, “Podcasting the Victorians,” Teaching with Technology: Think-In of Best Practices Conference (\$2,000), 2005 (East Carolina University).

Teaching and Research Interests

Biography, African American Literature and History, Slave Narratives, Victorian Literature, Romantic Literature, the Novel, Creative Writing, Technology and the Humanities (the electronic text, world wide web, computers and pedagogy), Literary Theory.

Teaching Experience

Furman University:

First Year Writing Seminar: Picturing Slavery, Writing Biography

Winthrop University:

Slave Narratives and the Novel course, Major British Writers, Critical Reading, Thinking, and Writing, African American Literature.

East Carolina University:

Locating Literary England, Study Abroad (graduate course), Victorian Literature (graduate course), English Novel Through Hardy (graduate course), Literary Theory (graduate course), Studies in African-American Literature (graduate course), History of Literary Criticism Locating Literary England, Study Abroad Victorian Literature, Introduction to Literary Theory, The Short Story, African-American Literature, History of Literature in English, 1700-1880, Major British Writers, Interpreting Literature, Composition, Appreciating Literature.

Seattle University:

Nineteenth-Century Novel, British Literature Survey II, Literature Seminar (honors seminar), Masterpieces of Literature, Freshman Composition.

Eastern Illinois University:

Victorian Literature (graduate course), Victorian Literature, Romantic Literature, Study Abroad: "Locating" Literary Masterworks, Literary Masterworks, Advanced Composition, Introduction to Literary Studies, Creative Writing: Intro. to Fiction, Honors/Basic Composition and Literature, Honors/Basic Composition and Language.

Conference Papers and Academic Presentations

National-Refereed:

- "The 'Heartless' Charles Dickens: Riddles, Puzzles, and Critical Thinking," 2011 Victorians Institute Conference, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, October 2011.
- "Searching for Hannah Crafts in Eastern North Carolina," 2007 Southern Writers Symposium, Methodist University, Fayetteville, North Carolina, February 2007.
- "Anagrams, Charms, and the Riddle of *Wuthering Heights*," SAMLA 2003 Conference (South Atlantic Modern Language Association), Atlanta, Georgia, November 2003.
- "Riddling Scripture: Parlor Games, Religion, and Dickens's *Great Expectations*," Dickens Symposium 2003 (The Dickens Society), Rochester, Michigan, October 2003.
- "'Riddle-me-Riddle-me Ree' Nineteenth-Century Parlour Games and the Oral Tradition of the Riddle," SAMLA 2002 Conference (South Atlantic Modern Language Association), Baltimore, Maryland, November 2002.
- "Rehearsing *Nicholas Nickleby*: Dickens, Macready, and 'The Pantomime of Life,'" Dickens Society

Conference, Wilkes-Barre University, October 1998.

“Perhaps You Can Tell Me What This Could Be?: Periodical Riddles in Dickens,” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington D.C., December 1996.

“The Anagrammatical Post-Office: Derrida’s Address in *La Carte Postale*,” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, February 1995.

“The Southern Body Politic: Representing Miscegenation in Twentieth-Century Fiction,” Twentieth-Century Literature Conference, University of Louisville, February 1994.

Regional-Refereed:

“iPods and Podcasting: A How-to Guide,” UNC-TLT 2007 Conference (University of North Carolina—Teaching and Learning with Technology), Raleigh, North Carolina, March 2007

“Teaching Literature in the Technology Classroom, and Technology in the Literature Classroom: The Case of William Blake,” UNC-TLT 2003 Conference (University of North Carolina—Teaching and Learning with Technology), Greensboro, North Carolina, March 2003.

“Cultural Materialist Criticism and the Supermarket of Literary Studies: An Inquiry,” Conference of the Illinois Philological Association, DePaul University, April 2001.

“Reading with Your Eyes Closed: The Charming Riddle of Keats’s ‘Eve’ of ‘St. Agnes,’” Conference of the Illinois Philological Association, Western Illinois University, April 1998.

“Troubling Mark-ups and Anxious Content Providers: Real and Imagined Problems for the Literature Classroom,” Ball State Technology Conference: “Beyond Here There Be Dragons: Navigating Unexplored Territories in English Studies,” Ball State University, October 1997.

“Word Games, Social Games, and Austen’s *Emma*,” Conference of the Illinois Philological Association, University of Illinois-Springfield, April 1999.

Local-Non-Refereed:

“Using Multimedia in Teaching,” Winning Teaching Style and Strategies: Center for Faculty Excellence, East Carolina University, February 2009.

“Puzzling the Reader: Riddles, Jokes, and Jane Austen’s *Emma*,” Invited presentation for Faculty at the Library, East Carolina University, March 2008.

“Learning Lab Series: Marking Papers,” Excellence in Teaching Series Hosted by Academic Outreach, Division of Academic Affairs, East Carolina University, March 2007.

“Advanced Podcasting,” East Carolina University Teaching with Technology: Think-In of Best Practices Conference, November 2006.

“Technology and the Scholar-Teacher,” Scholar-Teacher Awards Symposium, East Carolina University, April 2006.

“Learning Lab Series: Podcasting,” First in a Series Hosted by Academic Outreach, Division of Academic Affairs, East Carolina University, February 2006.

“Podcasting the Victorians,” East Carolina University Teaching with Technology: Think-In of Best Practices Conference, November 2005.

“Ladies, Gentlemen, and Convicts: Reading Great Expectations.” Charles Dickens and His World Conference, Eastern Illinois University. 7-8 October 1999.

Conferences Organized

Program Committee: “Eastern North Carolina Literary Festival and Homecoming” East Carolina University, 2005-2008.

Program Committee: “The East Carolina Humor Festival and Conference” East Carolina University, 2007.

Co-Director (with David Raybin and Audrey Edwards). “Homer’s Epic World.” Eastern Illinois University. November 1-2, 2001.

Co-Director (with David Raybin and Audrey Edwards). “Dickens and His World.” Eastern Illinois University. October 7-8, 2000.

Co-Director (with David Raybin and Audrey Edwards). “Jane Austen and Her World.” Eastern Illinois University. October 8-9, 1999.

University Service

Furman University

University-level

Chair, Department of English, 2018-2022.

Search Committee, Director of Writing Programs, 2021-2022.

Search Committee, Dean of Faculty, 2019-2020.

Africana Studies Major Working Group, 2019-2020.

Writing Programs Study Group, 2018-2020.

Department-level

Primary advisor for all majors, 2018-2020

Winthrop University

University-level

Chair, Department of English, 2010-2018.

Search Committee, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-2012.

Scholarship Tenure and Promotion Policy Group, College of Arts and Sciences, 2010-2011.

Department-level

Reader and examiner for 12 Masters Candidates, 2010-2018

Primary advisor for all majors, 2010-2018

East Carolina University

University-level

Associate Dean, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Science, 2008-2010.

Distance Education Advisory Council (member), 2008-2010.

Military Education Advisory Council (member), 2008-2010.

Provost’s Summer School Study Group (member), 2008-2010.

The East Carolina Humor Festival and Conference Committee (member), 2006-2008.
North Carolina Literary Festival and Homecoming Committee (member), 2004-2008.
Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, English Honors Society, 2005-2008

College-level

Professorship Working Group (chair), 2009.

Department-level

Personnel Committee (elected member), 2004-2008.

Recruitment Committee (member), 2006-2008.

Romantic Literature Search Committee (PC representative), 2006-2007.

Graduate Studies Committee (elected member), 2003-2006.

Film Search Committee (member), 2004-2005.

Ad-Hoc Core Curriculum (member), 2003-2004.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate Kristin Harvey.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate Richard Eason.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate Chris McDonald.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate Adrean Rea.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate LeAnna Cox.

Thesis director, reader and examiner for Masters Candidate Jessica Jeffords.

Reader and examiner for Masters Candidates Jason Myers, C. Michael Fischer, Marcus Green,
Thomas Rowe, and Katie Faron.

Seattle University

University-level

Core Curriculum Policy Board, Seattle University, 2001-2002.

Eastern Illinois University

University-level

Academic Technology Advisory Committee, 1999.

Academic Technology Advisory Standing Committee, Technology Strategy and Planning Subcommittee, 1999.

Department-level

Computer Resources Committee (chair), 1998-2001.

Faculty Advisor, *The Vehicle*, Undergraduate Literary Magazine, 1998-2001.

Credentials Committee (member), 2000-2001.

Special Personnel Committee (member), 2000-2001.

Recruitment Committee (chair), 1998-1999.

English Club Committee (member), 1997-2001.

Computer Resources Committee (member), 1997-98.

Honors Thesis Director, Tara Coburn: “Handling Faith in *A Prayer for Owen Meany*: Narrative Technique as Narrative Truth,” 1999-2000.

Honors Thesis Director, Matt McKinney: “Lord Chiltern and Phineas Finn: Anthony Trollope’s Communicators of Individuality and Traditional Morality in *Phineas Finn* and *Phineas Redux*,” 1998-1999.

Other University Service

Expository Writing Committee, Vanderbilt University, 1994-1995.

“Upward Bound,” Hiwassee College. Directed state-sponsored composition course designed for disadvantaged high school seniors preparing to enter college (Hiwassee College), 1994.

Previous Memberships in professional organizations

Association of Departments of English (ADE), Charles Dickens Society of America, Modern Language Association (MLA), South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA)

Offices held or other official functions

SAMLA Folklore Program Chair 2004, 2003

SAMLA Folklore Program Chair 2002

SAMLA Folklore Program Secretary

Advisory Board

2023-2024; 2017-2018: The National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina

2006-2010: Advisory Board, *North Carolina Literary Review*

Reader of scholarly manuscripts

Studies in the Novel, *North Carolina Literary Review*, Blackview Books, Peter Lang Publishing, Nineteenth-Century Studies Series.

Executive Board

Member, Board of Directors, Carolina Actors Studio Theater (CAST), Charlotte, North Carolina 2013-2014.

References

William Andrews, E. Maynard Adams Emeritus Professor of English, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Sara Birmingham, Senior Editor, Ecco/HarperCollins.

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Alphonse Fletcher University Professor, Harvard University and Director of the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research

Hollis Robbins, College of Humanities, University of Utah, Hollis Robbins, Dean, College of Humanities, University of Utah.