

Gregg Hecimovich

947 Amsterdam Ave,
Apt 3B
New York, NY 10025

Professor Department of English
Furman University

Academic Positions

- 2022-present: Professor, Department of English, Furman University.
- 2025-2026: Cullman Fellow, New York Public Library
- 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.

Education

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

Fellowships and Honors (2018-2026)

Guggenheim Fellowship (2025) in Biography, Creative Arts

Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center Fellowship at the New York Public Library (2025-2026) [Residency Fellowship].

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].

Publications (2018-2026)

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.

Winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Biography

Winner of the American Book Award

Winner Phi Beta Kappa Christian Gauss Award

Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography
Finalist for the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award
Honorable Mention for the MLA's William Sanders Scarborough Prize
"10 Best Books of 2023" - The Washington Post

Edited Volumes:

"The Bondswoman'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, 2025. 381 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.

Book forthcoming:

The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of Zealy Daguerreotypes. 37 Ink/Simon & Schuster (2027), 389 pages.

Selected Media Coverage (2018-2026)

"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.

Selected Invited Talks (2018-2026)

The District of Columbia History Center and The People's Archive, "Finding Hannah Crafts: America's First Black Woman Novelist," Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library, Washington D.C., May 30, 2024.
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, 2024.
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.

Selected Research Grants Awarded (2018-2026)

Funded-External:

- The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Award in the category of Creative Arts, Biography (\$65,000) 2025-2026.
- The Cullman Fellowship, New York Public Library (\$85,000) 2025-2026.
- William Gilmore Simms Visiting Professorship from The South Caroliniana Library (\$6300) 2025 .
- 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.

Funded-Internal:

- Furman University, RPG Grant, “The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of the Zealy Daguerreotypes (Book Project),” (\$2000), 2024-2025.
- Furman University, The Furman Standard Grant, “The Columbia Seven: The Life and Times of the Zealy Daguerreotypes (Book Project),” (\$15,000), 2021-2024.

Teaching and Research Interests

Biography, Creative Nonfiction, Creative Writing, African American Literature and History, Slave Narratives.

References

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

Dawn Davis, Senior Vice President and Publisher, 37 Ink/Simon & Schuster.

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.

Jill McCorkle, Writer, Emeritus, Professor of the Practice, North Carolina State University.

Hollis Robbins, College of Humanities, University of Utah.