

Laura L. Mielke

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, May 2003
M.A., English, UNC-CH, May 1999
B.A., English and Philosophy, Saint Olaf College, Northfield MN, May 1997

EMPLOYMENT

2025-present Chairperson of English, University of Kansas
2023-2025 Interim Chairperson of History, University of Kansas
2019-present Dean's Professor of English, University of Kansas
2010-2019 Associate Professor of English, University of Kansas
2007-2010 Assistant Professor of English, University of Kansas
2003-2007 Assistant Professor of English, Iowa State University

BOOKS

Provocative Eloquence: Theater, Violence, and Antislavery Speech in the Antebellum U.S. Univ of Michigan Press, 2019. Finalist for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education's Outstanding Book Award and the Theatre Library Association's George Freedley Memorial Award.
Native Acts: Indian Performance, 1603-1832. Edited with Joshua David Bellin. Afterword by Philip J. Deloria. Univ of Nebraska Press, 2011.
Moving Encounters: Sympathy and the Indian Question in Antebellum Literature. Univ of Massachusetts Press, 2008. Co-winner 2009 Byron Caldwell Smith Book Award; 2009 Choice "Outstanding Academic Title."

EDITIONS AND ANTHOLOGIES

"John Brougham's *Columbus Burlesque*." Edited with Rachel Linnea Brown. *Scholarly Editing* 39, 2021.
<https://doi.org/10.55520/205ZRSF3>
"a black diamond among thim American wives": Kate Edwards Swayze's Anti-Slavery Adaptation of George Colman's *Inkle and Yarico*." Edited with Martha Baldwin. *Scholarly Editing* 36, 2015.
<https://scholarlyediting.org/2015/editions/intro.swayzedrama.html>
Broadview Anthology of American Literature. 1 of 12 general editors. Vols 1 & 2, 2022.

ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

"Rhetorical Recovery: The Kansas Legacies of Charles H. Langston and Mary Leary Langston." *The Making of a Social Movement: The Oratorical and Rhetorical Legacies of the Colored Convention Movement*, eds. Andre Johnson, Gabrielle Foreman, and Jim Casey. Volume under review.
"this sea of upturned faces": The Rhetorical Role of Audience in Frederick Douglass's Constitutional Interpretation at Mid-Century." *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, vol. 49, no. 1, Spring 2024, pp. 1-26. doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlae009 *Editor's Choice selection*.
"Speaking for 'the Indian,'" co-authored with Drew Lopenzina. *The Oxford Handbook of Ralph Waldo Emerson*, edited by Christopher Hanlon. Oxford, 2024, pp. 161-176.
doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192894373.013.22
"Patriot, Satirist, Bagman: Picturing John Brougham's *Columbus Burlesque*." *New England Theatre Journal* 32, 2021, pp. 23-51.
"Zitkala-Sa's Defiant Gothicism." *American Women's Regionalist Fiction: Mapping the Gothic*. Edited by Rita Bode and Monika Elbert. Palgrave, 2021, pp. 339-357.
"Performance, Theatricality, and Early American Drama." *Companion to American Literature, Volume 1*. Edited by Theresa Strouth Gaul. Blackwell Publishers, 2020, pp. 428-44.
"Performative Cultures of Early America." *Cambridge History of Native American Literature*. Edited by Melanie B. Taylor. Cambridge University Press, 2020, pp. 74-88.

- “Native American Presence.” *Hawthorne in Context*, edited by Monika Elbert. Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 46-56.
- “Transforming Captivity Narratives in Kevin Willmott’s *The Only Good Indian*.” *American Studies*, vol. 55, no. 1, 2016, pp. 5-30.
- “Edwin Forrest’s July 4th Oration and the Specters of Provocative Eloquence.” *American Literature* vol. 86, no. 1, 2014, pp. 1-30.
- “Sectional Patriotism and Heroic Eloquence in William Gilmore Simms’s *Norman Maurice*.” *Journal of American Drama and Theatre*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2009, pp. 9-28.
- “‘The Saga of Third World Belle’: Resurrecting the Ethnic Woman in Ishmael Reed’s *Flight to Canada*.” *MELUS*, vol. 31, no. 2, 2007, pp. 3-27.
- “Sentiment and Space in Lydia Maria Child’s Native American Writings, 1824-1870.” *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, vol. 21, no. 2, 2004, pp. 172-192.
- “‘native to the question’: William Apess, Black Hawk, and the Sentimental Context of Early Native American Autobiography.” *American Indian Quarterly*, vol. 26, 2002, pp. 246-270.
- “Domesticity and Dispossession: Removal as a Family Act in Cooper’s *The Wept of Wish-ton-Wish* and *The Pathfinder*.” *ATQ: 19th Century American Literature and Culture*, vol. 16, 2002, pp. 9-30.

RECENT REVIEWS

- Currencies of Cruelty: Slavery, Freak Shows, and the Performance Archive*, by Danielle Bainbridge. *American Literary History Online Reviews*, forthcoming.
- Going Underground: Race, Space, and the Subterranean in the Nineteenth-Century United States*, by Lara Langer Cohen, *MELUS*, vol. 50, no. 2, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlaf038>
- Staged Readings: Contesting Class in Popular American Theater and Literature, 1835-75*, by Michael D’Alessandro, *Modern Drama* vol. 66, no. 3, 2023, pp. 435-38. <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/909183>

RECENT HONORS AND GRANTS

- Chancellor’s Club Teaching Professorship, KU (2025-2030)
- Frances L. Stiefel Teaching Professorship in English, KU Dept. of English (2021-2024)
- Mabel S. Fry Graduate Teaching Award, KU English Department (2023)
- Humanities Research Fellowship, KU Hall Center for the Humanities (spring 2021)
- University Scholarly Achievement Award, KU (2020)

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

- “New England Settlement in Child’s ‘The Kansas Emigrants,’” Joint Symposium of the Catharine Maria Sedgwick Society and the Lydia Maria Child Society. Williamsburg VA (attended virtually). June 26, 2026.
- “Frances Ellen Watkins Harper’s Practice of Observation,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. Cincinnati OH. March 13, 2026.
- “Starting with Jane Johnston Schoolcraft: Poetic Foundations for Teaching Early Indigenous Literatures,” Society of Early Americanists. Notre Dame IN. June 6, 2025.
- Panel Chair and Organizer, “Visibility and Defiance in Black Public Rhetoric.” Modern Language Association Annual Conference, New Orleans LA. January 9, 2025.
- Contribution to “The End of the Survey? New Approaches to Courses: A Roundtable.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. Pasadena CA. 14 March 2024. Published on [#TeachingC19](#).

RECENT SERVICE

- Professional: Chair, C19 Nominations Committee (2026-28); Member, Foerster Prize Committee (2026); Editorial Board Member, *J19* (2022-25); Editorial Board Member, *ESQ* (2020-27); Reviewer, multiple promotion files; Distinguished External Reader, Penn State and University of Michigan; Member, Selection Committee Clements Library Short-Term Fellowships (2024); Reader, University of North Carolina Press, University of Massachusetts Press, Michigan University Press, Oxford University Press.
- University of Kansas: Member, College Chairs and Directors Advisory Board (2024-); Member, Office of Faculty Affairs Council of Academic Leaders (2025-27); Co-Instructor, Hall Center’s Second Book Workshop (2025); College Committee on Appointments, Promotion and Tenure (2022-23)