

PAUL OUTKA
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, 3022 WESCOE HALL
UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. English. University of Virginia, May 2000.
Dissertation: "Whitman and the Sublime."
Mark Edmundson, Director; Richard Rorty, First Reader.
- M.A. English. University of Virginia, May 1995.
- B.A. Philosophy, with honors. Yale University, May 1986.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Associate Professor of English*, University of Kansas. 2011 to present.
Visiting Professor, LIRE (Littérature, idéologies, représentations aux XVIIIe-
XIXe siècles) group, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université de Lyon.
France. Fall 2013.
- Assistant Professor of English*, Florida State University. 2007 to 2011.
Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, Fall 2011.
- Assistant Professor of English*, University of Maine at Farmington. 2001-07.
Awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor, Fall 2007.
- Visiting Assistant Professor of English*, New College of Florida. 1999-2001.

SELECTED HONORS

- Humanities Research Fellowship*. Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas.
Spring 2026.
- Career Advancement/Research Enhancement Semester (CARES) Award*. University of Kansas, Fall
2025.
- Conger-Gabel Teaching Professor*, Department of English, University of Kansas,
2022-24.
- The Shirley Cundiff Haines and Jordan L. Haines Faculty Research Fellowship in
English*. Department of English, University of Kansas, 2022.
- Humanities Research Fellowship*. Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas.
Spring 2020.
- Sabbatical Leave*. University of Kansas, Fall 2019.
- The Shirley Cundiff Haines and Jordan L. Haines Faculty Research Fellowship in
English*. Department of English, University of Kansas, 2017.
- President*, Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, (ASLE), 2013.
- University Graduate Teaching Award*. Florida State University (nominated; withdrew
after appointment to the University of Kansas).

University of Maine Trustee Professorship, 2007-08.
American Council of Learned Societies/Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship for Junior Faculty, 2004-05.
University Honors Faculty. University of Maine at Farmington, 2003-07.
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Fellowship. University of Virginia, 1999-2000.
Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award. Department of English, University of Virginia, 1994-95.

PUBLICATIONS

Race and Nature from Transcendentalism to the Harlem Renaissance. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, 2013.

- Published in Palgrave's series in critical race studies, "Signs of Race."
- Winner of the 2009 *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment* (ASLE) Biennial Prize for "Best Book of Ecocriticism" published in 2007-08.
- Paperback edition, April 2013.

"Sustainable Ordinary." *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, 10th Anniversary Issue. 1-2 (Winter-Spring 2022) 69-75. Invited submission.

Outka, Paul. "Slavery and the Anthropocene." *The Cambridge Companion to American Literature and the Environment*. Ed. Sarah Ensor and Susan Scott Parrish. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2022. 29-43.

"Western Landscapes and the Dreamwork of Whiteness." *American Literary Realism*. 49:1 (Fall 2016) 37-62.

Preface. *Asian American Literature and the Environment*. Lorna Fitzsimmons, Youngsuk Chae, and Bella Adams, eds. New York: Routledge, 2014, xix-xxi.

"Environmentalism after Despair." *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*. Invited Statement. Vol. 1, No. 1 (January 2014).

"Poems, Eyelashes, and other Nonhuman Objects." Forum on the Nonhuman World, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*. 1.2 (Fall 2013) 411-416. Invited submission.

"Cosmopolitics and the Radical Pastoral: A Conversation with Lawrence Buell, Hsuan Hsu, Anthony Lioi, and Paul Outka." Lance Newman and Laura Walls, Eds., moderators, and participants. *The Journal of Ecocriticism*. 3.2 (2011) 58-71.

"Posthuman/Postnatural: Ecocriticism and the Sublime in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*." *Environmental Criticism for the Twenty-First Century: Science, History, Scale*. Stephanie Lemenager, Ken Hiltner, and Teresa Shewry, eds. New York: Routledge, 2011, 31-48.

Rev. of Finseth, Ian Frederick. *Shades of Green: Visions of Nature in the Literature of American Slavery, 1770-1860*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 44:1 (2010) 146-48.

“Publish or Perish: Food, Hunger, and Self-Construction in Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*.” Rpt. in *Short Story Criticism*, Vol. 136, Gale-Cengage, 2010.

“History, the Posthuman, and the End of Trauma: Propranolol and Beyond.” *Traumatology*. 15.4 (2009) 76–81.

“(De)composing Whitman.” *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*, 12.1 (2005) 41-60.

“Whitman and Race (‘he’s queer, he’s unclear, get used to it...’).” *Journal of American Studies*, 36 (2002) 293-318.

“Publish or Perish: Food, Hunger, and Self-Construction in Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*.” Rpt. in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, Vol. 114, Gale-Cengage, 2002.

“Whitmanian Cybernetics.” *The Mickle Street Review*, Summer 2001, No. 14. <<http://www.micklestreet.rutgers.edu>>.

“Publish or Perish: Food, Hunger, and Self-Construction in Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Woman Warrior*.” *Contemporary Literature*, 38 (1997) 447-82.

Entries and bibliographies for “Gender Studies,” “Masculinist,” “Misogyny,” “Negritude,” and “Women’s Studies.” Joseph Childers and Gary Hentzi, eds. *The Columbia Dictionary of Modern Literary and Cultural Criticism*. New York: Columbia UP, 1995.

Current Projects:

“Judgment and the Human.” Book manuscript, in progress.

INTERVIEWS

“Paul Outka: ‘Tenemos que sacudirnos la percepción ilusoria de que Producción, Consumo y Basura no se relacionan.’” *Tal Cual: Literales*. (7 July 2012) 19-20. Interviewed by Juan Carlos Galeano, revision of *Kanatari* interview cited below.

“Ecocriticism and the Global Environmental Crisis.” *Landscapes: The Journal of the International Centre for Landscape and Language*. Special Issue: “Sustainabilia: Exploring Sustainable Landscapes and Communities.” 4.2 (Summer, 2010-11) 11-15. English translation of *Kanatari* interview below.

“La ecocrítica y la crisis del medio ambiente.” *Kanatari: Semanario de Actualidades*. 1348 (18 July 2010) 1631, 1638. Interviewed by Juan Carlos Galeano.

SELECTED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations:

Speaker. "Unrepresentability, Trauma, Nature: Live Oak with Body." *Black Environmentalisms*. Yale University, October 2022.

Seminar Paper. "The Neuromateriality of Genius." *Disability Studies Seminar*, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. May 2022.

Panelist. National Endowment for the Humanities Conference, "Hurston on the Horizon." University of Kansas. July 2021.

Lecture. Virtual Resident Fellows Seminar, "Judgment and the Human." Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. May, 2020.

Panelist/Respondent. Research on the Leading Edge, "Musical Vitalities: Ventures in a Biotic Aesthetic of Music," by Holly Watkins. Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. September, 2019.

Speaker. National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, "Her-story/ies: Re-visioning Foremothers." Virginia State University. May, 2019.

Plenary Address. FSLE- India International Conference on Ecology and Culture. Amrita Vishva Vidyapeetham, Amritapuri Campus. Kollam, Kerala, India. December, 2018.

Keynote Address. Alabama Regional Graduate Conference, "Our Dying Earth: A Journey Through Eco-Criticism." University of North Alabama. March, 2018.

Speaker. Red Hot Research, "Human, Next." *The Commons*, University of Kansas. August, 2018.

Guest Lecture. "Music, Nature, Culture." Graduate Seminar, Florida State University. February, 2018.

Speaker. "Race and Nature: Foundations of Current Debates." *National Endowment for the Humanities Institute*, "Imagining Sustainable Environments: Place and Culture in the Global Community" (year 2), Virginia State University. May, 2016.

Speaker. "Literature and Environment." *National Endowment for the Humanities Institute*, "Imagining Sustainable Environments: Place and Culture in the Global Community" (year 1), Virginia State University. May, 2015.

Keynote Address. "The Tallahassee Lynching Tree." *The Natural History of Memory*.

University of Ghent, Belgium. June, 2014.

Colloquium Participant. "Sins of the Fathers: Epigenetics and the Inheritance of Trauma." *The Natural History of Memory*. University of Ghent, Belgium. June, 2014.

Speaker. *Sustainable Modernities*. Potomac Center for the Study of Modernity. Cochran Gallery, Washington, DC. April 2014.

Lecture. "Whitman and the Old New Materialism." Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université de Lyon. Lyon, France. November, 2013.

Lecture. "Western Landscapes and the Dreamwork of Whiteness." *Atelier Amérique du Nord: la fabrique de l'Amérique*. l'Université Lyon 2, Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, l'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lyon. Lyon, France. November, 2013.

Lecture. "Neuromateriality, Genius, and the Human." Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université de Lyon. Lyon, France. December, 2013.

Lecture. "Unnaturally Natural: Poets, Creatures and the Organic Sublime." Ecole Normale Supérieure de Lyon, Université de Lyon. Lyon, France. December, 2013

Speaker. "Western Landscapes and the Dreamwork of Whiteness." *Nature and Culture Seminar*, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas. March, 2013.

Panelist, with Donald Worster (University of Kansas), Kelly Kindscher (University of Kansas), and Mary Evelyn Tucker (Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, Yale Divinity School). Discussion following film showing of Tucker's film, *Journey of the Universe*. Liberty Hall, Lawrence Kansas, February 2013.

Speaker. "Western Landscapes and the Dreamwork of Whiteness." *Workshop in American Studies* series. Princeton University, April 2012.

Respondent. "Encounters with Race in the Age of American Transcendentalism." Panel sponsored by the Thoreau Society. *Modern Language Association*. Seattle, January 2012.

Lecture. "The Unbearable Whiteness of Greening: Race, Nature, and Ecocriticism." *Intersections: Border Zones in Environmental Studies/Science, Technology, and Society Colloquium Series*. Sarah Lawrence College, March 2011.

Speaker. "Much Ado About the Market: A Roundtable to Help Graduates Prepare for the Academic Job Market." *Southern American Studies Association*. Atlanta, February 2011.

Keynote Address. "Posthuman/Postnatural: Ecocriticism and *Frankenstein*." *Environmental Action Research Symposium*. Florida State University, April 2010.

Conference and Other Presentations:

“The A(I)nthropocene.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. July 2025 (under consideration).

“The Life and Work of Byron Santangelo.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. July 2025 (accepted).

“The Common Commons and the Apocalypse.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. July 2023.

“Identity, Care, and the Ethics of Uncertainty.” *Northeast Modern Language Association Conference*. March 2022.

“Dwelling in the Anthropocene with Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. June, 2019.

“The Prehistory of the Turing Test,” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. Detroit, June 2017.

with Anna Neill. “Epigenetic Emergence,” *Modern Language Association*, Philadelphia, January 2017. Part of a Special Session “New New Materialisms” organized by Outka and Neill.

with Anna Neill. “Epigenetics: Materialism and Agency.” *Society for Literature, Science and the Arts*. November, 2015.

“Epigenetic Circuits: Nature/Nurture and the Biological Materialization of History.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. University of Idaho. May, 2015.

Session Chair. “Eco/Body/Politics.” *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. University of Idaho. May, 2015.

Roundtable Participant. “Building the Environmental Humanities.” With Stacy Alaimo, Jon Christensen, Stephanie LeMenager, Catriona Sandilands, and Jennifer Wenzel. *Association for the Study of Literature and Environment*. University of Kansas, May, 2013.

Roundtable Participant. “Cosmopolitics and the Radical Pastoral.” With Lawrence Buell, Hsuan Hsu, Anthony Lioi, Nicole Shukin, Laura Dassow Walls, Julianne Warren, and Anand Pandian. *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*, University of Indiana, Bloomington, June 2011.

“Western Landscapes and the Dreamwork of Whiteness.” Florida State University Faculty Research Series. March 2011.

“The Virginian in *The Virginian*.” *Southern American Studies Association*. Atlanta, February

2011.

Conference Organizer. "Inscribing the Human: Materiality and Virtuality in the 19th Century." *Graduate Conference*, Florida State University, April 2010.

"Modernity and the Posthuman: From *Frankenstein* to the Cyborg." *Modernities Colloquium*, Florida State University, December 2010.

"Evolution, Essentialism, and the Organic Sublime: the Nineteenth-Century Posthuman." *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. University of Victoria, Canada, June 2009.

Session Chair. "African Americans and Ecocriticism." *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. University of Victoria, Canada, June 2009.

"John Muir and the Naturalization of Race." *American Literature Association*. Boston, 2007.

Conference Organizer and Session Chair. *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment* regional conference: "Maine in the Environmental Imagination." University of Maine at Farmington, 2006.

"Normative Whiteness." *Diversity and Scholarship at the Turn of the 21st Century*, University of Maine, 2005.

"The Great White Perfect Storm." *Modern Language Association*. San Diego, 2003.

"Traumatic Metamorphosis in Charles Chesnutt." *Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment*. Boston, 2003.

"Vertical and Horizontal Sublimity in Transatlantic Romanticism." *American Comparative Literature Association*. San Diego, 2003.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Kansas

Graduate: Whitman and Dickinson (Fall 2024); Cultures of Climate Change (Spring 2023); American Modernist Poetry (Fall 2020); Judgement and the Human. (Spring 2018); The Neuromateriality of Genius. (Spring 2016); Ecocriticism (Spring 2014); Evolution, Essentialism, and the Organic Sublime: the Nineteenth-Century Posthuman (Spring 2012).

Undergraduate: Introduction to Literary Criticism and Theory (Spring 2022, Spring 2025); Climate and Literature (Fall 2021, Spring 2025); Cultures of Environmentalism (Fall 2021); American Literature II (Spring 2019); The Nineteenth Century American Novel (Fall 2018); American Modernist Poetry (Fall, 2018, Fall 2016, Fall 2018, Fall 2020, Spring

2025), *The American Gothic* (Fall, 2015); *Whitman and Dickinson* (Fall 2011, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2023, Spring 2023); *American Literary Environmentalism* (Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2014, Fall 2015); *Biotechnology and the Posthuman* (Fall 2014, Spring 2019), *American Literature I* (Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2014); *Freedom and Bondage in the American Renaissance* (Fall 2012, Fall 2017, Spring 2024).

Florida State University

Graduate: *Freedom and Bondage in the American Renaissance*; *Whitman and Dickinson*; *American Literary Environmentalism*; *Evolution, Essentialism, and the Organic Sublime: the Nineteenth-Century Posthuman*.

Undergraduate: *The Nineteenth-Century American Novel*; *Freedom and Bondage in the American Renaissance*; *Whitman and Dickinson*; *Contemporary Literary Theory*; *Biotechnology and the Posthuman*.

University of Maine at Farmington

American Literature: *American Literature, Origins to 1865*; *African-American Literature*; *The Literature of Slavery*; *The Harlem Renaissance*; *American Poetry to 1900*; *Twentieth-Century American Poetry*; *The Nineteenth-Century American Novel*; *The American Renaissance*; *Whitman and Dickinson*.

Other: *Biotechnology and the Posthuman*; *Western Literature, Homer to Cervantes*; *Introduction to Literary Analysis and Interpretation*; *Composition*.

New College of Florida

American Literature: *American Literature, Origins to 1865*; *American Literature, 1865 to the Present*; *The Harlem Renaissance*; *American Modernist Poetry*; *American Literary Environmentalism*.

Other: *Sex, Love, God, Death: Renaissance Verse*; *Shakespeare. Tutorials in Native American Literature, the beats, British Romanticism*.

SELECTED ACADEMIC SERVICE

Profession

Article Reviewer, *Ecozone@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment*, 2022-present.

Jacket Endorsement, Helena Feder, ed. *Close Reading the Anthropocene*, Routledge 2021.

Article Reviewer, *Contemporary Literature*. 2013-present.

Editorial Board, *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*. 2013-present.

Article Reviewer, *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*.
2013-Present.
Consulting Reviewer, *PMLA*, 2010 to present.
Jacket Endorsement, *Civil Rights and the Environment in African-American Literature, 1895-1941*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. 2017.
Judge, *Best Book of Ecocriticism 2013-15 Book Prize*. Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2015.
Proposal Vetting Committee, 2015 Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference.
Referee for the Universiteit Gent Research Council, Belgium.
Book Manuscript reviewer. University of Illinois Press, 2015.
Book Manuscript reviewer. University of Minnesota Press, 2015.
Book Proposal Reviewer, New York University Press, 2014.
Peer Reviewer, *Rothberg Award for Professional Excellence*. Bradley University, 2014
Article Reviewer. *American Studies*, 2014.
Immediate Past President, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), 2014.
Jacket Endorsement, Stephanie Lemenager, *Ultradeep: Petroleum Culture in the American Century*. New York: Oxford UP, 2014.
President, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2013.
Vice President, Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, 2012.
Book Manuscript Reviewer, University of Minnesota Press, 2011.
Article Reviewer, *Security Dialogue*, 2011.
Book Manuscript Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
Jacket endorsement, Kimberly Ruffin, *Black on Earth: African Americans and Ecological Insights*, University of Georgia Press, 2010.
Series Reviewer, Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
Article Reviewer, *Traumatology: An International Journal*, 2009.
Judge, Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance 2005 Poetry Contest.

University of Kansas

Department Representative, CLAS Impact and Belonging Committee.
Member, University Racial Equity Awards Committee.
Chair, Recruitment, Retention, and Belonging Committee, Department of English, Fall 2024-present.
Member, Faculty Evaluation Committee, Department of English, Fall 2023-present.
Member, Graduate Committee, Department of English, Fall 2024-present.
Member, CLAS Humanities Task Force, 2023-present
University Scholars Mentor, 2019-present.
Faculty Senator (elected), 2016-2019.
Member, Advisory Committee, Department of English.
Member, Faculty Rights Board, 2014-2017.
Faculty Senator, 2013-14.

Search Committee Member, Environmental Rhetoric, 2014.
Chair, Department of English Lecturers and Readers Committee, 2015-2018.
Department of English Advisory Committee, Fall 2018
Chair, Department of English Awards Committee, 2022-24.
Member, Department of English Awards Committee, 2018-19.
Department of English Lecturers and Readers Committee (member), 2012-2015.
Department of English Graduate Admissions Committee, 2011-2015.
Introduction, Peter Balakian. "An Evening with Poet Peter Balakian." Humanities
Lecture Series, Hall Center for the Humanities, February, 2018.
Introduction, Cary Wolfe. "Autoimmunities." Alice F. Holmes Summer Institute for
Literature, June, 2018.
Introduction, N. Katherine Hayles. "Cognition Everywhere: The Rise of the Cognitive
Nonconscious." Alice F. Holmes Summer Institute for Literature, June, 2014.
Introduction, Nikky Finney. "Making Poetry in Our Anthropocene Age." Humanities
Lecture Series, Hall Center for the Humanities, September, 2012.

Florida State University

Search Committee Member, Multi-Ethnic American Literature, 2010-11.
Faculty Evaluation Committee, 2010-11.
Featured Author, *FSU Author's Day*, March 2010.
Faculty representative, Academic Honor Committee, 2010.
Chair, Graduate Placement Committee, 2008-present.
Department Chair Selection Committee, 2008-09.
Graduate Placement Committee, 2007-08.

University of Maine at Farmington

Secretary of Faculty Senate (elected), 2006-07.
Honors Council (elected), 2003-2007.
Humanities Senator (elected), Faculty Senate, 2005- 07.
Humanities Representative (elected), Campus Curriculum Committee, 2003-04.
Teaching and Assessment Committee, Department of English, 2002-03.
Editorial Board, *Apropos: A Forum for Undergraduate Scholarship*, 2001-03.

New College of Florida

Faculty Advisor, Campus Literary Magazine, 2000-01.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS: American Council of Learned Societies (Fellow); Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment; American Studies Association; Modern Language Association; Society for the Study of Literature, Science and the Arts.

References available upon request.