

Kyla Schuller

Department of Women's and Gender Studies
Rutgers University—New Brunswick
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Literature, University of California, San Diego, June 2009

Dissertation: "Sentimental Science and the Literary Cultures of Proto-Eugenics"

- CGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award in Humanities/Fine Arts, UC San Diego nominee

M.A. Literatures in English, University of California, San Diego, November 2005

A.B. Comparative Literature, University of Oregon, June 1999 (*magna cum laude*)

ACADEMIC & RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Studies, Rutgers University—New Brunswick, 2018–

Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University—New Brunswick, 2012–2018

ACLS New Faculty Fellow and Postdoctoral Associate in Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University—New Brunswick, Fall 2010–June 2012

Visiting Scholar, UC Berkeley Science, Technology, and Society Center, Spring 2010

Postdoctoral Fellow, UC Humanities Research Institute, Fall 2009

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Feminist science & technology studies

Theories of gender, race, & sexuality

Nineteenth-century U.S. literature & culture

Biopolitics & the body

Visual culture

Sentimentalism in U.S. culture

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Gender Studies After Gender, in progress

The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century. (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2018).

Edited Volumes

“Too Plastic,” special issue of *Social Text*, co-edited with Julian Gill-Peterson. In progress.

“Origins of Biopolitics in the Americas,” special issue of *American Quarterly*, co-edited with Greta LaFleur. In progress for Fall 2019 release

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Security Feminisms: Vital Force and the Biopolitics of Reproductive Rights,” in progress

“The Biology of Intimacy: Biopower and the Orphan Novel in the Age of Lamarck.” *Arizona Quarterly*, forthcoming

“The Microbial Self: Sensation and Sympoiesis.” *Resilience: A Journal of the Environmental Humanities*, 5, no. 3 (2018).

“The Fossil and the Photograph: Red Cloud, Prehistoric Media, and Dispossession in Perpetuity.” *Configurations* 24, no. 2 (2016): 259–291.

“Avatar and the Movements of Neocolonial Sentimental Cinema.” *Discourse: Journal for Theoretical Studies in Media and Culture* 35, no. 2 (2014): 177–193.

“Taxonomies of Feeling: The Epistemology of Sentimentalism in Late Nineteenth-Century Racial and Sexual Science.” *American Quarterly* 64, no. 2 (2012): 277–299.

“Specious Bedfellows: Ethnicity, Animality, and the Intimacy of Slaughter in *Moby-Dick*.” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 12, no. 3 (2010): 3–20.

“Facial Uplift: Plastic Surgery, Cosmetics and the Retailing of Whiteness in the Work of María Cristina Mena.” *Journal of Modern Literature* 32, no. 4 (2009): 82–104.

Book Chapter

{Invited} “Eugenic Plots: The Novel as Evolutionary Instrument in the Early Twentieth Century,” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Science, 20th /21st Century*, edited by Priscilla Wald. Submitted

Review Essays & Book Reviews

{Invited} “Review of *Undoing Monogamy: The Politics of Science and the Possibilities of Biology*, by Angela Willey.” *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*, forthcoming

{Invited} “Biopower Before and Below the Individual,” Review Essay. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 22, no. 4 (2016): 629–636.

{Invited} “Sacrificed on the Mormon Altar,” review of *Elder Northfield’s Home; or, Sacrificed on the Mormon Altar*, by A. Jennie Bartlett. Edited by Nicole Tonkovich. *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 33, no. 2 (2016): 441-443.

“Sex Before Sexuality,” review of *Tomorrow’s Parties: Sex and the Untimely in Nineteenth-Century America*, by Peter Coviello. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 20, no. 3 (2014): 384–386.

Public Scholarship

“The Trouble With White Women,” *Duke University Press Blog*, January 11, 2018.
<https://dukeupress.wordpress.com/2018/01/11/the-trouble-with-white-women/>

{Invited} “Speaking Substances: Bodies,” *Los Angeles Review of Books*, March 23, 2016.
<http://lareviewofbooks.org>

“The Americans Who Matter: Michael Moore’s White Liberal Racism in *Bowling for Columbine*,” *Post Road* 9 (2005): 11–19.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & HONORS

Stanford Humanities Center External Junior Faculty Fellowship, 2017–2018 (\$100,000)

Rutgers University Research Council Award, 2017

Institute for Research on Women Faculty Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2016–2017

Erasmus Mundus Visiting Professor Scholarship, Utrecht University, the Netherlands, 2013

American Council of Learned Societies New Faculty Fellowship, 2010–2012

UC Humanities Research Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship in Residential Research Group
“Species Spectacles,” directed by Mel Y. Chen, Fall 2009

Council of Graduate Schools/University Microfilms International 2009–10 Distinguished
Dissertation Award in Humanities/Fine Arts, UC San Diego nominee

- Recognized among all UCSD dissertations filed between July 2007 and June 2009

American Comparative Literature Association Horst Frenz Prize 2008, Honorable Mention

UC San Diego Department of Literature Yearlong Dissertation Fellowship, 2007–2008

Smith College, Sophia Smith Collection, Margaret Storrs Grierson Travel-to-Collections Grant,
2007

UC San Diego Division of Arts and Humanities Conference Travel Grant, 2007

UC San Diego Department of Literature Research Travel Grant, 2007. Awarded for archival
work at the American Museum of Natural History, the New York Public Library, and the
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Student Service Pilot Project Grant, UC San Diego Office of Graduate Studies, 2006–07.
Established “Dialogues in Sexuality Studies” with Steven Epstein to connect faculty and

graduate students across disciplines. Additional funding received 2007–2008, 2008–2009

UC San Diego California Cultures in Comparative Perspective Summer Graduate Fellowship, 2006

UC San Diego Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies Field Research Grant, July 2004. Awarded for research at the Biblioteca Nacional and other sites in Mexico City

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Title TBD. Department of English Annual Lecture Series, University of Buffalo. Buffalo, NY. April 2019

“The Biopolitics of Feeling,” Department of English Americanist Colloquium, Yale University. New Haven, CT. November 2018

“Biopolitics Before the State,” Art & Architecture Forum, Columbia University. New York, NY. September 2018

“Rethinking the Sex/Gender Distinction,” Spotlight Speaker, Capacious: Affect Inquiry/ Making Space. Lancaster, PA. August 2018

“The Biopolitics of Feeling,” Center for Cultural Studies Colloquium, UC Santa Cruz. Santa Cruz, CA. May 2018

“The Biopolitics of Feeling,” Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Stanford University. Stanford, CA. May 2018

“Vaginal Impressions: Gyno-Neurology and the Racial Origins of Sexual Difference.” Queer Genealogies of the Normal Symposium, Haverford College. Haverford, PA. October 2016

“The Fossil and the Photograph: Red Cloud and Prehistoric Media.” American Studies Seminar, Columbia University. New York, NY. March 2016

“Vaginal Impressions: The Affective Biopolitics of the First Women Physicians.” Center for the Study of Sexual Culture Speaker Series, UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. March 2015

“Queer Vitalisms: Sensation, Sentiment, and Sexuality in Nineteenth-Century Biopolitics.” LGBT Studies, Yale University. New Haven, CT. January 2015

“*Avatar* and Technologies of Affect.” Visuality and Technology seminar, Professor Marta Zarzycka, Utrecht University. Utrecht, the Netherlands. May 2013

“Handmaidens of Heredity: The Queer Evolutions of the First Generation of Women Physicians.” Women’s and Gender Studies Annual Colloquium, Rutgers University—Newark. Newark, NJ. March 2013

“Neoliberalism and the Sensing Body.” Network of Interdisciplinary Women’s Studies in Europe (NoISE) Summer School, Utrecht University. Utrecht, the Netherlands. August 2012

“The Evolution of Affect in the Age of Darwin.” As Yet Unnamed: Queer Theories and the Nineteenth Century, Pomona College. Pomona, CA. March 2012

Conference & Workshop Presentations

“Sexual Climates: Susceptible Bodies and Queer Environments in the Nineteenth Century,” Society of Literature, Science and the Arts EU. Copenhagen, Denmark. June 2018

“Origins of Gender: Rethinking the Sex/Gender Distinction,” Stanford Humanities Center Research Presentation. Stanford, CA. June 2018

Roundtable member, “Dissenting Sciences: Objectivity, Feminist/ Trans Science Studies, and the Multiethnic Resistance,” American Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2017

“The Biopolitics of Feeling,” Natura Faculty Roundtable on Science and Technology Studies, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. October 2016

“Elastic Youth: Sensation and Settler Colonialism,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. State College, PA. March 2016

“The Impressible Body: Heredity Before the Gene,” American Studies Association. Toronto, Canada. October 2015

“Bodies,” Modern Language Association. Vancouver, BC. January 2015

“Handmaidens of Heredity: The Affective Biopolitics of the Earliest Women Physicians,” American Studies Association. Los Angeles, CA. November 2014

“Handmaidens of Heredity: The Affective Biopolitics of the Earliest Women Physicians,” National Women’s Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2014

“The Sentimental Politics of Life: Race, Sexuality, and Biopower Before the Gene,” Research Briefing, Women’s and Gender Studies Department, Rutgers—New Brunswick. March 2014

“Orphans of Progress: The Child Migrants of the Lower East Side.” Sawyer Seminar: Race, Space and Place. Rutgers University—New Brunswick. January 2013

“Touching Time: Frances E.W. Harper’s Evolutionary Aesthetics,” Modern Language Association. Boston, MA. January 2013

“The Erotics and Eugenics of Touch in the Work of Frances E.W. Harper,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. Berkeley, CA. April 2012

“Sentimental Science and the Rise of Eugenics in the Nineteenth-Century United States.” Sixth Annual Faculty Forum on Race and Ethnicity, Rutgers University—New Brunswick. September 2011

“Science and Feminism.” Rutgers University Women’s Center. New Brunswick, NJ. March 2011

“Woman’s Evolution: Frances Harper and the Sciences of Civilization.” Toward an Intellectual History of Black Women, Columbia University. New York, NY. April 2011

“*Uncle Tom’s Tenement* and the Evolution of Affect in the Age of Darwin.” Northeast Modern Language Association. New Brunswick, NJ. April 2011

“The Impresible Orphan: Sentimentalism, Domestic Literature, and Nineteenth-Century Eugenics.” Modern Language Association. Los Angeles, CA. January 2011

“Sentimental Science and the Rise of Eugenics in the Nineteenth-Century United States.” Rutgers University Women’s and Gender Studies, “Research Briefing.” New Brunswick, NJ. November 2010 and UC Berkeley Science, Technology, and Society Center, Lunch + Talk Series. Berkeley, CA. April 2010

“A Taxonomy of Feeling: Sentimentalism in Gilded Age Evolutionary Science.” Affective Tendencies Conference, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. October 2010

“Late-Nineteenth-Century African American Feminism and the Sciences of Heredity.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Inaugural Conference. State College, PA. May 2010

“Breeding Better Citizens: The Eugenic Origins of U.S. Foster Care.” American Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2009

“Dr. Queer, Medicine Man-Lady.” 2008 Los Angeles Queer Studies Conference. Los Angeles. October 2008

“Orphan Training: Better Breeding and the Origins of U.S. Foster Care.” Human Breeding: Proto-Eugenic Thinking Before Galton. Washington, D.C. September 2008

“The Fossil and the Photograph: Capturing the ‘Primitive’ in the Museum and Boarding School.” American Comparative Literature Association. Puebla, Mexico. April 2007

“The Vanished Species and the ‘Vanishing Race’ in the Visual Culture of the Gilded Age.” Crossing Borders: Fifth Annual Conference of Ethnic Studies in California. San Diego, CA. March 2007

“Evolving California: Evolutionary Thinking and California Land Rights.” California Cultures in Comparative Perspective Working Paper Series. San Diego, CA. February 2007

“Beyond Anthropomorphism: *Moby-Dick's* Orientalized Sperm Whales.” Melville/Douglass Conference. New Bedford, MA. June 2005

“Anti-Imperialist Eugenics in W.E.B. Du Bois and José Vasconcelos.” Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies Graduate Research Workshop. San Diego, CA. April 2005

“Riot Grrrl and Third Wave Feminism,” UC San Diego Muir College Women’s History Month Celebration. La Jolla, CA. March 2005

“A Cross-border Approach to Racial Degeneration and Eugenics in the Works of W.E.B. Du Bois, José Vasconcelos and María Cristina Mena.” American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2004

“Race, Cosmetic Surgery, and the Beauty of Neocolonialism During the Mexican Revolution.” Crossing Borders: Second Annual Conference of Ethnic Studies in California. San Diego, CA. March 2004

“Producing the Gendered Body.” The Nature of the Literary Graduate Student Conference. Eugene, OR. January 1999

Conference Panels Organized and/or Chaired

Chair, “(Re) Emergent Bones: Settler Colonial Spaces and the Accumulation of Human Remains,” American Studies Association. Atlanta, GA. November 2018

Roundtable Organizer, “Dissenting Sciences: Objectivity, Feminist/ Trans Science Studies, and Multiethnic Resistance,” American Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2017

Stream (three panels) Co-organizer, “Affect and its Queer Intersections: Race, Trans*, and Biopolitics,” Affect WTF Conference. Lancaster, PA. October 2015

Session Organizer, “The Pleasures and Pain of Queer Generations,” American Studies Association. Los Angeles, CA. November 2014

Session Organizer, “Origins of Biopower in the Americas,” National Women’s Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2014

Comment and Session Organizer, “Debts to the Future: Temporality in the Nineteenth Century,” American Studies Association. Washington, D.C. November 2013

Chair, “Imperial Designs: U.S. Empire, Technology, and Transcaribbean Space,” American Studies Association. San Juan, Puerto Rico. November 2012

Session Co-Organizer, “Sentimentalism and the Senses,” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. Berkeley, CA. April 2012

Session Organizer, “Contending Forces: Evolutionary Biology, Materialist Science, and the ‘Spirit’ of the Racial Family.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Inaugural Conference. State College, PA. May 2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Seminars, Rutgers University, Women’s and Gender Studies

Colloquium: “Feminist Science Studies,” Fall 2016

“Technologies and Poetics of Race, Gender, and Sexuality,” Fall 2018, Spring 2016, and Fall 2012

Undergraduate Courses, Rutgers University, Women’s and Gender Studies

“Introduction to Transgender Studies,” Fall 2018

“Gender, Race, and Visual Media,” Spring 2017

“Introduction to Critical Sexualities Studies,” Fall 2016 and Fall 2014

“Senior Seminar: Gender and the Media,” Spring 2015

“Gender and Science,” Spring 2015, Fall 2012, and Spring 2012

“Medicine and Biopolitics, 1850-present,” Summer Session II 2014

“Gender and Popular Culture,” Fall 2014 and Spring 2013

“Race, Gender, Nation,” Spring 2013 and Spring 2011

“Senior Thesis Seminar,” Fall 2010–Spring 2012

Byrne First-Year Seminar, Rutgers University

“Queer Lives and Literatures Before Gay Liberation,” Byrne First-Year Seminar, Spring 2017 and Fall 2014

Undergraduate Courses Designed & Taught, UC San Diego, Literature

“Gendered Labor in Literature and Film,” Winter 2009

“Gender, Race, and Science in Popular Culture,” Fall 2008

“Literature and Social Movements,” Summer 2006

Graduate Student Advisees

Dissertation Co-Chair: Katherine Gray, “Mediation as a Way of Life: Streaming Time and the Training of Digital Subjects” and Lindsey Whitmore, “Ecologies of Care: White Pain, Clinical Power, and the Affective Life of Opioids”

Dissertation Committee Member: Ashley Falzetti (Ph.D. 2015, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Eastern Michigan University); Stina Soderling (Ph.D. 2016, Lecturer at UMass Amherst); Che Gossett; Alessandra Valentín; and Arev Pivazyan

Dissertation Prospectus Committee: Miriam Tola (Ph.D. 2016)

Master's Thesis Second Reader: Tracy Martin (M.A. 2016) and Megan Kennedy (M.A. 2013)

Undergraduate Student Advisees

Mentor, Aresty Research Assistant Program: Evelyn Daly Forseth, "Republishing A Forgotten Feminist Text" (2016–2017)

Advisor, Women's and Gender Studies senior honors thesis: Ariel Dell'Arena '17, Mary Margaret Mumich '17, and Brenda Alves (B.A. 2016, recipient of the University-wide Henry Rutgers Scholar Award for outstanding thesis)

Second reader, Women's and Gender Studies senior honors thesis: Suzanne Luhrs (B.A. 2014), Annu Dahiya, (B.A. 2013), and Devangi Patel (B.A. 2012)

Advisor, Institute for Women's Leadership Social Action Project: Fariha Siddiqui (B.A. 2011)

SERVICE

Journal Advisory Boards

Advisory Board member, *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience*, 2016–present

Editorial Board member, *Capacious: Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry*, 2016–present

Journal Manuscript Review

American Quarterly

GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies

Science, Technology & Human Values

Feminist Formations

Feminist Media Histories: An International Journal

The Scholar & Feminist Online

Journal of Transnational American Studies

Rutgers University

Elected member, Institute for Research on Women Executive Committee, 2017–present

Co-organizer and moderator, "The Legacy of Kate Bornstein: Film Screening and Discussion of *Kate Bornstein is a Queer and Pleasant Danger*," Tyler Clementi Center, November 2014

Co-organizer, "*The Punk Singer*, a film about Kathleen Hanna with Director Sini Anderson," Douglass Student Center, October 2014

Discussant, “Ontologies and Philosophies of the Anthropocene,” After 400 ppm: Science, Politics, and Social Natures in the Anthropocene. Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University. New Brunswick, NJ. March 2014

Panelist, “Professionalization Q & A,” Sixth Annual Graduate Forum on Race & Ethnicity, Rutgers University Center for Race & Ethnicity, February 2013

Panelist, “Pregnant and On Drugs: A Discussion on Enrolling Pregnant Women in Clinical Trials,” Rutgers University SciWomen, February 2012

Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

Faculty Director, Women’s Global Health Leadership Certificate Program, 2018–present

Member, Personnel Committee, 2018–present

Search Committee Member, Henry Rutgers Term Professorship in Comparative Sexuality, Gender, and Race, 2016–2017

Member, Graduate Admissions and Curriculum Committee, 2014–2017

Organizer, “New Book Talk + Tea with Marisa Fuentes and Deborah Gray White,” November 2016

Organizer and presenter, “Writing Without Anxiety: Project Management for Grad Students.” Demystifying Academia Graduate Student Workshop, October 2016 and November 2014

Founder, Professionalization Drop-In Hours for Graduate Students, 2014–2015

Member, Executive Committee, 2014–2016 and 2012–2013

Faculty Respondent, “Species and Cyborgs: Digital Futures, Embodied Futures Panel.” Human Futures Graduate Conference, April 2015

Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, 2012–2013

Founder and Organizer, Graduate Student Professionalization Series, 2011–2012

- Organized and presented four workshops on topics including writing abstracts, preparing fellowship proposals, and applying for academic positions

Faculty Director, Women’s and Gender Studies Honors Program, 2010–2012

Co-organizer and panelist, “Navigating the Academic Job Market in Troubled Times,” February 2011

Community Engagement

Featured subject, *So Sick, A Documentary Film*, directed by Sini Anderson. Produced by Women Make Movies. 2014–present

“Same-Sex Marriage,” Celine Clark’s seventh-grade class, Hammarskjold Middle School, East Brunswick, NJ. March 2017

LANGUAGE

Spanish – Read, write, and speak with scholarly proficiency

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Studies Association

C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists

Modern Language Association of America

National Women’s Studies Association

Society for Literature, Science & the Arts