

# SCOTT M. REZNICK

Associate Professor of Literature  
University of Austin

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts  
M.A. with honors, English, Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut  
B.S., Mathematics, Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Austin, Associate Professor of Literature, 2025-  
State University of New York at Plattsburgh, Assistant Professor of English, 2020-2025  
Boston College, Visiting Assistant Professor in American Literature, 2019-2020  
University of Massachusetts Boston, Associate Lecturer, 2018-2019  
Boston College, Instructor and Pre-Major Academic Advisor, 2018-2019

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

American Literature; Romanticism; African American Literature; Political and Moral Philosophy;  
Liberalism; Intellectual History; Literary Theory

## BOOKS

*Political Liberalism and the Rise of American Romanticism* (Oxford University Press, 2024)

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Hawthorne, History, and Politics: A Reassessment,” *Arizona Quarterly: A Journal of American Literature, Culture, and Theory*, 78.1 (Spring 2022), pp. 105-132.

“‘The Sense of Liberty’: Rethinking Liberalism and Sentimentality in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Antislavery Novels,” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 65.4 (2019), pp. 602-641

“‘Government and Manners’: Cosmopolitanism and the ‘Spirit’ of Liberal Democracy in *The Federalist* and Charles Brockden Brown’s *Ormond*,” *Early American Literature* 54.1 (2019), pp. 135-161

“On Liberty and Union: Moral Imagination and Its Limits in Daniel Webster’s Seventh of March Speech,” *American Political Thought* 6.3 (Summer 2017), pp. 371–395

## INVITED ESSAYS

["Literature, Politics, and Reality: Revisiting the Dark and Bloody Crossroads,"](#) *Forma de Vida*  
No. 21 (Summer 2021)

## BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *Poetry Wars: Verse and Politics in the American Revolution and Early Republic*, by  
Colin Wells, in *Early American Literature* 53.3 (2018), pp. 999-1004

Review of *The Divine Magnet: Herman Melville's Letters to Nathaniel Hawthorne*, Ed. Mark  
Niemeyer, in *Religion and the Arts* 21.1-2 (2017), pp. 280-283

## PUBLIC WRITING

["Do Regional Publics Know Their Product?"](#) *Inside Higher Ed*, 28 July 2025

["American Literature and the Liberal Way of Life,"](#) *The Hedgehog Review* Online (*THR Blogs*),  
12 December 2024 (selected for Conor Friedersdorf's *Best In Journalism* Substack,  
December 2024)

["Apart of a Community—Or a Part of It: How Poetry Might Help a Divided People Reconnect,"](#)  
*The Hedgehog Review* Online (*THR Blogs*), 12 April 2021

## CURATED EXHIBITIONS

Associate Curator, *Frederick Douglass & Nathaniel Hawthorne: Texts and Contexts*, John J.  
Burns Library, Boston College, October 15, 2015 – January 24, 2016.

## HONORS & AWARDS

Donald and Hélène White Prize for Outstanding Dissertation in the Field of Humanities, Boston  
College, 2018

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences,  
2017-2018

Andrew Von Hendy Prize for Graduate Student Writing, Boston College, 2013, 2014, and 2016  
Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, Boston College, 2015

Graduate Fellow, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College,  
2014-2018

Summer Research Stipend (\$5,000), Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy,  
Boston College, 2014-2017 (4 separate awards)

Presidential Fellowship, Boston College, 2012-2017

Paul Smith Distinguished Master's Thesis Award, Trinity College, 2012

## **PRESENTATIONS**

### **Invited Lectures and Talks**

“Frederick Douglass and Political Life,” Regis College, Weston, Mass., 10 October 2017

“Frederick Douglass’s America,” Newton Free Library, Newton, Mass., 23 February 2017

Introduction to “The July Fourth Address of Frederick Douglass: A Public Reading,” Historic Newton and Mass Humanities, Newton Centre, Mass., 24 June 2016.

### **Conference Papers**

““Like God’s Judging Angel”: Aesthetics, Politics, and Judgment in Rebecca Harding Davis’ Short Fiction,” accepted for American Literature Association Conference, Chicago, Ill., May 2024

““The Calm Full Fraught’: Bleak Liberalism and the Poetics of Gesture in Melville’s Postbellum Work,” International Herman Melville Society Conference, Paris, France, June 2022

“Toleration and the State of Nature: James Fenimore Cooper’s Romantic Vision,” Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, Penn. (Virtual), March 2021

“Politics, Ecology, and Judgment in Thoreau,” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, Mass., May 2019

“Born Free and Everywhere in Chains: Moral Freedom and the Social Contract in Frederick Douglass’s Autobiographical Project,” Frederick Douglass across and against Times, Places, and Disciplines, Paris, France, October 2018

““An Infinite Variety of Fragments’: Democracy, Liberalism, and Moral Value in Robert Montgomery Bird’s *Sheppard Lee*,” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, Mass., May 2017

““Living in Other Lives’: Surveillance and Privacy Amidst Hawthorne’s Knot of Dreamers,” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 2014

““The American Practice of Democracy’: W.D. Howells’s Enlightenment Conception of Social Class in *Annie Kilburn*,” American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, Mass., May 2013

### **Other Conference Participation**

Invited Respondent to Ben Lerner, “Erring Together: Some Notes on Distortion, Art, and Others,” Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Mass., 9 November 2023

Panel Organized, “Democracy and Liberalism in U.S. Literature and Politics,” co-organized with Matthew Scully, Tufts University, American Literature Association, Boston, Mass., May 2017

Moderator, “The Territory of a People: Questioning Community,” Boston College Philosophy Graduate Conference, March 2017

Discussant, English Graduate Colloquium, "Negotiating Domesticity," Fall 2014, Boston College

### **Campus and Departmental Talks**

"Democracy and Disagreement in the Nineteenth-Century American Novel," SUNY Plattsburgh's Writers and Their Craft Series, 15 April 2021

"'The Sense of Liberty': Democracy, Consensus, and Liberal Sentimentality in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Political Fiction," Boston College, Clough Center, Sept 2017

"'Government and Manners': Federalism, Individualism, and the Gothic in *The Federalist* and Charles Brockden Brown's *Ormond*," Boston College, Clough Center, Nov 2017

"On Liberty and Union: The Moral Imagination of Daniel Webster," Boston College, Clough Center, Sept 2015

### **Media**

"[North Country Scholar Uses American Literature to Understand Political Division](#)" (radio interview), *North Country Public Radio*, WXLU Plattsburgh, 3 May 2021

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

State University of New York at Plattsburgh

"American Romanticism"

"Literature, Philosophy, and the Meaning of Life"

"Major Authors and Their Craft: Nathaniel Hawthorne"

"American Literature to the Civil War"

"American Literature - Civil War to World War I"

"English Romantic Poetry"

"The Pleasures of the Text: Literary Interpretation"

"Introduction to Poetry"

"American Literature and Social Unrest"

"Visions of America"

"Intro to Fiction"

Boston College

"Slavery, Politics, and American Literature" (Graduate Seminar)

"Introduction to American Studies"

"Literature and Politics from *Julius Caesar* to *Game of Thrones*"

"American Literary History II"

"The Courage to Know"

"Studies in Narrative"

"19<sup>th</sup>-Century American Literature and the National Imagination"

"Literature Core: Politics and/vs. Literature"

"First-Year Writing Seminar"

Teaching Assistant, “Boston: History, Literature, and Culture I,” with Professors Paul Lewis and Owen Stanwood, Boston College.

University of Massachusetts Boston

“Experiencing Boston”

“Composition”