

**Maurice S. Lee**  
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Boston, MA 02215  
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**Education and  
Employment**

Professor and Chair of English, Boston University (2014)  
Associate Professor of English, Boston University (2009-2014)  
Assistant Professor of English, Boston University (2005-2009)  
Assistant Professor of English, University of Missouri, Columbia (2001-2005)  
Ph.D., English, University of California, Los Angeles (2000)  
B.A., American Studies, Stanford University (1990)

**Fellowships and  
Major Grants**

Henderson Senior Research Fellowship (Boston University Center for the  
Humanities, Spring 2014)  
Hariri Institute Grant in the Digital Humanities (2013-14)  
Charles A. Ryskamp/ACLS Research Fellowship (2009-2010)  
NEH Research Fellowship (2007-2008)  
Boston University Humanities Foundation Junior Fellowship (Winter 2007)  
NEH Summer Fellowship (2003)  
University of Missouri Research Board Grant (Winter 2003)

**Prizes and  
Honors**

*Choice* Outstanding Academic Book (for *Uncertain Chances*, 2012)  
Neu Teaching Award, Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences (2009)  
James Gargano Prize, Poe Studies Association (2003)  
Hennig Cohen Prize, Melville Society (2001)  
Distinguished Teaching Award, UCLA English Department (1999)

**Books**

*Uncertain Chances: Science, Skepticism, and Belief in Nineteenth-Century  
American Literature* (Oxford UP, 2012)

*The Cambridge Companion to Frederick Douglass*, ed. Maurice S. Lee  
(Cambridge UP, 2009)

*Slavery, Philosophy, and American Literature, 1830-1860* (Cambridge UP, 2005)

**Essays and  
Chapters**

"Deserted Islands and Overwhelmed Readers," *American Literary History* 26:2  
(2014), 1-27

"Falsifiability, Confirmation Bias, and Textual Promiscuity," *J19* 2:1 (2014), 162-71

"Skepticism and *The Confidence-Man*," *The New Cambridge Companion to Herman  
Melville*, ed. Robert S. Levine (Cambridge UP, 2014), 113-26

"Poe by the Numbers: Odd Man Out?," *Remapping Antebellum Culture: Poe at 200*,  
ed. J. Gerald Kennedy (Louisiana State UP, 2013), 227-44

"Searching the Archives with Dickens and Hawthorne: Databases and Aesthetic  
Judgment after the New Historicism," *ELH* 79 (2012), 747-71

"Skepticism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Philosophy," *The*

*Oxford Handbook of Nineteenth-Century American Literature*, ed. Russ Castronovo (Oxford UP, 2012), 252-68

"Evidence, Coincidence, and Superabundant Information," *Victorian Studies* 54:1 (2011), 87-94

"1850s: The First Renaissance of Black Letters," *A Companion to African American Literature*, ed. Gene Jarrett (Blackwell, 2010), 103-18

"Probably Poe," *American Literature* 81:2 (2009), 225-52

"Edgar Allan Poe," *A Companion to Crime Fiction*, eds. Charles Rzepka and Lee Horsley (Blackwell, 2009), 369-80

"Introduction," *The Cambridge Companion to Frederick Douglass*, ed. Maurice S. Lee (Cambridge UP, 2009), 1-12

"Dickinson's Superb Surprise," *Raritan* 28:1 (2008), 45-67

"Melville, Douglass, the Civil War, Pragmatism," *Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville: Essays in Relation*, ed. Robert S. Levine and Samuel Otter (U of North Carolina P, 2008), 396-415

"Which World? Which Work? Which Melville?" *Modern Intellectual History* 4:2 (2007), 1-10

"Read it if you can': The Language of *Moby-Dick*," *A Companion to Melville*, ed. Wyn Kelley (Blackwell, 2006), 393-407

"The Old and the New': Double Consciousness and the Literature of Slavery," *ESQ*: 49:1-3 (2005), 95-105

"Absolute Poe: His System of Transcendental Racism," *American Literature* 75:4 (2003), 751-81

"Writing Through the War: The Civil War Poetry of Melville and Dickinson after the Renaissance," *PMLA* 115:5 (2000), 1124-28

"Melville's Subversive Political Philosophy: 'Benito Cereno' and the Fate of Speech," *American Literature* 72:3 (2000), 495-519

"Du Bois the Novelist: White Influence, Black Spirit, and *The Quest of the Silver Fleece*," *African American Review* 33:3 (1999), 389-400

"Melville's 'Mistakes': Correcting the Politics of 'Poor Man's Pudding and Rich Man's Crumbs,'" *ESQ* 41:2 (1995), 153-75

## Reviews

Review of Ivy Wilson's *Specters of Democracy: Blackness and the Aesthetics of Politics in the Antebellum U.S.*, in *Journal of American Studies* 46:3 (2012), 771-72

Review of Michael Gilmore's *The War on Words: Slavery, Race, and Free Speech in American Literature*, and Jeannine DeLombard's *Slavery on Trial: Law, Abolitionism, and Print Culture*, in *American Literature* 83:3 (2011), 666-67

Review of Branka Arsic's *On Leaving: A Reading in Emerson*, in *New England Quarterly* 53:3 (2010), 559-62

Review of Ezra Tawil's *The Making of Racial Sentiment: Slavery and the Birth of the Frontier Romance*, in *Journal of American Studies* 43:1 (2009), 83-84  
 "How American Universities Learned to Love American Literature," *the minnesota review* 70 (2008), 195-98

Review of Roger Lundin's *From Nature to Experience: The American Search for Cultural Authority*, in *Journal of American History* 95:1 (2008), 198-99

Review of Deak Naber's *A Victory of Law: The Fourteenth Amendment, the Civil War, and American Literature, 1852-1867*, in *New England Quarterly* 80:1 (2007), 173-75

"After the American Enlightenment," *English Language Notes* 44:1 (2006), 267-70

"Re-Canonizing Nineteenth-Century American Poetry," *the minnesota review* 55-57 (2002), 327-30

### **Invited Presentations**

"Liberalism and Literary Values: Anglo-American Measurements," Martin Luther University, Halle, Germany, April 2014

"Carrying Out the Wealth of the Indies: Emerson's Many Books," Mahindra Institute Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, February 2014

"Poe, Usher, and Race," University of Valencia, Spain, October 2013

"Deserted Islands and Overwhelmed Readers: Textual Excess in Nineteenth-Century Literature," *ELH* Colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, October 2012

"Manning up in the Civil War: Slavery, Risk, and Frederick Douglass," University of Richmond, April 2012

"Poe by the Numbers: Odd Man Out?," Poe Symposium, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, April, 2009

"Modern Love, Modern Friends," Figures of Friendship in Emerson and Thoreau Colloquium, University of Oregon, Eugene, May 2006

### **Conference Presentations**

"The End of the End of the Canon?," C19 Conference, Chapel Hill, March 2014

"Literary Merit: Numbers, Tests, Aesthetics," MLA Convention, Boston, January 2013

"Thoreau's Rough Ground," MLA Convention, Boston, January 2013

"Before Reading: Finding the Aesthetic Object," C19, Berkeley, April 2012

"The New New Historicism: Database Archives and Aesthetic Judgment," MLA Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011

"'Before the Pilgrims Landed, We Were Here': Puritanism and the Early Black Press," MLA Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011

"Teaching Melville: A Roundtable," American Literature Association Conference,

Boston, May, 2009

“Probability and Pragmatism in Antebellum American Fiction,” MLA Convention, San Francisco, December 2008

“Thoreau’s Empirical Aesthetic,” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Convention, Charlotte, November 2008

“Franklin’s Moral Certainties,” Omohundro Institute Conference, Boston, June 2008

“‘There is no chance?’: Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Mourning, and the Civil War,” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, May 2007

“Running the Risks: Slave Narratives and Chance,” Northeast MLA Conference, Baltimore, March 2007

“‘But let others philosophize’: Anti-intellection and Antebellum Black Culture,” Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Conference, San Antonio, March 2006

“Placing Bets, Moving Spaces: Whist versus Chess in the Antebellum Era,” American Studies Association Conference, Washington, D.C., November 2005

“On the Way to Pragmatism: The Civil War Writings of Douglass and Melville,” The Frederick Douglass and Herman Melville Sesquicentennial Conference, New Bedford, June 2005

“‘Not Altogether Human’: Hawthorne’s Civil War and Jon Stewart’s ‘Mess O’ Potamia,’” MLA Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004

“Dickinson’s Discovered Self: The Productive Unconscious,” American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, May 2004

“Double Consciousness in Antebellum Literature,” MLA Convention, San Diego, December 2003

“Emerson as Action Hero: This Time It’s Personal,” NEH Summer Institute (“Emerson at 200”), Santa Fe, July 2003

“The Sentimental Calvinism of Catharine Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe,” American Literature Association Conference, Cambridge, Mass., May 2003

“Poe’s Peculiar Transcendentalism,” American Comparative Literature Association Convention, San Diego, April 2003

“Black and Black: Irish-Americans and the Slavery Debate,” MLA Convention, New York, December 2002

“Slavery and Subjectivity: A Political Theory of American Romanticism,” Literature and Democracy Conference, Atlanta, February 2002

“Writing Through the War: The Civil War Poetry of Melville and Dickinson after the Renaissance,” MLA Convention, Chicago, December 1999

**Service**

National/International

*ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*, Editorial Board (2011-)

Poe Studies, Editorial Board (2010-)  
 NEH Fellowship Selection Committee (2010)  
 American Literature Association Program Chair, Melville Society (2008-09)  
 Hennig Cohen Prize committee, Melville Society, 2003-2006 (chair 2006)  
 Manuscript evaluator: Cambridge UP, Oxford UP, Stanford UP, Yale UP,  
 MLA Press, Broadview Press, Ohio State UP, U of Alabama P  
 Essay evaluator: *PMLA*, *J19*, *American Quarterly*, *African American Review*, *ESQ*,  
*Victorian Studies*, *MELUS*, *Configurations*

College/University (Boston University Only)

Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, 2011-13  
 Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship Selection Committee, 2011-13  
 Guest Lecturer, Core Curriculum, 2007-13  
 Boston Public Schools Scholars Mentor, 2010-13  
 Writing Program Coordinator, 2006-07  
 Writing Board, 2006-07  
 Co-organizer of Humanities Foundation Junior Faculty Colloquium, 2006-07  
 Graduate Student Office Travel Grant Committee, 2005-06

Departmental (Boston University Only)

Chair of Department, 2014-17  
 Director of Graduate Studies, 2009 (spring semester), 2011-13  
 Director of Graduate Admissions, 2008-09, 2011-12  
 Committee for appointing new department chair, 2010-11  
 Merit committee, 2011  
 Graduate committee, 2008-09, 2010-13  
 Hiring committee in Early American Literature, 2008-09  
 Graduate admissions committee, 2005-13  
 Hiring committee in Early American Literature, 2005-06

**Classes Taught**

Lower Division

Rhetoric and Composition (various forms)  
 Encountering Others (gateway to major)  
 Freedom and Slavery (gateway to major)  
 Literature and Science  
 Introduction to Asian-American Literature  
 Social Activism and American Literature (service-learning course)  
 Survey of American Literature, Beginnings to 1865  
 Survey of American Literature, 1865 to the Present

Upper Division

Nineteenth-Century American Poetry  
 The Nineteenth-Century American Novel  
 Transatlantic Romanticism  
 Transcendental Poetics  
 Slavery and American Literature  
 Pragmatism and American Literature  
 The Civil War in American Literature and Memory  
 American Transcendentalism  
 Poe and Hawthorne  
 Asian-American Literature: Historical and Critical Perspectives  
 Women Rewriting the American Renaissance  
 Crisis and Consensus in Nineteenth-Century America

Graduate Seminars

Information Revolutions in Transatlantic Nineteenth-Century Literature  
 Scepticism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature

Pluralism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature  
Slavery and American Literature  
Professional and Advanced Writing Seminar