

CURRICULUM VITAE

LAURA HANFT KOROBKIN

Associate Professor of English

Department of English

Boston University

236 Bay State Road

Boston, MA 02215

korobkin@bu.edu

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Harvard University (English) 1994

J. D. Harvard Law School, *cum laude* 1980

M. A. Brandeis University (English) 1975

B. A. Williams College, *summa cum laude* 1973

BOOK:

Criminal Conversations: Sentimentality and Nineteenth-Century Legal Stories of Adultery.
Columbia University Press (1998).

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT:

Creative Rivalry: Charles Dickens and Harriet Beecher Stowe. A study, in transatlantic cultural context, of the rivalry and mutual influence of the two bestselling mid-19th C writers in English.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS:

"Avoiding 'Aunt Tomasina': Charles Dickens Responds To Black American Reader Mary Webb." *ELH* 82.1 (2015): 115-140.

"William Dean Howells's Deserted Wife: E.D.E.N. Southworth, *A Modern Instance*, and Sentimental Divorce Narration." *American Literature* 86.2 (2014): 333-360.

"Imagining State and Federal Law in Pauline E. Hopkins's *Contending Forces*," *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 28.1 (2011): 1-23.

"Appropriating Law in Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Dred*," *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 62.3 (December, 2007): 380-406.

"'Can your volatile daughter ever acquire your wisdom?,' Luxury and False Ideals in *The Coquette*," *Early American Literature* 41.1 (March 2006): 79-107.

"Legal Narratives of Self-Defense and Self-Effacement in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*," *Studies In American Fiction* 31 (Spring, 2003): 3-28.

"Murder by Madman: Criminal Responsibility, Law, and Judgment in *Wieland*." *American Literature* 72 (December 2000): 719-749.

Reprinted in Charles Brockden Brown, *Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin the Biloquist*, Ed. Bryan Waterman. Norton Critical Edition (W.W. Norton, 2010)

"The Scarlet Letter of the Law: Hawthorne and Criminal Justice." *Novel* (Winter 1997): 193-217.

Reprinted in Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter and Other Writings*, Ed. Leland S. Person. Norton Critical Edition. (W.W. Norton, 2005).

"The Maintenance of Mutual Confidence: Sentimental Strategies at the Adultery Trial of Henry Ward Beecher." *Yale Journal of Law and the Humanities* 7(Winter 1995): 1-48.

"Affirmative Action and the Harvard College Diversity-Discretion Model: Paradigm or Pretext?" Co-author with Alan M. Dershowitz. *Cardozo Law Review* 1(Fall 1979): 379-424.

ARTICLES IN EDITED BOOKS:

"Law and the American Novel." *A Companion to American Fiction 1780-1865*. Shirley Samuels, Ed. Blackwell Publishing (2004).

"Narrative Battles in the Courtroom." *Field Work: Sites in Literary and Cultural Studies*. Marjorie Garber, Paul B. Franklin and Rebecca L. Walkowitz, Eds. Routledge Press (1996).

"Silent Woman, Speaking Fiction: *Griffith Gaunt* at the Trial of Henry Ward Beecher." *The New Nineteenth Century: Feminist Readings of Underread Victorian Fiction*. Wellesley Studies in Critical Theory, Literary History, and Culture. Barbara Harman and Susan Meyer, Eds. Garland Publishing (1996).

BOOK REVIEWS AND SHORTER PIECES

Review of *Novel Bondage: Slavery, Marriage, and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century America*, by Tess Chakkalakal. In *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 30.1 (2013): 206-208.

Introductory Note: "Elizabeth Stoddard." *Thomson Anthology of American Literature 1800-1865*, Ed. Shirley Samuels. (2007).

Review of *Women, Money, and the Law: Nineteenth-Century Fiction, Gender and the Courts*, by Joyce Warren. In *American Journal of Legal History*, 47 (July 2005): 333-334.

Review of *The Plight of Feeling: Sympathy and Dissent in the Early American Novel*, by Julia Stern. In *Journal of American History* 86 (March 2000): 1766-7.

Review of *Murder Most Foul: The Killer and the American Gothic Imagination*, by Karen Halttunen. In *American Journal of Legal History* 43 (January 1999): 111-112.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS AND AWARDS:

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2012-13.

First place winner, SSAWW 2009 Best Paper Contest, for best paper delivered at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference (non-student category), Philadelphia, October, 2009.

Fulbright Teaching Award, five-month lectureship at the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, February-June, 2009. Fulbright Scholar Program, Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

Award for Excellence in Student Advising, Boston University, 2004.

Research Fellowship, Rothermere American Institute, University of Oxford, England, Spring 2001.

Junior Fellowship, Humanities Foundation Society of Fellows, Boston University, 2000-2001. *Criminal Conversations* selected as an Outstanding Academic Title for 1999 by *Choice* magazine.

Bunting Institute Fellowship, Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe College, 1994-1995.

Howard Mumford Jones Prize for 1994-1995 for the best dissertation in 19th-century British or American Literature, Harvard University, 1995.

Hoopes Prizes for supervision of outstanding senior theses, Harvard University, 1991, 1995.

Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women, Brown University, 1993-1994.

Whiting Fellowship in the Humanities, Whiting Foundation, 1992-1993.

Certificates of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 1990, 1992.

Distinction in Dissertation Qualifying Oral Examination, Harvard University, 1990.

English Prize Scholarship (tuition plus stipend), Harvard University, 1987-1989.

Highest Honors in English, Phi Beta Kappa (elected junior year), Kaufman Prize, Williams College, 1973.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Boston University -- Associate Professor of English (Sept. 2002-present); Assistant Professor of English (1996-2002). Undergraduate and graduate courses in nineteenth and twentieth century American fiction, American literature from 1630 through contemporary, law and American fiction, Antebellum American literature, the genre of fiction. Supervision of Americanist dissertations in English and in American Studies, supervision of graduate student teaching.

Catholic University of Leuven – Fulbright Lecturer (Feb.-June 2009). Undergraduate and graduate courses in American literature.

Williams College -- Visiting Assistant Professor of English (Sept. 1995-June 1996). Courses in American Literature, Freshman English, Law and Literature.

Harvard College -- Lecturer, Committee on Degrees in History and Literature (1994-1995), Teaching Fellow, Department of English (1989-1992). Direction of senior honors theses and junior tutorials in interdisciplinary major, leader of discussion sections in large lecture courses.

Phillips Academy, Andover -- Instructor (Sept. 1985-June 1986). Four high school courses each term in literature, including tragedy, women and literature, writing competence, Shakespeare.

PAPERS PRESENTED AT CONFERENCES:

“*Uncle Tom’s Cabin* appropriates and reinvents the Dickensian multiplot, mixed-genre, socially conscious novel,” Also organizer of panel, “Rethinking Genre: Intertextuality in Stowe, Harper and Dickinson.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, MA, May 2015.

"I don't ... want Uncle Tom (or Aunt Tomasina) to expound King Lear To Me": Charles Dickens disses Mary Webb." Transatlantic Women II: Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers Abroad Conference, Florence, Italy, June 2013.

"Law and lawyers in *Dred*: what Stowe learned from proslavery apologists, utilitarians, and Charles Dickens." Organizer of panel, "Dealing with Dickens: 19th Century Women Writers and Dickens," and paper presenter. Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference, Denver, CO, October, 2012.

"Realist Fiction vs. Sentimental Divorce Law in Howells's *A Modern Instance*." Organizer and Chair of panel, "Imagining Marriage in Late-19th Century Fiction", and paper presenter, C19: The Society of Nineteenth Century Americanists Berkeley, CA, April 2012.

"'Overstrained Conclusions and Violent Extremes': Charles Dickens Reads Stowe." Plenary panel. Harriet Beecher Stowe at 200 Conference, Brunswick, ME, June 2011.

"Imagining State and Federal Law in *Contending Forces*." American Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, November 2010.

"Imagining State and Federal Law in *Contending Forces*." Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference, Philadelphia, PA, October 2009.

"Legal Intertextuality in an 1859 Fictionalized Slave Narrative." American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA, May 2007.

"'Your shamefaced son is too handsome': sex, law, and fiction in early New England." Sexuality and Seduction in Early America. University of Hanover, Hanover, Germany, July 2004 (keynote address).

"Legal Cross-Dressing: Role Reversals in Female-Plaintiff Criminal Conversations Cases." Subversive Legacies: Learning from History/Constructing the Future. University of Texas, Austin TX, November, 2002.

"Self-Defense and Self-Effacement in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." Law, Culture and the Humanities Conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, March 2002.

"At the Bar of Your Judgment: The Erosion of Evidentiary Assumptions in Charles Brockden Brown's *Wieland*." Law, Culture and the Humanities, Second Annual Conference. Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem NC, March 1999.

"Printing Human Nature: Scott's *Woodstock* and the Trials of Adultery." Modern Language Association Convention. San Francisco CA, December 1998.

"'You are good at law, but you are great at sentiment': The courtroom as generic battleground in E.D.E.N. Southworth's *Ishmael*." Narrative: 10th Anniversary Conference. Columbus OH, April 1996.

"Law and Literature: Where Have We Been So Far?" 10th Anniversary Conference: Literary and Cultural Studies Today. Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, October 1994.

"Sentimentality on Trial: Rhetorical Strategies in the Courtroom." Narrative: An International Conference. Troy NY, April 1994.

"Criminal Conversations: Narrative Battles at the Trial of Henry Ward Beecher." Narrative: An International Conference. Nashville TN, April 1992.

SELECTED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

"Mary Webb's 1856-7 British Tour: how a mixed-race American elocutionist, sponsored by Stowe, dissed by Dickens, and aided by Arnold, read Stowe, Southworth, Longfellow and Shakespeare to duchesses and workmen, in "true Indian costume" and occasional Irish brogue, from Edinburgh to Sheffield to London." American Conversations Lecture Series, AMNESP, Boston University, February 2015.

"Who was Mary Webb? How a black elocutionist toured Britain in 1856," Bowdoin College, March 2014.

"The Fugitive Slave Law and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*." University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, March 2010.

Law and American Narrative: Six Lectures on the Interrelations of American Fiction and American Trial Process. Lessius Hodgeschool, Antwerp, Belgium, February-March, 2009.

"The Challenges of Life on the Prairie: Susan Glaspell and Willa Cather." University of Namur, Namur, Belgium, February 2009.

"Thumbtacks from Reality: Appropriating Law in Antebellum American Fiction." Boston University Lectures in Criticism Series, Boston University, Boston, MA, April 2006.

"Learning the Ropes: Preparing the Dissertation Prospectus." Boston University American and New England Studies graduate program, Boston, MA, April 2006, (repeated) April 2007.

"Speak Murderer: Narration, Testimony and Judgment in *Lolita*." Presentation with pre-circulated paper, Boston University Humanities Center Society of Fellows, Boston University, Boston MA, January 2001.

"Silenced Woman, Speaking Text: Fiction and Adultery at the Trial of Henry Ward Beecher." Boston University Women's Studies Speakers Series, Boston University, Boston MA, February 1999.

"American Conversations: Law and Society." Three-member panel discussion. Department of American and New England Studies, Boston University, Boston MA, October 1997.

“Legal Narratives: Construction and Response.” Boston University Law School, Boston MA, January 1996.

"Criminal Conversations: Legal Stories of Adultery." Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester MA, October 1995.

"Criminal Conversations: Gender and Story in Nineteenth-Century Civil Adultery Cases." Bunting Institute Colloquium Series, Mary Ingraham Bunting Institute, Radcliffe, College, Cambridge MA, March 1995.

“Criminal Conversations: Gender and Story in American Adultery Cases.” University of Washington, Seattle WA, February 1995.

"The Narrativity of Adultery Litigation in Late 19th-Century America." Interdisciplinary Seminar: Law, Letters, Difference. Pembroke Center, Brown University, Providence RI, September 1993.

“Conversion Narratives: Law into Literature, Literature into Law.” Law and Literature Colloquium, Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, May 1991.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROFESSION

Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers. Member, Editorial Board. Consultant, peer-reviewer of essay manuscripts (2011-present)

Studies in American Fiction, Advisory Editor. Consultant, peer-reviewer of essay manuscripts (2004-2008).

Reviewer of book manuscripts and journal article manuscript submissions for: Oxford University Press (3 book-length manuscripts), University Press of New England (2 manuscript); *PMLA*, *Journal of American History*, *ESQ*, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature, Law, Culture and the Humanities* (journal article manuscripts).

Nineteenth-Century American Women Writers Study Group. Convenor of September 2006 semi-annual meeting of scholars who work on 19th-century American women writers. Organized conference at Boston University, hosting 50 scholars from around the U.S. Also Co-chair of October 1999 meeting, at which the topic was “Women and the Law,” Yale University, New Haven CT; discussion leader for Spring 2010 meeting on E.D.E.N. Southworth, Simmons College, Boston MA.

Brandeis University. Outside reader of dissertation and participant in dissertation defense, August 2006.

Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada. External assessor, application for research funding, 2005.

The Scarlet Letter at 150 -- Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Conference. Chair of panel “Hawthorne and History,” member of conference organizing committee. Boston MA, June 2000.

Women, Justice and Authority: A Working Conference. Invited by organizers to participate in conference of judges, elected officials and legal academics by leading a series of discussions about fiction and the discourse of justice. Yale Law School, New Haven CT, April 2000

Boston University AMNESP/SPNEA Graduate Student Conference. Respondant to papers on Brockden Brown and Hawthorne, Boston University, Boston MA, April 1999.

Law Culture and the Humanities Second Annual Conference. Chair of two panels on law and literature. Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem NC, March 1999.

Harvard Center for Literary and Cultural Studies -- Co-Chair, Seminar on Law and Literature (1993-1997). Selected speakers for monthly seminar made up of law and humanities faculty and graduate students from area universities; organized and ran meetings.

10th Anniversary Conference: Literary and Cultural Studies Today. Chair of panel "Law and Literature: Where Do We Go From Here?" Harvard University, Cambridge MA, October 1994.

Brandeis University Humanities and the Professions Program -- Faculty Member (occasional, 1994-1995). Led seminars for groups of judges, lawyers, and other professionals using literary texts to engage contemporary ethical and social issues.

ADMINISTRATIVE, ADVISING AND COMMITTEE EXPERIENCE:

Boston University Department of English, Director of Graduate Studies (2007--2011); **Director of Graduate Admissions** (2006-2007; 2013-2014); **Director of Undergraduate Studies** (2002-2004); **Search Committee Chair** (2003-2004); **Search Committee Member** (1997-98, 1999-2000, 2001-2002, (2008-9)); **Member, Merit Evaluation Committee** (1997-98, 1998-99, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2003-2004, 2006, 2011, 2013); **Curriculum Committee Member** (2001-2002); **chair** (2002-2004); **Graduate Committee** (2001-present).

Boston University, university-level service. **CAS Lecturer Promotion Committee**, (Member, 2015); **Committee Chair, Committee on Structure, Dean's Task Force on CAS Advising** (2009-10); **GRAF Fellowship Selection Committee** (Chair 2009-2010; member 2008-2011, 2013-14, 2014-15); **Promotion and Tenure Committee (UPT) -- Member** (2002-2003).

LEGAL EXPERIENCE:

Alan M. Dershowitz -- Litigation Associate (1983-1985; Summer 1978, Spring 1987). Worked with Harvard Law Prof.as attorney on Federal appellate criminal cases; Co-authored law review article; provided assistance at 9th Circuit Ct. of Appeals argument.

Hale and Dorr -- Associate (1981-1983). Litigation Associate in large Boston law firm.

Honorable Rya W. Zobel, U. S. District Court -- Law Clerk (1980-1981). One-year clerkship with United States District Court judge. Legal research; drafting judicial opinions; assistance to federal judge.