

# William Huntting Howell

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of English, Boston University, 2016-present

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Boston University, 2009-2016

Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English and Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware, 2008-2009

Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2006-2008

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2005-2006

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. (English), Northwestern University, 2005

A.B., *summa cum laude* (English), Cornell University, 1998

## PUBLICATIONS

### **Monographs**

*Worldly Muses: American Occasional Poetry from the Revolution to Reconstruction* (in progress)

*Against Self-Reliance: The Arts of Dependence in the Early United States*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015

- Reviewed in *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Journal of American History*, *Modern Philology*, *Choice*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Early American Literature*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *American Literary History*

### **Edition**

With Megan E. Walsh, co-editor. Frank J. Webb, *The Garies and Their Friends* (1857). Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview Press, 2016

### **Edited Volume**

With Greta LaFleur, co-editor. *American Literature in Transition, Volume I: 1770-1828*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2022

### **Refereed Articles and Book Chapters**

“Visualizing National Mythologies.” *Locating Girlhood: Place and Identity in “Schoolgirl Art,” 1750-1830*, edited by Emelie Gevalt and Caroline Culp. Forthcoming, American Folk Art Museum

“In the Realms of Sensibility” (Review Essay). *American Literary History* 25.2 (Summer 2013): 406-417

“‘Starving Memory’: Anti-Narrating the American Revolution.” *Remembering the Revolution: Memory, History, and Nation-Making from Independence to the Civil War*, edited by Michael McDonnell, Claire Courbould, Frances Clarke, and W. Fitzhugh Brundage, 93-109. Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2013

“Entering the Lists: The Politics of Ephemera in Eastern Massachusetts, 1774.” *Early American Studies* 9.1 (Winter 2011): 187-217

“Read, Pause, and Reflect!!” *Journal of the Early Republic* 30.2 (Summer 2010): 293-300

“Spirits of Emulation: Readers, Samplers, and the Republican Girl, 1787-1810.” *American Literature* 81.3 (September 2009): 497-526

“A More Perfect Copy: David Rittenhouse and the Reproduction of Republican Virtue.” *The William & Mary Quarterly*, 3d Series, Vol. LXIV, No. 4 (October 2007): 757-790

### **Invited Contributions**

“Constantia (1751).” *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1660-1820* edited by April London. Forthcoming, Cambridge University Press

“Ephemera.” *Oxford History of Popular Print Culture, Volume 5: U. S. Popular Print Culture to 1860*, edited by Ronald Zboray and Mary Zboray. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019

“David Rittenhouse.” *Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment*, edited by Mark G. Spencer. New York and London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014

### **Public-Facing Essays**

“The Pennsylvania Committee of Correspondence and the War at Home.” *Uncommon Sense*, “Doing History” series (26 September 2017). Full text available at <https://blog.oieahc.wm.edu/committee-correspondence-war-home/>

“Still a Prologue?: The Stamp Act Crisis at 250.” *Common-place* 16.1 (Fall 2015). Full text available at <http://common-place.org/book/still-a-prologue-the-stamp-act-protests-at-250/>

“Deep Background: *The Walking Dead*.” *Avidly / Los Angeles Review of Books* (29 October 2013). Full text available at <http://www.avidly.org/2013/10/29/deep-background-the-walking-dead/>

“Starving Memory: Joseph Plumb Martin Un-tells the Story of the American Revolution.” *Common-place* 10.2 (Winter 2010). Full text available at <http://www.common-place.org/vol-10/no-02/howell/>

### **Book Reviews**

Scott M. Cleary, *The Field of Imagination: Thomas Paine and Eighteenth-Century Poetry*. *Journal of the Early Republic* 41:3 (Fall 2021): 474-477

Colin Wells, *Poetry Wars: Verse and Politics in the American Revolution and Early Republic*. *Modern Language Review* 114:3 (July 2019): 553-554

Patrick Spero and Michael Zuckerman, eds., *The American Revolution Reborn*. *Journal of American History* 104:4 (March 2018), 1005-1006

Ellen Gruber Garvey, *Writing With Scissors: American Scrapbooks From the Civil War to the Harlem Renaissance*. *Resources for American Literary Study* 37 (December 2014): 327-331

Christopher Lukasik, *Discerning Characters: The Culture of Appearance in Early America*. *Winterthur Portfolio* 46.4 (Winter 2012): 302-303

Konstantin Dierks, *In My Power: Letter Writing and Communications in Early America*. *Common-place* 11.3.5 (June 2011). Full text available at <http://www.common-place.org/interim/reviews/howell.shtml>

Trish Loughran, *The Republic in Print: Print Culture in the Age of U.S. Nation Building, 1770-1870*. *Journal of the Early Republic* 28.3 (Fall 2008): 497-500

Bryan Waterman, *Republic of Intellect: The Friendly Club of New York City and the Making of American Literature*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 105.3 (Summer 2007): 484-486

#### **ACADEMIC HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

- National Endowment for the Humanities/American Antiquarian Society Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2021
- Junior Faculty Fellowship, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2013-2014
- NeMLA Research Fellowship (joint with Megan E. Walsh, St. Bonaventure University), American Antiquarian Society, 2013
- Postdoctoral Fellowship, Department of English and Center for Material Culture Studies, University of Delaware, 2008-2009
- Research Associate, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2008
- Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2006-2008
- Jean H. Hagstrum Prize for Best Doctoral Dissertation, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2006
- Josephine De Kármán Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 2004-2005
- Winterthur Fellowship, Winterthur Museum, Garden, and Library, 2004
- John C. Slater Resident Research Fellowship, American Philosophical Society, 2004
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2004-2005 (declined)
- Graduate Research Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2003-2004
- Teacher-Mentor Award, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2003
- TriQuarterly Fellowship, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2002-2003
- Karin Strand Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2001
- Moses Coit Tyler Prize for Best Essay in American Literature, History, or Folklore, Cornell University, 1998

#### **INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS**

“Starving Memory,” The United States at 250 Series, Bethel (Maine) Historical Society, 13 June 2026

Academic Publishing Workshop, Department of History, University of New Hampshire, 24 September 2024

Panelist, "Impact of AAS Fellowships on Scholarship and Careers: Kabria Baumgartner and William Hunting Howell in conversation with Manisha Sinha," "Under the Dome: Celebrating Fifty Years of AAS Fellowships," American Antiquarian Society, 22 October 2022

Academic Publishing Workshop, Department of History, University of New Hampshire, 26 September 2022

Pauline Maier Early American History Seminar, "Roundtable Celebrating Daniel K. Richter," Massachusetts Historical Society, 3 May 2022

"Worldly Muses," Fellows Seminar, American Antiquarian Society, 22 April 2021

Roundtable, "Provost Mentor Fellows Program," Boston University, 8 October 2019

"Confessions of Reader B: Academic Publishing from the Other Side," Department of History, University of New Hampshire, 19 April 2019

Roundtable: "Global Citizenship/Individual in Community." Boston University Hub and Pub Series, 1 November 2018

Roundtable: "Teaching in the Era of Trump." Boston University English Graduate Student Colloquium, 15 February 2018

"The Example of Anthony Burns: Poetic Form and the Abolitionist Cause, Summer 1854." St. Bonaventure University, 18 October 2017

"The Occasion of Anthony Burns." American Literature and Culture Seminar, Mahindra Center for the Humanities, Harvard University, 23 March 2016

"Roundtable: Digital Humanities @ Work." Digital Humanities @ Boston University Symposium, Boston University, 2 October 2015

"Unconventional Approaches." New England American Studies Association Pedagogy Colloquium, Boston University, 26 September 2015

"The Wheatley-Dartmouth Correspondence and the Problem of Revolutionary Boston." Guest Lecture for American Studies 202 (Professor Daniel Bluestone), Boston University, 16 March 2015; 16 March 2016; 1 February 2018

"The Cultivated Riot." Tertulia/Social Sciences Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University, 8 October 2014

"A Sense of Occasion." Fellows Seminar, Boston University Center for the Humanities, 3 April 2014

“Editing *The Garies and Their Friends*.” With Megan E. Walsh, Fellows Seminar, American Antiquarian Society, 19 August 2013

Response to Elizabeth Maddock Dillon. Mahindra Humanities Center Seminar on American Literature and Culture, Harvard University, 6 February 2013

“Remembering the Ladies: Phillis Wheatley, Abigail Adams, and Literary Boston.” Boston University Women’s Council lecture series, 20 March 2012

“The Astronomic Wheatley.” Tertulia Junior Faculty Colloquium, Boston University, 5 May 2011

“Domestic Politics: At Home with Harriet Beecher Stowe.” “House and Home in American Culture” series, American and New England Studies Program, Boston University, 4 November 2010

“The Audacity of Form: Phillis Wheatley Scans the Heavens.” Princeton University, 9 January 2009

“Ephemeral Loyalties: Broadides and the Politics of Subscription in Massachusetts, 1774.” Institute seminar, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture/ College of William & Mary, 26 February 2008

“The Writing on the Wall: Terror and Consensus in the American Revolution.” Ursinus College, 13 November 2007

“Entering the Lists: Print and Patriotism in Revolutionary Massachusetts.” Center seminar, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 8 December 2006

“Charles Brockden Brown and the Contagion of Example.” University of Vermont, 3 February 2006

“Celebrating the Purloined Whale.” Northwestern University English Department Annual Collation, 3 October 2002

#### **PANEL ORGANIZER**

(With Megan E. Walsh, St. Bonaventure University) “Roundtable: Marginalized Texts and Modern Editions,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, 30 April 2015

(With Catherine E. Kelly, University of Oklahoma) “Sensual Histories of Early America,” Society of Early Americanists Biennial Meeting, 3 March 2011

“Roundtable: The Digital Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, 22 July 2010

“Fables of the Early American Belly,” International Conference on Narrative, 3 May 2008

“Natural Philosophy and the Early American Novel,” Society of Early Americanists and Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Joint Meeting, 7 June 2007

#### SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Panel Chair, “The Selfish, the Individualistic, and the Self-Reliant: The Promises and Pitfalls of Self-Interest in Anglo-American Traditions,” American Historical Association Annual Meeting, 6 January 2024

Panel Chair, “Dissenting Museums.” C19 (Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists) Annual Conference, 5 October 2020

“Roundtable: Individual and Community.” Boston University Center for Teaching and Learning Eighth Annual Teaching Innovation Conference, 3 May 2018

Panel Chair, “Fake News I: Hoaxes, Rumors, and Sovereignty in Colonial Spaces,” American Literature Association Annual Meeting, 23 May 2017

Panel Chair and Respondent, “Early American Humor.” Society of Early Americanists and Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Joint Meeting, 20 June 2015

“*The Garies* and the Canon.” For “Roundtable: Marginalized Texts and Modern Editions,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, 30 April 2015

“The Insatiable Brass Throat: Gothic Urbanity in *The Garies and Their Friends*.” American Literature Association Symposium on “Fear and Form: Aspects of the Gothic in American Culture,” 21 February 2013

“Thinking Digital, Thinking Analog.” For “Roundtable: The Digital Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, 22 July 2010

Comment. “Archetypes in Print: Constructing Categories in the Early Republic,” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, 17 July 2009

“‘Starving Memory’: Narrative Privation and the Relics of the American Revolution.” International Conference on Narrative, 3 May 2008

“American Federalism and Vernacular Rights.” (Co-written with Matthew Garrett, Stanford University.) Theorizing English Vernacular Discourse: Imperial Beginnings to Global English, Cornell University, 18-19 April 2008

“Embroidery, Imitation, and Republican Girlhood.” Society for Historians of the Early American Republic Annual Meeting, 21 July 2007

“The Anonymous Instructor: Compilation, Authority, and the Republican Subject.” Society of Early Americanists/Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture Joint Meeting, 8 June 2007

“‘By this exemplar I am taught’: Embroidery, Mimesis, and ‘Improvement’ in British North America.” Faces and Places in Early America Conference, McNeil Center for Early American Studies, 3 December 2005

“Imitation, Handwriting, and the American Character 1800-1835.” Originality Imitation Plagiarism, University of Michigan, 24 September 2005

“Reproducing David Rittenhouse.” Society of Early Americanists Biennial Meeting, 1 April 2005

“Shorthand and Performance in the Sermons of Henry Smith.” Midwest Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, 7 November 2004

“‘New England is My Nation, Portsmouth is My Dwelling Place’: Needlework and Feminine Citizenship in Nineteenth-Century New Hampshire.” American Literature Association Annual Meeting, 31 May 2004

“Splicing Moby Dick: Copying, Copyright, and the Democratic Imaginary.” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP) Annual Meeting, Scripps College, 11 July 2003

“New Pleasant Instructions: Susanna Rowson and the Grammars of the Sympathetic Republic.” New Frontiers in Early American Literature, University of Virginia, 10 August 2002

“In the Bowels of the Continent: John Winthrop, Roger Williams, and Bodies Politic in Massachusetts Bay.” Futures of American Studies Institute/Outside American Studies, Dartmouth College, 13 June 2001

## TEACHING

**Department of English/American & New England Studies Program, Boston University  
(2009-Present)**

Undergraduate

- EN 128: "Representing Boston"  
EN 220: "Seminar in Literature: The Rules of Evidence"  
AM 200: "Introduction to American Studies: Radicalism and Reform in the Nineteenth-Century United States"  
AM 200: "Introduction to American Studies: *Moby-Dick* and Nineteenth-Century America"  
EN 333: "American Literature to 1860"  
EN 327: "Topics in American Literature: American Poetry before the Modern"  
EN 345: "Nineteenth-Century American Novel"  
EN 465: "Critical Studies in Literature and Society: The American Enlightenment"  
EN 471: "Senior Seminar: The American Revolution and its Afterlives"  
AM 501: "Reading Boston: Conversations about the Real and Imagined City" (co-taught with Keith N. Morgan, History of Art and Architecture)  
EN 571: "American Poetry to 1860"  
EN 533: "American Literature: Beginnings to 1855"

Graduate

- EN 777: "American Popular Writing, 1776-1900"  
EN 733: "The American Enlightenment"  
EN 792: "Introduction to Recent Critical Theory and Method" (Convener)

**Department of English, University of Delaware (2008-2009)**

- EN 102-15: "Texts in Time: 'Regulating the Circulation': Influence, Authorship and Melville's *Moby-Dick*"  
EN 204: "Literature of America"  
EN 300: "Texts and Contexts: The Rules of Evidence"  
EN 340: "American Literature through the Civil War"

**Department of English, University of Pennsylvania (2007-2008)**

- EN 286: "Topics in American Literature: The Enlightenment and its Discontents"  
EN 243: "Topics in American Studies: The American Revolution and its Afterlives"  
EN 255: "Topics in the Nineteenth-Century Novel: The Sentimental Novel in America, 1785-1860"

**Department of English, Northwestern University (2005-2006)**

- EN 101: "Early America, Then and Now"  
EN 298: "Evidentiary Proceedings"  
EN 378: "Studies in American Literature: The Sentimental Novel in America, 1785-1860"  
EN 378: "Studies in American Literature: Writing the American Revolution"  
EN 378: "Studies in American Literature: The American Puritans"

**ADVISING**

**Ph.D., American and New England Studies Program**

**First Reader**

- Katherine A. Evans (2023), “‘I am going to be a veteran of this war’: American Women’s Explorations of Professional and Domestic Life on the Western Front”
- Emma Newcombe (2018), “‘A Place Rendered Interesting’: Antebellum Print Culture and the Rise of Middle-Class Tourism”

**Second Reader**

- Marina Wells (2024), “Making Men from Whales: Gender and American Whaling Art, 1814-1861”

**Third Reader**

- Mariah Gruner (2021), “‘Has Ever Been the Appropriate Occupation of Woman’: Crafting Femininity in American Women’s Decorative Needlework, 1820 to 1920”
- Jamie Devol (2018), “William Henry Furness, Frank Furness, and Louis Sullivan: From Transcendentalism to Architecture, 1802-1924”
- Michael D’Alessandro (2014), “Staged Readings: Sensationalism and Class in Popular American Literature and Theatre, 1835-1875”

**Additional Committee Member/Examination Chair**

- M. M. Dawley (2018), “Innocents and Gilt: American Satire in the Confident Years, 1873-1915”
- Kristi Martin (2018): “Creating ‘Concord’: Making a Literary Tourist Town, 1825-1910”
- Rebekah Beaulieu (2017): “Accounting for the Past: Historic House Museums and the American Midwest”
- Paul Hutchinson (2015): “Crafting an Outdoor Classroom: The Nineteenth-Century Roots of the Outdoor Education Movement”
- Kathleen Daly (2015): “Fit to Mother: Women, Architecture, and the Performance of Health, 1865-1930”
- Jessica Roscio (2013): “Photographic Domesticity: The Home/Studios of Alice Austen, Catherine Weed Barnes Ward, and Frances Benjamin Johnston, 1885-1915”

**Ph.D., Boston University Department of English**

**Second Reader**

- Kristin Lacey (2022), “The Ambition Revolution: Gender and the Pursuit of Success in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction”
- Eric Bjornson (2022), “Ecologies of Addiction in Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture”

### **Third Reader**

- Emily Gowen (2022), “On the Margins: Steady-Sellers and the Problem of Inequality in Nineteenth-Century America”
- Rachel Ravina (2021), “‘Fanatics of a Dream’: ‘Peace Principles,’ Philosophy, and American Literature”
- Reed Gochberg (2016), “Novel Objects: Museums and Scientific Knowledge in Nineteenth-Century American Literature”
- Mary Kuhn (2014), “The Garden Politic: Botany, Horticulture, and Domestic Cosmopolitanism in Nineteenth-Century American Literature”
- Emily Donaldson Field (2013), “Transethnic America: Nineteenth-Century Narratives of Self, Other, and Nation”

### **Additional Committee Member/Examination Chair**

- Sophia Hadley (2022), “Neighborly Adoption: Displaced Children and Community Action in Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Novels”
- Joyce Kim (2016), “Repressions and Revisions: The Afterlife of Slavery in Southern Literature”
- Heather E. Holcombe (2015), “Made in America: Fictions of Genetic Industry”
- John Levi Barnard (2011), “Icarian Exceptions: Race, Revision, and American Myth”
- Scott Cameron (2010), “Owning America: American Literature, Ecocriticism, and the Attempt to Redefine Land Ownership”

### **Undergraduate Honors Theses Advised (English/AMNESP/Kilachand Honors College/History)**

- Claire-Solène Becka (AMNESP/KHC, 2021), “Ideas of Place on Cranberry Isles, Maine”
- Josephine Olson (History, 2021), “John Adams’s Fight Against Pettifoggers: His Legal Education Experience and Passion for Professionalizing the Law Career”
- Yadira Flores (English, 2019), “Unburying the Memories: Processing Ethnic and Racial Trauma Through the Use of Postcolonial Ghosts”
- Kady Matsuzaki (KHC, 2019), “The Language of the Law: Supreme Court Opinions, the Constitution, & American Common Law”
- Justin Lievano (English, 2016), “‘This purest, most exquisite fount of love;’ Motherhood in the Domestic Literature of Nineteenth Century America”

- Lauren Hockenson (English, 2011), “Critical Doubleness: The Form and Function of the Graphic Adaptation

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### ***English Department, Boston University***

Associate Chair, 2020-  
MA Program Advisor, 2015-2019  
Merit Review Committee, 2018; 2023; 2024  
Graduate Committee, 2015-2017  
Job Placement Co-Coordinator, 2010-2014; 2020  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010-  
Director of Writing Seminars, 2011-2013  
Search Committee, American Literature to 1900, 2010

### ***American and New England Studies Program, Boston University***

Public Humanities Fund Selection Committee, 2026  
Search Committee, Abbott Lowell Cummings Postdoctoral Fellowship in American  
Material Culture, 2023  
Director of Graduate Studies, 2015-2017; 2018-2020  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2014  
American and New England Studies Program Committee, 2013-  
Faculty Search Committee, American Material Culture, 2011  
Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010-2012; 2016; 2018-2020

### ***University-Wide Service***

Committee Chair (Historical Consciousness, Aesthetic Exploration), BU Hub Assessment  
Workshop, 2026  
Committee Chair (Creativity and Innovation), BU Hub Assessment Workshop, 2022  
Boston University Hub Council, 2019-  
National Humanities Center Summer Residency Program Review Committee, 2019-2020  
Provost’s Working Group on Graduate Assessment, 2018-2019  
Humanities Without Walls Fellowship Committee, 2018  
Graduate Academic Affairs Committee, 2016-2017  
Computational Humanities Steering Committee, 2013-2014

### ***Beyond Boston University***

Massachusetts Historical Society Short-Term Fellowship Committee, 2025  
Editorial Board, *Journal of the Early Republic*, 2015-2018  
Graduate Student C.V. Clinic Mentor, Northeast MLA, 2015  
Peer Referee, *New England Quarterly*; *Journal of the Early Republic*; *The Explicator*;  
*Common-place*; *History of the Present*; *American Quarterly*; *The William & Mary  
Quarterly*; *American Art*; *Early American Studies*; *Tulsa Studies in Women's  
Literature*; Bedford-St. Martin's Press, Broadview Press; University of Illinois  
Press; University of Pennsylvania Press; Omohundro Institute of Early American  
History and Culture/University of North Carolina Press; International Society for  
the Study of Time (ISST); Israel Science Foundation  
Editorial Board and Column Editor, *Common-Place: The Journal of Early American Life*  
([www.common-place.org](http://www.common-place.org); [www.commonplace.online](http://www.commonplace.online)), 2009-2018  
Coordinator, Center for Material Culture Studies Seminar, University of Delaware, 2008-  
2009  
Early American Literature and Material Texts Summer Workshop, McNeil Center for  
Early American Studies and Library Company of Philadelphia, 2009  
Barra Postdoctoral Fellowship search committee, McNeil Center for Early American  
Studies, 2006; 2017; 2022  
Assistant Editor, *TriQuarterly*, 2003-2005  
Co-founder and co-director, American Cultures Colloquium at Northwestern, 2001-2004  
Teaching Mentor, Department of English, Northwestern University, 2003-2004  
Editorial Assistant, *TriQuarterly*, 2002-2003