

May 2019

## Curriculum Vitae

### BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Paul Downes  
417 Hillside Avenue East  
Toronto, Ontario M4S 1T9  
416 322 6908

Department of English  
170 St. George Street  
Toronto, ON M5R 2M8  
416 978 5044

### DEGREES

PhD 1996            Cornell University  
Dissertation:     *The Spell of Democracy: Literature and Politics in the Post-Revolutionary United States*

MA 1992            Cornell University  
BA 1989            York University, Toronto

### EMPLOYMENT

English Department,  
University of Toronto  
Professor, 2018-  
Associate Professor, 2001-2018  
Tenure granted: August 2001  
Appointment to Graduate School: January 1997  
Assistant Professor, 1996-2001

### HONOURS

Mellon Fellowship for Graduate Study in the Humanities, 1989-95.  
Modern Language Association Prize for an Outstanding First Book (co-winner, 2002)

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Editorial Board, *Early American Literature*  
Member of the Executive, Canadian Association of American Studies  
Manuscript reader for Cambridge UP, Fordham UP, U Penn Press, Princeton UP, Cornell UP, Routledge  
Peer review reader for *Early American Literature*, *American Literary History*, *Journal of the Early Republic*, *William and Mary Quarterly*  
Member, Society of Early Americanists, American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies,  
Modern Language Association, American Comparative Literature Association

### RESEARCH AREAS

Seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth-century American literature with a particular focus on political writing including politically-inflected theological texts; the relationship between deconstructive literary theory and marxist and post-marxist theories of sovereignty and democracy; the political philosophy of Thomas Hobbes and its relevance for American literary study; the writings of Herman Melville.

## SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL WORK

### Books

*Hobbes, Sovereignty and Early American Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015.

*Democracy, Revolution and Monarchism in Early American Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002. (Co-winner, MLA Prize for an outstanding first book)

### Articles

"Like A Prayer: Petitioning in Revolutionary America." *Cambridge Companion to Early American Literature*. Ed. Bryce Traister (forthcoming from Cambridge University Press, 2020).

"From Lima to Attica: *Benito Cereno*, the Nixon Recordings and the Attica Prison Uprising of 1971." *Handsomely Done: Aesthetics, Politics and Media After Melville*, ed. Daniel Hoffman-Schwartz. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2019.

"Oracular Ventriloquism: Political Theology in *The Female American*." *Political Theology* 19.7 (2018): 621-28.

"Sovereignty and Grace: Hobbes and the Puritans," in *American Literature and the New Puritan Studies*, ed. Bryce Traister (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017): 23-37.

"Melville's Leviathan" in *Melville's Philosophies*, eds. Branka Arsić and K.L. Evans (London: Bloomsbury, 2017): 315-36.

"Does the Declaration of Independence Declare a State of Emergency?" *Canadian Review of American Studies* 42.1 (2012): 7-20.

"Democratic Terror in 'My Kinsman, Major Molineux' and 'The Man of the Crowd.'" *Poe Studies* 37 (2004): 31-35.

"Fiction and Democracy." *A Companion to American Fiction, 1780-1865*. Ed. Shirley Samuels. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2004. 20-30.

"Humanitarian Intervention and Melville's *Benito Cereno*." *South Atlantic Quarterly* 103: 2/3 (2004): 465-488.

"Fiction." *Encyclopedia of the United States in the Nineteenth Century*. Vol.1 Ed. Paul Finkelman. New York: Scribners, 2002. 202-208.

"Constitutional Secrets: *Memoirs of Carwin* and the Politics of Concealment." *Criticism* 39.1 (winter 1997): 89-117. Reprinted in Norton Critical Edition of *Wieland and Memoirs of Carwin* by Charles Brockden Brown, New York: W.W. Norton, 2011.

"Sleep-Walking Out of the Revolution: Brown's *Edgar Huntly*." *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 29.4 (1996): 413-431.

### Review Articles

"'Concordia with the heart and tongue cut out': Hobbesean Tolerance in Bejan's *Mere Civility*." (Symposium contribution) *Review of Politics* 80.3 (Summer 2018): 520-22.

Introduction to a curated selection of essays on eighteenth-century American literature for *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* (<http://ecf.humanities.mcmaster.ca/america/>) April, 2018.

"Eighty-Nine Divided by Seventy-Six." (Review of Christopher Castiglia, *Interior States: Institutional Consciousness and the Inner Life of Democracy in the Antebellum United States* and Eric Slauter, *The State as a Work of Art: The Cultural Origins of the Constitution*) *American Literary History* 23.1 (2011): 83-101.

"Homeland Insecurity" (Review of Jonathan Elmer's *On Lingering and Being Last: Race and Sovereignty in the New World*) *Early American Literature* 45.3 (2010): 699-713.

"The Library of America's American Revolution." (Review Essay) *Early American Literature* 38.1 (2003): 161-70.

## Book reviews

- Review of Teresa M. Bejan, *Mere Civility: Disagreement and the Limits of Toleration* (Harvard UP, 2017) *Early American Literature* 53.2 (2018): 586-90.
- Review of Juliet Shields, *Nation and Migration: The Making of British Atlantic Literature, 1765-1835* (Oxford UP, 2016) *Early American Literature* 52.1 (Spring 2017): 216-18.
- Review of Greg Grandin, *Empire of Necessity: Slavery, Freedom and Deception in the New World* (Henry Holt, 2014) *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 17.1 (2015): 85-91.
- Review of Michael J. Drexler and Ed White, *The Traumatic Colonel: The Founding Fathers, Slavery and the Phantasmatic Aaron Burr* (NYU Press, 2014) *American Historical Review* 120.3 (June 2015): 1022-23.
- Review of Christopher Looby, *Voicing America* (U of Chicago P, 1996) *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 9.2 (January 1997): 239-241.
- Review of Mary Chapman ed., *Ormond; or, The Secret Witness* by Charles Brockden Brown (Broadview, 1999) *University of Toronto Quarterly* 70:1 (Winter 2000/2001).

## PAPERS PRESENTED AT MEETINGS AND SYMPOSIA.

- “Political Theology in *The Female American*.” Toronto Eighteenth Century Group. University of Toronto, February 13, 2019.
- “*Moby Dick*’s Political Ecology,” *Melville’s Worlds*, Brown University, October 12, 2018.
- “Protocols of Secrecy: Charles Brockden Brown’s Lessons on Concealment.” Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Indiana University, 10-12 May, 2018.
- “Sovereignty and Democracy.” Panel chair and organizer. Annual Convention of the *American Comparative Literature Association*, Los Angeles, March 30-31, 2018.
- “Political Theology in *The Female American*.” *Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Toronto, October 2017.
- “American Founding Principles: Then and Now.” Roundtable participant. *Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Toronto, October 2017.
- “‘Concordia with the heart and tongue cut out’: Hobbesian Tolerance in Bejan’s *Mere Civility*.” Annual Convention of the *Canadian Political Science Association*, Toronto, May 30, 2017.
- “Hobbes in America, or, is there a Democratic Sovereignty?” *American Literature and the Philosophical*, Paris, March 2017.
- “Sovereignty and Oracular Ventriloquism in *The Female American*.” *Society of Early Americanists*, Tulsa, March 2017.
- “*Moby-Dick* and the Ecological Thought.” *Modern Language Association Annual Convention*, Philadelphia, January 2017.
- Hobbes, Security and the Possibility of Democratic Sovereignty.” *Canadian Association of American Studies* New Brunswick, October 2017.
- Is Melville’s Whale a Hyperobject?” *American Literature Association*, San Francisco, May 2016.
- “Of Protocol and Propaganda: Warner and Castronovo on the American Revolution.” *American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies*, Pittsburgh, April 2016.
- “Melville’s *Billy Budd* and the Hatred of Democracy,” University of Toronto, December 2013.
- “Guantanamo, D.C.” *Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association for American Studies*, Toronto, October 2012.
- “Artificial Soul: The State in Thomas Hobbes’s *Leviathan*” *Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association*, Brown University, Providence, March 2012.

- "Why Hobbes? Reading *Leviathan* as an Americanist," Cornell University, October 2011.
- "'This Absurd and Impious Doctrine': Hobbes and the American Revolution" *Society for Early Americanists*, Philadelphia, March 2011.
- "'Every moment is infinitely precious': Sovereign Time in the American Revolution" *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Albuquerque, New Mexico, March 2010.
- "Sherman Alexie's Pawnshop Theory," *Modern Language Association* (Philadelphia) December 2009.
- "Does the Declaration of Independence Declare a State of Emergency?" *Canadian Association for American Studies* (University of Western Ontario) November 2009.
- "Democratic Terror: Hawthorne's 'My Kinsman, Major Molineux,'" *Modern Language Association Annual Convention* (Philadelphia) December 2004.
- "Poe and Hawthorne's Terrible Politics," *Bicentennial Conference of the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society* (Salem, Massachusetts) May 2004.
- "The Secrecy of the Citizen--Subject: Franklin's 'Speech in the Convention,'" *American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies* (New Orleans) April 2001.
- "'The Time Hath Found Us': Thomas Paine's Revolutionary Temporality," *Canadian Society for Eighteenth Century Studies* (Toronto) October 2000.
- "Writers and Readers in the Early Republic," Chair of Panel, *Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture* (Toronto) June 2000.
- "No Contest: Teaching Early American Literature in Canada," *American Literature Association* (Baltimore) June 1999.
- "Monarchophobia in Revolutionary America," *MLA Annual Convention* (San Francisco) December 1998.
- "Thomas Paine's Crown: The Rhetoric of Sovereignty in Revolutionary America," University of Guelph, October 1998.
- "Dangerous Luxury: Fiction and Paper Money in the New Republic," *Modern Language Association Annual Convention* (Chicago) December 1995.
- "The Secrets of the Republic: From Annapolis to Norwalk," *Institute for Early American History and Culture, Annual Convention* (University of Michigan) June 1995.
- "James Madison's Caution: Gothic Politics in Post-Revolutionary America," *American Gothic: New Interventions in a National Narrative* (Université de Montréal) October 1994.
- "Outside the Law: Brockden Brown's *Edgar Huntly*," *American Studies Association* (Boston) November 1993.

## TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

### Undergraduate courses taught in last five years

ENG 199 Writing About Music  
 ENG 360 Early American Literature  
 ENG 380H History of Literary Theory  
 ENG 383H Critical Methods: Literature and Political Philosophy  
 ENG 415H Advanced Studies: Derrida  
 ENG 363Y Nineteenth-Century American literature  
 ENG 280H Critical Approaches to Literature

### Graduate courses taught in last five years

ENG 6999Y Critical Topographies: Theory & Practice of Contemporary Literary Study  
 ENG 4973H Marx and the American Renaissance  
 ENG 6044H The Literature of Protection

## PhD Thesis Supervisions

Carson Hammond (In Progress)

Tim Lem-Smith, “The Literary Production of Paranoid Hermeneutics in Modernist and Postmodernist Literature” (In Progress).

Henry Ivry, “Of Falling Men and Falling Markets: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Ecologies of Crisis” (Defended, June 2019).

Stefan Krecsy, “Medical Metaphors and Outbreak Narratives in Contemporary Representations of Terrorism” (In Progress).

Cristina D’Amico, “Proper Political Being: (Dis)Owning in Nineteenth-Century American Literature” (In Progress, co-supervisor with Prof. N. Morgenstern).

Coby Dowdell, “Ascetic Citizens: Religious Austerity & Political Crisis in Anglo-American Literature, 1660-1800” (Defended June 2009. Winner of 2010 CAGS/UMI Distinguished Dissertation Award. Winner of English Department’s Woodhouse Prize for Outstanding Dissertation, 2009. Appointed to tenure-track position, King’s College, University of Western Ontario, 2011).

Christopher Trigg, “Give Me Liberty ... Give Me Death: Death, Salvation and Imitation in American Literature.” (Defended September 2010. Appointed to tenure-track position, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, 2014).

Philip Loosemore, “Atlantic Modernity, Pacific Worlds, and the Art of Judgment in the Fiction of Herman Melville and Janet Frame.” (Defended September 2011. Winner of English Department’s Woodhouse Prize for Outstanding Dissertation, 2012. Appointed to tenure-track position, Centennial College, Toronto, 2013).

## Secondary supervision

Mitchell Johnston, “Autonomy and Postmodern American Fiction” (in progress).

Stephen Brown, “Animal – Human Encounters in Nineteenth and Twentieth century American Literature” (in progress).

Anthony Oliveira, “Exit the King: Sovereignty and Subjectivity in English Baroque Literature” (defended 2017).

Jude Welburn, “Utopia, Progress and Displacement in Early Modern England” (defended 2016).

Hamid Rezaei Yazdi (Near and Middle Eastern Studies), “The Politics and Aesthetics of Fiction Writing in Twentieth Century Iran” (defended 2014).

Ira Wells, "Polemical Naturalism: The Nature of Controversy in American Letters, 1900-1945" (defended 2010).

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Associate Director, Ph.D., Department of English, 2017-

Elected Member (Teaching Staff), University of Toronto Academic Board of Governing Council, 2019-

Vice-President, Salary, Benefits, Pensions, Univ. of Toronto Faculty Association, 2012-2016

Chief Negotiator, UTFA Salary, Benefit, Pensions Bargaining with University of Toronto, 2014-15

Co-Chair, University of Toronto Joint Working Committee on Pension Plan, 2014-16

Member, University of Toronto Pension Committee, 2014-17

Chair, English department Calendar and Curriculum Committee, 2008-12

University of Toronto Faculty Association departmental representative, 2011-12

Member, departmental PTR Committee, 2008-9

Tenure Committee Member (Prof. Dana Seidler, 2010; Prof. Sarah Wilson, 2010; Prof. Neil Dolan, 2007)

Lectures Coordinator, English Department, 2003-05

Member Ontario Graduate Scholarship selection panel (2001, 2002, 2003)

Fellow, Trinity College, July 2004 – present

Member, English Department Graduate Curriculum Committee, 1999-2001

Member, English Department Secondary Schools Committee (1996-98)

Member, steering committee for Center for the Study of the United States, University of Toronto (1999-2001)

Member, organizing committee, Annual Convention of the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture, Toronto, 2000 (1998-2000)

External Reviewer of Research for Tenure Evaluation (NYU; SUNY Albany; Columbia; Scripps College)