

# SHEILA LIMING

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## I. EDUCATION

**Carnegie Mellon University:** Pittsburgh, PA  
PhD in Literary and Cultural Studies (2014)  
Dissertation: “The Natural Woman: Science and Sentimentality in Modern America”

**Carnegie Mellon University:** Pittsburgh, PA  
MA in Literary and Cultural Studies (2007)

**College of Wooster:** Wooster, OH  
BA in English and Women’s Studies (2005)  
*Cum Laude*

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

**University of North Dakota:** Grand Forks, ND  
Assistant Professor of English (Fall 2014 – present)

## II. RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY ACTIVITY

### BOOKS

*What a Library Means to a Woman: Edith Wharton’s Library and Worldly Self-Fashioning*

Forthcoming: University of Minnesota Press

This book argues in favor of viewing personal libraries as technologies of self-making in the early twentieth century, focusing on the writer Edith Wharton and her 5,000- plus volume collection of books.

*Office*

Forthcoming: Bloomsbury Press (Object Lessons series)

This book narrates a cultural a history of the office, from its pre-modern beginnings to its nineteenth-century development and, finally, its twenty-first-century demise. It draws upon a range of popular and literary examples and argues that offices, as the primary sites of postmodern labor, furnish a meaningful cornerstone of contemporary culture.

## DIGITAL PROJECTS

EdithWhartonsLibrary.org

Beta URL: [sheilaliming.com/ewl/](http://sheilaliming.com/ewl/)

This project establishes a web archive granting scholars and public users alike access to Edith Wharton’s personal library materials at The Mount estate in Massachusetts. The beta site was subjected to a first round of user testing in June of 2016, and early stages of this project have received funding from The Edith Wharton Society, The University of North Dakota, and the North Dakota Humanities Council; this project was also a finalist for the Whiting Foundation’s Public Engagement Fellowship in 2018.

## ESSAYS AND ARTICLES

### Peer-Reviewed

- “Subscription Libraries and the Making of Nineteenth-Century Female Reading Communities.” *Reading Communities*, ed. Shafquat Towheed (Open UP – McGraw-Hill Educational Publishers): volume forthcoming.
- “Religious Texts in Edith Wharton’s Library.” *Edith Wharton Review*, 34.1 (2017): 79-85.
- “Romancing the Interstitial: Howe’s *The Hermaphrodite* and the Substance of Sex in Nineteenth-Century America.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, 72.3 (December 2017): 311-332.
- “‘It’s painful to see them think’: Wharton, Fin de Siècle Science, and the Authentication of Female Intelligence.” *JMMLA*, *The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, 49.2 (Fall 2016): 137-160.
- “An Impossible Woman: Henry James and the Mysterious Case of Anne Moncure Crane.” *American Literary Realism*, 49.2 (Winter 2017): 95-113.
- “A Month at The Mount: Research and the Unsearchable Archive.” *The Edith Wharton Review*, 31.1 (Spring 2015): 32-40.
- “Suffer the Little Vixens: Edith Wharton and Realist Terror in ‘Jazz Age’ America.” *JML: Journal of Modern Literature*, 38.3 (Spring 2015): 99-118.
- “Of Anarchy and Amateurism: Zine Publication and Traditions of Print Dissent.” *JMMLA: The Journal of the Midwest Modern Language Association*, 14.1 (Fall 2010): 101-128.
- “Reading for It’: Lesbian Readers Constructing Culture and Identity through Textual Experience.” Peele, Thomas, ed. *Queer Popular Culture* (New York: Palgrave-MacMillan, 2007): 85-103.

### Reviews

- Review of *None of This is Normal: The Fiction of Jeff VanderMeer*, by Benjamin J. Robertson (Minnesota UP, 2018). *ASAP/Journal*, forthcoming.
- Review of *The Biopolitics of Feeling*, by Kyla Schuller (Duke UP, 2018). *Legacy*, forthcoming.
- “Fantasies of Form.” Review of *Forms: Whole, Rhythm, Hierarchy, Network*, by Caroline Levine (Princeton UP, 2015). *Criticism*, forthcoming fall 2018.
- Review of *Edith Wharton and Cosmopolitanism*, eds. Meredith L. Goldsmith and Emily Orlando (University Press of Florida, 2016). *Studies in American Naturalism*, 16.2 (Spring 2017): pp. 81-4.

Review of *Edith Wharton and Cosmopolitanism*, eds. Meredith L. Goldsmith and Emily Orlando (University Press of Florida, 2016). *American Literary Realism* 29.3 (Spring 2017): pp. 294-6.

## Public Writing

“How textbook rentals undercut students.” *Inside Higher Ed*, 6 June 2018. InsideHigherEd.com

“Oh, the S@\$% You’ll Do After You’re Tenured.” *McSweeney’s Internet Tendency*, 21 March 2018. McSweeneys.net.

“(De)Composition: or, How Matter Matters.” *Codex: Essays and Photographs on the Art of the Book*, ed. Micah Bloom (Grand Forks: University of North Dakota Press, 2018).

“In Praise of Not-Not Reading.” *The Point*, 6 April 2017. ThePointMag.com.

“How NDAs Stifle Speech on Campus.” *Conditionally Accepted – Inside Higher Ed*, 24 March 2017. InsideHigherEd.com/Conditionally-Accepted

“The Genius Next Door: When Octavia Butler Was My Neighbor.” *Public Books*, 15 December 2015. PublicBooks.org

“Bagpipes: A Rock-and-Roll History.” *The Atlantic*, 9 July 2016. TheAtlantic.com.

“The Puerility of *Purity*: How Jonathan Franzen’s Latest Rewrites an Edith Wharton Novel You’ve Probably Never Heard Of.” *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, 11 March 2016. LAReviewofBooks.com

“From Nowhere, and Everywhere.” *The Chronicle Review – The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 1 February 2016: B16.

“Loving the Alien: or, Making Theory Useful to the Undergraduate American Literature Classroom.” *Pedagogy in American Literary Studies (PALS) – blog*, 25 & 27 January 2016. TeachingPals.wordpress.com.

“Engaging the Ghost: Digitization, Preservation, and the Lessons of a Haunted Library.” *The Mount’s Blog*, 31 July 2015. EdithWharton.org.

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS and GRANTS

### The Whiting Foundation

2018 Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship: finalist (Fall 2017)

The Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship is designed to celebrate and empower faculty who embrace public engagement as part of the scholarly vocation. I was nominated by my University for this fellowship and then selected as a national finalist. (Awardees will be announced in 2018.)

## **North Dakota University System (NDUS)**

Teaching with Technology Award and Commendatory Grant (Winter 2016)

Competitive, state system-wide award recognizing technology use in the classroom. I was selected for this award after being nominated by my colleagues and students at UND.

## **The University of North Dakota**

Office of Research and Development

Early Career Grant (Spring 2016)

Competitive internal grant funding the second stage of work in the Edith Wharton's Library digitization project. Funds use to procure equipment (professional camcorders, microphones, and associated items), to support my travel and residence in Lenox, Massachusetts for six weeks, and to support my travel to and participation at the Edith Wharton Society (EWS) conference in Washington, D.C., where I conducted user trials and beta testing and presented my work on the database.

College of Arts and Sciences

Grant-Writing Initiative: Funding Recipient (Fall 2017)

Competitive, internal funding award resulting in a course release for the fall 2017 semester. Grant-Writing Initiative Funds are designed to allow the recipient time to prepare a grant application to a national-level funding agency.

Undergraduate Technology Initiative Grant (Spring 2016)

Competitive, internal grant funding (application co-written with Dr. Crystal Alberts) used to procure technology equipment for use by undergraduate students in English. Proceeds from this grant enabled the purchase of 20 laptop computers with Adobe Creative Suite software licenses as well as two laptop storage / charging stations.

Undergraduate Research Initiative Award (Spring 2016)

Funds from this award were used to support the labor of two undergraduate research assistants working on the beta version of the EdithWhartonsLibrary.org digital database during the spring of 2016.

Senate Scholarly Activities Committee

First-Year Faculty Grant (Spring 2015)

Competitive, paid research award funding the first stage of the EdithWhartonsLibrary.org digital project; enabled me to reside and work at Wharton's estate in Lenox, MA for six weeks; funded the purchase of a contactless digital scanner to support my work on the Wharton archive; funded the hiring of an undergraduate research assistant for the Fall 2015 term.

## **The Edith Wharton Society**

The Mount Research Award (Summer 2013)

Competitive, paid research fellowship that funded my residence at The Mount, Edith Wharton's estate in Lenox, MA.

## **Carnegie Mellon University**

Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences:

Graduate Student Teaching Award (Spring 2014)

Department of English:  
Graduate Student Teaching Award (Fall 2013)

Schaffer Dissertation Fellowship (2012-2013)

Posner Rare Book Collection Fellowship (2011-2012)

**The College of Wooster**

Best Senior Thesis – Criticism: Department of English (2005)

**Selected CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION / PRESENTATIONS**

**Organizer / Chair**

“Imagining Catastrophe.” Panel science fiction / speculative fiction and climate change; Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) 2018 conference. New Orleans, LA: Oct. 18-21 2018.

“Asynchronous Critique: Mark Greif and the Burdens of Timeliness.” Panel on public writing and contemporary critique; Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) 2017 conference. Berkeley, CA: Oct. 24-28 2017.

“Other Worlds,” roundtable with Kim Stanley Robinson, Brian Greene, Allison Leigh Holt, and Frank Huyler. University of North Dakota Writers Conference. Grand Forks, North Dakota: April 4-6, 2016.

“Digital Media and the Reified Canon.” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention. Austin, Texas: January 7-10 2016.

“Critical, and Cultural, Approaches to Music.” Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference. Columbia College: Chicago, IL March 24 - 26 2011.

“Contemporary Knowledge Work.” Working Class Studies Association Annual Conference. The University of Pittsburgh: Pittsburgh, PA June 1 -3 2009.

**Presenter / Participant**

“The Reprint as Review: NYRB Classics Editions and the Business of Canonical Renovation.” Modern Language Association (MLA) 2019 Conference. Chicago, IL, January 6-9 2019.

“Public Writing and Professional Endangerment; or, The Time I Picked a Fight with Jonathan Franzen.” Modern Language Association (MLA) 2019 Conference. Chicago, IL, January 6-9 2019.

“Reading the Reader: Edith Wharton’s Library and Networks of Exchange.” American Literature Association (ALA) 2018 Conference. San Francisco, CA, May 24-27 2018.

- “Workshop on Public Writing,” roundtable participant: Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) 2017 conference. Cincinnati, OH: November 9-12 2017.
- “Hugo Gellert and the Case for Actionable Aesthetics.” Modern Language Association (MLA) 2017 Conference. Philadelphia, PA, January 5-8 2017.
- “Haters Gonna Hate: Or, Better Living Through Agonism.” Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA) 2016 Conference. St. Louis, MO, November 10-13 2016.
- “It’s Painful to See Them Think’: Edith Wharton, Fin de Siècle Science, and the Stakes of Female Intelligence.” Edith Wharton Society (EWS) 2016 Conference. American University: Washington, D.C., June 2-4 2016.
- “I Am Not Your Enemy: Jamming, Clashing, and Locating Antagonism in Local Arts Communities.” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP) Annual Conference. Clemson University: Greenville, SC September 24-27 2015.
- “‘A Flood of Material Ease’: Edith Wharton and the Mediated Landscape of Modernist Paris.” Modernist Studies Association (MSA) Conference. Duquesne University: Pittsburgh, PA. Nov. 8 -11 2014.

### **III. TEACHING**

#### **COURSES TAUGHT**

**University of North Dakota, Department of English**

*Assistant Professor*

#### **Graduate Courses**

- 521: Studies in American Literature –  
Transatlantic Modernism (Fall 2017)
- 599: Workshop in Writing Criticism for Public Audiences (Spring 2017)
- 428: Digital Humanities (Fall 2016)
- 415: Seminar in Literature –  
Narrative Adaptation (Spring 2016)
- 521: Studies in American Literature –  
Narrative and the Natural World (Fall 2015)
- 511: Problems in Literary Contemporary Criticism –  
Theorizing the Digital in Literary Study (Spring 2015)

#### **Undergraduate Courses**

- 428: Digital Humanities (Fall 2016; Fall 2018)
- 415: Seminar in Literature –  
Narrative Adaptation (Spring 2016)
- 304: Survey of American Literature II: 1865-present (Spring 2015; Spring 2016)
- 272: Introduction to Literary Criticism (Spring 2017)
- 271: Reading and Writing About Texts (Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2017)
- 227: Introduction to Literature and Culture –  
Gothic Fiction (Fall 2014)

227 E: Environmental Studies / Introduction to Literature and Culture  
Literature and Climate Change (Fall 2018)

**Carnegie Mellon University, Department of English**

*Graduate Student Instructor*

76-309: Narrative and the Natural World (Spring 2014)  
76-241: Introduction to Gender Studies (Spring 2012)  
76-370: English Independent Study: Narrative, Story-telling, and Digital Media (Fall 2011)  
76-234 American Women Novelists and the “Century of Struggle”:  
1840 – 1930 (Spring 2011)  
76-238 The Politics of Adaptation (Summer 2010)  
76-101 Living Social in the Age of Social Media (Fall 2013)  
76-101 Geeks and Intellectuals: The Culture, and Cult, of Intelligence (Fall 2011)  
76-101 Punk and the Politics of Subculture (Fall 2008; Summer/Fall 2009;  
Fall 2010; Spring 2011)  
76-101 H Race and the Defining of Difference in America (Fall 2007/Spring 2008)

**ADVISING**

**MA Portfolio** (as adviser)

MaKayla Valdez (ongoing)  
Casey Kohs (2018)  
Ian Galbraith (2017)  
Danielle Hale (2017))  
Kaitlin Dahle (2017)  
Mekayla Shelton (2017)  
Nicole Ingalls-Caley (2016)  
Bea Stokkvik (2016)  
Kelly Kennedy (2016)

**PhD Dissertation** (as committee member)

Cody Deitz (ongoing): transatlantic modernism, poetry, globalization  
Andrew Harnish (ongoing): queer theory, affect theory, embodiment  
Jody Jensen (2016): postcolonial literature, gender, performance

**PhD Exams** (as committee member)

Amanda Osgood-Jonientz (2017): serialization, book history, 19<sup>th</sup> c. literature  
Robin Smith (ongoing): poetry and poetics, postcolonial literature, post-45 literature  
Ben Morris (2017): post-45 literature, experimental fiction  
Sarah Dupree (2017): animal studies, post-45 literature  
Cody Deitz (2018): transatlantic modernism, modernity, globalization, poetry

**IV. SERVICE**

**Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA)**

Executive Board Member (November 2017 – present)

## **Professional Journals**

Referee, *The Edith Wharton Review* (June 2016 – present)  
Referee, *JML: Journal of Modern Literature* (August 2016 – present)  
Referee, *The Space Between* (June 2018 – present)

## **University of North Dakota**

### *Department of English:*

Executive Committee: member (Spring 2017 – present)  
Certificate in Writing, Editing, and Publishing (WEP) Coordinator (2017 – present)  
Graduate Student Reading Series (Fall 2016 – present)  
Instructional Technology Coordinator (Spring 2016 – present)  
English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) Faculty Representative (Fall 2014-present)

### *College of Arts and Sciences:*

AH! (Arts and Humanities) Talks: Series Coordinator (Summer 2015 – present)

### *University-wide Service Appointments*

Faculty Working Group in Digital and New Media: Chair (Winter 2017 – present)

## **Carnegie Mellon University**

### *Department of English:*

Assistant Director: Master's (MA) Program in Literary and Cultural Studies (2008 – 2010)  
LCS 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee (Spring 2012-Fall 2012)  
Graduate Representative to the English Department Faculty (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)  
Graduate Student Representative, Literary and Cultural Studies Colloquium  
Committee (2009 – 2012)  
LCS Representative: Committee for Annual Teacher Orientation and Training  
(2008 – 2010)  
Graduate Representative: Ph.D. Selection Committee (2009)

### *Office of Undergraduate Research:*

Advisor, Carnegie Mellon Imagine Cup 2011 (Fall 2010 - Spring 2011)

## **V. SKILLS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

### **LANGUAGES**

French translation  
Spanish speaking and translation  
Scottish Gaelic speaking and translation

### **Select SOFTWARE and DIGITAL MEDIA**

Adobe Creative Suite  
including Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Premier, InDesign and AfterEffects software  
Omeka (open-source publishing platform)  
Zotero (open-source bibliography software)  
Gephi (open-source data visualization software)  
HTML and CSS proficiency  
Basic web design (using platforms like WordPress.org)



**MEMBERSHIPS**

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Edith Wharton Society (EWS)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

Association for the Study of the Arts of Present (ASAP)

Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA)

American Literature Association (ALA)