

Ray Leonard

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Texas A&M

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Education

Ph.D., English Literature, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 2024

M.A., English Literature, University of Miami, Miami, 2014 – 2017.

B.A., Creative Writing, English Literature, Concordia University, Montreal, 2007 – 2012

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Marrant’s Indians: Revisiting the Talking Book Trope from the Perspective of Black and Indigenous Encounter” under review *Early American History*

“A Table. A Committee Room. Evening: Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* reads Joyce’s *Ivy Day in the Committee Room*” in James Joyce Quarterly Volume 54, Number 1-2, Fall 2016

“Ritual Observance: Colonial Representations of Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Practices in the Eighteenth-Century French Caribbean” in *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry* 4.1 (2017)

Conference Papers and Seminars

2024 “Atahualpa’s Rebuke: Indigenous History and Eighteenth-Century Black Revolutionary Thought,” American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto CA, (accepted)

2024 “The Black Jeremiad: The Slaughter of the Incas and Dessalines’ “America” Proclamation”, Northeast Modern Language Association, Boston MA, (accepted)

2023 “Tropical Feminism: The Politics of White Womanhood at the Intersection of Black and Indigenous Politics in *Oroonoko*”, Northeast American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, Williamsburg VA,

2023 “Talking Wolf: Afro Native Folktales and the Politics of Space in the Early American Southeast”, Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Washington DC,

2022 “Marrant’s Indians: Black Studies and the Vanishing Indian.” American Literary Association, Chicago IL,

2021 “Who is the Tar Wolf?: Afro-Native Folklore in the American Southeast” Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth, Remote, (Seminar)

2020 “Traversing the Borders of Citizenship” The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Biennial Conference, Remote, (Seminar)

2019 “Contract Zones: *Oroonoko* and the Politics of the Written Word”, The Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Eugene, OR

2017 “Indian Encounters: ‘Playing Indian’ in Joyce’s ‘An Encounter’” International James Joyce Symposium, Toronto, ON

2017 “Blood Moves: Yellow Fever, Blood Sugar, and the Discourse of Contagion in the Revolutionary Atlantic” Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference, Tulsa OK,

2015 “Sing the Body Septic: Disturbing the White Gaze in Horrorcore Hip-Hop” American Literary Association, New Orleans, LO.

2013 “A Table. A Committee Room. Evening: Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* reads Joyce’s ‘Ivy Day in the Committee Room’” International James Joyce Conference, Charleston SC.

Panel, Roundtables, and Conference Organized

2020 Organizer, “Garden, Revolution, Refuge” talk by Julie Chun Kim (Fordham University), Rutgers Americanists Seminar, January 21 2020, New Brunswick, NJ.

2017 Panel Organizer, “Discourses of Blood and Movement in the Revolutionary Atlantic”, Society of Early Americanists Biennial,

Invited Talks

2022 “The Black Jeremiad: Ottobah Cugoano, Jean Jacques Dessalines, and the Politics of Indigeneity”, McNeil Center for Early American Studies “Brown Bag” presentation series.

Research and Teaching Interests

Early American and Transatlantic Literature, Caribbean Literature, Indigenous American Literature, African American literature, Capitalism and Slavery Studies, Settler Colonial Studies,

Black Feminist Theory, Eighteenth-Century Political Thought, Historiography and Narrative Form, Genre Studies, Science Fiction

Teaching Experience

Rutgers University, Instructor

2023 Fall - ENGL 211 Contemporary American Literature “Looking Forward, Looking Back”
A course I developed comparing American historical fiction and American speculative fiction.

We are currently reading Octavia Butler’s novel *Kindred* alongside her short story “Bloodchild.” Also assigned George Saunders, Samuel R Delaney, and Louise Eldritch.

Fordham University, Adjunct Instructor

2022 Fall - Exposition 101

2021 Fall - Exposition 101 (x4)

2021 Spring - Exposition 101 (x2)

Rutgers University, Instructor

2020 Fall - Exposition 101 (x2)

2020 Spring - Exposition 101

2019 Fall - ENGL 358 “The Black Atlantic in the Age of Revolution”

A course I developed structured around slavery and historical memory – we used Saidiya Hartman’s *Lose Your Mother* as course guide, read a mix of slave narratives and neo-slave narratives like *The History of Mary Prince* alongside Marlon James’ *The Book of Night Women*. Other authors included Leonora Sansay, Thylas Moss, Michelle Cliff, and Derek Walcott.

2018- Fall 2018 - Exposition 101

Rutgers University, Teaching Assistant

2019 Spring - ENGL 202 Introduction to Literary Principles

University of Miami, Instructor

2016 Fall - Composition I

2016 Spring - Composition II

University of Miami, Tutor

2015-2016 Writing Center

Honors, Awards, Fellowships, & Scholarship

Catherine Moynihan Award for Best Graduate Essay on Any Topic, 1,000\$, 2024

The S. Eric Molin Prize for Best Conference Paper by a Student, EC/ASECS, 250\$, 2023

Rutgers SAS Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2023-24

Research Center for Historical Analysis fellow, Rutgers University, 2022-2023

Raritan Dissertation Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2021-2022

Graduate School Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2019-2020
Graduate School Fellowship, Rutgers University, 2017-2018
Graduate School Fellowship, University of Miami, 2016-2017
Graduate School Fellowship, University of Miami, 2015-2016

Professional Affiliations

North American Indigenous Studies Association
Society of Early Americanists
C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
American Studies Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Modern Language Association
International James Joyce Society

Languages

French (reading)