

Faith Barter
October 2023

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Education

Ph.D., English, Vanderbilt University, 2016
M.A., English, Vanderbilt University, 2012
J.D., American University, Washington College of Law, 2007
B.A., English, Dartmouth College, 2001

Academic Appointments

2018- Assistant Professor of English, University of Oregon (affiliated faculty in Black Studies, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and the Clark Honors College; participating faculty in Politics, Culture, and Identity graduate certificate)
2016-2018 Lecturer in English and Women's and Gender Studies; Academic Adviser, Pre-Major Advising, Vanderbilt University
2011 Adjunct Professor of Law, Washington College of Law, American University

Publications

Book Manuscript

Black Pro Se: Authorship and the Limits of Law in 19th-Century African American Literature (under contract at University of North Carolina Press; manuscript completed and revisions under review)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Family Homes, Inverted: Illicit Occupations and Black Intimacies in and Beyond the Loophole of Retreat." *African American Review* (in production)

"Encrypted Citations: *The Bondswoman's Narrative* and the Case of Jane Johnson." *MELUS* 46.1 (2021): 51-74. <https://doi.org/10.1093/melus/mlab002>.

"Lessons in Legal Literacy: Democratizing Legal Critique as a Means of Resisting Racial Injustice." *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 16.3 (2020): 365-578. doi: 10.1177/1743872117707620. (invited; digital version originally published May 2017)

Chapters in Edited Collections

"Bartleby, *Barbarians*, and the Legality of Literature." *Latour and the Passage of Law*, ed. Kyle McGee. Edinburgh University Press, 2015: 304-330. (invited)

“To Make Whole Again: Prosthesis, Compensation, and Tort’s Fictions in *A Romance in Marseilles*.” *The Elgar Handbook of Legal Fictions*, eds. Simon Stern, Lisa Siraganian, and Kristin Albrecht. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024. (anticipated) (invited; in progress)

Encyclopedia Entries

“Freedom Suits.” *Elgar Encyclopedia of Law and Literature*, eds. Simon Stern and Robert Spoo. Edward Elgar Publishing (in production) (invited).

Book Reviews

“*Cannons and Codes: Law, Literature, and America’s Wars*,” eds. Alison L. LaCroix, Jonathan S. Masur, Martha C. Nussbaum, and Laura Weinrib.” Review of *Cannons and Codes: Law, Literature, and America’s Wars*, eds. Alison L. LaCroix, Jonathan S. Masur, Martha C. Nussbaum, and Laura Weinrib. *American Literary History* 35.1 (2023): 602-605. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/alh/ajac281>.

“Barter on Spires: *The Practice of Citizenship: Black Politics and Print Culture in the Early United States*.” Review of *The Practice of Citizenship: Black Politics and Print Culture in the Early United States* by Derrick Spires. *H-NET Early America Network*, June 2021.

“Barter on Yothers, *Reading Abolition: The Critical Reception of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass*.” Review of *Reading Abolition: The Critical Reception of Harriet Beecher Stowe and Frederick Douglass* by Brian Yothers. *H-NET Early America Network*, April 2018.

Digital and Public Humanities

“Chizzle Wizzle: An Oral History of the Longest-Running High School Production in the Country” (oral history project co-founded with Kymberlie Charles; currently in planning and research phases)

“The ‘Loophole of Retreat’: Seclusion, Privacy, and the Intimate Geographies of Black Life.” *Center for the Study of Women in Society Annual Review*. University of Oregon, 2020. (invited contribution for Faculty Research section)

“Fragmented Rebellions.” 2020-present. <http://barter.uo-dhminor.com/cms/>. Public humanities project created from my students’ collaborative work in ENG 468/568.

“Affective Meets Effective: Emotion and Academic Writing,” Vanderbilt University Writing Studio, 2014. <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/writing/2014/12/affective-meets-effective-emotion-and-academic-writing/>.

Other Works in Progress

“Legal Fictions and Legal Mythology in 19th-Century African American Print Culture” (article in progress)

Selected Fellowships and Awards

- 2023 Ersted Award for Distinguished Teaching (University-wide award)
- 2023- Provost's Teaching Academy
- 2023 Robert F. and Evelyn Nelson Wulff Professorship in the Humanities, Oregon Humanities Center (Summer 2023) (teaching fellowship to support development of "The Uncanny Self," a new course offering in Black Studies)
- 2022 Ernest G. Moll Faculty Research Fellowship in Literary Studies, Oregon Humanities Center (Fall 2022)
- 2020 First Book Institute, Pennsylvania State University, Center for American Literary Studies (national award; eight awards granted)
- 2019 Incubating Interdisciplinary Initiative Grant (I 3), University of Oregon (\$50,000 grant to develop the Rebellions in the African Diaspora Project, a digital humanities project on black rebellions in the long 19th century; co-applicant with Heidi Kaufman, Leslie Alexander, Thanh Nguyen, and Thien Nguyen)
- 2018 New Junior Faculty Research Award, University of Oregon
- 2017-2018 Early Career Scholar Fellowship, William Nelson Cromwell Foundation (national award)
- 2016 Thomas Daniel Young Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching, English Department, Vanderbilt University
- 2015-2016 American Studies Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University (dissertation completion fellowship)

Selected Invited Presentations

- "Harriet Jacobs, Jurisdiction, and Black Worldmaking in the 19th Century," University of Maine, October 2022.
- "Oregon Humanities Center Fellowship Series: *Black Pro Se: Authorship and the Limits of Law*," Oregon Humanities Center, September 2022.
- "Jurisdiction, Black Sovereignty, and Harriet Jacobs," Works in Progress Webinar Series in Law and Literature, convened by Simon Stern, University of Toronto, March 2022.
- "UO Today Interview: Faith Barter, English and Black Studies, University of Oregon." Invited interview with the Oregon Humanities Center, March 2022.
- "Encrypted Citations and *The Bondwoman's Narrative*," English 366/African American Studies 380: "Black Feminist Worldmaking," Northwestern University, 2020.
- "Black Feminist Theory and Black Sexuality Studies," English 7/8000: "Literary Research" Graduate Seminar, University of Memphis, 2020.

Selected National and International Presentations

- "Kinship through Erasure: Harriet Jacobs and Sexual Sovereignty," American Studies Association, Montreal, CA, 2023 (upcoming).
- "'I am nothing to my father, and he is nothing to me': Harriet Jacobs and Confession as a Technology of Kinship," National Women's Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, 2023 (upcoming).
- "*Black Pro Se: Authorship and the Limits of Law in African American Literature*," American Literature Association, Boston, MA, 2023.
- "Plantation Jurisdiction, Black Sovereignty, and the Loophole of Retreat," Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Baltimore, MD (virtual presentation), 2021.

- “‘Loopholes of Retreat’: Harriet Jacobs, James Williams, and the Paradox of Absence,” C19: Society of 19th-Century Americanists (virtual presentation), 2020.
- “Un-fiction, Hannah Crafts, and Black Literary Resistance in C19,” American Studies Association, Honolulu, HI, 2019.
- “‘Not Intended to Deceive’: Legal Fictions, the Transhistorical Slave, and the Mythology of American Law,” Law & Society Association, Washington, DC, 2019.
- Moderator, “Language Rights, Language Access, and the Denial of Justice,” Law & Society Association, Washington, DC, 2019.
- “‘Dead! Dead! Dead!’: David Walker, Nat Turner, and Law’s Consuming Violence,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, & the Humanities, Washington, DC, 2015.
- “Following the Line: Melville’s Ethics for a New Body of Law,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, & the Humanities, London, UK, 2013.
- “The Case of Jane Johnson: Locating the Slave Narrative in the Legal Archive,” Association for the Study of Law, Culture & the Humanities, Fort Worth, TX, 2012.

Selected Local Presentations

- Guest Speaker, “Confession as a Legal and Literary Strategy in 19th-Century African American Literature,” Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Oregon, Winter 2024 (scheduled)
- Guest Panelist, “Learning Loss,” English 612 (WR 121 Teaching Practicum), English Department, University of Oregon, Spring 2023.
- Panelist, “Finishing that Dissertation!,” Faculty Panel, English Graduate Organization, University of Oregon, Spring 2023.
- Discussion Leader, “Learning Loss,” Working Lunch Session, English Department, University of Oregon, Winter 2023.
- Discussion Leader, Karla Holloway’s *Legal Fictions: Constituting Race, Composing Literature*, Center for the Study of Women in Society, University of Oregon, Fall 2019.
- Panelist, “Difficult Conversations in the Classroom,” Faculty Fireside, English Graduate Organization, University of Oregon, Spring 2019.
- “Eugenics and ‘Racial Integrity’ in Virginia,” American Studies 1002: “How Racism Takes Place,” Vanderbilt University, 2017.
- “Evolution of Reproductive Rights Law: Privacy, Criminality, Access, Cost,” WGS 1150: “Sex and Gender in Everyday Life,” Vanderbilt University, 2017.
- “Unthinkable Truths from Slave Rebellions to Ferguson: How Law Uses Language to Make the Impossible Real,” The McGill Hour Speaker Series, Vanderbilt University, 2017.
- “Human Rites: Deciphering Fictions of Legal and Literary Personhood in the U.S., 1830-1860,” Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities, Vanderbilt University, 2016.
- Panelist, Teaching Assistant Orientation for instructors in English and Philosophy, The Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2015.

Selected Event Organizing

- Organizer, Teresa Goddu public lecture and discussion, “The (Neo) Slave Narrative and the Plantationocene,” University of Oregon, 2021
- Organizer, Douglass Day Community Read-a-Thon (in affiliation with the national Colored Conventions Project Douglass Day celebration), University of Oregon, 2019

Conference Coordinator (under supervision of Dr. Teresa Goddu), C19: The Society of 19th-Century Americanists, Bi-Annual Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, 2014

Seminars, Institutes, and Workshops

Works in Progress Webinar Series in Law and Literature, University of Toronto (convened by Simon Stern), 2021-present (presented work in March 2022)

Black Feminist Life + Writing Summer Series, Tufts University (convened by Kimberly Bain), 2021

First Book Institute, Pennsylvania State University, Center for American Literary Studies, 2020

Citizenship Beyond the State: Sovereignty, Personhood, Immunity, C19 Seminar (convened by Carrie Hyde and Derrick Spires), C19 Biennial Meeting, 2020

Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 2014

Teaching

Undergraduate

University of Oregon

English 205: Slave Narratives/Freedom Narratives

English 241: Introduction to African American Literature

English 315: Women Writers' Cultures (Black Feminist Jurisprudence)

English 360: African American Writers (19th-Century African American Writers)

English 360: African American Writers (Black Supernatural)

English 391: 19th-Century American Novel

English 407: The Uncanny Self in Black Literature and Film

English 410: Women, Law, and Literature

English 468: Black Rebellions

Clark Honors College 221h: Black Women's Writing in the 19th Century

Clark Honors College Colloquium 444h: Black Rebellions

Vanderbilt University

English 102W: Imagining New York

English 102W: Justice and Dystopia

English 117W: Literary Theory via *The Wire*

English 1260W: The Shadows of Slavery: Narratives of Slavery in Law and Literature

Women's and Gender Studies 1111: Women in Law and Literature (First-Year Writing Seminar)

Women's and Gender Studies 1150W: Sex and Gender in Everyday Life

Women's and Gender Studies 2252: Sex and Scandals in Literature

Graduate

University of Oregon

English 510: Women, Law, and Literature

English 568: Black Rebellions

English 660: Black Personhood

English 660: Black Supernatural

American University, Washington College of Law
Law 994-01: Litigating in the Digital Age: e-Discovery (co-taught)

Dissertations

Chair

2023- Emalydia Flenory, English, "Freaky Pleasures: Contemporary Representations of Black Male Sexuality in U.S. Visual Culture and Popular Media"

Co-Chair

2023- Jessie Heine, English, "Life in Cycles: Black Scientific Epistemologies in African American Science Fiction"

2022- Jiesha Stephens, English, "Obscure Pleasures: The Sacred Dimensions of Afro-Diasporic Literature and Culture"

Member

2023- Holly Lowe Jones, English, "The Black *Playboy* Archive"

2023- Megan Butler, English, "Literature of the Spirit: Reading Contemporary Black Feminist Novels as Religious Texts"

2022- Jalen Thompson, English, "A Counterhistory of the Ratchet"

2022- Adrienne Bosworth, English, "Junk, Slop, and Pitch: The Materiality of Identity in 19th-Century Maritime Literature"

2021-2022 Jiesha Stephens, English, "Obscure Pleasures: The Sacred Dimensions of Afro-Diasporic Literature and Culture"

2021- John Sansone, English, "Aesthetics of Purposeful Environments for Emancipation in Modern American Literature"

2020-2022 Carmel Ohman, English, "Writing Erotic Freedom in Black Feminist Fiction and TV, 1973-2019"

2020-2022 Megan Reynolds, English, "Haunted Histories, Possessing Presents: The Specter of Violence and the Politics of Belonging in African American and Jewish American Literature"

External Reader

2021- Jessica Reanne, Political Science, "Rehearsing Revolution: Integrating Performance and Theatre in Politics"

Breadth and Major Field Examination Committees

Director

2024 Rosa Inocencio Smith, Major Field: Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literatures in the 19th-Century

2023 Emalydia Flenory, Major Field: Representations of Black Sexuality in U.S. Visual Culture and Popular Media 1945–present

2023 Jessie Heine, Major Field: Early 20th and Early 21st Century African American Science Fiction

- 2021 Emalydia Flenory, Breadth Fields: Representations of Black Sexuality 1900-1945, Media Masculinities Along the Color Line
- 2021 Jessie Heine, Breadth Fields: Black Feminisms and American Literature, Discourses of Science
- Member
- 2021 Megan Butler, Breadth Field: Black Spiritualities and Religious Thought
- 2021 Holly Jones, Breadth Field: Critical Race Theory
- 2021 Adrienne Bosworth, Major Field: 19th-Century Atlantic: Conceptions of Oceanic and Shipboard Space; Paper: “Becoming Extra-Terrestrial: Orienting to 19th-Century Maritime Literature”
- 2021 Sabrina Sherman, Major Field: 20th/21st Century African American Literature; Paper: “The Tragedy of Crossing Over”
- 2020 Jiesha Stephens, Major Field: U.S. Black Literature and Culture, 1960-Present; Paper: “Imaginative Histories: The Body as Archive in Ana Maurine Lara’s *Kohnjehr Woman*”
- 2020 Jalen Thompson, Breadth Field: Performance Studies and 19th-Century African American Literature
- 2020 Sabrina Sherman, Breadth Field: Black Feminisms and Literature
- 2019 Jiesha Stephens, Breadth Field: Black Sexuality Studies

Undergraduate Honors Theses

Reader

- 2022 Kelly Keith, English, “Legal Reasonability and the ‘Gay Panic’ Defense”
- 2022 Lyla Masterson, English, “Intersections of Indigeneity, Gender, and Law as Represented Through Native American Literature”
- 2022 Madison Prue, English, “Opening Credits: An Incomplete Bibliography of Cinematic Sovereignty”

Other Teaching Activities

- 2021 Summer Teaching Institute, University of Oregon Teaching Engagement Program, New Approaches to Assessment Pathway Participant
- 2014-2015 English Writing Fellow (residency as writing consultant), The Writing Studio, Vanderbilt University
- 2014 Teaching Affiliate, The Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University (led Teaching Assistant Orientation/Training for TAs in the Department of Religion)

Service

Department

- 2023- Department Council
- 2023 Reader/judge for English undergraduate thesis prizes
- 2021-2023 Teaching Faculty Committee
- 2019-2021 Graduate Committee
- 2019-2021 Reviewer for English Department Publication Workshop

University

2021- Black Studies Steering Committee
2021- Affiliate Faculty, Black Studies
2021- Affiliate Faculty, Clark Honors College
2019-2022 Board Member, Center for the Study of Women in Society
2018- Participating Faculty, Politics, Culture, and Identity Graduate Specialization
2018- Affiliate Faculty, Center for the Study of Women in Society
2018- Affiliate Faculty, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Professional

2022 Reader, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*
2022 Reader, *Nineteenth-Century Studies*
2022 Reader, *Law, Culture, & Humanities*
2021 Reader, *Hypatia*
2020 Reader, *The Black Scholar*

Other Experience and Honors

2008-2011 Associate, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
Washington, DC
2010 Pro Bono Matter of the Year, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP
(co-recipient for successful U.S. Supreme Court advocacy in *U.S. v. Stevens*, 559
U.S. 460 (2010))
2008- Member, Maine Bar (bar membership inactive 2012-present)
2008 Order of the Coif, American University, Washington College of Law
(academic honor for law school graduates in the top 10% of their graduating law
school class)