

**Veterans in Society:
Ambiguities & Representations**
2016 NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers

Seminar Participants

Leslie Kennedy Adams spent her formative years in the Marine Corps; both her father and stepfather were fighter pilots. Her father is buried at Arlington. She earned her PhD in English from Texas A&M University in 1995. Her dissertation focused on the use of unreliable narrators and fragmentation in the work of Heinemann, Herr, O'Brien, and Wright. She did postdoctoral work via an NEH Summer Institute, "America's Wars in Asia: A Cultural Approach," at the University of Montana in 1995. Her scholarship has focused on war and the way it is portrayed in literature and film. She is currently working on collecting the oral histories of the men who went through flight school with my father and who subsequently served in Vietnam. She currently teaches full time for the University of Phoenix. UOPX serves many in the military community, including active duty personnel and their dependents, as well as veterans.



Andrew J. Boyson is originally from Creston, Iowa. He attended Drake University in Des Moines, graduating in 2003 with a master of arts in Broadcast Journalism and a political science minor. In 2007, he graduated from Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, and served on active duty in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 2008 to 2013. During this time, he worked as a federal prosecutor at Fort Hood, Texas; a detainee operations and operational law attorney in Baghdad, Iraq; and a military prosecutor, federal labor law counselor and ethics attorney at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. He practiced personnel law for the federal government in 2013 before beginning an American history graduate program at Saint Louis University in 2014. He will receive his master of arts in American history this spring (2016) and continue to SLU's American history doctoral program. An avid Chicago sports fan, Boyson currently lives in Saint Louis with his wife, Krista, who is a SLU biology doctoral candidate. He enjoys running, playing the French horn and learning about American history, particularly military, veterans, and legal history.

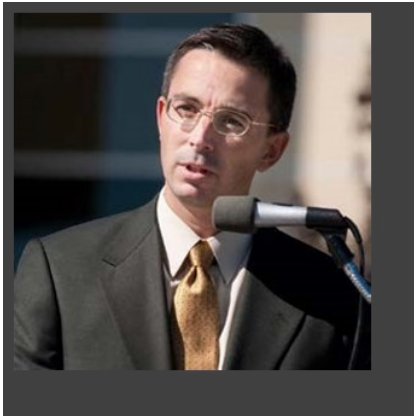


Rita Nakashima Brock, PhD, research professor and director of the Soul Repair Center, Brite Divinity School at TCU, was a professor for eighteen years before becoming, in 1997, di-



rector of the Bunting Institute, which became the Fellowship Program at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University in 1999. From 2001–2002, she was a Fellow at the Harvard Divinity School Center for Values in Public Life. Her book *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire* (Beacon), co-authored with Rebecca Ann Parker, was a best religion book of 2008 in *Publishers Weekly* and a finalist for the American Academy of Religion Award in constructive, reflective theological studies. They are also co-authors of *Proverbs of Ashes: Violence, Redemptive Suffering, and the Search for What Saves Us* (Beacon 2001). Her most recent book is *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War* (Beacon 2012), co-authored with Gabriella Lettini.

Liam Corley is an associate professor of English at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. LCDR Corley is currently on military leave to serve as an officer-instructor at the



United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He is a specialist in American literature of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and is a veteran of the U.S. war in Afghanistan. He is the author of *Bayard Taylor: Determined Dreamer of America's Rise, 1825-1878*, published by Bucknell University Press in 2014. His current project, *The Voice of the Veteran*, explores the ways veteran characters function and are depicted in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American literature. His poetry and creative nonfiction can be found in *Chautauqua, War, Literature & the Arts, First Things, Proud to Be*, and *Incoming*.

Jim Craig is an associate teaching professor and chair of the Department of Military and Veteran Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He is the founding director of UMSL's



innovative Veterans Studies Program. A twenty-five-year army veteran, his teaching and research focuses on the evolution of veteran support programs in America, military culture, and the successful transition of former service members into higher education. He has a bachelor of science (BS) in mechanical engineering from the United States Military Academy (West Point), a master of military arts and sciences (MMAS) focused in history from the Army's Command and General Staff College, and a master in public administration (MPA) focused in Security Studies from Harvard University.

Nancy Dallett is a public historian with thirty years of experience, ten of which she served as assistant director of the graduate public history program at Arizona State University.



Currently she is assistant director for the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at ASU, which builds bridges among faculty and advisors with students who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. This includes promoting dialogue, teaching, and research that increase information, understanding, knowledge, and relationships among military, civilian, and academic cultures. She also consults across the country on municipal public art and public history planning. Throughout her diverse career in presenting civic history, she aims to diversify perspectives, reveal significance, and explore memory, commemoration, and place.

Drew Darien is a professor of history at Salem State University, where he specializes in modern United States history, the history of policing, and oral history. At Salem State, he coordinates an oral history program with veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and teaches in a first-year learning community for student veterans.



In 2013, Darien published his first book with Palgrave Macmillan, *Becoming New York's Finest*, a history of the integration of African Americans and women into the New York City police department. His second book, *Building the Sacred and the Progressive*, was an institutional history of Temple Sinai of Brookline, Massachusetts. Darien has worked for several archival institutions and museums, including the Clements Historical Archives, the Margaret Sanger Papers, the New York City Transit Authority Archives, and the New York Historical Society, where he curated an exhibit on the history of the NYPD.

Elizabeth (Liz) F. Desnoyers-Colas is associate professor of communication at Armstrong State University (Savannah, Georgia), where she teaches graduate and undergraduate communication courses. She is currently the faculty coordinator for Armstrong's Men of Vision and Excellence (M.O.V.E.) first-year experience recruitment and retention program for the African American Male Initiative.



She is a retired United States Air Force public affairs officer (Major, O-4) who also served in Operation Desert Storm, Saudi Arabia, 1991. She is the author of the book *Marching as to War: Personal Narratives of African American Women's Experiences in the Gulf Wars* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2014). She is also the president of the faculty senate of Armstrong State University and the chair elect for the University System of Georgia Faculty Council.

Susan L. Eastman is the daughter of an enlisted Vietnam veteran and a lecturer in English at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, where she founded and co-directs Sword and Pen, a writing group for student veterans and their family members. In her forthcoming book, *The American War in Vietnam: Cultural Memory at the Turn of the Century* (University of Tennessee Press, 2017), Eastman analyzes veteran, civilian, American, Vietnamese, Vietnamese American, and Philippine representations of the war produced at the turn-to-the twenty-first-century. The manuscript challenges authenticity of experience claims about war memory because we now also encounter prosthetic memories of the war—those acquired via mediated representation by those with no direct experience in war. These representations—



memorials, material memory objects, poems, novels, graphic novels, memoirs, and narrative films—either encourage or challenge the authenticity of prosthetic memory. Typically, prosthetic memory permits an ongoing memory that refuses to relegate the war to the forgotten past.

Elena Friot is a PhD candidate at the University of New Mexico. She studies United States history, and is particularly interested in the ways societies encounter and commemorate conflict, the effect of violence on constructions of masculinity, and the political uses (and abuses) of historical memory. Her dissertation, titled *Remembering New Mexico's War: The Bataan Death March in History and Memory, 1942–2012*, interrogates the impact of the Bataan Death March on the way New Mexico remembers and commemorates its participation in World War II. She was recently awarded two fellowships to support her dissertation research and writing from the University of New Mexico—the Dorothy Woodward Memorial Fellowship and the Ferenc M. Szasz and Margaret Connell-Szasz Fellowship. Elena also works as a historian for the Phillips Research Site History Office for the Air Force Research Laboratory at Kirtland Air Force Base.



Alexis Hart is an associate professor of English and the director of writing at Allegheny College, where she regularly teaches an introduction to literature course focused on post-9/11 war literature and a community-engaged seminar that connects first-year college students with local military members and veteran-focused organizations. A U.S. Navy veteran, Hart has published scholarly work on veterans' issues and was the co-recipient, with Roger Thompson, of a Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC) research grant to study veterans returning to college writing classrooms. She is a co-founder of the CCCC Standing Group "Writing with Former, Current, and Future Members of the Military" and served as co-chair of the CCCC Task Force on Veterans.



Howard Hastings holds a BA in English (1974) from Eastern Montana College and an MA from the University of Montana (1979). From 1983 to 1993, he taught English part-time with the University of Maryland University College in Germany and Italy, serving active-duty military students and their dependents. After earning a PhD in Cultural Studies from George Mason University (2006), he returned to UMUC full-time to teach military students “downrange” in Qatar and Afghanistan from 2006 to 2012. Howard is currently adjunct professor in the Humanities Division at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. He is also chair of the Cultural Studies Association’s Working Group on Culture and War. Howard’s research explores both the gap between U.S. military and civilian culture, which has widened since the adoption of an all-volunteer military, and the ambiguation of the boundary between the public and private sector which has followed the privatization of military labor.



Louis Hicks is currently professor of sociology and department chair at St. Mary’s College of Maryland, where he has taught since 1993. He has been a visiting professor at Brigham Young University, the U.S. Army War College, the Canadian Forces College, Nanjing University, Lingnan University (Hong Kong), and Kwansai Gakuin University (Japan). From 1998 to 2000, he was the research director of *The First Measured Century*, a PBS television documentary about the rise of the social sciences in America, and he co-authored its companion book with Theodore Caplow and Ben J. Wattenberg. He also co-authored *Systems of War and Peace*. Along with co-editors Eugenia Weiss and Jose Coll, he is finishing a two-volume work, *The Civilian Lives of U.S. Veterans: Issues and Identities*. It will be published by Praeger later this year.



Norma Honaker is a lecturer at East Tennessee State University’s women’s studies program and Department of Literature and Language. There she serves on the Veterans Affairs Standing Committee and in the multicultural center. A former U.S. Army Chemical Corps officer and enlisted reservist, Honaker held various leadership and staff positions with the 18th Airborne Corps, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, and Training and Doctrine Command. Her first leadership position was as a NBC reconnaissance platoon leader, a position opened to women by Congress only three months before her assignment; her culminating assignment was as an assistant professor in the Department of Art, Philosophy, and English at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Her research focuses on images and autobiographies of military wives and crossdressing soldiers in Anglo-American colonial literature.

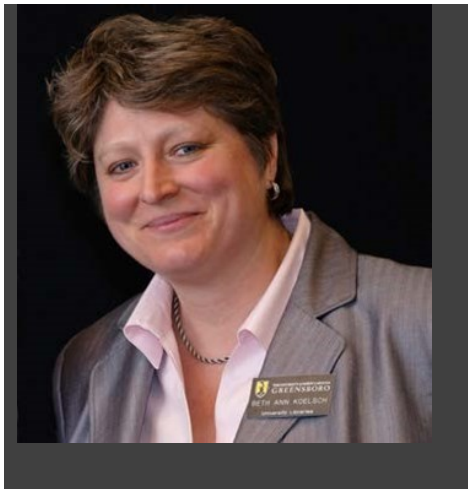


Kristin G. Kelly is associate professor of English at the University of North Georgia; she teaches courses in composition, American literature, film and literature, and the short story.



Her current research concerns the aftermath of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, especially as reflected in the poetry and prose of combat veterans. She has poems and essays published or forthcoming in journals such as *South Atlantic Review*; *Annals of Internal Medicine*; *War, Literature and the Arts*; and *The Examined Life*.

Beth Ann Koelsch has been the curator of the Betty H. Carter Women Veterans Historical Project (WVHP) at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 2008. The WVHP



collects oral histories and other materials that document the contributions of women in the U.S. military and the American Red Cross (<http://libcdm1.uncg.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/WVHP/>). Koelsch previously worked as a project archivist at the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture at Duke University, Durham, NC. She received her masters in library science (MSLS) degree from the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007 and earned her undergraduate degree from Duke University in 1990.

Hilary Lithgow is a lecturer and undergraduate advisor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at UNC Chapel Hill. Her background is in Victorian and modernist British literature and the literature of World War I, but her current work focuses on the literature



of war today. She is especially interested in how military experience shapes people's ideas about how they ought to write a sentence or tell a story, and in the limits of irony as a tool for making sense of war experience. In addition to the literature of war, Lithgow teaches courses on British literature, the limits of language and the value of literature in everyday life; she also teaches writing courses for UNC undergraduates and for the UNC session of the Warrior Scholar Program. Beyond the classroom, she works with academic advising to support student veterans transferring in to UNC, lectures and leads book groups for UNC's Program in the Humanities, and co-facilitates Vets For Words, a book group for veterans administered by the NC Humanities Council with support from the NEH.

Matt Moses is a lecturer in English, as well as the director of writing and literacy at Hostos, The City University of New York. He attended Georgetown University, where he served as



writing center coordinator and president of the graduate student organization. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Moses is committed to implementing best practices in organizational and educational leadership. His (sometimes disparate) research interests include management, the dynamics of institutions, American nationalism, and representations of wartime death in the United States. Having written about military songs as sites of emotional expression and unification, he is excited to be attending this seminar in order to gain new insights into current veteran's issues. His primary hobbies are martial arts and his large German shepherd dog, Blue.

Sarah Myers is an assistant professor of history at Saint Francis University and director of the Joseph E. & Shirley J. Keirn World War II Collection. She holds a PhD in history from



Texas Tech University and teaches courses on 20th century U.S. history, public history, and war and society. Her research is on the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP) program of World War II and incorporates the experiences of women pilots, including their fight for veteran status. She has presented her research at conferences including the Society for Military History and the Organization of American Historians, and she has two book chapters coming out on World War II and women pilots.

David Noon is an associate professor at the University of Alaska Southeast, where he teaches all areas of United States history. After receiving an undergraduate degree in English and



history from James Madison University (1992), he completed a PhD in American studies from the University of Minnesota in 2001 and began teaching in Alaska the following year. Of late, his research has focused mostly on politics and the production of historical memory, and he is currently working on a manuscript about violence, popular culture, and the American presidency. He hopes this seminar will add new dimensions to that work while also laying the groundwork for several interdisciplinary projects focusing on the experiences of Alaska Native veterans since the Korean War.

Meredith Oyen is an assistant professor in history at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She received her doctorate in history at Georgetown University. She teaches courses on U.S. foreign relations, Asian diasporas, World War Two, and the Vietnam War, and is serving as UMBC's 2015–2016 Veterans Faculty Fellow to help bridge gaps between faculty and military-connected students. Oyen has published articles in *Diplomatic History*, the *Journal of Cold War Studies*, *Modern Asian Studies*, and the *Journal of American Ethnic History*. Her first book, *The Diplomacy of Migration: Transnational Lives and the Making of U.S.-Chinese Relations in the Cold War*, was published in 2015 by Cornell University Press.



Tara Leigh Tappert is an independent scholar and archives and American arts consultant. Since 2010, Tara has been writing and lecturing about the arts and the military, and about creative responses to war trauma. Her work has been supported by a Library of Congress fellowship (2014) and a research grant from the Center for Craft, Creativity & Design (2010). Inspired by the artwork of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, Tara founded The Arts & The Military (www.artsandmilitary.org) and developed Arts, Military + Healing, a six-day program at seven cultural, educational, and medical institutions throughout Washington, DC (2012). Tara has curated four arts and military exhibitions (2013–2015); served as curator for Combat Paper Project (2011–15); as arts editor for an issue of *Journal of Military Experience* (2013), and taught The Arts and the Military, a public history class, at UMBC (2013). Tara is now growing The Arts & The Military with educational programs, arts workshops, and traveling exhibitions.



Kim Theriault received her doctorate from the University of Virginia in 2000 and is currently professor of art history at Dominican University. Her research addresses themes of trauma and memory in art. She approached this first through the painter Arshile Gorky in her book *Rethinking Arshile Gorky* and a catalog essay for the Philadelphia Museum /Tate Modern/ LAMoCA exhibition *Arshile Gorky: A Retrospective*. Currently, she is completing her second book, *Outside the Wall: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial in American Culture*, a culmination of over fifteen years of academic research and over thirty years of visits because her father's name is listed there. She has a lifetime of familiarity with the Vietnam War and, having grown up a military dependent, has extensive—albeit dated—experience with the VA, defense department bureaucracy, military bases, and military healthcare. She also writes poetry and fiction and does photography and painting.



Christopher Webb is a doctoral student in cultural anthropology at Duke University. His current research investigates the experience of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who are attempting to reintegrate into civilian society in the United States. In particular, he is interested in understanding the ethical impact of violence on the people who perform it. Prior to graduate school, he served as an infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division and was wounded in combat in Afghanistan in 2006. After struggling with PTSD and other combat trauma, he finished an associate's degree at Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College and transferred to UNC Asheville. At UNCA, he completed his bachelor's degree in anthropology, specializing in the experience of military veterans utilizing the GI Bill to go to college.

