

CURRICULUM VITAE

DR. NICOLE M. MEROLA

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**EDUCATION**

- Ph.D. English Literature, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, December 2003  
M.A. English Literature, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, June 1998  
B.A. English and Religion, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA, June 1994  
External Examination Program with Honors
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**CURRENT ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Department Head, Literary Arts & Studies, Rhode Island School of Design, July 2013-present.  
Professor of Environmental Humanities and American Literatures, Department of Literary Arts & Studies,  
Rhode Island School of Design, July 2017-present.

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Environmental Humanities; Literature and the Environment; Visual Studies and the Environment; the Anthropocene; Biodiversity and Extinction Studies; Climate Change Cultures; Critical Animal Studies; Science Studies; Theories of NatureCulture; Socioecological Pasts and Presents of Narragansett Bay; Post-1945 American Literature and Culture; Polar Regions; American Literature and Culture from 1800-1945; Critical Theory; Cultural Studies; Theories of Place and Spatial Production; Community-Based Learning

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**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- “what do we do but keep breathing as best we can this / minute atmosphere”: Juliana Spahr and Anthropocene Anxiety.” *Affective Ecocriticism: Emotion, Embodiment, Environment*, eds. Jennifer Ladino and Kyle Bladow, forthcoming from the University of Nebraska Press.
- “Archives of Ecocatastrophe; or, Vulnerable Reading Practices in the Anthropocene.” *American Literary History*, forthcoming.
- “Engaging the ‘Eaarth’: Teaching and Making Climate Change Cultures in an Art and Design Context.” *Teaching Climate Change in the Humanities*, eds. Stephanie LeMenager, Stephen Siperstein, and Shane Hall. New York: Routledge, 2016. 146-152.
- “for terror of the deadness beyond’: Arctic Environments and Inhuman Ecologies in Michelle Paver’s *Dark Matter*.” *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture, and Environment* 5.2 (2014): 22-40.
- “Materializing a Geotraumatic and Melancholy Anthropocene: Jeanette Winterson’s *The Stone Gods*.” *the minnesota review* 83 (2014): 122-132.
- “Mediating Planetary Attachments and Planetary Melancholy: Lars von Trier’s *Melancholia*.” *Design, Mediation, and the Posthuman*, eds. Amy Proppen, Colbey Emmerson Reid, and Dennis Weiss. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2014. 249-267.
- “T. C. Boyle’s Neoevolutionary Queer Ecologies: Questioning Species in ‘Descent of Man’ and ‘Dogology.’” *America’s Darwin: Darwinian Theory in U.S. Culture*, eds. Tina Gianquitto and Lydia Fisher. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2014. 534-575.
- “*Cosmopolis*: Don DeLillo’s Melancholy Political Ecology.” *American Literature* 84.4 (2012): 827-853.
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**BOOKS IN PROGRESS**

*A Dark Archive: Materializing the Risks of the Anthropocene in Contemporary North American and British Literatures*

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**SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- “simply a receiving station for a series of overwhelming transmissions’: Appropriating the Human in Jeff VanderMeer’s *Borne* and *Area X: The Southern Reach Trilogy*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 29 March-1 April 2018.

- Co-organizer and Chair, "The Idea of Anthropocene Literature." American Literature Association Conference. 25-28 May 2017.
- "Making Climate Change Cultures at the Rhode Island School of Design." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. 17-20 March 2016.
- Invited Chair and Respondent, "Modes of Misery, Genres of Grief: Narrative Forms of Environmental Suffering." American Studies Association Conference. 8-11 October 2015.
- Deep Times: Imagining Geomaterial Horizons Seminar Participant. "Embracing Cryomateriality." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. 23-27 June 2015.
- Organizer and Chair, "Biodiversity and Extinction Narratives." American Literature Association Conference. 21-24 May 2015.
- Co-organizer and Chair, "Native Literary Ecologies." American Literature Association Conference. 21-24 May 2015.
- "Environmental Melancholies." Modern Language Association Conference. 8-11 January 2015.
- Attendee, 2014 ADE-ADFL Summer Seminar West. Seattle, 19-22 June 2014.
- "Film and Planetary Feeling in the Digital Era: Lars von Trier's *Melancholia*." The Society for Philosophy and Technology Conference. 4-6 July 2013.
- Climate Change Ecocriticisms Seminar Participant. "Confronting Climate Denial: Helen Simpson's *In-Flight Entertainment*." Association for the Study of Literature and Environment Conference. 28 May-1 June 2013.
- "Perhaps the universe is the memory of our mistakes': Materializing the Anthropocene in Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods*." American Comparative Literature Association. 4-7 April 2013.
- Co-Organizer and Co-Chair, "Littered with Meaning: Environmental Pollution and Waste in Literature and Other Arts." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 29 March-1 April 2012.
- "Litter on the Beach, 'a heavy price for their nostalgia': The Entomological Poetics of Decay in Jim Crace's *Being Dead*." American Comparative Literature Association Conference. 29 March-1 April 2012.
- "The Spoils of War: Psychological, Physical, and Environmental Violence in J. Robert Lennon's *Castle*." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference. 15-18 March 2012.

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#### SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### Undergraduate Literature, Theory, and Film Courses

- LAS-E280 "Narrating Evolution" (Spring 2007, 2008, 2011)
- LAS-E320 "Contemporary Ecological Fictions" (Fall 2005, 2007, 2010)
- LAS-E321 "Representing 'Unrepresentable' Environments: Climate Change" (Spring 2012, Fall 2013)
- LAS-E324 "Ecopoems/Ecopoetics" (Wintersession 2016)
- LAS-E503 "Theories of NatureCulture" (Spring 2010, Fall 2011)
- LAS-E521 "Theorizing the Anthropocene" (Fall 2014)
- LAS-E522 "Geographical Imaginations: Wilderness" (Spring 2006)
- LAS-E561 "Green Theory/Green Reading: Pollution" (Spring 2006)
- LAS-E713 "Posthumanisms: Critical Animal Studies" (Spring 2011)
- LAS-E714 "Investigating Narragansett Bay" (Fall 2010)  
"Investigating Water: Connecting to Narragansett Bay" (Fall 2008)

LAS-E715 “Green Cultural Studies: Film” (Spring 2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017)

LAS-E717 “Exploring the Art & Science of Biodiversity in Guyana” (Wintersession 2014, 2015, 2017; co-taught with Lucy Spelman [HPSS]; co-requisite with LAEL-LE97)

Undergraduate First-Year Literature Seminars

LAS-E101 “The Animal Other” (Fall 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2011)

Undergraduate Liberal Arts Elective Courses

LAEL-LE98 “Digital [LEGO] Analog: Phase 1: Research Seminar” (Wintersession 2015)

LAEL-1584 “Portugal: Material Practices” (Wintersession 2018; co-taught with Laura Briggs [ARCH]; co-requisite with ARCH/IDISC-1584)

LAEL-W512 “Mapping Portugal: Bio-Geo-Cultural Heritages” (Wintersession 2019; co-taught with Eduardo Duarte [INTAR]; co-requisite with INTAR-1512)

Graduate Commons Courses

132G “Theories of NatureCulture” (Fall 2011)

162G “Advanced Research Seminar: Putting Your Work in Context” (Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

M.F.A. Thesis Advisor

Elaina Runge, Textiles, (2016-2017)

Melissa J. Tyson, Jewelry + Metalsmithing (2016-2017)

Genevieve Lowe, Printmaking (2011-2013)

Amber Heaton, Printmaking (2011-2012)

Amanda Thackray, Printmaking (2011-2012)

Peiqi Tang, Industrial Design (2011-2012)

B.A. Thesis Advisor

Bryna Cofrin-Shaw, Environmental Studies, Brown University (2013-2014)