

# Kevin McMullen

Office: 252 Louise Pound Hall, Lincoln, NE 68588-0333  
kcmullen@unl.edu | <https://iamkevinmcmullen.com>

## Education

**PhD, English Literature**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2018

Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities (2013)

Dissertation: "'That Abomination of the Nineteenth Century': The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 and the Literature of the North American Continent"

Committee: Kenneth M. Price (chair), Susan Belasco, Amanda Gailey, Jeannette Eileen Jones

**MA, English**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, May 2012

**BA, English; BA, Journalism and Mass Communication**, University of Iowa, May 2010

## Teaching and Research Positions

Research Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), 2020-present

Fellow, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, UNL, 2020-present

Project Manager and Associate Editor, [Walt Whitman Archive](#), UNL, 2018-present

Description of duties: I oversee and coordinate the staff and workflow of all *Archive* grants and projects, currently spread across five institutions. I am responsible for staff training, as well as upper-level proofing of staff work. I assist in setting editorial and technical priorities and goals for the project, as well as grant writing and reporting.

Project Manager, [Charles W. Chesnutt Archive](#), UNL, 2019-present

Description of duties: I oversee and coordinate the staff and workflow on all current projects. This includes a recent NEH grant that completely updated the current *CWCA* site, transforming all of its content into compliant TEI, updating the site's technical infrastructure, and creating a new section for Chesnutt's page-proofs and manuscripts, as well as a recent NHPRC (National Archives) grant to edit Chesnutt's correspondence.

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, English Department, UNL, 2018-2020

Teaching Assistant, English Department, UNL, 2011-2018

Senior Assistant Editor, *Walt Whitman Archive*, UNL, 2013-2018

Research Assistant, *Civil War Washington*, UNL, 2012-2013

Research Assistant, *Walt Whitman Archive*, UNL, 2010-2013

## Books

With Stefan Schöberlein, Stephanie M. Blalock, and Jason Stacy. *Walt Whitman Between Leaves: Tracing Paths Untrodden, 1856-1860*. [co-authored monograph under contract with Edinburgh UP; expected publication May 2026]

## Articles and Other Publications (\* peer reviewed)

"One of the grand works of the world': Walt Whitman and the Brooklyn Waterworks, 1856-1859," forthcoming in *Technology and Culture*. Co-authored with Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schöberlein, and Jason Stacy. \*

"Taking a Page Out of Whitman's Scrapbook: Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Poet's Composition Process," in *The Oxford Handbook of Walt Whitman*, ed. Kenneth M. Price and Stefan Schöberlein (New York: Oxford UP, forthcoming, early 2024). \*

"Walt Whitman's Trunk," *Textual Cultures* 16, no. 2 (forthcoming, Fall 2023). Co-authored with Kenneth M. Price and Stefan Schöberlein. \*

"Finding Whitman Between the Columns: A Trip into Nineteenth-Century Newspaper," *C19 Podcast* series, season 5, [episode 5](#) (August 2022). Co-produced with Stefan Schöberlein, Stephanie Blalock, and Jason Stacy.

"Walt Whitman, Editor at the *New-York Atlas*," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 39.4 (Spring 2022): 189–204. Co-authored with Stephanie Blalock, Stefan Schöberlein, and Jason Stacy. \*

"Whitman Reads New York," "Whitman's Annotations" section, Matt Cohen, ed. *The Walt Whitman Archive*. Kenneth M. Price and Ed Folsom, co-directors. 2020. <https://whitmanarchive.org/manuscripts/marginalia/anc.02137.html>

"'This damned Act': Walt Whitman and the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 37.1 (Summer/Fall 2019): 1-45. \*

"Walt Whitman at the *Aurora*: A Model for Journalistic Attribution," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 37.1 (Summer/Fall 2019): 107-115. Co-authored with Stefan Schöberlein and Jason Stacy. \*

"Turning Over Fresh Leaves: A Reconsideration of Fanny Fern's Periodical Writing," *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 35.2 (Winter 2018): 141–165. \*

"Who Watches This, Watches a Man: Walt Whitman in Educational Films," *Mickle Street Review: An Electronic Journal of Whitman and American Studies* 21 (Spring 2016). \*

"The Integrated Catalog of Walt Whitman's Literary Manuscripts," *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review* 33.2 (Fall 2015): 125-129. \*

## Digital Archives and Editions

*Fanny Fern in The New York Ledger* (digital archive of Fanny Fern's newspaper writings, <http://fannyfern.org>; project passed peer review by [NINES](#), October 2022): Co-creator and now sole editor.

Digital edition of Walt Whitman's Geography Scrapbook, *The Walt Whitman Archive* (<https://whitmanarchive.org/manuscripts/marginalia/index-scrapbook.html>): Co-Editor, with Matt Cohen, Caterina Bernardini, Ashlyn Stewart, and Caitlin Henry; published in 2020.

## Grants

As a long-time team member of two collaborative digital research projects that are largely grant-funded, I have been involved with numerous grants in various capacities: for some I served as a lead writer and PI or co-PI; for many I was a major participant in my capacity as project manager and oversaw nearly all day-to-day work; for some I held a more advisory role but still ultimately managed the incorporation of the grant work into the infrastructure and workflow of the larger digital archive. I have attempted to capture some of that complexity in the categories and descriptions below.

### Grants written or co-written

PI and lead writer: National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, "Between the Columns: A toolkit for periodical authorship attribution and display," under review; submitted June 2023 (requested: 2 years, \$150,000)

Lead writer and manager: NEH Collaborative Research Grant, "Walt Whitman's Journalism: Finding the Poet in the *Brooklyn Daily Times*," in progress, January 2021–December 2023 (\$249,941)

### Grants managed

NEH Scholarly Editions Grant, "The Late Life Writings of Walt Whitman" (2023–2026, in progress) (grant just started)

National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC) Documentary Editions Grant, "Charles Chesnutt's Cleveland Archives: Phase One" (2023–2024, in progress) (grant just started)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "A Life in Letters: Walt Whitman's Complete Correspondence, 1840–1892" (2022–2023, in progress, advisory role)

NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant, "*Walt Whitman Archive* Infrastructure Revitalization" (2020–2023, in progress)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "The Complete Correspondence of Charles W. Chesnutt" (2021–2022)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "Fame and Infamy: Walt Whitman's Correspondence, 1888–1892" (2021–2022, advisory role)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "Fame and Infamy: Walt Whitman's Correspondence, 1888–1892" (2020–2021, advisory role)

NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant, "Charles Chesnutt: A Digital Archive" (2019–2021)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "Walt Whitman's Old Age Correspondence" (2019–2020, advisory role)

NEH Scholarly Editions Grant, "A Digital Variorum of the 1855 *Leaves of Grass*" (2017–2020)

NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Grant, "Walt Whitman's Annotations" (2018–2019)

NHPRC Documentary Editions Grant, "Walt Whitman's Old Age Correspondence" (2018–2019, advisory role)

NEH Preservation and Access Grant, "An Integrated Guide to Walt Whitman's Literary Manuscripts" (2012–2015)

## Conference Papers and Presentations

"Whitman's Trunk: Rethinking How Whitman Composed" (co-authored with Kenneth M. Price and Stefan Schöberlein; delivered by Kenneth M. Price), American Literature Association, Boston, MA (May 2023)

Roundtable participant, "Whitman Between the Columns—Finding the Anonymous Journalist," American Literature Association, Chicago, IL, May 2022

"Whitman's Trunk: Rethinking How Whitman Composed" (co-authored with Kenneth M. Price and Stefan Schöberlein), Society for Textual Scholarship Conference, Chicago, IL, May 2022

"The *Walt Whitman Archive* at 25 Years: A Round Table Discussion," American Literature Association, Boston, MA, July 2021 (virtual participant)

"The Digital Zoomanities: Fostering collegiality and keeping up morale as a project manager in the age of COVID-19," Project Management in the Humanities Conference at DHSI, virtual conference, June 2021

Invited member of a panel on the *Walt Whitman Archive*, "Walt Whitman at 200: The Bicentennial Symposium," Iowa City, IA, June 2019

"Whitman Reads New York," 12<sup>th</sup> International Walt Whitman Week Symposium, New York, NY, June 2019

"Whitman's Geography Scrapbook: The Formation of the Poet's Worldview" (co-authored with Caterina Bernardini, Caitlin Henry, and Matt Cohen), American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2019

"Stick Your Hands in Your Pockets Jonathan': Slaves, Kings, and Absent Bodies in Whitman," 9<sup>th</sup> International Walt Whitman Week Symposium, Exeter, England, June 2016

"Why FannyPacks Are Cool: *Fanny Fern* in *The New York Ledger* as a Template for Digital Publication," Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Lincoln, NE, April 2016

"Fanny Fern in *The New York Ledger*: A Case for the Comprehensive Treatment of Fern's Journalism," Joint Conference of the Society for Textual Scholarship and the Association of Documentary Editing, Lincoln, NE, June 2015

"Fanny Fern in *The New York Ledger*," Kansas State University Digital Humanities Symposium, Manhattan, KS, February 2015

"Who Watches This, Watches a Man: Walt Whitman in Educational Films," 7<sup>th</sup> International Walt Whitman Week Symposium, Bamberg, Germany, July 2014

"Expanding the Interpretive and Analytical Possibilities for Understanding Slavery and Emancipation in Washington, DC" (co-authored with Janel Cayer), Digital Humanities, Lincoln NE (poster session), July 2013

"From Whitman's 'jetblack sunrise' to Grimké's 'moving black against the sun': New Light on Black Responses to *Leaves*," 9<sup>th</sup> International Melville Conference: "Melville and Whitman in Washington," Washington, DC, June 2013

"'Through the lilac mists': Whitman's Presence in the Poetry of African American Women of the Harlem Renaissance," American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2013

"Expanding the Interpretive and Analytical Possibilities for Understanding Slavery and Emancipation in Washington, DC" (co-authored with Janel Cayer), Nebraska Forum on the Digital Humanities, Lincoln, NE (poster session), February 2013

### **Moderated Panels and Roundtables**

"Unique Archives: Digital Projects and Preservation Outside the Canon" (panel, organized by the Digital Americanist society), American Literature Association, Chicago, IL, May 2022

"Unique Archives: Digital Projects and Preservation Outside the Canon" (panel, organized by the Digital Americanist society), American Literature Association, Boston, MA, May 2019

"Digital Sleuthing and Lost Texts: Reading in the Age of Expanding Archives" (roundtable, organized by the Digital Americanist society), American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2018

### **Awards and Fellowships**

Digital Scholarship Incubator Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2014

Chris Pulos Fellowship, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2011-2014

## Courses Taught

American Literature before 1865

American Literature since 1865

"Banned Books" (20<sup>th</sup>-c. American literature class focusing on the history of U.S. book censorship)

Twentieth-Century Fiction

"Pondering the Pulitzer" (20<sup>th</sup>-c. fiction class focusing on Pulitzer Prize-winning novels)

The American Short Story

Introduction to Literature

Writing: Rhetoric as Inquiry

Writing: Rhetoric as Argument

## Service

### Community service

Presented guest lecture and co-wrote (with Brett Barney) program note for a selection of song settings of Walt Whitman's poetry, performed by Professor Andrew White, University of Nebraska-Kearney, Kearney, NE, and University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE, December 2019

Coordinated and contributed to lobby exhibit and program note about Walt Whitman for the Blue Barn Theatre's production of *I and You* by Lauren Gunderson, Blue Barn Theatre, Omaha, NE, Winter 2018–2019

### Academic service

Sub-committee for development of Eng. 107 (new introductory literature course), Department of English, UNL, 2023–present

Chair, Student-centered Committee, Center for Digital Research in the Humanities (CDRH), UNL, 2022–present

Ad-hoc committee for review of Digital Humanities Summer Fellowship applications, CDRH, UNL, 2022–2023

Projects Committee, CDRH, UNL, 2021–present

Board member, Digital Americanists, 2021–present

TEI By Example International Advisory Committee, 2020–present

Digital Humanities Curriculum Committee, UNL, 2018–2023

UCARE (Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience) application reviewer, UNL, 2018–present

President, Digital Americanists, 2019-2021

Vice-President, Digital Americanists, 2017-2019

Webmaster, Transatlantic Walt Whitman Association, 2016-present

Instructor, DH Bootcamp @ UNL ("DH in the Classroom" course), 2015

English Department Technology Committee, UNL, 2011-2017

Graduate Student Library Advisory Board, UNL, 2011-2017

## **Professional Memberships**

Modern Language Association  
Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists  
Nineteenth Century Studies Association  
Digital Americanists  
Society for the Study of American Women Writers  
Society for Textual Scholarship

## **Skills**

Proficient in TEI/XML, XSLT, HTML, and CSS  
Experience with Omeka and Drupal content management systems  
In the process of learning Ruby