

# Aaron Pinnix, PhD

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## EDUCATION

PhD in English – Fordham University, 2020

Dissertation: “Subaqueous Poetics: Oceanic Depths in Modern and Contemporary Poetry”

Committee: Christopher GoGwilt, Julie Chun Kim, Elisabeth Frost, Kelly Baker Josephs

MA in English – University of Maine, 2013.

BA in English and Philosophy – University of Alabama in Huntsville, 2005.

## RECENT NOTABLE POSITIONS

Assistant Professor (wiss. Mitarbeiter) of American Studies, The University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany, 2024-2022.

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, English Department, Fordham University, New York, NY, 2022-2021.

Alumni Dissertation Fellows, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, New York, NY, 2020-2019.

Senior Teaching Fellow, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, New York, NY, 2019-2018.

## PUBLICATIONS

### EDITED COLLECTION

[\*Rethinking Infrastructure Across the Humanities\*](#). Eds. Aaron Pinnix, Axel Volmar, Fernando Esposito, Nora Binder. Culture & Theory Series, Vol. 290 (transcript Verlag: Bielefeld, 2023).

### CHAPTERS

“[The Dangers of Infrastructure Byproducts and What We Can Learn From Muriel Rukeyser’s \*The Book of the Dead\*](#).” *Rethinking Infrastructure Across the Humanities* (transcript Verlag: Bielefeld, 2023): 227-233.

“Will plastic make life impossible?: Pacific Poets Confront Ocean Plastic.” *The Routledge Companion to Ecopoetics*. Eds. Julia Fiedorczuk, Mary Newell, Bernard Quetchenbach, and Orchid Tierney (Routledge: New York, 2023): 176-184.

“Liquid Language.” *Water Logics*. Eds. Edwige Tamalet and yasser elhariry. [Forthcoming from University of Virginia Press, 2025].

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

“[America’s Intracoastal Waterway: Understanding the Nation Through Narratives About Infrastructure](#).” *Shima Journal*, vol. 17. No 2 (Winter 2023): 6-19.

“[Surfacing Ecological Disaster: Poets for Living Waters and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill](#).” *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik (ZAA): A Quarterly of Language, Literature, and Culture*, vol. 70, no. 1 (Spring 2022): 75-88.

[“Night of the Living Dead Dissects the News: Race, the 1967 Riots, and ‘Dead Neighbors.’”](#) *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, vol. 60 no. 4 (Summer 2021): 109-133.

[“Sargassum in the Black Atlantic: Entanglement and the abyss in Bearden, Walcott, and Philip.”](#) *Atlantic Studies*, vol. 16, no. 4 (September/October 2019): 423-451. Recipient of the *Atlantic Studies* Early Career Essay Award.

“Unending Fries: Mechanical Repetition in Joe Wenderoth’s *Letters to Wendy’s*.” *Radical Philosophy Review*, vol. 16, no. 1 (2013): 159-168.

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[“Plastics are Anti-Archives, with Dr. Aaron Pinnix.”](#) Podcast Interview on *UnChefed*, Hosted by Matt Carden and Brendan Costello (September 14, 2021).

[“Review of Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock’s \*The Mad Scientist’s Guide to Composition\*.”](#) Broadview Press, 2019. *Supernatural Studies*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Summer 2020): 174-177.

[“Learning to Breathe Underwater—The Tidalectics of Rukeyser’s ‘Anemone.’”](#) *Muriel Rukeyser: A Living Archive*, Ed. Elisabeth Däumer. March 1, 2019.

#### POETRY PUBLICATIONS

[“The Changeling of Chaplin, CT”](#) and [“Invasive Species.”](#) *Supernatural Studies*, vol. 8, no. 2, Fall 2023: 113-116.

[“Migrant: A Triptych.”](#) (*un*)*common sense*, June, 2019. Recipient of the 2019 Suzanna Cohen Legacy Foundation Prize.

[“Autobiographic, Thanatotic, Poetic.”](#) *Academy of American Poets*. Recipient of the 2017 Academy of American Poets Prize.

“Icarus,” “Welcome to Earth, Poet!,” and “The Conclusion First.” [*Carriage Return*], Fall 2014: 8-10.

[“Poem For Meaux, on Poetry.”](#) *Yes, Poetry*, June 18, 2014.

“A Small Film,” and “there’s no treasure on this map.” *Stolen Island*, no. 2 (2013): 144-149.

“Love Letters.” *The Blink*, no. 1 (2009): 18.

“Southern Gothic.” *The New Quarterly*, no. 106 (Spring 2008): 26-27.

#### HONORS & AWARDS

Postdoctoral Research Fellow connected to the *Transforming Infrastructure* initiative, the University of Konstanz, Germany, 2022-2024.

Recipient of the AXO Teaching Award, designed to recognize outstanding teaching that combats racism and promotes social justice, Fordham University, April 22, 2022.

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, English Department, Fordham University, 2021-2022.

MLA Summer Teaching Institute Participant, Columbia University, 2021.

Alumni Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, 2019-2020.

*Atlantic Studies* Early Career Essay Award for “Sargassum in the Black Atlantic: Entanglement and the abyss in Bearden, Walcott, and Philip,” 2019.

The Suzanna Cohen Legacy Foundation Prize for “Migrant: A Triptych,” 2019.

*PostScript* Award in Film Studies for “*Night of the Living Dead* Dissects the News: Race, the 1967 Riots, and ‘Dead Neighbors.’” Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, 2019.

Jesuit Pedagogy Seminar Award, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, 2019.

Honors College Graduate Teacher and Curriculum Coordinator, Fordham University, Manhattan, NY, 2018-2019.

Senior Teaching Fellowship, The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, 2018-2019.

Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, Fordham University, 2018.

Graduate Syllabus Prize, English Department, Fordham University, 2017.

Academy of American Poets Prize for “Autobiographic, Thanatotic, Poetic,” Fordham University, 2017.

Teaching Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Fordham University, 2016-2018.

High Pass, PhD Comprehensive Examination, English Department, Fordham University, 2016.

The Frank and Helene Crohn Edna St. Vincent Millay Prize for the chapbook *johnny walked away, throwing his fbi badge into the surf*, National Poetry Foundation, 2013.

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

Co-Editor, [\*EP 16\*](#) and [\*EP 15: A Magazine of Exemplary Freshman Writing\*](#) (Fordham University, NY, 2018-2020).

Co-Editor, [\*Rhētorikós: Excellence in Student Writing\*](#) (Fordham University, NY, 2017-2020).

Jesuit Pedagogy Seminar (Fordham University, NY, 2019).

Volunteer Instructor for Poets Out Loud High School Outreach Program (2016-2019), which taught literary analysis and creative writing skills to students from underserved high schools.

Founder of the Contemporary Poetry Reading Group, Fordham University, New York, NY, Fall 2015-Spring 2020.

Writing Center Director, Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus, New York, NY, Summer 2018.

Teaching Mentor, Graduate Pedagogy Theory & Practicum, Department of English, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, Spring 2017.

*Joyce Studies Annual* Editor, Department of English, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

Editorial Board, College Composition Appeals Committee, University of Maine, Orono, ME, Spring 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **The University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany**

***Poetry of the Ocean: Liquefying the Humanities***, Graduate Seminar, Summer 2023. People have always been drawn to the ocean. In this course we will consider how this fluid environment and the creatures that live there have inspired modern and contemporary poets, and in turn how these poets' texts have offered new models for understanding human experience. Beginning with the French Symbolists, we will see how ocean-inspired poetry has been at the forefront of 20th and 21st C. poetry movements, including Modernism, Language poetry, Caribbean poetry, and recent ecopoets, discovering along the way how the ocean has inspired works that emphasize both linguistic and ecological connections over division.

### **Fordham University, Rose Hill Campus, Bronx, NY**

***Future Environments: Life After the End***, ENGL-3635, Spring 2021.

This course explores what our imagination of the future looks like, or, more precisely, the social and environmental changes that destruction, extinction, and the annihilation of the world we know now will entail. As we will see, while some authors imagine the future as dystopic, grim, and ugly, others imagine the future as beautiful and breathtaking in new, if perhaps terrifying, ways. We will discuss works Octavia Butler, Cormac McCarthy, and Waubgeshig Rice, as well as issues such as desertification, environmentally-motivated migration, and the importance of cultivating alternative forms of community.

***Interspecies Friendship***, ENGL 3909, Cross-listed Environmental Studies, Fall 2021.

Humans and killer whales, gorillas and cats, pigs and spiders, and even a lion, meerkat, and warthog: stories of interspecies relationships abound. What can we learn from literature about friendships that cross species lines? This Advanced Literature Course explores how different species experience the world, and how friendship can traverse such differences. Course texts include works by Aesop, E. B. White, Rudyard Kipling, Robin Wall Kimmerer, Donna Haraway, and students' own experiences.

***Aliens: Encountering the Unknown***, ENGL 3835, Summer 2021, Spring 2022.

The foreign, the strange, the unfamiliar—our stories are filled with encounters between the known and unknown, whether they describe travelers visiting foreign lands or science-fiction journeys among the stars. This literature course focuses on moments of first contact, exploring what makes someone an insider or an outsider, and investigating what happens when this border is troubled. Shuan Tan's *The Arrival*, Octavia Butler's *Xenogenesis* Series, and a variety of short stories and films are discussed.

***Briny Exchanges: Literature, Commerce, and the Ocean***, ENGL 2000, Spring, Fall 2021.

This literature course considers texts that takes place on or within multiple oceans, including the Atlantic, Caribbean, Pacific, and Arctic, and how such texts reflect developing connections between culture and commerce. Topics of discussion include the

Middle Passage and insurance, fishing and whaling, and the labors of sailors and shipwreck survivors, among others. This literature course is designed especially for Fordham Gabelli School of Business students.

***Journeying and Storytelling, ENGL 3661, Fall 2020.***

An Advanced Literature Course for English majors on the themes of journeying and storytelling in Western literature. Course texts include Homer's *Odyssey*, Madeline Miller's *Circe*, Basho's *Narrow Road to the Interior*, and Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*. Topics of discussion include tourism, colonialism, gender, race, and how these issues can overlap in peoples' journeys and the stories they tell about such journeys.

***Ocean Life, ENGL 2000, Summer 2020.***

Exploring literary depictions of ocean life can reveal surprising insights into our own human culture. Taking up this approach, this literature course considers such topics as Afrofuturist visions of the ocean depths, literature about megafauna like whales, and what octopuses can teach us. Course texts include Witi Ihimaera's *The Whale Rider*, Rivers Solomon's *The Deep*, and the film *Ponyo*.

***Science Fiction and the Social Imaginary, ENGL 2000, Spring 2018.***

This literature course considers 20<sup>th</sup> C. science fiction texts that reimagine race, gender, and sexuality as a means of articulating new social possibilities. Along with the themes of dystopia/utopia, Afrofuturism, and technology, course texts include works by Ursula Le Guin, Octavia Butler, Philip K. Dick, and Samuel Delaney.

***Literary Oceans, Economic Currents, ENGL 2000, Fall 2017.***

Discussing works by Daniel Defoe, Olaudah Equiano, Gabriel García Márquez, and M. NourbeSe Philip, this course explores humanity's changing relationship with the ocean from 900 AD to today, and the economic and cultural developments such changes entailed. This course is designed especially for Fordham Gabelli School of Business students.

***Writing and Food, ENGL 1102: Composition and Rhetoric II, Fall 2016 – Fall 2020.***

In this writing-intensive course, students read and discuss a variety of texts on the cultural meanings of food. By constructing recipes and cookbooks, describing new styles of cuisine, and engaging with food's various meanings, students learn to construct effective academic prose through sound grammar, logic, and persuasive rhetoric. This course received a departmental Graduate Syllabus Prize (2017).

***Writing NYC, ENGL 1101: English Composition and Rhetoric I, Summer 2017.***

This writing-intensive course introduces students to the expectations and rigor of academic prose by providing guidance on how to generate and present a clear critical position with strong support. Particular attention is paid to conceptual cohesion, sentence and paragraph construction, and clarity of expression.

**Fordham University, Lincoln Center Campus, Manhattan, NY**

***Honors Program: Writing Intensive Humanities, HPLC 1811, Fall 2018.***

This interdisciplinary honors course develops students' writing and revision skills through assignments shared among students' courses, including Science, Theology, Philosophy, and English. Learning goals, reading materials, and project expectations

were shared among classes. This course was created for Fordham's Lincoln Center Honors Program.

***Honors Program: Speech and Rhetoric, HPLC 1011, Spring, 2019.***

This interdisciplinary honors course explores ancient, modern, and contemporary rhetoric, as well as how to construct rhetorically robust and persuasive claims. Assignments are integrated across students' courses. This course was created for Fordham's Lincoln Center Honors Program.

**Manhattan College, Bronx, NY**

***First Year Composition, ENGL 110, Spring 2014.***

This writing-intensive course teaches students to write effective academic prose through sound grammar, logic, and persuasive rhetoric. Course texts center around defining and understanding diverse American experiences and identities. Student writing and revision is a central *component* of this course.

**University of Maine, Orono, ME**

***College Composition, ENGL 101, Fall 2011 – Spring 2013.***

This course teaches students to write effective academic prose through sound grammar, logic, and persuasive rhetoric. Research and revision are emphasized, as are metacognitive practices, process-oriented projects, multiple drafts, and a final portfolio of work paired with an extensive reflection.

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Through sameness of language is produced/ sameness of sentiment and thought’: Language as Infrastructure in Myung Mi Kim’s *Penury*,” Postcolonial Infrastructures Conference, Association for Anglophone Postcolonial Studies (Gesellschaft für Anglophone Postkoloniale Studien, GAPS), the University of Konstanz, Konstanz, Germany, May 18 -20, 2023.

“Poisoned Islands and Pacific Tidalectics in the Work of Haunani-Kay Trask and Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), Digital Conference 2021, July 26 - August 6, 2021. <https://youtu.be/H4GSjj5QsWY>.

“Surfacing Ecological Disaster: *Poets for Living Waters* and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill,” Association for the Study of Literature and Environment (ASLE), Digital Conference 2021, July 26 - August 6, 2021. <https://youtu.be/D8i6yU7OcFk>.

“Surfacing Ecological Disaster: *Poets for Living Waters* and the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill,” British Association for American Studies, Digital Conference, April 6, 2021.

“Liquid Materiality and Language,” Water Logics Conference, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA, April 11 - 12, 2019.

“Bugs and Blood: *Alien 3*, *The Bel Dame Apocrypha* and Social Outrage,” Supernatural Studies Annual Conference, The College of Mount St. Vincent, Riverdale, NY, March 29, 2019.

“*Night of the Living Dead* Dissects the News: Race, the 1967 Riots, and ‘Dead Neighbors,’” 40th Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, Albuquerque, NM, February 20 - 23, 2019.

“Recontextualizing What is Known: Using New Experiences to Develop Students’ Existing Knowledge,” Innovative Pedagogies Roundtable Discussion, Fordham University, Manhattan, NY, November 16, 2018.

Invited Speaker, Publication Lecture Series, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, November 8, 2016.

Invited Respondent, The Fordham Philosophical Society Graduate Student Symposium, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, April 20, 2018.

“*Night of the Living Dead* Dissects the News,” Supernatural Studies Annual Conference, Bronx Community College, CUNY, Bronx, NY, March 23, 2018.

“Subaqueous Poetics, Oceanic Bodies: Feminist Challenges to Imperialism,” Posthuman Materialisms, English Graduate Student Association, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, April 8, 2017.

“Signs, Signage, and Signaling in Spahr’s *Well Then There Now*,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Baltimore, MD, March 24 - 26, 2017.

“‘The Business of Her Life’: *Bindle*’s Critique of Tropes of Maternity,” Graduate English Association Faculty–Student Roundtable, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, November 11, 2016.

“New York, Haute Cuisine, and *One-Dimensional Man*,” *One-Dimensional Man* at Fifty, Columbia University, New York, NY, September 29, 2014.

“Argentine Poetry and its Responses to the Dirty War,” Graduate English Association Faculty–Student Roundtable, Fordham University, Bronx, NY, October 9, 2014.

“M. Nourbese Philip’s *Zong!*: An Engagement with the Excised and the Impossible,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Harrisburg, PA. April 6, 2014.

“Frank O’Hara: Poet of the Television,” English Graduate Studies Association, University of Maine, Orono, ME, November 11, 2011.

“Unending Fries: Mechanical Repetition in Joe Wenderoth’s *Letters to Wendy’s*,” Critical Refusals: Fourth Biennial International Herbert Marcuse Society, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 27-29, 2011.