

Lynn M. Festa

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Employment:

Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2019-present.
Associate Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, 2008-2019 (tenured).
Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dept. of English, 2006-07 (tenured fall '07).
Gardner Cowles Associate Professor, Department of English, Harvard University, 2005-06.
Assistant Professor, Department of English, Harvard University, 2000-2005.
Instructor (convertible), Department of English, Harvard University, 1999-2000.
Lecteur, Université de Paris X (Nanterre), 1994-1996.

Education:

Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2000.
M.A., Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 1992.
B.A., Comparative Literature, Yale University, *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with Distinction in the Major, 1990.

Honors, Fellowships, Grants, & Scholarships:

Rutgers Faculty Recognized for Excellence, Rutgers University, 2021.
51st annual James Russell Lowell Prize, Modern Language Association, for an outstanding literary or linguistic study by a member of the association, for *Fiction Without Humanity*, 2020.
NEH Fellow, Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA, 2020-21.
Kenshur Prize, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Indiana University, for *Fiction Without Humanity*, 2019.
Fellow, Center for Cultural Analysis, Seminar on "Arts and Aesthetics," Rutgers University, 2016-17.
Research Council Grant, Rutgers University, 2016-17.
M. H. Abrams Fellow, National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC, 2013-14.
Graduate Teaching Prize, awarded by the graduate student association, Department of English, University of Wisconsin, 2007.
ACLS Charles A. Ryskamp Research Fellowship, 2005-06 competition.
James L. Clifford Prize for best article for "Personal Effects: Wigs and Possessive Individualism in the Long Eighteenth Century," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2006.
Joseph R. Levenson Memorial Teaching Prize, awarded annually to a junior faculty member by the undergraduate students of Harvard College, 2006.
National Humanities Center Summer Institute in Literary Studies, "Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*," Research Triangle Park, NC, July 2005.
Roslyn Abramson Award, given annually to a faculty member in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for excellence in undergraduate teaching, Harvard University, 2004.
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Fellow, Cambridge, MA, 2002-03.
W.M. Keck Foundation & Andrew Mellon Foundation Fellow, Huntington Library, Pasadena, CA, 2003.
William Andrews Clark Library Short-Term Fellowship, 2003 (declined).
SAS Dean's Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1998-99.
Société Générale Travel Fellowship, Summer 1998.

Dean's Scholar Award, University of Pennsylvania, 1993.
Institut d'études françaises d'Avignon, Scholarship, Summer 1993.
Middlebury College French Languages Program, Scholarship, Summer 1992.
William Penn Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1991-96.
National Mellon Fellow (Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities), 1991-95.

Other Professional Activities:

Jane Austen Society of North America, Traveling Lecturer for the Eastern Region, 2015-16.
Faculty, Summer Seminar in the History of the Book, "Books in the Larger World of Objects," co-taught with David Brewer, American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, MA, June 2014.

Current Book Project:

Humanity in the Making: Literature, Action, and Accountability in the Age of Enlightenment

This project examines the Enlightenment consolidation of humanity as an individual agent and collective force through the artistic, literary, and technical practices that defined the capacities and designated the instrumental uses of humans as opposed to animals and machines.

Books:

Fiction Without Humanity: Person, Animal, Thing in Early Enlightenment Literature and Culture. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2019. Paperback edition, 2021.

51st annual James Russell Lowell Prize, Modern Language Association, 2020
Kenshur Prize, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Indiana University, 2019

Reviewed in: *Choice*; *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *Modern Philology*; *Public Books* (1/23/20; <http://www.publicbooks.org/the-posthuman-enlightenment>); *Review of English Studies*; *TLS* (11/17/19; <https://www.the-tls.co.uk/articles/who-am-i-2/>); *Year's Work in English Studies*.

Sentimental Figures of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Britain and France. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.

Reviewed in: *American Historical Review*; *Choice*; *Comparative Literature Studies*; *Dix-Huitième Siècle*; *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*; *Eighteenth-Century Life*; *The Eighteenth-Century Novel*; *H-France*; *Huntington Library Quarterly*; *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*; *Journal of British Studies*; *Modern Philology*; *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*; *The Scriblerian*; *SEL*; *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics and Inquiries*.

Edited Collection:

The Postcolonial Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Colonialism and Postcolonial Theory, co-edited with Daniel Carey (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009). Paperback edition 2013.

Reviewed in: *Cambridge Journal of Postcolonial Literary Inquiry*; *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*; *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*; *Eighteenth-Century Studies*;

Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History; Journal of Postcolonial Writing; SEL; Textual Practice; Year's Work in English Studies.

Journal Articles:

"Chardin's Teachable Moment," *French Review*, special issue, *How to Do Things with Style: Essays in Honor of Joan DeJean*, ed. Amy Wyngaard and Roland Racevsis, forthcoming fall 2021.

"The Philosopher and her Poor: Rancière, Wollstonecraft, and the Rights and Duties of Humanity," *Romantic Circles*, ed. Sonia Hofkosh, October 2019. <https://romantic-circles.org/praxis/wollstonecraft/praxis.2019.wollstonecraft.festa.html>

"Accidental Gods: Figures of Contingency in the Enlightenment Fable," *Textual Practice* 32.3 (2018): 1-15.

"The Noise in *Mansfield Park*," *Persuasions* 36 (2015): 149-62.

"Crusoe's Island of Misfit Things," *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 52.3-4 (2011): 443-71.

"Humanity without Feathers," *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development* 1.1 (2010): 3-27.

"Person, Animal, Thing: The 1796 Dog Tax and the Right to Superfluous Things," *Eighteenth-Century Life* 33.2 (spring 2009): 1-44.

"Sentimental Visions of Empire in Eighteenth-Century Studies," *Literature Compass* 6.1 (November 2008): 23-55.

"Losing One's Place in *Mansfield Park*," *The Eighteenth-Century Novel* 6-7 (2008): 429-463.

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Tahitian Jouissance," *Romance Quarterly* 54.4 (Fall 2007): 303-325.

"Personal Effects: Wigs and Proprietary Individualism in the Eighteenth Century," *Eighteenth-Century Life* 29.2 (2005): 47-90. Winner of the ASECS James L. Clifford Prize for best article, 2005-06.

"Cosmetic Differences, or, the Changing Faces of England and France," *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* 34 (spring 2005): 25-54.

"Tropes and Chains: Figures of Exchange in Eighteenth-Century Representations of the Slave Trade," *Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century* (fall 2004): 322-44.

"Empires of the Sun: Colonialism and Closure in Louis XIV's 1662 Carrousel and Cyrano's *Les Etats et les Empires du Soleil*," *Romantic Review* 89.4 (1998): 469-490.

Book Chapters:

"Slavery, Sentimentality, and the Abolition of Affect," *Comparative Literary History of Slavery*, ed. Mads Anders Baggesgaard, Madeleine Dobie, and Karen-Margrethe Simonsen, Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages Series of the International Comparative Literature Association. Essay accepted by editors.

“The Things Books Make,” *The Unfinished Book*, ed. Alexandra Gillespie and Deidre Lynch. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021): 33-46.

“Things with Kid Gloves,” *Organic Supplements: Bodies, Objects and the Natural World, 1580-1750*, ed. Miriam Jacobson and Julie Park (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2020): 128-152.

“Satire to Sentiment: Mixing Modes in the Later Eighteenth-Century British Novel,” *Oxford Handbook of Eighteenth-Century Satire*, ed. Paddy Bullard (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2019): 645-60. Paperback edition 2021.

“Eighteenth-Century Hair: Fashion and Adornment,” *A Cultural History of Hair in the Age of Enlightenment (1650-1800)*, ed. Margaret Powell and Joseph Roach (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2018): 53-73.

“The Lives of Things: Objects, It-Narratives and Fictional Autobiography, 1700-1800,” *A History of Autobiography*, ed. Adam Smyth (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2016): 133-47.

“The 1790s,” *Blackwell Companion to the English Novel*, ed. Stephen Arata, J. Paul Hunter, and Jennifer Wicke (Chichester: Blackwell, 2015): 18-33.

“It-Narratives and Spy Narratives,” *Oxford History of the Novel in English, Volume 2*, ed. Peter Garside and Karen O’Brien (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015): 335-52.

“The Other in the British Eighteenth Century,” *Blackwell Companion to English Literature*, ed. Robert DeMaria et al, 4 vols. (Chichester: Blackwell, 2014): 3.240-257.

“Introduction,” with Daniel Carey, *The Postcolonial Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Colonialism and Postcolonial Theory*, ed. Daniel Carey and Lynn Festa (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009): 1-33.

“The Moral Ends of Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Object Narratives,” *The Secret Lives of Things: Animals, Objects, and It-Narratives in Eighteenth-Century England*, ed. Mark Blackwell (Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 2006): 309-328.

“Sentimental Bonds and Revolutionary Characters: Richardson’s *Pamela* in France,” *The Literary Channel: The Inter-National Invention of the Novel*, eds. Margaret Cohen and Carolyn Dever (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001): 73-105.

Courses Taught:

Principles of Literary Study: Narrative (English 202: Gateway Requirement for the Major)
Jane Austen and her World (SAS honors seminar)
Dissertation Writing Workshop (graduate workshop)
The Gothic (graduate seminar)
Eighteenth-Century Fictions of the Human (graduate seminar)
The Novel in France and England (graduate seminar)
The Global Eighteenth Century (graduate seminar)
Self, Subject, Person, Soul: The Individual in the Eighteenth-Century Novel (graduate seminar)
The Eighteenth-Century Novel (graduate seminar)
Later Eighteenth-Century Literature
The English Novel
Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Women Writers
The Consumption of Culture
Sex and Sensibility in the Enlightenment

Literatures of Travel in the Eighteenth Century
Models of Value in the Eighteenth Century
Introduction to Methods of Literary Analysis
Women and the Novel to Jane Austen
Narrative and the Law in the Eighteenth Century

Graduate Dissertations Committees:

- Katie Blakeley, English, Rutgers, "Unhappy Pursuits: Gender, Duty, and Independence in Eighteenth-Century Britain," in progress (director).
- Nick Allred, English, Rutgers, "Character Under the Influence in Eighteenth-Century Britain," in progress (director).
- Kirsten Martin, English, Rutgers, "Within the Reach of Art: Techniques of Ineffability in Eighteenth-Century Aesthetics," in progress (co-director).
- Stephanie Diehl, English, Rutgers, "Epic Machines: Models of Prosthetic Mentorship in Eighteenth-Century Literature," in progress (reader).
- Kylie Dennis, English, Rutgers, "Ailing Bodies and the Politics of Fear in the Domestic Novel," in progress (reader).
- Maria Vrcek, English, Rutgers, "Literary Disorder: The Poetic Revolution, 1600-1666," 2021 (reader).
- Paul Sampson, History, Rutgers, "The Sinews of Providence: Environmental Technologies in the British Atlantic World," 2020 (reader).
- Pierre Labrune, "Le siècle des jargons: le 'cant' dans les querelles religieuses, politiques, et esthétiques en Angleterre, 1740-1824," Sorbonne Université, external reader, 2019.
- Alex Solomon, English, Rutgers University, "The Rhetoric of Probability from the New Science to Common Sense," 2017 (reader).
- Nathan Peterson, English, Rutgers University, "Picaresque Necessity: Episodic Narrative and Causality in the Long Eighteenth Century," 2016 (director).
- Jason Gulya, English, Rutgers University, "Enlightenment Allegory: The Allegorical Form in British Literature, 1660-1750," 2016 (reader).
- Ann-Sophie Klemp McLeod, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies, University of Copenhagen, "Personal Effects and Vital Matters; Property and Personhood in Eighteenth-Century Satiric Fiction," external assessment committee, 2015.
- Katie Price, English, University of Wisconsin, Madison, "Feeling Too Much: Transformations of Excessive Emotionality in the Eighteenth-Century British Novel," 2015 (director).
- Madhvi Zutschi, English, Rutgers University, "Thinking about Feeling: Sensibility and Self-Consciousness in the Eighteenth-Century Novel," 2015 (reader).
- Ja Yun Choi, English, Rutgers University, "Travels to China: The Travel Narrative as a Genre in Eighteenth-Century Britain," 2014 (reader).
- Erin Parker, English, University of Toronto, "Accommodating the Animal: Domestication in Eighteenth-Century English Literature," outside reader, 2013.
- Sean Barry, English, Rutgers University, "Romantic Pedantry," 2012 (reader).
- Melanie Holm, Comparative Literature, Rutgers University, "Useful Fictions and Necessary Idols: The Comedy of Enlightenment Understanding," 2011 (reader).
- Bendta Schroeder, English, Brandeis University, "Botanic Aesthetics in British Literature, 1760-1807," outside reader, 2011.
- Natalie Roxburgh, English, Rutgers University, "The Rise of Public Credit and the Eighteenth-Century English Novel," 2011 (reader).
- Mark Vareschi, English, Rutgers University, "Everywhere and Nowhere: The Anonymous Text, 1660-1790," 2011 (reader).
- Riccardo Capoferro, English, Rutgers University, "Empirical Wonder: Historicizing the Fantastic, 1660-1760," 2009 (reader).
- Chad Loewen-Schmidt, Comparative Literature, Rutgers University, "The Politics of Pity in Eighteenth-Century Fiction," 2009 (reader).

- David Nunnery, English, University of Wisconsin, "Sociability, Information, and the 'Inlets to Happiness' in Samuel Johnson's *Lives of the Poets*," 2009 (reader).
- Gillian Prowse Paku, English, Harvard University, "Anonymity as a Strategy of Fiction," 2008.
- Michelle Syba, English, Harvard University, "Interior Designs: The Textual Life of Authorial Intention in Augustan Literature," 2007.
- Nadine Knight, English, Harvard University, "The Literary Travels of Sherman's March," 2007.
- Tamar Gonen Brown, English, Harvard University, "Novel Instruction: Reading, Pedagogy, and the Ideal of Innocence in Eighteenth-Century Fiction," 2006.
- Natasha Lee, Romance Languages, Harvard University, "Unsettling Signs: Nature, Society, and the Novel," 2003.