

# Lisa Mendelman

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. in English**, 2015 University of California, Los Angeles  
**M.A. in English**, 2007 Stanford University  
**B.A. in English**, 2004 Stanford University  
Interdisciplinary Honors in Feminist Studies; Phi Beta Kappa

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## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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**Assistant Professor of English & Digital Humanities**, 2016– Menlo College  
**Instructor, Continuing Studies**, Summer 2019 Stanford University  
**Lecturer, Department of English**, 2015–16 University of California, Los Angeles

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Medical humanities; digital humanities; American literature since 1865; transnational modernisms; affect studies; gender studies; critical race studies; disability studies; literature and science; visual culture.

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book

*Modern Sentimentalism: Affect, Irony, and Female Authorship in Interwar America*, Oxford University Press, 2019.  
256 pages.

Examines how US women novelists reinvented sentimentalism in the modernist period, and how icons of modern femininity (the New Woman, the flapper, the free lover, the New Negro woman, the divorcée) likewise translated nineteenth-century conventions of sincerity and emotional fulfillment into the skeptical, self-conscious modes of interwar cultural production.

### Refereed Journal Articles

“Character Defects: The Racialized Addict and Nella Larsen’s *Passing*.” *Modernism/modernity*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2019, pp. 727–52.

First author, “Sentimental Avatars: Gender Identification and Vehicles of Selfhood in Popular Media from Nineteenth-Century Novels to Modern Video Games.” With Rabindra A. Ratan, Joseph Fordham, Megan Knittel, and Oskar Milik. *Games and Culture*, 2019. [doi.org/10.1177/1555412019879812](https://doi.org/10.1177/1555412019879812).

“Unaffected: Marilynne Robinson’s Postmodern Sentimentalism.” *Irish Journal of American Studies*, vol. 6, 2017, [ijas.iaas.ie/index.php/issue-6-lisa-mendelman](http://ijas.iaas.ie/index.php/issue-6-lisa-mendelman).

“Ambivalence and Irony: Gendered Forms in Interwar America.” *Arizona Quarterly*, vol. 71, no. 4, 2015, pp. 23–52.

“Feeling Hard-Boiled: Modern Sentimentalism and Frances Newman’s *The Hard-Boiled Virgin*.” *American Literary History*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2014, pp. 693–715.

“Resonant Silence: Love, Desire, and Intimacy in Suzan-Lori Parks’s *Venus*.” *GRAMMA*, vol. 17, 2009, pp. 129–44.

“Critical Thinking and Reading.” *The Journal of Adolescent and Adult Literacy*, vol. 51, no.4, 2007, pp. 300–02.

### Book Chapters

“Recounting Modernist Women Writers’ Literary History: Teaching Quantitative Methods to Undergraduates.” *Teaching Modernist Women Writers in English*, edited by Janine Utell, MLA Options for Teaching Series, forthcoming.

“Species of Sentiment.” *Nineteenth-Century American Literature in Transition*, vol. IV, edited by Lindsay Reckson and Cody Marrs, Cambridge University Press, volume under contract.

“Sentimental Satire in Anita Loos’s *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*.” *The Sentimental Mode: Essays in Literature, Film and Television*, edited by Jennifer A. Williamson, Jennifer Larson, and Ashley Reed, McFarland, 2014, pp. 36–55.

### Book Reviews

“Who Are We?: Feminist Ambivalence in Contemporary Literary Criticism.” Review of *Selling Women’s History: Packaging Feminism in Twentieth-Century American Popular Culture* by Emily Westkaemper, *Historicizing Post-Discourses: Postfeminism and Postracialism in United States Culture* by Tanya Ann Kennedy, and *Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and Digital Humanities* edited by Elizabeth Losh and Jacqueline Wernimont. *American Literary History*, vol. 32, no. 1, 2020, pp. 190–200.

Review of *The Modernist Corpse* by Erin E. Edwards. *American Literary History Online Review*, series XVI, 2018.

Review of *Enchanted Objects: Visual Art in Contemporary Fiction* by Allan Hepburn. *Modern Fiction Studies*, vol. 60, no. 2, 2014, pp. 408–10.

### Other Writing

“Frances Newman.” *Women in American History: An Encyclopedia*, edited by Hasia Diner, Facts on File, forthcoming.

“Strong Character, Weak Theory.” *Modernism/modernity’s Forums*, vol. 4, cycle 2, 2019, [modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/responses-special-issue-weak-theory-part-iv](http://modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/responses-special-issue-weak-theory-part-iv).

“The Quantified Self.” *Modernism/modernity’s In These Times*, vol. 3, cycle 2, 2018, [modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/quantified-self](http://modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/quantified-self).

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

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Harris Manchester College / Oxford University Summer Research Institute Fellowship, Menlo College, 2020 \*Deferred to 2021

Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship, University of Victoria, 2020 \*Deferred to 2021

Modernist Studies Association Research Travel Grant, 2019

Charles B. Emerick Teaching Award, Menlo College, 2017–18

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts / US National Science Foundation Travel Award, Fall 2016  
Quarterly Teaching Excellence Award, UCLA Department of English, Winter and Spring 2015, Fall 2014,  
Spring 2012, Spring 2011

Summer Research Award, UCLA Department of English, 2014

Collegium of University Teaching Fellows Finalist, UCLA Department of English, 2014

Distinguished TA Award Candidate, UCLA Department of English, 2014

Dissertation Research Fellowship, UCLA Department of English, 2013–14

Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2012–13

Research Grant, UCLA Institute of American Cultures, 2011–12

Roter Summer Research Fellowship, UCLA Department of Jewish Studies, 2011 and 2010

Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2011 and 2010

University Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division, 2008–09

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## **TALKS, PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, SEMINARS**

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### **Talks and Presentations Delivered**

“Sex and Sentiment: Writing The Emotional History of the Modern Woman.” San Francisco State  
University Department of English, 2020. \*Postponed due to COVID-19

“Gender Equity in Contemporary American Literature and Culture.” Keynote: Recognizing Leaders In  
Gender Equity, Menlo College, 2020.

“Sex Scenes, More or Less.” South Bay Writers Club, Santa Clara, 2020.

“Against Interpretation: Wharton, Suicidality, and Modern Mental Health.” Modern Language Association  
Conference, Seattle, 2020.

“Ironic Attachment: Jewish Women in Interwar American Literature and Culture.” Modern Language  
Association Conference, Seattle, 2020.

“Diagnosing America: Mental Health and Modern Literature, 1890-1940.” Americanist Research  
Colloquium, UCLA Department of English, 2019.

“Sex and Sentiment: Affect, Irony, and Female Authorship in Interwar America.” UCLA Department of  
English, 2019.

“Diagnosing America: Mental Health and Modern Literature, 1890-1940.” Second Book Project,  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of English, 2019.

“Modernism’s Straw Men: Sentiment and the Modern Woman.” Modernist Studies Association  
Conference, Toronto, 2019.

“Mental Health in the Contemporary College Classroom.” Lectures in Clinical Training for Doctoral  
Students, Palo Alto University-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium, Atherton, 2019.

“Sex and Sentiment: Affect, Irony, and Female Creative Labor in Interwar America.” Women/Gender  
Minorities in Print/Publishing in the Long 20th Century Symposium, Center for Spatial and  
Textual Analysis (CESTA), Stanford University, 2019.

“Sex & Culture, 1919-2019.” Keynote: Recognizing Leaders In Gender Equity, Menlo College, 2019.

- “Pathogenic Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Columbus, 2018.
- “Mental Health in the Classroom.” Lectures in Clinical Training for Doctoral Students, Palo Alto University-Stanford Psy.D. Consortium, Atherton, 2018.
- “Modernist Pathologies.” American Literature Association Conference, San Francisco, 2018.
- “Sites of Sanitation: Germ Theory, Mind Science, Wharton’s New York, and the Modern Novel.” Modern Language Association Conference, New York, 2018.
- “Specimens of Manhood?: Social and Scientific Profiles of Race and Addiction in 1930s America.” Modern Language Association Conference, New York, 2018.
- “Modern Sentimentalism and the New Negro.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Amsterdam, 2017.
- “Nella Larsen and the Evolving Science of Race and Character.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, 2017.
- “Character Defects: Genetics, Race, & Addiction in the 1930s.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Pasadena, 2016.
- “Defective Typology: Interwar Theories of Genetics, Race, and Addiction.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, Atlanta, 2016.
- “Empty Revolt: Irony, Ambivalence, and Edith Wharton’s Anti-Modernism.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Boston, 2015.
- “Irony and Ambivalence: Gendered Forms in Interwar America.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference, Philadelphia, 2015.
- “Psychological Anthropology and Sentimentalism.” Guest lecture, “Directed Research in Anthropology,” UCLA Department of Anthropology, 2015.
- “Alice Munro: On Form and ‘Autobiographical Feeling.’” Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 2015.
- “Ambivalence: A Modern Woman’s Condition.” Modern Language Association Conference, Vancouver, BC, 2015.
- “Race and Modern Sentimentalism.” Modernist/Experimental Literature and Text-Art Colloquium, UCLA Department of English, 2014.
- “Willa Cather’s Modernist Sentimentalism and the Aesthetics of Public Feeling.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Brighton, UK, 2013.
- “Sentimental Surfaces: *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* as Sentimental Novel.” Southland Graduate Conference, UCLA Department of English, 2013.
- “Unaffected: Contemporary Sentimental Aesthetics.” American Literature Association Conference, Boston, 2013.
- “Modernist Sentimentalism.” Americanist Research Colloquium, UCLA Department of English, 2013.
- “Sex and Sentimentality.” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Las Vegas, 2012.
- “National Bodies and the Politics of Friendship.” Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Claremont, CA, 2011.
- “Unaffected: Towards a Texture of Knowing.” Southland Graduate Conference, UCLA Department of

English, 2011.

“Working Girls: Conspicuous Consumption, Affective Labor, and Female Identity in *Sex and the City*.”  
*Film & History* Conference, Milwaukee, 2010.

“Sempiternal Secrets: The Afterlife of Desire in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s ‘The Yellow Wallpaper.’”  
Southland Graduate Conference, UCLA Department of English, 2010.

“‘Stumbling in the shoes of desire’: Collective Narrative and Individual Satisfaction in Louise Erdrich’s  
*Love Medicine*.” Acacia Group Conference, California State University-Fullerton, 2010.

“Reading into Silence: Desire and Intimacy in Suzan-Lori Parks’s *Venus*.” University of Pennsylvania  
Humanities Forum Graduate Conference, Philadelphia, 2009.

### **Panels and Seminars Organized or Chaired**

Chair, “Transhumanist Modernism” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Toronto, 2019.

Organizer, “Strong Character, Weak Theory” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Toronto,  
2019.

Chair, “Remaking Empathy: Modernist Problems with Other Minds” Panel, Modernist Studies  
Association Conference, Columbus, 2018.

Organizer, “Modernist Messiness: Materialisms, Menses, Misogyny” Panel, Modernist Studies Association  
Conference, Columbus, 2018.

Co-organizer, “The Harlem Renaissance: Lost & Found” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association  
Conference, Columbus, 2018.

Organizer, “Modernism and Diagnosis” Panel, American Literature Association Conference, San  
Francisco, 2018.

Co-organizer, “Diagnosing Modernism, Then and Now” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association  
Conference, Amsterdam, 2017.

Chair, “Late Modernism in the American Scene” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference,  
Amsterdam, 2017.

Organizer, “American Minds: Race, Character, and Mental Health in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature”  
Panel, American Literature Association Conference, Boston, 2017.

Organizer, “Modern Sciences of Character” Panel, Modernist Studies Association Conference, Pasadena,  
2016.

Co-organizer, “Modernism and Mental Health” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association Conference,  
Boston, 2015.

Organizer, “Gender, Genre, and the Battleground of Modernism” Panel, Modernist Studies Association  
Conference, Boston, 2015.

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**Menlo College**, Atherton, California

*Courses designed and taught:*

Digital Humanities and Cultural Analytics (Fall 2020)

Messy Subjects: Identity and the Body (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)  
Joking Matters: Humor and Modern American Fiction (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)  
Sex and Culture (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)  
American Mental Health (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018)  
Modernism / Modernity / America (Fall 2017, Spring 2018)  
Feeling American (Spring 2017)  
American Adolescence (Fall 2016)

*Directed independent studies:*

Crystal Cebedo, Capitalist Feeling (Fall 2019)  
Axel Helmertz, Titanic Vs. Iceberg: Navigating Disruption (Fall 2019)  
Solin Piarczy, Collegiate Eating Disorders and American Media (Fall 2019)  
Logan Harris, American Mental Health (Spring 2017)  
Maridel Miciano, American Mental Health (Spring 2017)  
Kelsey Rose, American Mental Health (Spring 2017)

**Stanford University**

*Course designed and taught:*

Smart Fiction of the Jazz Age: Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Wharton, & Others (Summer 2019)

**University of California, Los Angeles**

*Courses designed and taught:*

American Fiction Since 1945 (Winter 2016, Spring 2016)  
Sex Without Consequence: Modern Fiction and Femininity (Spring 2016, Winter 2015)  
American Adolescence (Fall 2015)  
Critical Reading and Writing: Hybrid Forms (Spring 2015)  
Critical Reading and Writing: Intimate Conversations: Art, Author, Audience (Spring 2010, Fall 2010)  
Honors Critical Reading and Writing: Friends and Lovers (Fall 2011)

*Directed independent studies:*

Emma Berry, 20<sup>th</sup>-Century American Femininity & Mental Health (Spring 2016)  
Jinnah Griffin, Sentimentalism & Kama Muta (with Alan Fiske, Anthropology, Fall 2015)

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**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

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**Academic Service**

**Menlo College**

Co-Chair, General Education Program Review, Menlo College, 2019–.  
English Department Meeting Coordinator, Menlo College, 2019–.  
Mentor, Junior Math Faculty, Menlo College, 2019–.  
Mentor, First Year (Freshman) Cohort, Menlo College, 2019–.

Mentor, Adjunct English Faculty, Menlo College, 2017–.  
Resident Fellow, Menlo College, 2017–.  
Member, Faculty Senate, Menlo College, 2016–.  
English Department Lead, Assessment Committee, Menlo College, 2017–19.  
Faculty Advisor, Clarity: Philosophy & Spirituality Student Reading Group, 2017–18.  
Consultant, Menlo College Writing Center, Menlo College, Spring 2017 and Spring 2018.  
Member, Common Book Committee, Menlo College, 2016–17.

### **University of California, Los Angeles**

Chair, Gender/Race/Sexuality Reading Group, UCLA, 2011–16.  
Graduate Student Mentor, UCLA Department of English, 2011–15.  
Participant, Mellon Advisory Committee of Literatures in English Pedagogy Seminar, UCLA, 2012–13.  
Member, Thinking Gender Conference Selection Committee, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA, 2012.  
Member, Senior Faculty 20<sup>th</sup>-Century American Search Committee, UCLA, 2011–12.  
Member, Junior Faculty 20<sup>th</sup>-Century American Search Committee, UCLA, 2011–12.  
Graduate Student Liaison, Hammer Museum, UCLA, 2010–11.  
Graduate Student Liaison, Friends of English, UCLA, 2009–10.

### **Professional Service and Activities**

Modernist Studies Association Treasurer, 2019–.  
Reviewer, *Religion & Literature*, 2019–.  
Reviewer, *Arizona Quarterly*, 2018–.  
Reviewer, *College Literature*, 2018–.  
Organizer, Character: A Pandemic Reading Group, Spring 2020.  
Academic Advisor, “Anita Loos,” *Twentieth Century Literary Criticism*, Gale/Cengage Learning and Layman Poupard Publishing, Winter 2020.  
Consultant, “Documenting Femininity and Mental Health,” Getty Unshuttered, Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Spring 2019.  
Consultant, *A Doll’s House, Part 2*, Berkeley Repertory Theater, Fall 2018.  
Member, Stanford Humanities in Higher Education Workshop, Stanford University, Spring–Fall 2017.  
Participant, Futures of American Studies Institute, Dartmouth College, 2015.

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### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Member, Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Member, Modernist Studies Association (MSA)  
Member, American Studies Association (ASA)

Member, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)

Member, Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)

Member, University of California Center for New Racial Studies

Member, Edith Wharton Society

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## **LANGUAGES, CONTENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, TOOLS**

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French (advanced intermediate proficiency); Spanish (elementary proficiency); HTML; Wordpress

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## **REFERENCES**

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Steven Weiner, President, Menlo College

650.543.3927, steven.weiner@menlo.edu

Michael North, Professor, Department of English, UCLA

310.825.4173, north@humnet.ucla.edu

Gordon Hutner, Professor, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

217.244.3398, hutner@illinois.edu

Rabindra A. Ratan, Associate Professor, Department of Media and Information, Michigan State University

650.269.6619, rar@msu.edu

Dale Bauer, Professor, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

217.244.1469, dbauer@illinois.edu

Catherine Keyser, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of South Carolina

617.285.3929, catkeyser@sc.edu

Richard Yarborough, Professor, Department of English, UCLA

310.825.2914, yarborou@humnet.ucla.edu

Eric Lott, Professor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, CUNY Graduate Center

434.825.2209, elott@gc.cuny.edu