

Participant Bios for Processing the Pandemic III: Hope
13-14 April 2023
University of Warwick

Alika Bourgette (Kanaka Maoli) is a PhD Candidate in the University of Washington Department of History. His dissertation historicizes the long struggle for land and water justice in the ways Native Hawaiians in the early twentieth century resisted their own eviction from the urbanizing Honolulu waterfront through abundant sharing practices of *pu'uhonua* (refuge and abundance). He corroborates the intimate accounts of childbirth, youth education, and family life from community oral interviews with Native Hawaiian practices, protocols, and beliefs to detail the decisions Native Hawaiian women and queer parental stewards made to provide mutual aid to their community and upended carceral efforts enforced by U.S. settler lawmakers. In his community work, Alika has participated in Tribal Canoe Journeys with the UW and Carvers' Camp Canoe Families. Through his ties to voyaging canoe families in Hawai'i and Western Washington, he hopes to bring Coast Salish and Pacific Islander voyaging to the University of Washington. Alika is a Mellon-Social Science Research Council IDRF Fellow and upcoming Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellow for 2023-2024.

Tara Bynum is an Assistant Professor of English and African American Studies at the University of Iowa. Her book, *Reading Pleasures* (University of Illinois Press' New Black Studies), dropped in fall 2022 and examines the ways in which eighteenth-century enslaved and/or free men and women feel good or experience pleasure in spite of the privations of slavery, "unfreedom," or white supremacy. It is a pleasure that isn't beholden to social expectations or systemic oppression, but instead is experienced because of an individual's commitment to religious faith, friendship, or community building. This work is part of a larger, ongoing project that thinks more deeply about how black communities in the early republic made and shaped the very meaning of nation-building in the greater New England area and beyond. Related essays have appeared or are forthcoming in: *Early American Literature, Common-Place, Legacy, J19, Criticism, American Periodicals, and African American Literature in Transition, Vol. 1, 1750-1800*. Dr. Bynum's work has received and is indebted to generous financial support from: Washington College's CV Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience and the John Carter Brown Library, the National Endowment for the Humanities, American Antiquarian Society, Library Company of Philadelphia's Program in African American History, Rutgers University's Department of English, University of Pennsylvania's McNeil Center for Early American Studies.

Cathy Caruth is Class of 1916 Professor of English at Cornell University and teaches in English and Comparative Literature. Among her books are two monographs on trauma: *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History* (1996; a new 20th anniversary edition appeared in 2016) and *Literature in the Ashes of History* (2013), as well as the two edited collections *Trauma: Explorations in Memory* (1995) and *Listening to Trauma: Conversations with Leaders in the Theory and Treatment of Catastrophic Experience* (2014).

Angelica Duran is Professor at Purdue University, where she has been on the English and Comparative Literature faculties since earning her Ph.D. in English Literature from Stanford in 2000. She served as Purdue's Director of Religious Studies (2009–2013) and Interim Director of Creative Writing (2022–). Her 60+ journal articles and scholarly chapters are anchored in early modern English literature and range from Anglo-Hispanic Comparative Literature to Disability

Studies. She is the editor of *A Concise Companion to Milton* (2007, pbk. and rev. 2011) and *The King James Bible across Borders and Centuries* (2013); the co-editor of *Mo Yan in Context: Nobel Laureate and Global Storyteller* (2013), *Milton Studies 58: Milton and the Americas* (2017), *Global Milton and Visual Art* (2021), and *Milton Across Borders and Media* (2023); and the author of *The Age of Milton and the Scientific Revolution* (2007) and *Milton among Spaniards* (2020). She has served on the Executive Committee (2012–21) of the Milton Society of America, on the editorial board of *Milton Quarterly*, and as Interim Conference Chair of the Renaissance Society of America (2022–).

William Franke is a Dante scholar, a philosopher of the humanities, and a professor of comparative literature at Vanderbilt University. He has also been professor of philosophy at University of Macao (2013-2016); Fulbright-University of Salzburg Distinguished Chair in Intercultural Theology (2005-06); and Alexander von Humboldt-Stiftung research fellow (1994-95). In addition to six monographs on Dante, Franke's critical theory books include *Poetry and Apocalypse: Theological Disclosures of Poetic Language* (Stanford University Press, 2009) and *A Theology of Literature: The Bible as Revelation in the Tradition of the Humanities* (Cascade, 2017). In conjunction with his work on prophetic poetry, Franke has developed what he calls *A Philosophy of the Unsayable* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2014) reconstructing the apophatic tradition in *On What Cannot Be Said* (Notre Dame, 2007, 2 vols.). His *The Universality of What is Not: The Apophatic Turn in Critical Thinking* (Notre Dame, 2020) explores applications of this philosophy to media studies, postmodern identity politics of race and gender, and cognitive sciences in their struggle with the humanities.

Bruno Grazioli is Resident Director of the Italian Studies Program for Dickinson College in Bologna (Italy) and is contributing faculty in Italian Studies, teaching a variety of courses focusing on literature, history and culture. He has received an MA and a PhD in Italian Studies from the University of London and an MA in Pedagogy and Promotion of Italian Language and Culture at the University Ca' Foscari of Venice. Bruno spent a decade as Italian faculty at Smith College (MA, USA) and joined Dickinson College (PA, USA) in 2018 to direct the Dickinson abroad center in Bologna (Italy) where he has developed and taught courses that include experiential components such as community engagement, volunteering and remote internships. His course "Forms of Social Activism in Italy" has been selected by the Forum on Education Abroad as one of the three finalists for the 2022 Award for Excellence in Education Abroad Curriculum Design. On top of his duties at Dickinson in Bologna, Bruno is studying and training to become a counselor, specializing in the humanistic-existential approach.

Kathy Greenholdt is a Chicago-based songwriter and singer. Her folk-rock music explores human desires, spiritual questions, and the natural world. Many of Kathy's songs are inspired by historical women who were Christian saints. She hosts a website, HalosAreHistory.com, which presents the saints' lives through music, imagery, and personal essays. Since 2003, Kathy has recorded and released eight albums. To listen and learn more, visit KathyGreenholdt.com.

Brittney S. Harris is an Assistant Professor of Theatre in the Department of Communication and Theatre Arts at Old Dominion University. She holds a Master of Fine Arts in Acting from the University of Georgia. Brittney's research efforts are supported and documented by the practices of PaR (Performance as Research). Her areas of expertise are in Race and Performance, Performance as Activism, and performative community-engaged programming.

Thomas Herron is Professor of English at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. He works extensively on Edmund Spenser and Irish history, archaeology and culture, including a

monograph, *Spenser's Irish Work: Poetry, Plantation, and Colonial Reformation* (Ashgate 2007). He has published widely on Shakespeare and other authors and edited numerous multidisciplinary collections, including *Ireland in the Renaissance, c. 1540-1660* (2007) and *Dublin and the Pale in the Renaissance, c. 1540-1660* (2011), both co-edited with archaeologist Michael Potterton and published with Four Courts Press. He co-edited with Denna Iammarino and Maryclaire Moroney a collection of essays on John Derricke's *Image of Ireland: with a Discoverie of Woodkarne* (1581) (Manchester UP 2021). He has co-edited special issues of *Spenser Studies* 32 (2018) and *Sidney Journal* 29.1-2 (2011) and served as head editor of the journal *Explorations in Renaissance Culture* from 2011-18. He co-curated the exhibit *Nobility and Newcomers in Renaissance Ireland* with historian Brendan Kane at the Folger Shakespeare Library in 2013, and he wrote an extensive published catalog with Kane for the exhibit. Herron's digital work, namely the website *Centering Spenser: a digital resource for Kilcolman Castle*, focuses on the relationship of Spenser's writing to his settlement on the Munster Plantation. He is currently directing an NEH-sponsored grant, *Castle to Classrooms*, which is developing in Virtual Reality an architectural model of Spenser's Kilcolman Castle, for teaching purposes in different disciplines.

Jennifer Scheper Hughes is a historian of religion at the University of California-Riverside focusing on Latin American and Latinx religions with special consideration for the spiritual lives of Mexican and Mexican-American Catholics. Professor Hughes' book, *The Church of the Dead: The Epidemic of 1576 and the Birth of Christianity in the Americas* (NYU 2021), considers a crisis in the church that resulted from a catastrophic epidemic that took two million lives. Professor Hughes' first book, *Biography of a Mexican Crucifix: Lived Religion and Local Faith from the Conquest to the Present* (Oxford University Press, 2010), traces the history of a single, sculpted image of Jesus on the cross over five centuries to explore the affective bonds that join devotional communities to vital and agentic objects of material religion. She is editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Material Religion*, now in preparation. With colleagues at UCLA, UCSD, and UCSC, Professor Hughes received a \$1 million grant in support of the Critical Mission Studies project which centers California Indian perspectives of the colonial missions and their aftermath. Before coming to UCR, Professor Hughes worked for the Latino Health Institute (Boston, MA) as an advocate for homeless Latinos with HIV/AIDS, at the Trauma Center for Victims of Violence and Torture in Cape Town as a translator and advocate for Angolan refugees in South Africa, as a hospital chaplain for women suffering loss of their newborns, and with the Liberation Theology base community movement in Pernambuco, Brazil.

Alexandra Lamiña is a Kitu-Kara Indigenous woman Geographer, Urban Planner, and Amazonia advocate from Ecuador. She is a doctoral candidate in Latin American studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Her previous work focused on Indigenous geographies and regional planning in Ecuadorian Amazonia. Working in the Indigenous Amazonia with the Kichwa Nation has inspired her work to support territoriality and political representation processes since 2010. She has also participated in international collaborations for geographical assessments in Indigenous and Afro-Latin descent politics of territorial rights and autonomy in Bolivia, Colombia, and Brazil and participatory planning studios in informal areas of the Dominican Republic and Mexico. Her multidisciplinary-collaborative work also includes research and publications on migratory processes of children and young people in the Sonora-Arizona borderlands, Indigenous planning and gender violence in Ecuador, and Indigenous radical cartographies in Amazonia region.

Her doctoral research examines how Indigenous people in Ecuadorian Amazonia transform colonial urbanization through Indigenous knowledge production, mobilities, and Indigenous planning. She mainly focuses on the Amazonian urban geographies learning from Indigenous epistemological traditions and drawing on feminist, Indigenous, and decolonial thinking in

geography and urban planning. Her study also includes training and knowledge co-production with Indigenous women in geospatial research and feminist Indigenous geographies to connect diverse epistemological perspectives from global south-north research with urban development practice.

She currently mentors young Indigenous students from underrepresented backgrounds seeking active participation in Amazonian urbanization in Ecuador. She is also deeply committed to improving Amazonian cities' institutional responses to gender-based discrimination, violence, and inequality. Towards this end, she serves as a community researcher for Amazonian Indigenous Organizations to promote the creation of a specialized group to prevent Indigenous gender violence.

Jesse McCarthy is an assistant professor jointly appointed in the Department of English and the Department of African and African American Studies at Harvard University. His research is concerned with the intersection between politics and aesthetics in African American literature, postwar or post-45 literary history, poetics, translation, and Black Studies. His Ph.D. dissertation *The Blue Period: Black Writing in the Early Cold War, 1945 – 1965* argues for a reinterpretation of black literary aesthetics in the early Cold War and for the value of a discrete periodization of that era. While a graduate student at Princeton he founded a Digital Humanities project based on the Sylvia Beach archives held at Princeton's Firestone Library called *Mapping Expatriate Paris*. He is the author of the essay collection *Who Will Pay Reparations on My Soul?* (Liveright, 2021) and *The Fugitives* – a novel published with Melville House in 2021. His writing on culture, politics, and literature has appeared in *The New York Times Book Review*, *The Nation*, *Dissent*, *The New Republic* and *n+1*.

Lisa Metherell is an artist and lecturer specialising in the relationship between practice and theory within Art and Design. She has written about queer unspeakability and devised projects that explore alternative kinships. An emerging interest in vulnerability, love and care went to hell in Covid.

Anne-Hélène Miller is Associate Professor of French at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where she serves as Chair of the French and Francophone Studies Program and Associate Director of the Marco Institute. She has a record of over a dozen of publications in Medieval and early Renaissance French culture and literature, ranging from topics on gender, epics, crusades, late medieval and early modern poetry, to medievalism. She is particularly interested in theories of authorship, linguistic identities, lineages, collective memories, trauma, and nationhood, as well as translation studies. She just completed with Daisy Delogu an MLA Series "Approaches to Teaching the 'Roman de la Rose'". A monograph entitled *The Literary Status of French and Cultural Boundaries in Medieval France: The Formation of a Francophone Identity* is under review and supported by an NEH Fellowship. She is presently working on the first English edition of Philippe de Mézières' *Dream-vision of the Old Pilgrim* and a monograph that explores the traumatic effects of the late medieval and early modern crusading endeavors. She was recently a recipient of a Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant (November 2022).

Blaire Morseau is a citizen of the Pokagon Potawatomi Nation and is currently Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts Boston where she also teaches in Native American and Indigenous Studies. Her research interests are Indigenous science fictions and futurity, counter-mapping, traditional knowledge, and digital heritage. Her most recent book project is titled *As Sacred to Us: Simon Pokagon's Birch Bark Stories in Their Contexts* expected to be available in October 2023 from Michigan State University Press.

Alyssa Mt. Pleasant is a scholar whose research focuses on Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) history during the Revolutionary War era. She holds a PhD in History from Cornell University and has been a faculty member in History, American Studies, and interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies departments at Yale University and the University at Buffalo (SUNY). Her award-winning work has been published in the *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Early American Literature*, *American Indian Quarterly*, the *Native American and Indigenous Studies* journal and several anthologies. She is a grateful recipient of fellowships from the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University, the Smithsonian Institution, and the Newberry Library. In addition to faculty responsibilities, from 2017 to 2020 Dr Mt. Pleasant served as founding Program Director of the Native American Scholars Initiative at the American Philosophical Society, developing programs to connect campus- and community-based Indigenous researchers with archival collections. In 2022 she established ATW Research + Consulting to focus on projects at the intersection of History and Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS) that include public-facing scholarship, archival research initiatives connecting Indigenous researchers with collections, and workshops for educators and other professionals that draw on the sources, methods, and scholarship of NAIS. She is the lead scholar on *Indigenous America 250*, an initiative with the National Park Service in Interior Region 1 (Maine to Virginia).

Maria Vittoria Spissu is Senior Assistant Professor (RTDb) of Early Modern Art History at the Department of Arts, Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna, where she taught History of Drawings and Prints. She received the national scientific qualification as an associate professor (valid from 2021 to 2030). She won the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship (2022-25) from the European Commission with a research project entitled “Communities of Concord: Building Contentment and Belonging through Emotional Images in Early Modern Europe and Beyond” having as host institution and partner organization the Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library, Chicago. She has published two volumes on *Retablos in Sardinia between the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age* and has authored essays and participated in conferences and seminars in Europe and the US on trans-regional connections between Flemish, Iberian, and Italian painting (15-16th centuries), artistic networks in the Mediterranean Renaissance, Flemish-Iberian altarpieces/illuminated books, and Otherness/Conversion in Iberian contexts. She has held research fellowships at a number of institutions including University of Naples Federico II and Katholieke Universiteit Leuven.

Cathy Wade is an artist and writer who investigates how practice can be created and distributed in collaborative partnerships and through the creation of commons. Their work seeks to understand the experience of contemporary conditions through exchange with others. They are course leader for MA in Arts Education Practices at BCU; and are currently curating new work with Hannah Sawtell at Vivid Projects alongside facilitating Vivid Projects’ artist development programme Black Hole Club.

Joanne Wright is Dean of Arts and Professor of Political Science at the University of New Brunswick (Fredericton). Her research and teaching are in the area of women and politics, feminist analysis, and historical political thought. She is currently writing a book on 17th century English writer, Margaret Cavendish. She is the author of *Origin Stories in Political Thought: Discourses on Gender, Power, and Citizenship* (University of Toronto Press), and co-editor (with Nancy Hirschmann) of *Feminist Interpretations of Thomas Hobbes* (Penn State University Press).