

KELLY M. RICH

Department of English & Creative Writing, Wellesley College

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EMPLOYMENT

Wellesley College

2024-present Assistant Professor, Department of English & Creative Writing

Harvard University

2020-24 Associate Professor, Department of English
2016-20 Assistant Professor, Department of English

Haverford College

Spring 2015 Visiting Instructor, Concentration in Peace, Justice and Human Rights

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D., English Literature (2016)
M.A., English Literature (2012)

Dissertation: “States of Repair: Institutions of Private Life in the Postwar Anglophone Novel”

Committee: Jed Esty and Paul Saint-Amour (co-chairs), Heather Love, James English

Amherst College

B.A., double major in English & Law, Jurisprudence and Social Thought (2008), *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2023 *States of Repair: The Promise of Welfare in the Postwar British and Anglophone Novel*. Oxford Mid-Century Studies Series, Oxford University Press (August 2023). Reviewed in *Contemporary Literature*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Modern Fiction Studies*, *NOVEL*, *Review of English Studies*, *Women: A Cultural Review*.

In progress *Children of Conflict: Cultural Formations of Transnational Adoption*.

Edited Collections, Introductions, and Book Chapters

In progress “Guilt, Witness, and Writing the Early Aftermath.” *Cambridge Companion to Late Modernism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (invited; forthcoming 2026)

2022 *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure: Race, Affect, Environment*. Co-edited with Nicole M. Rizzuto and Susan Zieger. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2022.
 Reviewed in *American Literary History, Interventions, and Modern Philology*.
*Winner of the 2023 MLA Prize for an Edited Collection.

2021 Special issue on “Ishiguro After the Nobel,” co-edited with Chris Holmes. *Modern Fiction Studies* 67.1 (March 2021).
 ---. “Rereading Kazuo Ishiguro.” Introduction to special issue. *Modern Fiction Studies* 67.1 (March 2021), 1-18.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Other Writings

2025 “Adoption Archives: Documents, Personhood, Justice.” Special issue on “World Literature and Law,” edited by Marco Wan and Peter Goodrich. *Law & Literature* 37.2 (Summer 2025), 367-392. Forthcoming in book form, Taylor & Francis, 2026.

2023 “Sight Unseen: Proxy Wars, Proxy Adoptions.” Special issue on “Proxy Wars,” edited by Yoon Sun Lee and Kent Puckett. *Representations* 163 (Summer 2023): 51-78.

2022 “Reading Infrastructure.” Co-written with Nicole Rizzuto and Susan Zieger. *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure: Race, Affect, Environment*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2022. 1-19.

2019 “Two Paths of the Media Novel.” Part of a cluster on “The Novel and Media,” with John Frow and Melissa Hardie. *Journal of Language, Literature and Culture* 66.1 (2019): 9-15.

2016 “Nowhere’s Safe: Ruinous Reconstruction in *The Girls of Slender Means*.” *ELH* 83.4 (Winter 2016): 1185-1209.

2015 “‘Look in the Gutter’: Interiority and Infrastructuralism in *Never Let Me Go*.” *MFS: Modern Fiction Studies* 61.4 (Winter 2015): 631-651.

2014 “Troubling Humanities: Literary Jurisprudence and Crimes Against Humanity in *Remains of the Day* and *Atonement*.” *Law, Culture, and the Humanities* 12.3 (July 2016): 496-508. Published online 18 July 2014.

Reviews, Responses, Podcasts

2023 Guest panelist for Tan Twan Eng’s *The House of Doors*, [Diane Rehm Book Club](#), produced by WAMU, Washington DC (November 2023).

2021 [“Do Great Novels Set the Standard or Challenge It?”](#) Interview with Teju Cole, for the podcast “Novel Dialogues.” *Society for Novel Studies*. (January 2021).

2020 [“Wanting Everything: Tactics, Rights, and Queer/Feminist Care.”](#) Interview with Juno Richards on *The Fury Archives: Female Citizenship, Human Rights, and the International Avant-Garde*. Columbia University Press (October 2020).

2019 “Refugee Figures: Writing Statelessness at Midcentury.” Review of Lyndsey Stonebridge’s *Placeless People: Writings, Rights, and Refugees*. Oxford: 2018. Solicited from *Contemporary Literature* 60.3 (Fall 2019): 461-468.

2011 Review of *Modernism and Race*, Ed. Len Platt. Cambridge: 2011. *Textual Practice* 25.6 (December 2011): 1109-1113.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers and Invited Talks (selected)

2025 “Our Infrastructure, Ourselves: Claiming Infrastructure in Korean Transnational Adoption.” Plenary Roundtable Talk. *Modernist Studies Association*. Boston: October 2025. (invited speaker)

2025 “Legal Kinship: The Adoption Trauma Plot.” Panel on Legal [__]. *Society for Novel Studies*. Durham: May 2025.

2025 “Asymmetrical Exchanges: Adoption Narratives and Their Remainders.” Special Session for Asian Feminisms and Contemporary Cultural Production. *Korean Association for Feminist Studies in English Literature*. (invited speaker)

2025 “Configuring Kin: Adoption Archives, Literature, and the Possibility of Justice.” Speaker Series on Rethinking Korea: New Perspectives on a Critical Region. Northeastern University. Boston: February 2025. (invited speaker)

2024 “Adoption Archives: Documents, Personhood, Justice.” Talk for Yale English’s Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium. Yale University. New Haven: November 2024.

2024 “On Adoption Archives.” Panel on Counternarratives in Adoption Literatures: Rhetoric, Connection, Archives. *Adoption Knowledge Affiliates*. Virtual conference: October 2024.

2024 “What Comes Next: Search and Reunion as Collective Practice.” *Association of Postcolonial Thought*. Amherst: September 2024. (*accepted paper; unable to attend*)

2024 “States of Repair: The Promise of Welfare in the Postwar British and Anglophone Novel.” Book talks at Seoul National University’s Department of English Language and Literature, and Yonsei University’s Department of English Language and Literature. Seoul: May 2024. (invited speaker)

2024 “Paper Orphans: Transnational Adoption and Archival Imagination.” Talk for American Literature and Culture Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Cambridge: April 2024. (invited speaker)

2024 “Adoption Archives and Literary Form.” Panel on Adoption Narratives, Literary Belongings. *Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture*. Providence: April 2024.

2024 “What the TRC Means to Me.” Panel on “Diasporic Vision” from the Margins: Transdisciplinary Interventions within Korean Diaspora Studies. *Association for Asian American Studies*. Seattle: April 2024.

2024 “Recovering Adoption Archives.” Panel on 70 Years of Armistice: Ends of the Korean War. *MLA*. Philadelphia: January 2024.

2023 “Foreclosed Communities of British ‘Brown Babies.’” Seminar on Anticolonialisms /Antifascisms. *Modernist Studies Association*. New York: November 2023.

2023 “Charge of the State: Reading the Archives of Transnational Adoption.” Workshop on World Literature and Law, sponsored by the journal *Law & Literature*. New York: August 2023. (invited speaker)

2023 “Postwar Welfare: U.K., U.S., Korea.” Roundtable on Better State Forms. *Modern Language Association*. San Francisco: January 2023. (invited speaker)

2022 “Proxy Wars, Proxy Adoptions.” Symposium on The Cold War and U.S. Empire in Asia. Newhouse Center for the Humanities. Wellesley College. Wellesley: November 2022. (invited speaker)

2022 “On Fungibility.” Roundtable on Insurgent Infrastructures. *American Studies Association*. New Orleans: November 2022. (invited speaker)

2022 “By Proxy: War, Kinship, Reading.” Mini-symposium featuring work of tenure-track women in the humanities. Standing Committee on Women. Harvard University. Cambridge: March 2022. (invited speaker)

(2021) “What Do We Talk About When We Talk About Welfare?” Roundtable on the Mid-century. *Modernist Studies Association*. Chicago: November 2021. (invited speaker; postponed to future MSA conference due to Covid-19)

2021 “Phuong’s Children: Histories and Futures of Transnational Kinship.” *Brandeis Novel Symposium* on Graham Greene’s *The Quiet American*. Online: October 2021. (invited speaker)

2021 “Cold War Kinship.” Seminar on Cold War Structuralism. *American Comparative Literature Association*. Held online: March 2021.

(2020) “Windrush Legacies.” Panel on The Problem of Late Modernism. *Modernist Studies Association*. Brooklyn: October 2020. (invited speaker; postponed to future MSA Conference due to Covid-19)

2019 “Spark in Excess: *The Driver’s Seat* and *Curriculum Vitae*.” Roundtable on Muriel Spark at 101. Novel Theory Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Cambridge: April 2019. (invited speaker)

2019 “How to Live Together,” Newhouse Center for the Humanities, Cornille Faculty Seminar, Wellesley College. Wellesley: February 2019.

2019 “Orwell et al: 1984 and Its Global Afterlives.” Panel on Anglophone Literature and the Left. *MLA*. Chicago: January 2019. (invited speaker)

2019 “Concretopia: High-Rise Infrastructures and Downward Mobility.” *MLA*. Chicago: January 2019.

2018 “Only Repair: Postwar Modernism and the Reconstructive Imagination in Elizabeth Bowen.” Modernism Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Cambridge: October 2018. (invited speaker)

2018 “Two Paths of the Media Novel.” Roundtable on The Novel and Media. Novel Theory Seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center. Cambridge: May 2018. (invited speaker)

Invited Formal Responses, Seminars, Workshops (selected)

2026 “Grammars of Transnational Adoption.” Department of Women’s and Gender Studies, Wellesley College. February 2026.

2025 “Occupation Children and Their Literary Legacies.” Invited speaker for workshop on “The Legacies of Occupation: Kinship, Belonging and Transnational Adoption After World War II,” hosted by University of Cologne and NYU. Deutsches Haus, NYU. New York: November 2025.

2025 Invited speaker for Wagner Celebration of Research, Wellesley College. Wellesley: September 2025.

2025 Guest faculty visit for courses on Asian American Literature (Professor Howie Tam, English) and Asian American History (Professor Yuri Doolan, History), Brandeis University. Waltham: March 2025.

2024 Chair for talk with Professor Yuri Doolan, Korea Colloquium, Harvard Korea Institute. Cambridge: December 2024.

2024 Graduate student seminar on professionalization, Seoul National University’s Department of English Language and Literature. Seoul: May 2024.

2024 Panel conversation on Hansol Jung’s *Wolf Play*, Brandeis Theater Arts Productions. Waltham: April 2024.

2023 Faculty respondent, Fall Graduate Symposium on “Institutions and Archives,” Harvard English Department. Cambridge: November 2023.

2023 Conversation with Matthew Salesses on his novel *The Sense of Wonder*, launch event for symposium on [Genre, Gender, and Language in Korean Film and Drama](#), Asia Research Institute, University of Buffalo. Buffalo: April 2023.

2022 Guest scholar for seminar on Kazuo Ishiguro, Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement. Cambridge: October 2022.

2022 Guest scholar for seminar on Kazuo Ishiguro, Ithaca College. Ithaca: April 2022.

2021 Leader of two-part reading group on Kazuo Ishiguro’s *Klara and the Sun*, Novel Theory Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center. Harvard University. Cambridge: September and October 2021.

2020 Respondent to Nan Z. Da, Seminar on American Literature and Culture, Mahindra Humanities Center. Harvard University. Cambridge: October 2020.

2017 Faculty guest, GSAS Gender and Sexuality Workshop. Harvard University. Cambridge: December 2017.

2017 Respondent for *Panaesthetics: A Colloquium on the Visual Arts, Literature and Music*, GSAS Interdisciplinary Graduate Workshop, Teresa Trout’s paper on “The Panaesthetic Country House Novel.” Harvard University. Cambridge: April 2017.

Conferences, Panels, and Events Organized

2026 Collaborative Workshop (with Oh Myo Kim and Bastiaan Flikweert), “Korean Adoption Now.” Wagner Centers for Wellesley in the World. Wellesley: Fall 2026 (upcoming)

2025 Seminar Organizer (with Janice Ho), “Modernist Development and Underdevelopment.” *Modernist Studies Association*. Boston: October 2025

2024 Conversation and Workshop with Lisa Wool-Rim Sjöblom. Co-sponsored by English Department and Korea Institute, Harvard University. Cambridge: April 2024.

2023 Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar (with Catherine H. Nguyen), “Transnational Adoption, Cold War Militarism, and Literary Creation.” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University. Cambridge: March 2023.

2023 Mini-symposium on *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure: Race, Affect, Environment*. UC Riverside. Online event: February 2023.

2018 Keyword Seminar Organizer on “Infrastructure.” *Society for Novel Studies*. Ithaca: May 2018.

2015 Conference Organizer (with Kalyan Nadiminti), *Locating Post45*, University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia: March 2015.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2025 Wagner Research Incubation Award for *Korean Adoption Now*, Wagner Centers for Wellesley in the World, Wellesley College

2023 MLA Prize for an Edited Collection, *The Aesthetic Life of Infrastructure*

2023 Dean’s Competitive Fund for Promising Scholarship for *Children of Conflict: Cultural Formations of Transnational Adoption in the Mid-Twentieth Century*, Harvard University

2023 Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities Award for *Representing Adoption: Fostering Adoptee Culture and Community at Harvard and Beyond*, Harvard University

2022-23 AAUW American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship

2022 Exploratory Seminar Funding, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University

2020	Clark award for research support upon Associate promotion, Harvard University
2018-19	External Faculty Fellow, Newhouse Center for the Humanities, Wellesley College
2017 & 2019	Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research, Harvard University
2016	Diane Hunter Prize for best dissertation, University of Pennsylvania
2015-16	Mellon/ACLS Diss. Completion Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies
2015	William Patrick Day Prize for best graduate student essay, University of Pennsylvania
2013-14	Andrew W. Mellon Graduate Research Fellow, Penn Humanities Forum
2012	Hopkinson Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
2010 & 2012	Amherst Memorial Fellowship for Graduate Study
2009	Henry P. Field Fellowship for Graduate Study
2009	Fulbright Scholarship, English Teaching Assistant in Korea (<i>declined</i>)
2008	Robert Cover Prize, Amherst College Department of LJST
2008	Institute for Recruitment of Teachers Associate, Phillips Academy Andover

TEACHING

Wellesley College

ENG/PEAC 274, Representing War

ENG 284, Global Fictions After Empire (cross-listed with Women's and Gender Studies)

ENG/PEAC 334, Imagining Justice in Law and Literature: Rights, Reparations, Reconciliation

ENG 350 (Independent Study): Kazuo Ishiguro

WRIT 159, Living Literature: On Writing the Contemporary

Harvard University

English 10, Literature Today (lecture, co-taught with Teju Cole)

English 90DK, Divided Kingdom: Nation, Race, and Belonging in Postwar Britain (seminar)

English 90LL, Law and Literature (seminar)

English 90WR, War and Its Representations (seminar)

English 167BL, Post-45 British Literature (lecture)

English 188GF, Global Fictions (lecture, with graduate section)

English 295LI, Literary Institutions (graduate seminar)

English 330, G2 Proseminar (graduate seminar, on professionalization)

English 91R, Privacy in Law and Literature (independent study)

Humanities 10b, A Humanities Colloquium, from Joyce to Homer (lecture, co-taught)

Haverford College

“Literature and Law: Memory, Violence, Repair,” English Department and Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Program, Spring 2015

Research and Teaching Interests: Twentieth- and twenty-first century British and Anglophone literatures; modernism; the novel; law and literature; gender and sexuality studies; trauma studies; literatures of war; transnational kinship and critical adoption studies.

Languages: French (reading), German (reading)

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Departmental Service, Wellesley College
Newhouse Center Liaison (2024-25, 2025-26)
Graduate School Advisor (2024-25, 2025-26)**College Service and Affiliations, Wellesley College**
Advisory Committee on Library and Technology Policy (2025-26)
First-Year Advisor (2025-26)
Faculty Working Group, “Transforming Stories, Spaces, Lives” (Fall 2024)**Advising, Wellesley College**

Departmental Advisor: Brenda Zhang ('26); Skye Bulman, Ananya Mahapatra, Elaine Zhao ('27); Bella Fazio, Natalie Ng ('28)
Thesis Advisor (primary): Lyanne Wang (Fall '26)
Thesis Committee Member: Hanna Matsukawa ('26), Phoebe Zilliax-Blodget ('26)
Extradepartmental Thesis Committee Member: Brenda Zhang ('26, American Studies)

Departmental Service, Harvard University

Graduate Admissions Committee (2020-21, 2021-22, 2023-24)
Graduate Steering Committee (2023-24)
Department Development Committee / DIB (2023-24)
Common Course Committee (2020-21, 2021-22)
Undergraduate Affairs Committee (2016-17, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, 2020-21, 2021-22)
Victorian Search MLA Interview Committee (Spring 2019)
Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
Curriculum Committee (Fall 2017)
Faculty Co-Sponsor, 20th-Century & Contemporary Graduate Colloquium (2018-22, 2023-24)
Faculty Co-Sponsor, British and Anglophone Literature Graduate Colloquium (2016-17, Fall 2017)
Graduate General Exams Committee (2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20)
Freshman Reads Faculty Sponsor (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)
Undergraduate & Graduate Essay Prizes Committee (2016-17)
Graduate Mock Interviews Committee (2016-17, 2019-20)

University Service, Harvard University

Faculty Liaison for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (2023-24)
Member, Selection Committee, Postdoctoral Fellowships for Mellon Seminar on Migration and the Humanities, Mahindra Humanities Center (2020-21)
Affiliated Member, Committee on Higher Degrees in American Studies (2018-20)
Member, Steering Committee, Schlesinger Library's Long 19th Amendment Project, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study (2018-20)
Member, Board of Freshmen Advisors (2017-18, 2018-19)
Faculty Leader, Conversation on the Liberal Arts (Fall 2017)

Advising, Harvard University

Undergraduate Senior Thesis Advisor:
- Mia Karr (2018-19): “Joyce, Mansfield, and the Transnational Short Story Cycle,” Hoopes Prize winner

- Miranda Sadler (2018-19): “Unconscious Culpability: Conflict and Survival in Ian McEwan’s *Atonement and Saturday*”
- Clarissa Klein (2017-18): “The Ones Who Walk through Omelas: Developing a Critical Theory of Narrative and Affect for the Medium of Video Games with Arkane’s *Dishonored*”
- Charlotte Anrig (2017-18): ““The Deep Water of My Own Thoughts”: Patriarchal Trauma and Lesbian Desire in Virginia Woolf”
- Madison Gonzalez (Fall 2017): “Great Again: Jeremiad and the War on Terror in the 21st Century”

Undergraduate Mellon Mays Fellow Advisor: Cherline Bazile (2017-18), Isabella Cho (2022-23)

Graduate Fields Exam Committee: Aditya Banerjee, English; Elinor Hitt, English; Sarah Liu, English; Mary Galli, English; Cecilia Mancuso, English; Sophia Mao, English; Jonathan Karp, American Studies

Graduate Dissertation Committee:

- Sarah Jingyu Liu, English (in progress): “English Modernism, Chinese Paradigm: English Literary Studies of the Crescent Moon Society 新月社”
- Elinor Hitt, English (in progress): “Dance, Memory: Choreographic Encounters with Joyce, Nabokov, Balanchine, & Beckett”
- Mary Galli, English (in progress): “Uncovering the Truth of Extraction: Environmental Fiction and Nonfiction, 1962-2022”
- Maria Marchinkoski, English (in progress): “A Literary History of Transsexuality”
- Carrie (Zhe) Geng, Comparative Literature (Ph.D. Fall 2023): “Between Madness and Mental Health in Asian American Literature”
- Sophia Mao, English (Ph.D. Spring 2023): “Feeling Onwards: Model Minority Affects in Contemporary Asian American Literature”
- Ceci Mancuso, English (Ph.D. Spring 2021): “The Two Speculations: The Poetics of Contemporary Speculative Fiction”
- Laura Nelson, American Studies (Ph.D. Spring 2021): “Practices of Study: Social Architectures of Insurgent Learning”
- David Mulrooney, English (Ph.D. Spring 2019): “Imperial Propaganda and Literature: Representing the British Colonial Experience in Malaysia 1895-1940”

Harvard Extension School: Melissa Reynolds, Division of Continuing Education (Master of Liberal Arts. Spring 2023). Thesis title: ““What Is This World?” and Who Gets to Write It?: Intertextuality, Metafiction, and Gender Experience in Shirley Jackson’s Later Novels.”

Visiting Graduate Students: Laura de la Parra Fernández, PhD in English at Complutense University of Madrid (2018). Dissertation title: “Against Love: Gender, Psychiatry and the State (1939-1987).”

Manuscript reviews: Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press, Routledge, Bloomsbury Academic, *ASAP/Journal*, *Contemporary Literature*, *Humanities*, *Journal of Narrative Theory*, *Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, *MELUS: Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States*, *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Texas Studies in Languages and Literatures*

Professional Memberships: Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture, American Comparative Literature Association, Association for Asian American Studies, Association for the

Study of the Arts in the Present, Modern Language Association, Modernist Studies Association, Society for Novel Studies

Additional Experience and Service (selected)

2025-	Executive Committee member, Alliance for the Study of Adoption and Culture
2025	Maurer Public Speaking Program attendee, Wellesley College
2024-	Steering Committee member, Brandeis Novel Symposium
2023-	Organizer of Greater Boston Book Club on Adoption and Culture
2019	External Ph.D. evaluator, Laura de la Parra, Universidad Complutense de Madrid
2017	Consulted for Henry Louis Gates Jr.'s PBS series on WWI

REFERENCES

Professor Jed Esty, English, University of Pennsylvania, esty@english.upenn.edu
Professor Paul K. Saint-Amour, English, University of Pennsylvania, psain@english.upenn.edu
Professor Heather K. Love, English, University of Pennsylvania, loveh@english.upenn.edu
Professor Allan Hepburn, English, McGill University, allan.hepburn@mcgill.ca
Professor Deidre Lynch, English, Harvard University, deidrelynch@fas.harvard.edu
Professor Nicholas Watson, English, Harvard University, nwatson@fas.harvard.edu
Professor Yoon Sun Lee, English, Wellesley College, ylee@wellesley.edu