

CYNTHIA WACHTELL

wachtell@yu.edu

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

PhD in the History of American Civilization, June 1998
A.M. in English and American Literature and Languages, June 1992
Doctoral Committee: Alan Heimert, Lawrence Buell, and Werner Sollors
Member of Board of Tutors for the Committee on Degrees in History and Literature, 1994-1996
Non-resident Tutor, Adams House, 1993-1996

Yale University

New Haven, CT

Jointly awarded M.A. and B.A. in American Studies, after eight semesters of study, May 1990
Graduated *summa cum laude*
Recognized by Department of American Studies for "Distinction in Field of Major"

ADMINISTRATIVE & ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Fall 1999 - Present **Yeshiva University, Founding Director of the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program
& Research Associate Professor of American Studies**

Director of Honors Program

- Founding director of the S. Daniel Abraham Honors Program at Stern College for Women, an extremely successful program that is central to the university's aim to be the nation's premiere academic institution for Jewish women. With over 175 students, the program has more than doubled its initial enrollment target.

Research Associate Professor of American Studies

- Teach courses ranging from the introductory level to advanced honors courses, including: American Literature I and II; American Playwrights and Their Plays; Literature and Culture of the American City: New York; Jewish American Literature; African American Literature; American Antiwar Writers; Secrets of the South; The American Short Story; The Vietnam War in Literature, History, and Film; and Freshman Honors Seminar.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 1998 - Spring 1999 **New School for Social Research, Instructor**
Designed and taught assorted courses in American literature.

Autumn 1997 **Fordham University, English Department, Instructor**
Taught first year students English composition and rhetoric.

Autumn 1994 - Spring 1996 **Harvard University, History and Literature Program, Tutor**
Taught and advised juniors in one-on-one tutorials and seniors writing honors theses.

Autumn 1993 - Spring 1995 **Harvard University, Teaching Fellow**
Served as a teaching fellow for English 70; The Civil War, and Myth of America.

Books:

The Backwash of War & War Essays: An Extraordinary American Nurse in World War I – Johns Hopkins University Press, February 2019. Editor of an expanded, scholarly edition of *The Backwash of War*, by Ellen N. La Motte. The volume includes an comprehensive introduction and the first biography of La Motte and is intended to introduce a seminal work of American war writing and its remarkable author to modern readers. For more about the book see: www.thebackwashofwar.com

War No More: The Antiwar Impulse in American Literature, 1861-1914 – Louisiana State University Press, May 2010. The book received a starred review from *Library Journal* and has been hailed as “a landmark study, the most important work on war writing to have emerged in many years.” *War No More* went through three hardcover printings and was released in paperback in April 2012.

- [2011 Connecticut Book Award](#) - Finalist in non-fiction
- [2010 New England Book Festival](#) - Honorable mention in non-fiction

For more information about the book, including reviews: www.warnomorethebook.com

Published Essays & Articles:

Contributed four essays to *Opposition to War: An Encyclopedia of United States Peace and Antiwar Movements*: a 4500-word, linchpin essay on American antiwar literature and shorter essays on Mark Twain, Jeannette Rankin, and, Madeleine Doty. ABC-CLIO, 2018.

“The Battle of Fredericksburg Revised: Whitman’s and Melville’s Poems in Draft and Final Form,” published in a special Civil War issue of *Mickle Street Review*, Spring 2016, no. 21, 1-41.

“The Civil War: Post 9/11,” an invited essay about recent Civil War related scholarship for *American Literary History*, 2014, vol. 26, no. 3, 627-638.

“Ernest Howard Crosby’s *Swords and Plowshares*: A Lost Anti-Imperialism, Anti-Militarism, and Anti-War Classic,” essay solicited for a special issue on anti-imperialism, *South Central Review*. Spring 2013, vol. 29, no. 3, 133-154.

“The Civil War and Literature” – an invited capstone essay – & “The Author of the Civil War,” *The New York Times: Disunion – Modern Historians Revisit and Reconsider the Civil War from Lincoln’s Election to the Emancipation Proclamation*. Ed. Ted Widmer, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, 2013.

“Conscientious Objections,” *America’s Civil War*, January 2011, vol. 23, no. 6, 52-59.

“Memory, Mourning and Malvern Hill: Herman Melville and the Poetry of the American Civil War,” in *Memory, Mourning, Landscape*. Eds. Elizabeth Anderson, Avril Maddrell, et al. Rodopi Press, 2010.

“‘The Wife of His Youth’: A Trickster Tale,” in *Charles Chesnutt Reappraised: Essays on the First Major African American Fiction Writer*. Eds. David Garrett Izzo and Maria Orban, McFarland Publishing, 2009.

“‘Battle No More Shall Be’: Herman Melville’s War Writings,” *Literatures of War*. Eds. Richard Pine and Eve Patten, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2008.

“Encountering the Enemy: Representations of German Soldiers in American World War I Literature,” in “*Huns vs. Corned Beef*”: *Representations of the Other in American and German Literature and Film on World War I*. Eds. Thomas F. Schneider and Hans Wagner, V& R Unipress, Germany, 2007.

“A Writer’s Writer: Herman Melville and the Crafting of *Pierre*,” the first chapter in *Auto-poetica: Representations of the Creative Process in Nineteenth-Century British and American Fiction*. Ed. Darby Lewes, Rowman and Littlefield, 2006.

“*Four Lights: ‘The Woman’s Way’ of Protesting World War I*,” *Feminist Media Studies*, Fall 2005, vol. 5, no.3, 364-367.

Entries on John Dos Passos, Edith Wharton, and Joyce Kilmer in the *Encyclopedia of American War Literature*, Greenwood Press, 2000.

Essays & Articles Published Online:

“Conscientious Objectors and Draft Registration: A Timely Lesson from WWI,” *Tikkun*, May 29, 2018. <https://www.tikkun.org/newsite/conscientious-objectors-and-draft-registration-a-timely-lesson-from-wwi>

“Nathaniel Hawthorne’s Funny Civil War,” *New York Times*, “Disunion” series, May 17, 2013 <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2013/05/17/nathaniel-hawthornes-funny-civil-war/>

“Melville’s About Face,” *New York Times*, “Disunion” series, Dec. 18, 2012 <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/18/melvilles-about-face/>

“Smart Planet – CBS’s Interactive Website – “Dr. Cynthia Wachtell on Car Accidents and U.S. Presidents,” December 2012, www.smartplanet.com/blog/pure-genius/qa-dr-cynthia-wachtell-on-car-accidents-and-us-presidents/

“A Sad Sequence of Collisions,” *New York Times* op-ed, October 13, 2012, print edition. Viewable at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/13/opinion/make-motor-vehicle-safety-a-priority.html>

“Sir Walter Scott, The Author of the Civil War,” *New York Times*, “Disunion” series July 6, 2012, <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/06/the-author-of-the-civil-war/>

“Battle Hymn of the Pacifist Mom: A Mother’s Day Peace Proclamation from Author of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*,” Julia Ward Howe,” *Huffington Post*, May 2011 www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/mothers-day-_b_858171.

“Buy My Book,” column for Brennan Center for Justice’s *Just Books*, Issue 6, December 2010 http://www.brennancenter.org/content/pages/just_books_issue_6

“US Army Recruiters’ Banquet at the Grand Hyatt in San Antonio, Texas: Military Excess in the Shadow of the Alamo,” *Huffington Post*, November 2010 www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/us-army-recruiters-banque_b_789596.html

“An American Tradition of War and War Protest,” *Huffington Post*, October 2010 www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/an-american-tradition-of-_b_749867.html

“Sarah Palin’s Hometown, Wasilla, Alaska: What Are They Reading?” *Huffington Post*, August 2010 www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/sarah-palin-wasilla_b_694772.html#s131266

“What is Cynthia Wachtell Reading?” Campaign for the American Reader, August 2010 www.americareads.blogspot.com/2010/08/what-is-cynthia-wachtell-reading.html

“The Page 99 Test: Cynthia Wachtell’s *War No More*,” Campaign for the American Reader, August 2010 www.americareads.blogspot.com/2010/08/pg-99-cynthia-wachtells-war-no-more.html

“The ‘Hell of War’ - Walt Whitman and American Antiwar Literature,” Peace X Peace, July 2010 www.peacexpeace.org/2010/07/the-%E2%80%9Chell-of-war%E2%80%9D-%E2%80%93-walt

“What Mark Twain and Other Writers Said About War,” Letter to the Editor, *New York Times*, July 2010: www.nytimes.com/2010/07/15/opinion/115twain.html

“Mark Twain’s Early Protest Against the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan,” *Tikkun Daily*, July 2010 www.tikkun.org/tikkundaily/tag/mark-twain/

Book Reviews:

Review of David S. Reynolds, *Mightier Than the Sword: Uncle Tom’s Cabin and the Battle for America*. *Journal of the Civil War Era*, Winter 2012, Vol. 2, Issue 4 pp. 600-602.

Review of Randall Fuller, *From Battlefields Rising: How the Civil War Transformed American Literature*. *Civil War Book Review*. Spring 2011.

Review of Martin Griffin, *Ashes of the Mind: War and Memory in Northern Literature, 1865-1900*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Autumn 2009, Vol. 107. no 4, 607-608.

Review of Crain A. Warren, *Scars to Prove It: The Civil War Soldier and American Fiction*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* Spring 2009, Vol. 107 no. 2, 282-284.

Review of Jennifer C. James, *A Freedom Bought with Blood: African American War Literature from the Civil War to World War I*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Winter 2008/2009, Vol. 106, no. 1, 118-120.

Review of Faith Barrett and Cristanne Miller, Eds. “*Words for the Hour*”: *A New Anthology of American Civil War Poetry*, *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Winter 2007/2008, Vol. 105, no. 1, 131-133.

Review of Lorrie Goldensohn, ed. *American War Poetry: An Anthology*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Spring 2006, Vol. 104, no. 2, 378-382.

Review of Franny Nudelman, *John Brown’s Body: Slavery, Violence, and the Culture of War*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Summer 2004, Vol. 102, no. 3, 422-424.

Review of Elizabeth D. Samet, *Willing Obedience: Citizens, Soldiers, and the Progress of Consent in America, 1776-1898*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Spring 2004, Vol. 102, no. 2, 240-241.

Review of Russell Duncan and David J. Klooster, eds., *Phantoms of a Blood-Stained Period: The Complete Civil War Writings of Ambrose Bierce*. *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, Spring 2003, Vol. 101, no. 2, 152-154.

SELECT LIST OF CONFERENCES & INVITED TALKS

- November 2018 Presented a paper "Artistic Expression and Suppression: Ellen N. Motte and *The Backwash of War*" at the conference "Artistic Expressions and the Great War: A Hundred Years On" at Hofstra University.
- November 2017 Delivered a paper, "The Lost Author of a Lost Classic: Ellen N. La Motte and *The Backwash of War*," in November at an international conference "Women and World War I," in Ljubljana, Slovenia and Gorizia, Italy.
- March 2016 Presented a paper, "One Man Among Many: New York’s Socialist Jews and Resistance to World War I," at the conference, “Resistance to War 1914-1924,” University of Leeds, England.

- Nov. 2014 Delivered an invited talk, "Rhymes and Rhapsodies: An Introduction to Civil War Poetry" to the Rockland Civil War Round Table.
- Oct. 2014 Presented a paper, "The Best Antiwar Book from the First World War You've Never Read and Why: Ellen N. La Motte's *The Backwash of War*," at the conference, "World War I: Dissent, Activism, & Transformation" Georgian Court University, New Jersey.
- June 2013 Presented a paper, "The Battle of Fredericksburg Revised: Whitman's and Melville's Poems in Draft and Final Form," at the conference, "Melville and Whitman in Washington, DC," George Washington University.
- May 2013 Delivered an invited talk, "Immersed in Verse: A Guide to Reading Civil War Poetry," as part of a Civil War speakers series sponsored by the White Plains Historical Society and the Sons of Union Veterans, in White Plains, New York.
- June 2012 Delivered an invited talk on "War Poetry" for the Yale Alumni Association of New York.
- Nov. 2011 Chaired panel, "The Civil War's Legacy for Women," The Legacy of the Civil War Conference, Chesnut Hill College, Philadelphia.
- Jan. 2011 Presented paper, "American War Deaths in Poetry and Photography: From Antietam to Afghanistan," at the Modern Language Association annual conference, Los Angeles, California.
- Nov. 2010 Guest instructor in "War and Peace" at Baruch College
- Nov. 2010 Chaired panel, "Chains of Belonging," at the American Studies Association annual conference, San Antonio, Texas.
- Aug. 2010 Panel participant, Weekend Renewing America's Promise 2010, Martha's Vineyard
- June 2008 Presented paper, "Memory, Mourning, and Malvern Hill: Herman Melville and the Poetry of the Civil War," at the Memory, Mourning and Landscape symposium at the University of Glasgow.
- Nov. 2007 Chaired panel, "Mediated Feelings," at the New York Metro American Studies Association annual conference, "Feeling American Studies," at Columbia University, New York.
- May 2007 Presented paper, "'Battle No More Shall Be': Herman Melville's War Writings," at, and participated in, a five-day international seminar on "The Literature of War" at the Durrell School of Corfu, in Greece.
- March 2007 Presented paper, "But Can She Tango?: Congresswoman Jeannette Rankin, the Media, and World War I," and moderated the panel, "Waging Peace," at the Ninth Annual Sarah Lawrence College Women's History Conference: Women at War: Soldiers, Sisters, Survivors; Bronxville, New York.
- Oct. 2006 Presented paper, "'God's War': American War Writers and World War I," at the annual Northeast Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature, which had the theme "Faith and Violence: Jihad and Holy War," at St. Francis College, Brooklyn, NY.
- Oct. 2006 Presented an invited paper, "Encountering the Enemy: Representations of German Soldiers in American World War I Literature," at an interdisciplinary conference, "Representation of the Other in American and German Literature and Film on World War I," at UCLA.
- April 2006 Chaired panel, "Comics and Graphic Novels," The First World War and Popular Culture Conference, University of Newcastle, UK.
- March 2006 Presented paper: "Melville, Madness, and *Pierre*," as part of three-day seminar on "Man and Madness: Written" at the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, Princeton, New Jersey.

- Dec. 2005 Presented paper: “Nathaniel Hawthorne and the ‘Disturbing Influence’ of the Civil War,” panel sponsored by the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, Modern Language Association annual conference, Washington, DC.
- Dec. 2005 Presented paper: “Victimization and Vietnam: The American Soldier in Popular Antiwar Literature” at the Innovations and Reproductions in Cultures and Societies conference, Vienna, Austria.
- Oct. 2005 Presented paper: “Four Lights: The Woman’s Peace Party of New York’s Response to World War I” at a conference - “Intellectuals and War from Verdun to Baghdad” – sponsored by the Group for War and Culture Studies, London, England.

INTERVIEWS ABOUT *WAR NO MORE & WAR WRITING*

Human Media (NPR) – WGBH, Boston, MA
 New Books In History
 Civil War Talk Radio
 Transitions (NPR) – New Jersey Network
 Uprising (Pacifica) – KPFK, Los Angeles, CA
 The Progressive Forum (Pacifica) – KPFT, Houston, TX
 America Off-Line –KWMV – Pointe Reyes, CA
 Antiwar Radio
 WFNY Free Forum – New York
 You're History – KFOK Community Radio, Georgetown, CA
 Black Star Media
 The Nick Beeson Show – KIST AM, Santa Barbara, CA
 Current Events – WRFG-FM, Atlanta
 Voices of our World – Nationally syndicated to over 100 stations
 WCBQ--Oxford, NC; WHNC, Henderson, NC
 WIP, Philadelphia
 Radio with a View – WMBR, Cambridge, MA
 The 8:00 Buzz – WORT-FM, Madison, WI
 The Morning Show – KPFA, Berkeley, CA
 KAXE (NPR) – Grand Rapids, MI
 Issues & Ideas – KCBX - FM, (NPR), San Luis Obispo
 Late Mornings – KVON-AM, Napa, CA
 Women-Stirred – WGDR, Plainfield, VT
 Rick Smith Show – WHYL, Carlisle, PA
 KAOS, Evergreen, WA
 Public Affair – WORT-FM, Madison, WI
 Northern Sun News – KFAI 90.3, Minneapolis, MN
 A Chautauqua – KOPN, Columbia, MO

EDUCATIONAL ADVOCACY WORK

- Board member of Class Size Matters - an educational advocacy organization that in 2015 led the New York City Department of Education to recover \$727 million from a corrupt technology contract.
<https://dianeravitch.net/2016/01/06/how-one-whistle-blower-saved-nyc-schools-727-million/>
- Co-organized the Kids Protest Project, a successful, citywide effort that helped restore \$450 million in educational budget cuts. Featured in article in New York *Daily News*: “Kids Teach Politicians About School Cuts”
www.nydailynews.com/new-york/education/kids-teach-politicians-school-cuts-article-1.298415
- Write advocacy essays on local and national educational issues, including:
 “Governor Cuomo’s Faulty Math and Why He’s Wrong About New York’s Schools”
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/governor-cuomos-math-prob_b_6827302.html

“No Place for Poetry on My Son’s Common Core ELA Test”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/no-poetry-on-my-sons-comm_b_5223744.html

“Public School Standardized Testing: Enough Is Enough for New York State Kids”

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/cynthia-wachtell/let-new-york-states-privat_b_1547848.html?

- Member of the Community Educational Council District 3 high school admission committee (2014-2015). Advocate for equity in the citywide high school system and leader of the “D3 Wants Equity” campaign.
<http://www.westsiderag.com/2014/11/20/uws-parents-say-east-siders-get-unfair-advantages-in-school-admission>

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish (reading, writing, and intermediate level speaking)

Italian (reading and intermediate level speaking)

German (intermediate level reading and speaking)

French (intermediate level reading)