Ian Frederick Finseth

Department of English

University of North Texas

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**Education**

Ph.D., English. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2001.

M.A., English (concentration in American Studies). University of Virginia. 1995.

B.A., English, magna cum laude. University of California at Berkeley. 1991.

**Faculty Appointments**

Associate Professor. University of North Texas. 2010-present.

Assistant Professor. University of North Texas. 2007-2010.

Assistant Professor. University of Michigan at Dearborn. 2004-2007.

Visiting Assistant Professor. Wake Forest University. 2002-2004.

Lecturer. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 2001-2002.

**Awards**

Kesteron Award for Outstanding Graduate Teaching. University of North Texas English Department. 2017.

Scholarly and Creative Activity Award. University of North Texas. 2015. $5000.

Scholarly and Creative Activity Award. University of North Texas. 2014. $5000.

Graduate Professor of the Year. Elected by the Graduate Students in English Association, University of North Texas. 2013-2014.

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend. 2013. Supported archival research at the Library of Congress. $6000.

Research Creativity and Enhancement Grant. University of North Texas. 2013. $9333.

Earhart Foundation Fellowship. Clements Library, University of Michigan. 2012. Supported two months of residential research on Civil War studies. $8000.

Faculty Research Grant. University of North Texas. 2008. $4000.

Subvention Grant. University of North Texas. Fall 2007. $750.

Horace H. Rackham Faculty Research Fellowship. University of Michigan. 2005. System-wide competitive award supporting the completion of major research projects. $7500.

Faculty Research Grant. University of Michigan at Dearborn. Fall 2004. Competitive award to support off-campus research. $2500.

Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship. Library Company of Philadelphia. 2001. Provides financial support for one month of in-residence research. $4000.

C. Hugh Holman Fellowship. 1999-2000. Awarded by the UNC Department of English in recognition of outstanding graduate work in American literature. $1000.

UNC Dissertation Completion Fellowship. 1999-2000. Competitive non-service award granted by the College of Arts and Sciences. $15000.

**Books – Authored**

*The Civil War Dead and American Modernity*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 296 pp.

*Shades of Green: Visions of Nature in the Literature of American Slavery, 1770-1860*. Athens, Ga.: The University of Georgia Press, 2009. 320 pp. (Paperback edition, 2011).

**Books – Edited**

Co-Editor, with Nicole Aljoe (Northeastern University). *Journeys of the Slave Narrative in the Early Americas* (collection of critical essays). Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2014. 256 pp.

*The American Civil War: A Literary and Historical Anthology*. New York and London: Routledge, 2013. Revised edition of *The American Civil War: An Anthology of Essential Writings*. 368 pp.

*The Underground Railroad: Authentic Narratives and First-Hand Accounts*. Mineola, NY: Dover Publications, 2007. 304 pp.

*The American Civil War: An Anthology of Essential Writings*. New York and London: Routledge, 2006. 628 pp.

Contributing Co-Editor, with William L. Andrews, et al. *North Carolina Slave Narratives*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003.

**Journal Articles**

“The Civil War Dead: Realism and the Problem of Anonymity.” *American Literary History* 25.3 (Fall 2013): 535-562.

“Irony and Modernity in the Early Slave Narrative: Bonds of Duty, Contracts of Meaning.” *Early American Literature* 48.1 (February 2013): 29-60.

“On *Battle-Pieces*: The Ethics of Aesthetics in Melville’s War Poetry.” *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies* 12.3 (October 2010): 71-89.

“Evolution, Cosmopolitanism, and Emerson’s Antislavery Politics.” *American Literature* 77.4 (December 2005): 729-760.

“In Essaka Once: Time and History in Olaudah Equiano’s Autobiography.” *Arizona Quarterly* 58.1 (Spring 2002): 1-35.

“David Walker, Nature’s Nation, and Early African American Separatism.” *Mississippi Quarterly* 54.3 (Summer 2001): 337-362.

“A ‘Melancholy Tale’: Rhetoric, Fiction, and Passion in *The Coquette*.” *Studies in the Novel* 33.2 (Summer 2001): 125-159.

“How Shall the Truth Be Told? Language and Race in *The Marrow of Tradition*.” *American Literary Realism* 31.1 (Spring 1999): 1-20.

**Articles in Progress**

“The Colonial Report: Toward a Theory of Environmental Textuality”

“Bartleby Bound: Systems Theory and Melville’s Scrivener”

**Book Chapters**

“Frederick Douglass, the Irish Famine, and the Lessons of Environmental History,” in *African American Literature in Transition, 1830-1850*, ed. Benjamin Fagan (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017).

“The Civil War and Literary Realism,” in *Teaching the Literatures of the American Civil War*, ed. Colleen Boggs (New York: Modern Language Association, 2016), 123-134.

“The Realists’ Civil War,” in *A History of American Civil War Literature*, ed. Coleman Hutchison (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 62-76.

“Geographic Consciousness in the American Slave Narrative,” in *American Literary Geographies: Spatial Practice and Cultural Production, 1500-1900*, ed. Martin Brückner and Hsuan Hsu (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2007), 236-258.

# **Book Reviews and Review Essays**

Stephen Cushman, *Belligerent Muse: Five Northern Writers and How They Shaped Our Understanding of the Civil War* (University of North Carolina Press, 2014). *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 43.1/2 (Spring/Fall 2016): 518-522.

Coleman Hutchison, *Apples and Ashes: Literature, Nationalism, and the Confederate States of America* (University of Georgia Press, 2012). *Slavery and Abolition* 34.4 (Fall 2013): 689-90.

Andrew S. Curran, *The Anatomy of Blackness: Science and Slavery in an Age of Enlightenment* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2011). *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 19:3 (Summer 2012): 588-89.

Paul Outka, *Race and Nature: From Transcendentalism to the Harlem Renaissance* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment* 16:4 (2009): 884-85.

Betsy Erkkila, *Mixed Bloods and Other Crosses: Rethinking American Literature from the Revolution to the Cultural Wars* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004). *American Literature* 78:2 (March 2007).

Martin Japtok, *Growing Up Ethnic: Nationalism and The Bildungsroman in African American and Jewish American Fiction* (University of Iowa Press, 2005). *American Literature* 78:2 (March 2007).

Michael Davitt Bell, *Culture, Genre, and Literary Vocation* (University of Chicago Press, 2001). *American Literature* 74:1 (March 2002): 194-196.

Review Essay. Albert J. Von Frank, *The Trials of Anthony Burns: Freedom and Slavery in Emerson’s Boston* (Harvard University Press, 1998); and Gary Collison, *Shadrach Minkins: From Fugitive Slave to Citizen* (Harvard University Press, 1997). *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 22:1 (Winter 1999): 121-29.

**Other Publications**

“Frederick Douglass and the Legacy of Mount Misery.” *Baltimore Sun*. August 20, 2006.

“Olaudah Equiano.” *Encyclopedia of Life Writing*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn (2001).

**Conference Presentations**

“Antinomies of Reconstruction: The Civil War Village Tale.” Midwestern Modern Language Association (M/MLA). St. Louis, MO. November 2016.

“Winslow Homer, Meditating Beside a Grave.” Midwestern Modern Language Association (M/MLA). Columbus, OH. November 2015.

“Fear and Trembling Behind the Breastworks.” Midwestern Modern Language Association (M/MLA). Detroit, MI. November 2014.

Roundtable Participant. Session: “Teaching the North American Slave Narrative.” Presentation: “Slave Narratives in Hypertext.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. Chapel Hill, NC. March 2014.

“The ‘Tonic’ of War: Emerson’s Pragmatic Realism.” Midwestern Modern Language Association (M/MLA). Milwaukee, WI. November 2013.

Roundtable Participant. “Race and Nature in the 19th-Century United States.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). Lawrence, KS. May 2013.

Roundtable Organizer and Presenter. Session: “Environment, Epistemology, and Literature of the Americas.” Paper: “The Nature of the Text: Toward a Theory of Environmental Knowledge.” Modern Language Association (MLA). Boston, MA. January 2013.

Chair and Presenter. Panel: “Rethinking the Civil War: Prospects for Future Study.” Paper: “The War’s Phenomenal Dead: Reflections on Realism and Historicism.” C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists. Berkeley, CA. April 2012.

“Bonds of Duty in the Early Slave Narrative: From Covenant to Contract.” Society of Early Americanists (SEA). St. Augustine, FL. May 2010.

“Mortal Remainders: Improper Burial in American Civil War Literature.” Symposium on the Nineteenth-Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. October 2009.

Chair and Presenter. Panel: “Science, Industrialization, and Nineteenth-century American Literature.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). Victoria, British Columbia, June 2009. Paper: “Islands of the Mind: Reverie, Machine Culture, and the Rise of American Empire.”

Chair and Presenter. Panel: “African Americans and the Natural World in Early American Literature.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). Spartanburg, SC, 2007. Paper: “The Natural World of *My Bondage and My Freedom*.”

Chair. “African Americans and the Natural World in Twentieth-Century American Literature.” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE). Spartanburg, SC. June 2007.

Chair and Respondent. “Abolitionist Places.” American Studies Association (ASA). Oakland, CA. October 2006.

“Ambiguous Sympathies: Sentimental Philosophy in *The House of the Seven Gables*.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA). Santa Clara, CA, November 2001.

“Errand into the South Pacific: Melville’s Revision of the Captivity Narrative in *Typee*.” Northeastern Modern Language Association (NEMLA). Hartford, CT. April 2001.

“Emerson’s Racial Union.” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA). Portland, OR. November 1999.

“The Scientific Strain in American and African American Antislavery Literature.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association (RMMLA). Santa Fe, NM. October 1999.

“Unraveling the Noose: The Demystification of American Language in *The Marrow of Tradition*.” American Literature Association (ALA). San Diego, CA. May 1998.

**Invited Talks**

Humanities Texas Summer Institute. “Writing about the Civil War.” Denton, TX, June 2014.

Southern Methodist University. “Bring Out Your Dead: Improper Burial in the Literature and Photography of the American Civil War.” April 2006.

University of California at Berkeley. “Beyond Harriet Jacobs: Autobiographical Testimony by African American Women in the Nineteenth Century.” History 126 (African American Women’s History). September 1999.

Stanford University. “North American Slave Narratives, Beginnings to 1920.” Fall Lecture Series, African and Afro-American Studies Department. October 1999. Versions of this talk were also given at San Jose State University, the College of Notre Dame, and the North Carolina Museum of History.

**Courses Taught – University of North Texas**

**Annual Teaching Assignments, Post-Tenure**

2010-2011: 2/2

2011-2012: 3/2

2012-2013: 3/2

2013-2014: 2/0 (faculty development leave)

2014-2015: 2/3

2015-2016: 2/2

2016-2017: 2/1

2017-2018: 2/2

**Graduate**

The Rise of the American Novel. S2015.

Nineteenth-Century American Poetry. S2013, S2016.

Literature and the Environment. S2010.

American Gothic. F2009, F2017.

Perspectives in Twentieth-Century Literary Theory. F2009.

The Civil War in Literature, History, and Memory. S2009, F2014.

American Renaissance: Form and Transformation. F2008, F2011, F2016.

The Free and the Bound: Imagining American Slavery. S2008, S2012.

**Undergraduate**

Nineteenth-Century American Poetry. S2016.

American Literature to 1870. F2009, F2011, S2013, F2013 (2), S2015.

American Realism. S2011, F2012.

Literature and the Environment. F2008, S2010.

The Civil War in Literature, History, and Memory. F2010, F2014.

The American Renaissance. F2008, F2011, F2016.

The Short Story. F2007, F2010, F2015.

Literary Analysis and Interpretation. F2007, S2008, F2012 (2), F2017.

The Slave Narrative. F2015.

American Fiction. S2011.

The Free and the Bound: Imagining American Slavery. S2012.

**Professional Service**

External Tenure Review

Texas Christian University Department of English. 2015.

Denison University Department of English. 2012.

Manuscript Review (scholarly journals)

*African American Review*. September 2017.

*Studies in the Novel*. January 2015.

*ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*. August 2014.

*Conradiana*. January 2014.

*Studies in the Novel*. May 2013.

*PMLA*. March-April 2013.

*Clio: A Journal of Literature, History, and the Philosophy of History*. July 2010.

*The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of the Arts in the South*. June 2010.

Manuscript Review (scholarly presses)

FF Press (Zagreb, Croatia). 2016. (subject area: African American literature)

Bloomsbury Academic. 2015. (subject area: ecocriticism)

University of Michigan Press. 2013. (subject area: African American literature)

Ashgate Publishing. 2013. (subject area: American Civil War)

Oxford University Press. 2009-2010. (subject area: American Civil War)

Grant Application Review

NEH Summer Stipend program. Fall 2017.

Steering Committee Member. Symposium on the Nineteenth-Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression. University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. 2010-2012.

**Departmental and University Service – University of North Texas**

Member. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. September 2017-present.

Director of Undergraduate Studies. Department of English. September 2014-August 2017.

Member, ex officio, of the Executive Committee and Curriculum Committee.

Advisory Board Member. *Studies in the Novel*. January 2014-present.

Editorial Board Member. University of North Texas Press. January 2011-present.

Search Committee Member (tenure-track position in early American literature). 2015-2016.

Faculty Senate Member-at-Large (Associate Professor). 2010-2014.

Executive Committee Member-at-Large. Department of English. 2009-2012.

Search Committee Chair (tenure-track position in U.S. Latino/a literature, targeted hire). Spring 2011.

Search Committee Chair (tenure-track position in African American literature). 2010-2011.

M.A. Comprehensive Exam Committee Member. 2010-2011.

Search Committee Chair (tenure-track position in U.S. Latino/a literature). 2009-2010.

Book Review Editor. *Studies in the Novel*. 2007-2010.

Interim Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English. Spring 2009.

Member, ex officio, of the Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Graduate Admisions Committee, and Teaching Fellow Selection Committee.

Search Committee Chair (tenure-track position in early American literature). 2008-2009.

Search Committee Member (tenure-track position in British Victorian literature). 2007-2008.

M.A. Comprehensive Exam Committee Member. 2007-2008.

# **Departmental and University Service – University of Michigan**

Search Committee Member (tenure-track position in Early Modern literature and culture). 2006-2007.

American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee Member. 2004-2007.

Studies in Technology and Science Faculty Advisory Committee Member. University of Michigan at Dearborn. 2004-2007.

Search Committee Member (tenure-track position in Early Modern literature and culture). University of Michigan at Dearborn. 2004-2005.

**Doctoral Dissertations Directed**

Stephanie Vastine. On Walt Whitman. In progress.

Andrew Ross. *Islands on the Plains: Isolation, Utopias, and Uneven Development in the American West*. In progress.

Meghan Johnson. *How the Other Half Collects: Collections of Resistance in Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century American Literature*. In progress.

Darcy Lewis. *Xenotopia: Death and Displacement in Nineteenth-Century American Authorship*. Defended October 2017.

Heather Robinson. *Ours Is the Kingdom of Heaven: Christian Construction of Early American Racial Identities*. Defended March 2016.

Ashley Reis. *With the Earth in Mind: Ecological Grief in the Contemporary American Novel*. Defended March 2016.

Kelly Clasen. *Reconsidering Regionalism:* *The Environmental Ethics of Sarah Orne Jewett, Kate Chopin, and Willa Cather*. Awarded a Dissertation Fellowship by the Toulouse Graduate School for 2010-11. Defended May 2011.

**Doctoral Dissertation Committees**

William Thweatt. “Margaret Bayard Smith: The First Lady of Washington, 1800-1844” (Dept. of History). Director: Randolph Campbell.

Tana Taylor Juko. *Misrecognized and Misplaced: Race Performed in African American Literature, 1900-2015*. Director: Jacqueline Foertsch. Defended February 2017.

Elizabeth Neely Clauser. *Elizabeth Bishop in Brasil: An Ongoing Acculturation*. Director: Corey Marks. Defended May 2014.

Debbie Liles, *Southern Roots, Western Foundations: The Peculiar Institution in Northwestern Texas, 1849-1865* (Dept. of History). Director: Richard B. McCaslin. Defended June 2013.

Julie Saffel. *Suburbia Wants You! The Changing Landscape of Suburbia in Literature from WWII to the Global War on Terrorism* (passed prospectus defense Fall 2014). Director: Jacqueline Foertsch.

James Sisson. *Through the Crucible of God’s Trenches: Charles Hamilton Sorley’s Pace of Faith and Doubt* (passed comprehensive exams Summer 2010). Director: John G. Peters.

Deborah K. Stephens. American modernism and food culture (passed comprehensive exams Fall 2009). Director: Jacqueline Foertsch.

**Master’s Theses Directed**

Connie Beeler. *Miscegenated Narration: The Effects of Interracialism in Women’s Popular Sentimental Romances from the Civil War Years*. Defended March 2011.

Brooke Villafranca. *Fashioning the Domestic Ideology: Women and the Language of Fashion in the Works of Elizabeth Stoddard, Louisa May Alcott, and Elizabeth Keckley*. Defended October 2010.

**Master’s Thesis Committees**

Elizabeth Harmon Norton. *Monsters Like Us: Reexamining Invasion of the Body Snatchers Over the Long Haul* (defended March 2016). Director: Jacqueline Foertsch.

Andrew Tolle. *Charlotte Perkins Gilman: Naturalist Playwright* (defended March 2012). Director: Stephanie Hawkins.

Andrew Starz. *Dead Fox Run: A Collection of Stories* (defended March 2011). Director: Miroslav Penkov.

Pam Harper. *Shared Spaces: The Human and the Animal in the Works of Zora Neale Hurston, Mark Twain, and Jack London* (defended May 2008). Director: Jacqueline Foertsch.