

# CYNTHIA BAROUNIS

## *Curriculum Vitae*

Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Washington University in St. Louis  
One Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1078  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
Email: [cbarounis@wustl.edu](mailto:cbarounis@wustl.edu)

### EDUCATION

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PhD English, University of Illinois at Chicago, August 2012  
Graduate Concentration in Gender and Women's Studies, May 2007  
MA English, University of Illinois at Chicago, December 2005  
BA Literature, Knox College, Magna Cum Laude, June 2003

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2023-present Senior Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis  
2015-2023 Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis  
2012-2015 Postdoctoral Fellow in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis

### BOOKS

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*Vulnerable Constitutions: Queerness, Disability, and the Remaking of American Manhood.* Temple University Press, 2019 (Winner of the 2020 NWSA Alison Piepmeier Book Prize)

*The Biopolitics of Camp* (book manuscript in progress)

### PUBLICATIONS

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#### Refereed Journal Articles

"Wretched Refuse: Disability, Disposables, and the Cripistemology of Camp." *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* (special issue: "Cripistemologies Now," edited by Robert McRuer and Merri Lisa Johnson), forthcoming 2024.  
"Witches, Terrorists, and the Biopolitics of Camp." *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies* 23.2/3 (Spring 2018).  
"Not the Usual Pattern': James Baldwin, Homosexuality, and the DSM." *Criticism: A Quarterly for Literature and the Arts* 59.3 (Summer 2017).  
"Alison Bechdel and Crip-Feminist Autobiography." *Journal of Modern Literature* 39.4 (Summer 2016).  
"Special Affects: Mermaids, Prosthetics, and the Disabling of Feminine Futurity." *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 44:1-2 (Spring/Summer 2016).  
"Why So Serious?: Crippling Camp Performance in Christopher Nolan's *The Dark Knight*." *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 7.2 (2013).

- "Crippling Heterosexuality, Queering Able-Bodiedness: *Murderball*, *Brokeback Mountain* and the Contested Masculine Body." *Journal of Visual Culture* 8.1 (2009). [Reprinted in *The Disability Studies Reader*, 3rd and 4th Editions. Ed. Lennard Davis. New York: Routledge, 2010, 2013.]
- "'Undisturbed By Colors': Photorealism and Narrative Bioethics in the Poetry of William Carlos Williams." *Journal of Medical Humanities* 30.1 (2009).
- "Reading Through Spectacle(s): Flannery O'Connor and the Politics of Drag." *Flannery O'Connor Review* 5 (Summer 2007).

### Book Chapters and Invited Contributions

- "Disability." *This Is Not a Feminist Textbook!* Edited by Catherine Rottenberg. Goldsmiths Press, forthcoming.
- "James Baldwin, Chelsea Manning, and Homonationalism." *The Common Reader*, special issue on James Baldwin and American Democracy, September 2019.
- "Survival Angst: Reading *Hothead Paisan* in the Trump Era." *The Journal of Lesbian Studies* 22.4 (2018).
- "Teaching *Fun Home* as Disability Memoir." *Approaches to Teaching Fun Home*. Ed. Judith Gardiner. New York: MLA, 2018.
- "Compulsory Sexuality and Asexual/Crip Resistance in John Cameron Mitchell's *Shortbus*." *Asexualities: Feminist and Queer Perspectives*. Eds. Karli June Cerankowski and Megan Milks. New York: Routledge, 2014.

### Web-Based Publications

- Interview on Vulnerable Constitutions in NOTCHES blog (July 2021)  
< <https://notchesblog.com/2021/07/27/vulnerable-constitutions-queerness-disability-and-the-remaking-of-american-manhood/> >
- "Choosing Love Over Eugenics" (August 2020).  
< <https://daily.jstor.org/choosing-love-over-eugenics/> >
- "Redefining Toxic Masculinity in Trump's America" (September 2019).  
< <https://templepress.wordpress.com/2019/10/02/redefining-toxic-masculinity-in-trumps-america/> >
- "Alison Bechdel and Primetime's 'Mad' Women" (October 2016).  
< <http://iupress.typepad.com/blog/2016/10/alison-bechdel-and-primetimes-mad-women-a-closer-look-at-jml-394.html> >
- "Queerness Meets Disability in *Shortbus*." *In Media Res* (January 2011).  
< <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/imr/2011/02/02/queerness-meets-disability-shortbus> >

### Book Reviews

- Rev. of *Keywords for Disability Studies*, edited by Rachel Adams, Benjamin Reiss and David Serlin. *symplekē* 25.1-2 (2018).
- Rev. of *Acts of Conspicuous Compassion: Performance Culture and American Charity Practices*. *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 10.2 (2016).
- Rev. of *Sex and Disability*, edited by Robert McRuer and Anna Mollow. *symplekē* 21.1 (2013).

## FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

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2020	Alison Piepmeier Book Prize, National Women's Studies Association
2013	Outstanding Thesis Award, in the Division of Fine Arts and Humanities, Uni of Illinois at Chicago
2012	Distinguished Teaching Award, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
2011-2012	Dean's Scholar Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago
2011	Anne Hopewell Selby Essay Award, English Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
2008	Gender & Women's Studies Graduate Award, Gender and Women's Studies Department, University of Illinois at Chicago
2006	Sarah Gordon Award, <i>Flannery O'Connor Review</i>
2005	Colby H. Kullman Prize, University of Mississippi, Southern Writers, Southern Writing Conference
2003	Phi Beta Kappa

## COURSES TAUGHT

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Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington University in St. Louis (2012-present)

WGSS 4013: Advanced Queer Theory: Queer Negativity, Queer Biopolitics  
 WGSS 3031: Queer Theory  
 WGSS 3203: Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies  
 WGSS 308: Masculinities  
 WGSS 100: Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago (2003-2011)

English 111: Women and Literature  
 English 117: Introduction to Gender, Sexuality & Literature  
 English 161: Academic Writing II: Writing for Inquiry and Research  
 English 243: American Literature: Beginnings to 1900 (section leader)  
 English 240: Intro to Literary Study and Critical Methods (section leader)

## Project Advising

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### Dissertation

- 2023 Catherine Mros, "Subject, Scientist, Novelist: A Literary History of Sexology at the *Fin de Siècle*" Department of English (committee member)  
 2020 Katie Collins, "Minor Fictions: Citizenship and 20th Century American Bildungsroman," Department of English (committee member)  
 2019 Rose Miyatsu, "Seeking Asylum: Community and Identity in Post-1945 Literary Representations of Mental Illness," Department of English (committee member)

### Master's Thesis

- 2019 Kelley Abell (2019), "Toward a More Inclusive Theatre: Nina Raine's *Tribes* and the Problem with "Normal," Performing Arts Department (committee member)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis

- 2023 Adler Bowman, honors thesis on hyperpop (title TBD), American Culture Studies Department (primary advisor)
- 2022 Aliya Schenck, "What If She's Not That Fast: Investigating Caster Semenya's Impact on Forecasting Models." Department of Mathematics and Statistics (committee member)
- 2022 Sydney Perry-Anderson, "Searching for 'Fair' Competition in the Discourse of Contemporary Legislative Attacks on Trans\* Athletes." Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department (committee member)
- 2021 Maya Schaer, "'You're a Prophet, Someone's Gonna Profit': King Princess and Queerness in the Mainstream Music Industry," American Culture Studies Department (primary advisor)
- 2021 Jessica Zepeda, "'I Think I'm Going to Be President': The 2016 Presidential Election, Saturday Night Live, and the Politics of Gender Performance," American Culture Studies Department (committee member)
- 2019 Hannah Wallach, "A Call to Action for Disability Studies: Speaking Chronic Illness as Disability and Grappling with Undesirability and Illegibility," American Culture Studies Department (primary advisor)
- 2014 Vinita Chaudhry, "'Gaysi' in the USA: Experiences of South Asian American Queer Youth," Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (committee member)
- 2014 Elizabeth Handschy, "Lesbians with Eating Disorders: Reworking Heteronormative Understandings to Include Alternative Sexualities," Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (committee member)
- 2014 Danielle Greene, "Best Cock on the Block: An Analysis of Partnered Dildo Use," Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (committee member)

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2023-present Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- 2022-2024 Co-Organizer, Disability and Embodied Difference Faculty Graduate Reading Group, Center for the Humanities
- 2020 Peer reviewed two manuscripts for *Feminist Formations*
- 2017-2019 Co-Chair, Asexuality Studies Interest Group, National Women's Studies Association
- 2019 Peer reviewed manuscript for the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*
- 2019 Peer reviewed manuscript for *Women's Studies Quarterly*
- 2017 Peer reviewed manuscript for *Feminist Formations*
- 2016 Peer reviewed manuscript for *Literature and Medicine*
- 2015 Peer reviewed manuscript for *PMLA*
- 2014 Peer reviewed manuscript for *Sexualities*
- 2013 Peer reviewed manuscript for *Hypatia*
- 2013-2016 Organizer, Queer Theory Reading Group, Washington University in St. Louis
- 2010-2011 Academic Advisor, UIC Dept. of English, Office of Undergraduate Studies
- 2008-2009 Research Assistant, UIC Dept. of English, Professor Lennard Davis
- 2006-2008 Research Assistant, UIC Dept. of English and GWS, Professor Judith Gardiner

INVITED TALKS

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- 2021 "Wretched Refuse: Disability, Disposables, and the Carework of Camp." Hall Center for the Humanities, Disability Studies Seminar, University of Kansas.

## CONFERENCES AND PANELS ORGANIZED

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- “Bad Robots: Reimagining the Feminist Cyborg.” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, accepted for October 2023.
- “Healing Across Borders, Decolonizing Care: Queer/Feminist/Crip Politics and Aesthetics,” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, accepted for November 2020 (conference canceled)
- “Beyond Sex: Asexual Aesthetics and/as Literary Protest,” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, November 2019.
- “Asexual Healing: Recovery and Embodiment Beyond the Human,” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.
- “Disability and Intimacy,” Roundtable discussion between Robert McRuer and Mel Chen, Washington University in St. Louis, February 2016.
- “Prescribing Pleasure: Biopolitics After the Sex Wars,” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, November 2015.
- “Chronicity and Contagion: Reimagining Queer-Crip Biosociality,” Panel, American Studies Association, Toronto, ON, October 2015.
- “Temporalities of Resistance in Contemporary American Fiction,” Panel, Modern Language Association, Vancouver, BC, January 2015.
- “Feminist Temporalities, Disabled Bodies,” Panel, National Women’s Studies Association, Oakland, CA, November 2012.
- “Sic/k Chic/k: Crippling Feminist Style,” Panel, Society for Disability Studies, Denver, CO, June 2012.
- “Biocultures: Science, Technology, Culture, Humanities,” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, University of Illinois at Chicago, November 2007.

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- “Laughter Is Not Our Medicine”: Hannah Gadsby and the Comedy of Resignation.” National Women’s Studies Association, Minneapolis, MN, November 2022.
- “Wretched Refuse’: Sontag, Disability, and the Biopolitics of Camp.” American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago, IL, accepted for March 2020 (conference canceled)
- “Walking Wounded’: Gendering Debility in *Times Square Red*, *Times Square Blue*,” National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, accepted for November 2019.
- “Rethinking Queer Sexual Capacity,” Unthinking Sex, Imagining Asexuality: Intersectional and Interdisciplinary Perspectives, Vancouver, BC, April 2019.
- “Slowly Turning to Grit’: Stone Butch Asexualities and Non-Human Intimacies,” National Women’s Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018
- “Recovering Puritans: Reading *The Witch* as Mad Feminist Camp,” Composing Disability, George Washington University, Washington, DC, March 2018.
- “Mad Dykes Rule, OK?’: Camp Humorlessness in *Hothead Paisan*,” Modern Language Association, New York, NY, January 2018.
- “Against Queer Resilience,” National Women’s Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, November 2017.
- “Are You My Therapist?: Alison Bechdel’s Queer Chronicities,” National Women’s Studies Association, Montreal, QC, November 2016.
- “Pleasure, Capacitation, and Rhetorics of Queer Citizenship,” National Women’s Studies Association, Milwaukee, WI, November 2015.
- “A Giving Plague: Samuel Delany and the Anti-Prophylactic,” American Studies Association, Toronto, ON, October 2015.
- “Twisted and Deformed’: Virginia Woolf, Alison Bechdel, and Crip-Feminist Autobiography,” Modern Language Association (panel arranged by the MLA Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession), Chicago, IL, January 2014.

- “Queer Spaces, Feminist Histories: Revisiting *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*,” National Women’s Studies Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2013.
- “‘Love or Eugenics?’: Queering Sympathy in *Tender Is the Night*,” Cultural Studies Association, Chicago, IL, May 2013.
- “‘That’s Not the Usual Pattern, Is It?’: James Baldwin, Homosexuality, and American Psychiatry,” American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, ON, April 2013.
- “Queering Reproduction: Faulkner’s *Sanctuary* and the American Eugenic Imagination,” Modern Language Association (panel arranged by the Southern Literature Discussion Group), Boston, MA, January 2013.
- “Special Affects: Mermaids, Prosthetics, and the Disabling of Feminine Futurity,” National Women’s Studies Association, Oakland, CA, November 2012.
- “Porn Theaters, Public Health and the Sexual Politics of Contact: A Feminist Analysis of Samuel Delaney’s *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*,” Health, Embodiment and Visual Culture Conference, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, November 2010.
- “‘Why So Serious?’: Crippling Camp Performance in Christopher Nolan’s *The Dark Knight*,” Society for Disability Studies, Philadelphia, PA, June 2010.
- “‘A Beastly and Inarticulate Thing’: Queerness, Disability and Primitivism in Jack London’s *The Sea Wolf*,” National Association for Humanities Education, Chicago, IL, April 2009.
- “Queer Flesh, Disabled Bodies: Sexuality, *Shortbus*, and the Inaccessibility of Democracy,” Society for Disability Studies, New York, NY, June 2008.
- “Masculinity, *Murderball* and the Rehabilitation of Heteronormativity,” Society for Disability Studies, Seattle, WA, June 2007.
- “‘Certain Dangerous Intersections’: Carson McCullers, Deafness, and the Politics of Multiculturalism,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2006.

### **INFORMAL PRESENTATIONS AND RESPONSES**

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- Discussant, WGSS Colloquium, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Washington University in St. Louis, September 2014.
- Panelist, Americanist Dinner Forum, “Approaches to Studying the Body,” Dept. of American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2014.
- Presenter, WGSS Colloquium, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2014.
- Presenter, WGSS Colloquium, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2013
- Panelist, “James Baldwin in His Time and Ours,” Dept. of American Culture Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2013.
- Discussant, Workshop in Politics, Ethics and Society, Dept. of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2013.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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- Modern Language Association  
 American Studies Association  
 National Women’s Studies Association  
 Society for Disability Studies  
 American Comparative Literature Association