

# ERIN ROYSTON BATTAT

Lecturer in History & Literature  
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## EDUCATION

**Harvard University**  
Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., History of American Civilization, June 2008

A.M., Department of English and American Literature and Language, 2002

**Georgetown University**  
Washington, DC

B.A., American Studies, 1997

*Magna cum laude*

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Intersections of race and class in American history and culture, African-American and ethnic literature, the 1930s, migration and immigration, social movements, the American Left, women and gender.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

W.E.B. DU BOIS INSTITUTE FOR AFRICAN AND AFRICAN AMERICAN RESEARCH, Harvard University, Fellow, 2009-2012. Awarded Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellowship, Spring 2009.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, Summer Research Publication Grant, 2009.

HARVARD SOCIETY OF FELLOWS, Finalist, 2008.

AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION, Ralph Henry Gabriel Dissertation Prize, Finalist, 2008.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SOCIETY, Completion Fellowship, 2007-2008.

HARVARD FELLOWSHIP, 2000-2002, 2004-2007.

HISTORY OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, Harvard University, Summer Research and Travel Grant, 2001, 2004, 2006.

THE CHARLES WARREN CENTER FOR STUDIES IN AMERICAN HISTORY, Harvard University, Summer Research Grant, 2004 & 2005.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENT COUNCIL, Summer Research Grant, 2005.

DEREK BOK CENTER FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING, Harvard University, Graduate Writing Fellows Program, Spring 2005; Christensen Discussion Seminar, Fall 2005.

CATHERINE MITA AWARD for best thesis in American Studies, Georgetown University, 1997.

*PHI BETA KAPPA*, Georgetown University, 1997.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, History & Literature. Lecturer, 2013- present; 2009-2011; Teaching Fellow, 2006-2007.

- The African American Great Migration (fall 2013).
- The City in American Culture (Sophomore tutorial, spring 2011).
- Curators, Scholars, and the Archive (Junior tutorial, spring 2010).
- Cities, Race and Region (Junior tutorial, fall 2009).
- Africa and America (Junior Tutorial, AY 2006-07).
- The American West (Junior tutorial, AY 2006-07).
- Women, Labor and the Environment (Junior independent study, spring 2007).

- Senior Thesis Advising: Topics include Chicano literature, interracial literature, the U.S. South, the iconography of mobile homes in the 1930s and 40s, African American migration to Hawai'i.

WELLESLEY COLLEGE, English Department. Lecturer, Spring 2014.

- Topics in Literary Criticism: Art or Propaganda? (200-level)

PENN STATE HARRISBURG, American Studies. Assistant Professor, 2011-2013.

- AM ST/WMNST 104: Women and the American Experience. Students rated overall quality of Instructor 6.67 out of 7.
- AM ST476: American Women Writers Students rated quality of Instructor 6.44 out of 7
- AM ST 560: Race and Ethnicity. Students rated overall quality of Instructor 6.78 out of 7.
- AM ST 561: Gender and Culture. Students rated overall quality of Instructor 7.0 out of 7.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, English Department. Head Teaching Fellow, Spring 2005 & '06.

- American Protest Literature: From Tom Paine to Tupac (with Professor John Stauffer, Gen-Ed). Led sections, gave a guest lecture, developed website, and administered course of nearly 300 students. Student evaluations rated my overall performance a 4.48 out of 5 (5 = "excellent").

WRITING CENTER, Harvard University Extension School. Tutor, 2005-2008.

- Individual Tutorials.  
89% of student evaluations (92 total) received the highest score of 5 ("excellent"); 97% received a score of 4 or higher.

## PUBLICATIONS

*Ain't Got No Home: America's Great Migrations and the Making of an Interracial Left.* The University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming spring 2014.

"Aaron, Daniel" and "Steinbeck, John." *Encyclopedia of American Studies*. Ed. Simon J. Bronner. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, forthcoming.

"Okie Outlaws and Dust Bowl Fugitives: Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*, The Frontier Myth, and Race." In *The Grapes of Wrath: A Re-Consideration*. Ed. Michael Meyer. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2009.

"James, Anna Louise" and "Adams, Elizabeth Laura." *African American National Biography*. Eds. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. and Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham. New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

"Teaching & Learning Guide for: Literature, Social Science, and the Development of American Migration Narratives in the Twentieth Century," *Literature Compass* 5.5 (September 2008): 1001-1009.

"Literature, Social Science, and the Development of American Migration Narratives in the Twentieth Century," *Literature Compass* 4.3 (May 2007): 539-551.

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

**American Studies Association** Annual Meeting. Session Organizer and Panelist: "Dorothea Lange's Hill House Photographs: Visualizing Interracial Unity Against Agrarian Debt Peonage." Sponsored by Visual Culture Caucus. Nov. 2013.

**Eastern American Studies Association** Conference. Moderator: "Imagining Womanhood: Science, Literature, Commerce, and Power." Mar. 2013.

**Pennsylvania Historical Association** Annual Meeting. Commentator: "Women's Travels and Struggles in Nineteenth-Century Pennsylvania." Nov. 2012.

**Bryn Mawr College.** Guest Speaker: "Beyond the Migrant Mother: Maternal Imagery in Radical Art and Fiction in the Depression Era." Nov. 2011.

**Changing Lives Through Literature** (an alternative sentencing program). Invited panelist: "Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?" Mar. 2011.

**American Studies Association** Annual Meeting. Panelist: "Integrated Workplaces, Segregated Homes: Gender and Interracial Belonging in Depression-Era." Nov. 2009.

**Northeast Modern Language Association** Conference. Panelist: "Black and White, Unite and Fight!": Migration, Race, and Working Class Fiction." Feb. 2009.

**American Comparative Literature Association** Annual Meeting. Panelist: "American Exodus: Black and White Migration Narratives in the Depression Era." Apr. 2008.

**Popular and American Culture Associations** Conference. Panelist: "Being outside of patterns': Mobility and the Multicultural West in William Attaway's *Let Me Breathe Thunder*." Mar. 2008.

**SW/Texas Popular and American Culture** Associations Conference. Panelist: "Black Pioneers and the Promise of California: Arna Bontemps and Jack Conroy's *They Seek a City*." Feb. 2008.

**American Literature Association** Conference. Panelist: "Pioneers and Fugitives: The Intersection of the Frontier Myth and the Fugitive Slave Story in John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*." May 2007.

## SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

**Executive Board Member**, Eastern American Studies Association, 2012-2014.

**Awards Committee**, Eastern American Studies Association, 2012-2013.

**Admissions Committee** for American Studies Ph.D. program, Penn State Harrisburg, 2011-2013.

**Member, Commission For Women**, Penn State Harrisburg, 2012-2013.

## OUTREACH

**Dauphin County Historical Association:** Gave public lecture entitled "Beyond the Migrant Mother: Maternal Imagery in Radical Art and Fiction in the Depression Era." Harrisburg, PA. April 2012.

**Commission For Women, Penn State Harrisburg:**

- Moderator, Women's History Month Book Discussion. March 2012 and 2013.
- Presenter, "Maternal Imagery in Radical Art and fiction in the Depression Era," March 2013.
- Panel Discussant for the film *Miss Representation*, which explores negative images of women in the media. September 2012.

**Changing Lives Through Literature:** Taught literature class for an alternative sentencing program for criminal offenders. Boston, MA, Spring 2009.

**Jesuit Volunteer Corps:** Home visitor for families at risk of neglect and abuse. Family Support Network, Billings, MT. 1997-1998.

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Studies Association

Modern Language Association