

Literature Section

MIT's [Literature Section](#) has a profile that is unusual among its peers, although not unique within MIT's School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (SHASS): internationally recognized faculty who are committed to working closely with an undergraduate population made up largely of non-majors.

Both parts of this identity matter. All of our faculty teach advanced subjects related to their research, and they also expect to do half of their teaching in introductory classes: not in large lectures but in small Communication Intensive subjects intended for students in their first two years. This combination of high expectations for excellence in research and a high commitment to small group teaching, including at the introductory level, continues to define our unit.

News, Awards, and Honors

The Literature Section had a productive year. Some highlights include the following:

- The Literature Section was the host unit for the Humanities Visiting Committee meeting held in November 2018.
- Sandy Alexandre was awarded a grant from MIT's new Digital Humanities Lab for her project *The Reading Redux: What Is the Value in Re-reading?*
- Laura Finch was appointed assistant professor on July 1, 2018.
- Stephanie Frampton was awarded tenure (effective July 1, 2019). She also received a Frances A. Yates Long-Term Fellowship from the Warburg Institute in London.
- Marah Gubar received a 2019 Levitan Teaching Award.
- Wyn Kelley and Joaquin Terrones received a J-WEL (Abdul Latif Jameel World Education Lab) Grant in Higher Education Innovation to develop a global literature class in Brazil that will be piloted in January 2020.

Personnel

In addition to 18 faculty members and one senior lecturer, the Literature Section included five lecturers, two visiting scholars, two teaching assistants, one research associate, and seven administrative and support staff members this year.

Visiting Scholars

- Anna Abramson, our Mellon postdoctoral fellow, received her PhD in English from the University of California at Berkeley and came to MIT after a fellowship year at Harvard University's Mahindra Humanities Center. Abramson accepted a tenure track faculty appointment at Amherst College that will begin in fall 2019.
- Judith Rodriguez, our diversity predoctoral fellow, was a PhD candidate at the University of California at Irvine and will begin a tenure track faculty position at Indiana University in fall 2019.

Faculty Leaves

Several faculty members were on leave this academic year. Eugenie Brinkema and Ruth Perry were on leave for the full year. Alvin Kibel was on leave during the fall 2018 term and retired in December. Sandy Alexandre was on leave in spring 2019.

Administrative and Support Staff

M.E. “Emmie” Hicks was hired as the section’s full-time finance and administration assistant in June 2019; she replaced Thomas Arabia, who left MIT in April 2019. Cara-Beth Lillback’s appointment with the Literature Section ended in June 2019, and she transferred to the MIT Office of the President.

Faculty Research, Teaching, and Professional Activities

Associate Professor Sandy Alexandre’s research spans late-19th-century to present-day Black American literature and culture. Alexandre is currently writing her second book, *Freedom Things: Black Aspiration’s Tangibles After Slavery*. This past fall semester, Professor Alexandre taught the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies dissertation workshop, and she was on parental leave in the spring semester.

Professor Alexandre gave a talk at the Critical University Studies and the Futures of Academic Feminism Conference at the University of Massachusetts Amherst in May 2019. In addition, she and a colleague at the University of Würzburg planned an international symposium, [Haunted Nature](#), scheduled to take place in November 2019. In November 2018, she successfully applied for SHASS’s Digital Humanities Fellowship. Service to MIT included writing the nomination letter for a potential Martin Luther King Jr. scholar. She served as a mentor to predoctoral fellows Misty De Berry (Women’s and Gender Studies), Judith Rodriguez (Literature), and Patricia Posey (Political Science). She completed her last year on the MIT Faculty Policy Committee and served as a member of the Creative Arts Council. Outside of MIT, Professor Alexandre took part in conducting a fully comprehensive internal review of the English department at Simmons College. Also, she provided service to The Dark Room: Race and Visual Culture Studies Seminar and served on the boards of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society*, *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*, and the *CALLALOO Journal of African Diaspora*.

Associate Professor Arthur Bahr is a medievalist. His research interests include Old and Middle English literature, the structure and interpretation of medieval books, formalism(s), aesthetics, and the idea of the literary. During the past year, Professor Bahr taught 21L.004 Reading and Poetry (fall 2018), 21L.338 Reading in the Original: Advanced Old English (fall 2018), and 21L.460 Arthurian Literature (spring 2019).

Service to the section included chairing the Curriculum Committee and serving as a senior faculty member for Mellon postdoc Anna Abramson. For the Institute, he was a member of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program and the Kelly-Douglas Essay Prize committee and served as faculty facilitator for the Fail! Inspiring Resilience symposium organized by the Graduate Student Council. Service to the profession included membership on the advisory board of the journal *Exemplaria* and the steering committee of the New England Medieval Consortium. In addition, he advised six students, was a member of the AP English Literature and Composition Pilot Standard Setting Panel (Reston, VA), and is a MacVicar Faculty Fellow.

Professor Bahr reviewed book and article manuscripts for the University of Pennsylvania Press, Cambridge University Press, *Exemplaria*, the *Journal of Narrative Theory*, and Medieval Institute Publications. He served as a language consultant for the Center for Art, Science and Technology (CAST)–supported sitzprobe of Karin Coonrod’s new production of *Judith* (February 2019) and wrote job letters for graduate and postgraduate students at the University of Toronto and the University of Oxford. In addition, he continued work on his second book, *Chasing the Pearl Manuscript: Speculation, Shapes, Delight*, and successfully sustained efforts to secure funding for the ancient and medieval studies curriculum.

Professor Bahr presented “In Praise of Speculation” at the University of Pennsylvania (September 2018) and “Denouement: Sir Gawain, Chaucer’s Squire, and the Ends of Cotton Nero A.x” at Bowdoin College (November 2018). Also, he served as panel chair for Reading Then, Reading Now at the Harvard University English Department’s Bloomfield Conference (April 2019).

Associate Professor Eugenie Brinkema researches film and media with a focus on violence, affect, sexuality, aesthetics, and ethics in texts. In AY2019, Professor Brinkema was a fellow in media studies at the University of Amsterdam working on the completion of her second book manuscript. During that period, she gave invited lectures at nearly a dozen European universities (e.g., Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, King’s College London, the University of Zurich, L’université Diderot Paris 7, Leiden University, and the University of Amsterdam) and published six articles.

Professor Brinkema was the keynote speaker at the annual Film-Philosophy Conference held in Gothenburg, Sweden (July 2018), and was an invited speaker and juror at PAF: The 17th Festival of Film Animation in Olomouc, Czech Republic (December 2018). Also, she ran graduate workshops on her current research in Zurich, Frankfurt, Cologne, and Amsterdam.

Publications included “Sticky, Nimble, Frantic, Stuck: *À l’intérieur* and the Feel of Horror” (*LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory*); “(Nearly) Nothing to Express : Horror : some Tread : a Toroid,” (in *How to Do Things with Affects*); “Kill is Kiss: Violence, Language, Virus, Love” (in *Michel Serres and the Crises of the Contemporary*); and “Form for the Blind: Porn and Description Without Guarantee” (*Porn Studies*). Also, she published a book review in *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* and co-edited a dossier for the journal *Discourse*.

In addition to completing a draft of her second book manuscript (Duke University Press), Professor Brinkema finalized work on three articles that will appear in 2020. She serves on a visual and environmental studies dissertation committee at Harvard and remains active on the editorial boards of the journals *New Review of Film and Television Studies*, *InVisible Culture*, *Discourse*, and *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*. In spring 2019 she was invited to participate in the new Transmedia Storytelling Initiative, and she will co-teach the initiative’s first graduate seminar in spring 2020.

Professor James Buzard works on 19th- and early-20th-century British literature and culture. In AY2019, he taught 21L.001 Homer to Dante and 21L.702 (a seminar on George Eliot and Henry James) in the fall and 21L.003 Reading Fiction in the spring. He published two essays: “*David Copperfield* and the Thresholds of Modernity” (*ELH*) and “Race, Imperialism, Colonialism, Postcolonialism, and Cosmopolitanism” (in the *Oxford Handbook of Charles Dickens*). In addition, he reviewed John Plotz’s *Semi-Detached: The Aesthetics of Virtual Experience since Dickens* for the journal *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*. He gave the plenary lecture, “Liquid *Dorrit*,” at the annual Dickens Universe conference (University of California at Santa Cruz, July 2018) and presented the same lecture at the Literature Section’s faculty workshop (November 2018). Also, he gave a panel paper, “Acculturation and the Unremembered in *Daniel Deronda*,” at the annual Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies conference in Dallas (March 2019).

Peter S. Donaldson is the Ford International Professor of Humanities and a professor of literature. Since the early 1990s, he has led a series of major digital projects in Shakespeare studies, including the [Shakespeare Electronic Archive](#), [Hamlet on the Ramparts](#), and the [Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive](#). Professor Donaldson was on sabbatical in the fall and taught 21L.431 Shakespeare on Film and Media in the spring.

In addition to his position as the Ford International Professor of Humanities, Donaldson is the director of the MIT Global Shakespeare Project, the director and editor-in-chief of the Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive, and a permanent fellow of the UK Royal Historical Society.

Assistant Professor Laura Finch teaches and writes about late-20th-century and 21st-century world literatures and economy. During AY2019, Professor Finch taught 21L.007 World Literature: Space and Place, 21L.434 Science Fiction and Fantasy: Contemporary Scifi, and 21L.706 Studies in Film: Space Invaders: Land, Occupation, and Resistance in Contemporary Film and Literature.

Professor Finch has an article forthcoming in the journal *American Literary History* and published the chapter “Personal Finance, Global Finance: Literary Form and Economics in Mohsin Hamid’s *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*” (in *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Economics*). She also continued drafting her book manuscript *Intimate Economies: Race, Empire, and Contemporary Global Finance*.

She gave five invited talks (at the University of Michigan, MIT, Dartmouth College, and the California Institute of the Arts) and presented two conference papers (at the American Studies Conference and the conference of the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present). In addition, she organized two conference panels: Work, Post-Work and Labour: Contemporary Claims on Value (American Literature Association conference, 2019) and On the Architecture & Infrastructure of White Supremacy (Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present conference, 2019).

Service to MIT included a lecture for the Visiting Committee (fall 2018) and a SHASS “lightning talk” during Campus Preview Weekend (spring 2019). Professor Finch served on the section’s Curriculum Committee, was a member of the awards committee

for the Kelly-Douglas Essay Prize, and read applications for the Predoctoral Diversity Fellowship. Service to the profession included acting as Contemporary Literature Society chair at the American Literature Association conference.

Associate Professor Stephanie Ann Frampton is a classicist, comparatist, and historian of media in antiquity. Professor Frampton's monograph *Empire of Letters: Writing in Roman Literature and Thought* was published by Oxford University Press in March 2019. She was awarded tenure by the Institute in spring 2019.

In AY2019, Professor Frampton taught 21L.613/614 Latin Readings/Advanced Latin Readings: Poems of Catullus and Ovid's *Metamorphoses* (fall and spring), 21L.001 Foundations of Western Literature: Homer to Dante (spring), and 21L.608/609 Greek Readings/Advanced Latin Readings: Lucian's *True Story* (spring).

Service to the Institute included co-chairing the Program in Ancient and Medieval Studies and serving as a member of the Digital Humanities Steering Committee. Outside of MIT, Professor Frampton served as immediate past-president of the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography and as secretary-treasurer of the American Society of Greek and Latin Epigraphy.

Fellowships and awards included a Frances A. Yates Long-Term Fellowship at the Warburg Institute (London) and a Bibliographical Society of America Short-term Research Fellowship, both supporting research for her second book, *Cicero's Library: The Roman Book and the Making of the Classics*. Also, she was awarded a \$20,000 Alumni Class Funds seed grant to establish a program on the history and future of the book at MIT in collaboration with the MIT Libraries Distinctive Collections.

In addition to hosting the ARTificial Intelligence collaboration between the MIT Libraries and the Cambridge Public Library in November 2018, Professor Frampton convened two academic conferences. She co-leads the MATERIA Network, which annually hosts a conference on the history of material texts in antiquity.

Professor Mary C. Fuller served her last year as head of the Literature Section. This year Literature organized the Humanities Visiting Committee meeting, a role previously performed by the SHASS Dean's Office. Professor Fuller presented an overview of the humanities units and their priorities to the committee. Over the past year, Professor Fuller served on the Libraries renovation committee, the working group on degrees and curricula for the MIT Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing, and the steering committee for the new Transmedia Storytelling Initiative. Other work at MIT included interviewing prospective architects for the new college's building; contributing to the SHASS publication *Ethics, Computing, and AI*; and preparing the white paper on the section's engagement and needs with respect to computing. The year concluded with a one-day retreat to develop a strategic vision for the section.

During AY2019, Professor Fuller taught a seminar on Spenser's *Faerie Queene* in the fall, led a reading class on Milton's *Paradise Lost* in the spring, and advised six first-year students.

Beyond MIT, Professor Fuller served as an invited respondent at the Shakespeare Association's World, Globe, Macrocosm seminar; gave an invited talk at the Renaissance Society of America conference; and published a chapter on the structural barriers to identifying women in early modern travel writing (in *Travel and Travail: Early Modern Women, English Drama, and the Wider World*). In addition, she served as an external reviewer for a senior appointment at Exeter College in England and as a reviewer for a University of Amsterdam Press series on maritime humanities. She continued working on her book project and on drafting an invited contribution to a collection of essays focused on the state of nature and international law.

Associate Professor Marah Gubar teaches and writes about children's literature. In AY2019, Professor Gubar taught 21L.015 Children's Literature: Imagining Alternate Worlds (fall and spring), 21L.452[J] Literature and Philosophy (fall), and 21L.315 Prizewinners: How We Got to *Hamilton* (spring). During the spring term, she won a 2019 Levitan Teaching Award.

Professor Gubar published "Seen and Heard: Remembering Children's Art and Activism" in the *LARB Quarterly Journal* (November 2018) and "Child" in *VLC: Victorian Literature and Culture* (December 2018). Her essay "The Mixed-Up Kids of Mrs. E. L. Konigsburg" was selected for inclusion in *Think in Public: A Public Books Reader* (Columbia University Press). She continued drafting her book manuscript *How to Think About Children: Childhood Studies in the Academy and Beyond*. As the children's and young adult literature editor for the website Public Books, she contributed monthly mini-reviews of contemporary children's and young adult literature as well as commissioning and editing four full-length book reviews by other scholar-writers. Professor Gubar gave a keynote address at the conference of the Australasian Children's Literature Association for Research, an invited lecture at the University of Lethbridge in Canada, and a talk at the Children's Literature Association conference.

Service to MIT included chairing the Undergraduate Program Subcommittee on the HASS (Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences) Requirement, serving on the HASS Faculty Diversity Committee and the Literature Section's Curriculum Committee, and continuing as assistant director of the MIT Communications Forum. With respect to service to professional organizations, she was a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies* and did reader's reports for *Fordham University Press*, *Humanities*, and *The Lion and the Unicorn*.

Professor Diana Henderson's areas of research and interest include Shakespeare, gender studies, early modern poetry and drama, modernism, media studies, and world drama. She leads *The Merchant in Venice* performance and educational project, which includes a film collaboration with Compagnia de' Colombari, and co-leads the Global Shakespeares curriculum initiative.

Over the past year, Professor Henderson taught 21L.010 Writing with Shakespeare and 21L.591 Literary London. During spring 2019, she hosted director Karin Coonrod through a CAST visiting artist grant and served as producer and dramaturg for the MIT workshop world premiere of the original opera-in-progress *Judith* (Paul Vasile, composer).

Presentations included “Restaging *Edward II*: From Medieval Constitutional Crises to 21st-century Performance” at the International Marlowe Society conference in Wittenberg, Germany (July 2018); “Beyond Boundaries: Gender, Genre and the Consumption of War” as a featured speaker at the International Shakespeare Conference (July 2018); and the opening keynote address for the Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Program Conference at Cambridge University (September 2018). In addition, she gave a digital presentation at the Shakespeare Association of America’s annual conference (April 2019).

Service to the Literature Section included being a faculty mentor to Associate Professor Stephanie Frampton as well as serving on the departmental committee for her successful tenure review. She also supervised research associate Mary Erica Zimmer, leading to her upcoming appointments with the Digital Humanities Lab and Concourse. Henderson was again a member of the Austin Kelly Writing Prize committee. She served as a staff member in the Concourse first-year learning community and was a steering committee member and the curriculum chair for the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies. She also was a mentor to Women’s and Gender Studies predoctoral fellow Misty De Berry.

Professor Henderson took on the role of president of MIT’s Phi Beta Kappa Society, the Xi chapter of Massachusetts. She also served on the MIT Creative Arts Council. Outside of MIT, Professor Henderson completed her 20-year service as organizer and co-chair of a monthly seminar series at Harvard University’s Mahindra Humanities Center and arranged a succession plan to sustain the program. She served as co-editor for *Shakespeare Studies*, continued work on the documentary growing out of *The Merchant in Venice* project, and further developed her MITx-based module for that project. In September 2018, she became humanities advisor for Long Distance Educational Media. She continued on the advisory board of the *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies* and was invited to join the advisory board of the German annual *Shakespeare Jahrbuch*.

Publications released during AY2018 included “De-centring Shakespeare, Incorporating Otherness: Diana Henderson in Conversation with Koel Chatterjee” (in *Eating Shakespeare: Cultural Anthrophagy as Global Methodology*). Henderson appeared on two episodes of the PBS series *Shakespeare Uncovered* in fall 2018.

Associate Professor Noel Jackson works on topics in poetry and poetics, aesthetics, critical theory, and 18th-century literature, particularly that of the British Romantic period. In 2018, he published “Literature and the Senses” in *The Oxford Handbook of British Romanticism*. He has book reviews recently published or forthcoming in the *Review of English Studies*, *MLQ*, and *Isis*. In AY2019 Professor Jackson taught a new seminar, 21L.704 Studies in Poetry: Poetic Life-Writing (fall), and two sections of 21L.004 Reading Poetry (fall and spring).

Professor Jackson continued as the coordinator of the Pleasures of Poetry program offered during the Independent Activities Period (IAP) and served as a concentration advisor for the section. In AY2019, he served a second year on the SHASS Fund and Levitan Prize Committee and continued as an advisory board member of MAKE IT NEW, an international platform for poetry education.

Senior lecturer Wyn Kelley teaches classes on American writers, literary genres (comedy, melodrama, gothic, autobiography), and writing about literature. Currently associate director of the Melville Electronic Library, she has also worked with MIT's digital humanities lab, the HyperStudio, to develop digital classroom tools (Annotation Studio, Idea Space) and pedagogies.

In fall 2018, Professor Kelley taught 21L.000 Writing About Literature: The Art of the Short Story, 21L.325 Small Wonders: The Sketch, and 21L.355 Literature in the Digital Age. In the spring, she taught 21L.006 American Literature: American Gothic and 21L.702 Studies in Fiction: Toni Morrison and Herman Melville Talking About America.

Professor Kelley served as a concentration advisor for the Literature Section and was a member of the Curriculum Committee. In addition, she was a research associate in the HyperStudio and served on the DeFlorez Humor Fund Committee. Outside of MIT, Professor Kelley served on the editorial board of *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*, as associate director of the Melville Electronic Library, as an ex-officio member of the Melville Society's executive committee, and as a member of the Melville Society Cultural Project. In fall 2018, she served as Wiley-Blackwell's outside reader for John Bryant's forthcoming biography of Herman Melville.

In August 2018 Professor Kelley presented an invited talk, "Reading *Moby-Dick* in a Digital World," at the meeting of the Lansingburgh Historical Society. In March 2019, she spoke at the Herman Melville Symposium at the University of Kansas on "Retouching Whiteness: Arctic Indigeneity and Racial Ambivalence in 'The Berg.'" Also, she chaired a Melville Society panel at the American Literature Association's conference in Boston in May. In June she delivered a keynote address, "'Empire in Her Eyes': Melville and America's Brazilian Original," at the Melville Society International Conference. In addition, she chaired a panel on Melville and gender and participated in a roundtable for early-career professionals.

Professor Kelley traveled with Joaquin Terrones in January 2019 to São Paulo, Brazil, to research a new MIT global literature class (Global Literature, São Paulo: Movement, Migration and Displacement in the Americas) for the January 2020.

Professor Kelley was listed on four grant applications: a J-WEL Grant in Higher Education Innovation (awarded), an MIT Alumni Class Funds grant (awarded), a Melville Society Cultural Project and New Bedford Whaling Museum grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) for a second summer institute for K–12 teachers (pending), and a grant from the Melville Electronic Library to NEH for funding to develop the textual core of the library's archive (pending).

Professor Kelley's review of *Melville's Philosophies* was published in *American Literary History Online*, and her review of *Visionary of the Word: Melville and Religion* appeared in *Leviathan: A Journal of Melville Studies*. In addition, her chapter "Melville by Design" appeared in *Teaching with Digital Humanities: Tools and Methods for Nineteenth-Century American Literature* (University of Illinois Press).

Professor Alvin Kibel was on leave during fall 2018 and retired from MIT in December after over 50 years of service.

Professor Ruth Perry's research interests include balladry, orality and literacy, women's cultural traditions, the Scottish Enlightenment, fiction, early English novels, 18th-century British literature and British women's writing, Jane Austen's life and writings, feminist literary theory, and folk music of the British Isles and North America. Professor Perry was on leave during AY2019.

In terms of service to the Institute, Professor Perry was a member of the Technology and Culture Steering Committee, the steering committee of the Program in Women's and Gender Studies, and the Faculty Newsletter editorial board. In addition, she served on the Folk Song Society of Greater Boston Program Committee, chaired the 18th Century Seminar at Harvard's Mahindra Humanities Center, and continued to monitor the operations of the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies. She consulted with and read manuscripts for Cambridge University Press, Broadview Press, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, and *Western Folklore*.

In December, she served as an outside examiner for a PhD thesis at Brandeis University. In the spring, she traveled to Oxford, England, as a visiting fellow at Balliol College. She continued work on her biography of Anna Gordon during the year.

Professor Shankar Raman's research focuses on Renaissance and late-medieval literature and culture, colonialism and post-colonialism, the history of ideas, the history of science, and literary theory. Professor Raman taught 21L.009 Shakespeare and 21L.451 Literary Theory in the fall and 21L.451 Literary Theory and 21L.703 The Drama of Revenge in the spring.

In spring 2019, Professor Raman presented two versions of a work in progress: "The Seeds of Time': Indivisibles in Early Modern Literature" at the meeting of the British Society for Literature and Science in London and "Thinking Small: Infinitesimal Thought in Early Modernity" at the meeting of the Mediterranean Studies Association in Crete. In addition, he presented "Thinking Small" at the meeting of the Society for Literature, Science and the Arts in Toronto.

During spring 2019, Professor Raman completed a review for *Renaissance Drama*. He is currently working on a manuscript titled *Before the Two Cultures: Mathematics and Literature in Early Modern Europe*. Additionally, he is working on a number of pieces that will be incorporated into his book or submitted to journals as independent articles over 2019 and 2020. He completed an in-depth book review for *Shakespeare Studies* and was commissioned to do a second for *Renaissance Quarterly*.

Professor Raman's service to the Literature Section included serving as a member of the Curriculum Committee and researching and drafting the new literature and film minor proposal. He assisted Diana Henderson in developing an online module on Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*. In addition, he served as a concentration advisor and a primary advisor in literature to a student who graduated in spring 2019. Service to the Institute included participating in the Foreign Scholarships Committee and serving as director of the Kelly-Douglas Fund. Also, he made research presentations to incoming first-year students upon the request of SHASS associate dean Agustin Rayo.

Service to professional organizations included reviewing proposals and manuscripts for Palgrave Macmillan, serving on the editorial board of *Shakespeare Studies*, reviewing an article for *Mosaic*, and reviewing a tenure case for Emerson College in Boston.

Associate Professor Margery Resnick's research interests include Hispanic literature and film, the literature and culture of post-Franco Spain, European fiction, international women's writing and film, the cultural history of globalization, medical narrative literature, and the history of women at MIT. She is director of the MIT/AMITA (Association of MIT Alumnae) Women's Oral History Project; over the past year, 30 new oral history interviews were completed and placed in the MIT archives. During AY2019, Professor Resnick taught 21L.640/21G.740 The New Spain in Spanish (fall 2018), 21L.S88 The Spanish Incubator (2019 IAP), and a new course (with Joaquín Terrones), 21L.400 Medical Narratives (spring 2019). She directed an independent study course and supervised Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) students working on the MIT/AMITA Women's Oral History Project.

Professor Resnick continued her service to MIT as director of the Burchard Scholars Program. Within the section, she was a member of a tenure case committee. Outside of MIT, Professor Resnick continued to serve as president of the International Institute in Spain, initiating and supervising the construction of a new children's English-language library. In addition, she organized and directed a two-week course for Madrid teachers last summer. As the institute's president, she oversees and advises staff on a large portfolio of American studies courses, makerspace activities, intellectual forums, English courses, concerts, and Fulbright activities. She organized and oversaw the development of a historical exhibit about the institute's library and ran a large program for the Comunidad Autónoma de Madrid. Also, she acted as a consultant for language programs in several school districts in the Madrid area.

Professor Stephen Tapscott is a poet whose fields of interest include creative writing (poetry, experimental prose), poetry as a literary genre, and translation. In AY2019, Professor Tapscott taught 21L.004 Reading Poetry and 21L.704 Studies in Poetry: Poetic Life-Writing. Service to the section included being a major advisor and a UROP advisor. Outside of MIT, Professor Tapscott served on the boards of the British and American Literature Association and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts (VCCA); in addition, he was an external reader for several university presses. He was a poet-in-residence at VCCA (January) as well as the Saint Petersburg Art Residency in Russia (spring).

Professor Tapscott published essays on comparative translations of the poems of Paul Celan and the influence of crime fiction and psychological theories in *Citizen Kane*. Several of his poems and translations were set to music and performed (in New York, Boston, and Seattle), and an artist in New York opened a show in which she exhibited 28 paintings derived from a single line in a Pablo Neruda/Tapscott poem.

Professor David Thorburn's publications include the co-edited books *Democracy and New Media* and *Rethinking Media Change*; these volumes are part of the Media in Transition MIT Press series, of which he is editor-in-chief.

His lecture series Masterworks of Early 20th-Century Literature is available in DVD and audio versions from The Teaching Company, and his lecture course The Film Experience is now accessible on YouTube as well as MIT's OpenCourseWare platform.

Thorburn has completed a book of poetry, some of whose entries have been published in leading magazines. Also, he published "Unstable Platforms: Television in the Digital Age" in *Critical Studies in Television*.

During AY2019, Professor Thorburn taught 21L.433 Film Styles and Genres (fall) and 21L.011 The Film Experience (fall and spring).

Professor Thorburn served as the transfer credit advisor for the Literature Section and is the director emeritus of the Communications Forum. Outside of MIT, he was a reader for scholarly journals in media and literature as well as for university and trade publishers. Over the past year, he has given interviews on contemporary media to newspapers and PBS outlets.

Digital Humanities

The digital humanities are supported by the Literature Section's technology support specialist, Belinda Yung, who works to foster and support digital humanities research and teaching among the faculty. Her work focuses on helping faculty to integrate digital media and technology in the classroom, supporting researchers and scholars at partner institutions, and exploring new ways for active learning.

The [Global Hamlet in Performance](#), [Global Tempest in Performance](#), and [Global King Lear in Performance](#) online study modules continue to be used in Shakespeare subjects offered by the Literature Section. They are limited to students enrolled in MIT subjects since they contain copyright-protected material. A [new Hamlet module](#), clear of media under copyright and designed for the general public, is now available but requires user registration before access is granted. A [separate study module](#) for *The Merchant of Venice* was initially released in spring 2017, and enhancements were made during summer 2017 and summer 2018. All of the modules have recently had software updates to address video playback compatibility with newer web browsers and mobile devices.

Yung worked with Professor Peter Donaldson on his Shakespeare talk for the [2018 Shakespeare Festival and International Conference on English](#) held at Suleyman Demirel University in Isparta, Turkey. In addition, Yung and Donaldson are actively working with a programmer to enhance video viewing and sharing for the MIT Global Shakespeares Video and Performance Archive.

In 2018–2019 the digital humanities were also supported by Mary Erica Zimmer, research associate for the MITx *Merchant of Venice* module. Her work focused on module development, outreach, and pedagogical collaboration with partners ranging from eighth-grade classes at the International School of Boston to graduate students at the University of South Florida. She brought insights to these partners developed from her own early modern digital projects, including a document-based mapping environment in collaboration with the Map of Early Modern London project.

Professor Diana Henderson worked with Zimmer on her various invited Shakespeare talks. Also, in April 2019, the two presented the MITx *Merchant of Venice* module jointly at the Shakespeare Association of America's annual meeting in Washington, DC.

Throughout the academic year, Professor Henderson's MITx *Merchant of Venice* module was developed on the edX Edge platform, adding new thematic strands focusing on gender, genre, and historical and cultural contexts; in fall 2018, MIT students worked with these elements to create multimedia interpretations of key performance scenes. The module team received an MIT Open Learning grant to fund the transition to the fully open-access global edX platform. As a visiting scholar, Zimmer also traveled to the Singapore Institute of Technology and Design to support students' corpus-based Shakespeare work with targeted early modern digital text collections.

Teaching

In addition to the subjects and other teaching information listed above for each faculty member, there were a number of collaborative and innovative teaching efforts.

Margery Resnick again organized and taught 21L.S88 Cultural Encounters: Insiders and Outsiders during IAP in Madrid, Spain. This was the fourth year the class was offered; 28 of the approximately 100 students who applied were accepted and participated in the program overseas. Housing and travel arrangements were made by Professor Resnick. Students were exposed to a variety of cultural activities outside of the classroom. Students paid a program fee to participate, and the Literature Section supplied the funds needed to house the faculty member.

The Literature Section again offered 21L.591 Literary London, a class that took place over IAP in London. This was the second time the subject was offered, and it was led by Diana Henderson. Professor Henderson secured a second year of funding toward the program from the MIT Global Classroom Fund to defray student costs. More than 80 students applied for the 15 available spots.

One of our perennially most popular subjects is 21L.458 The Bible; this course, taught by Ina Lipkowitz, had a higher than expected enrollment this year of 37 students. Additionally, 21L.400 Medical Narratives, a new class taught by Margery Resnick and Joaquin Terrones, enrolled 23 students; students were paired with a local physician as part of their capstone project.

Enrollments

Enrollments increased in AY2019, reversing a downward trend over the last eight years. Total enrollment was 846, as compared with an average of 749 over the past three years (728 in AY2018, 701 in AY2017, and 819 in AY2016).

Mary Fuller
Section Head
Professor of Literature