

## CARA LEWIS

Indiana University Northwest  
English Department  
Hawthorn Hall, Room 405  
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### EMPLOYMENT

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Assistant Professor, Department of English, Indiana University Northwest, fall 2014-present.

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., English Language and Literature, University of Virginia, May 2014.

Dissertation: "Beyond Ekphrasis: Visual Media and Modernist Narrative."

Committee: Michael Levenson, Jessica Feldman, Rita Felski.

A.B., *magna cum laude* with highest honors in History and Literature, Harvard University, June 2006.

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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British and American literature and culture from the late nineteenth century to the present; modernisms; literature and the visual arts; gender and sexuality studies; narrative theory; history of the novel; the literature of place.

### BOOK PROJECT

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*Dynamic Form: Visual Media and Modernist Narrative*

*Dynamic Form* offers a new conceptual and historical account of modernism through an emphasis on the intersecting domains of visual and narrative media. The project analyzes texts from the first five decades of the twentieth century alongside sculptures, paintings, photographs, and films in order to show how visibility and non-textual media inflect the shape and movement of modernist narratives. I present a wide-ranging study of modernist inter-mediation that embraces references to fine-art objects and evocations of painterly genres, as well as visual motifs and modes of viewing and engaging with visual and plastic artworks. Chapters on works by Henry James, Mina Loy, Virginia Woolf, Gertrude Stein, and Evelyn Waugh demonstrate that literary modernism's imbrication with spheres of visibility not only permeates its experiments with form but also calls for a more capacious rethinking of the visual-verbal encounter.

### PUBLICATIONS

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"Still Life in Motion: Mortal Form in Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*," forthcoming in *Twentieth-Century Literature*, winter 2014-15.

## HONORS AND PRIZES

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Society of Fellows Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2013-14.  
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award, University of Virginia, 2012-13.  
Society of Fellows Dissertation Research Grant, University of Virginia, 2011.  
Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Virginia, 2010-2011.  
Dissertation Research Travel Grant, English Department, University of Virginia, summer 2011 and summer 2010.  
Graduate Student Fellowship, Culture of London Summer Program, University of Virginia, 2010.  
Robert J. Huskey Travel Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, fall 2010.  
John Clive Prize for the senior thesis of highest distinction in the field of Britain, History and Literature, Harvard University, 2006.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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“Elemental Erotics and Dynamic Form: Mina Loy’s Appropriation of Futurism,” Modernist Studies Association Conference, Pittsburgh, November 2014.  
“A ‘Way Round’ the Novel: Narrative Structure and Visuality in *The Golden Bowl*,” International Conference on Narrative, Cambridge, MA, March 2014.  
“Plastic Form and Viewing in the Round: Sculpture and *The Golden Bowl*,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, February 2014.  
“Absolute Acts and Pure Dimensions: Mina Loy’s Anti-Mongrel Aesthetics,” Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, February 2012.  
Organizer and Co-Chair, “Cracking Up the Well Wrought Urn: Humor and the Ethics of American Poetry,” American Humor Studies Association panel, South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, November 2011.  
“Witty Remarks and Superficial Portraiture in *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*,” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, November 2010.  
“Still Life and Iconoclasm in *To the Lighthouse*,” Forum for Interdisciplinary Dialogue: Icons and Iconoclasm, Charlottesville, September 2010.  
“*Nature Morte* in *To the Lighthouse*,” 20th International Annual Conference on Virginia Woolf, Georgetown, KY, June 2010.  
“The ‘Intricate Evasions’ of ‘Is’ in the Work of Wallace Stevens and Mark Rothko,” Modern Language Association, San Francisco, December 2008.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Indiana University Northwest*

20<sup>th</sup>-Century British Poetry (300-level course for majors), fall 2014.  
English Literature since 1700 (introductory survey for majors), spring 2015.  
Reading, Writing, and Inquiry I (expository writing course), fall 2014, spring 2015.

### *University of Virginia*

Modern Literary Communities: Bohemians, Beats, and Bloomsbury (introductory seminar for non-majors and prospective majors), fall 2010.

Modern Women Writers (introductory seminar for non-majors and prospective majors), fall 2009.

Personal Identity and Performance (themed expository writing course), fall 2010 and fall 2012.

Race in the American Musical (themed expository writing course), fall 2008, spring 2009, and fall 2009.

Teaching assistant for History of Literature in English III (modern and contemporary Anglophone literature survey for majors), Professors Michael Levenson and Stephen Cushman, fall 2007 and fall 2011.

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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### *Indiana University Northwest*

Member, Academic Ceremonies Committee, Faculty Organization, fall 2014-present.

Member, Computer Committee, Faculty Organization, fall 2014-present.

Member, Composition Committee, English Department, fall 2014-present.

### *University of Virginia*

Conference Manager, Sorensen Trust Conference (Telling the Truth and Doing the Right Thing: Accountability, Guilt, and Forgiveness in the Ethical University), University of Virginia, 2011-2012.

Pedagogical Group Mentor, English Department, 2011-2012.

Panelist on Comments and Grades in Composition Courses, English Department, fall 2011 and fall 2012.

Organizer, English Department First-Year Panel Series, 2007-2008.

Twentieth Century Area Representative, English Department, 2007-2008.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

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Research Assistant, Professor Jahan Ramazani, University of Virginia, 2009-2014 (*Norton Anthology of Literature in English: The Twentieth Century and After*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed., *Poetry and Its Others*, and additional projects on modern and contemporary poetry).

Tutor, Writing Center, University of Virginia, fall 2008-fall 2009.

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

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Modern Language Association

Modernist Studies Association

International Society for the Study of Narrative

Society for Novel Studies

## **LANGUAGES**

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Spanish (proficient)

**REFERENCES**

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Michael Levenson, William B. Christian Professor of English, University of Virginia,  
[mhc@virginia.edu](mailto:mhc@virginia.edu)

Jessica Feldman, Professor of English, University of Virginia, [jrf2j@virginia.edu](mailto:jrf2j@virginia.edu)

Rita Felski, William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of English, University of Virginia, [rf6d@virginia.edu](mailto:rf6d@virginia.edu)

Jahan Ramazani, Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English, University of Virginia, [rr5m@virginia.edu](mailto:rr5m@virginia.edu)

Stephen Arata, Professor of English, University of Virginia, [sda2e@virginia.edu](mailto:sda2e@virginia.edu)

Victor Luftig, Associate Professor of English, University of Virginia, [luftig@virginia.edu](mailto:luftig@virginia.edu)