

J. Carson Welch

carson-welch.com

Program in Literature
Duke University
101 Friedl Building, 1316 Campus Dr.
Durham, N.C. 27708

Durham, N.C. 27701
carson.welch@duke.edu

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EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D. candidate, Program in Literature 2020- (Expected: April, 2026)
Certificate in College Teaching
Dissertation: "Lost Intentions: Global Modernism and the Critique of Historical Reason"
Committee: Cate I. Reilly (co-chair), Roberto Dainotto (co-chair), Ranjana Khanna, Michael Hardt

M.A., Program in Literature 2023
Examination Fields: World Literature, Modernism, History and Theory of the Novel

Princeton University

A.B., summa cum laude, Slavic Languages and Literatures 2019
Certificate in Creative Writing
Honors Thesis: On the Concept of Form in Mikhail Bakhtin's Theory of the Novel
Advisor: Caryl Emerson

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- 19th- and 20th-century Anglophone literature;
- The history and theory of the novel;
- Empire, race, and postcolonial studies;
- Comparative modernisms (Europe, Africa, North America and the Caribbean);
- The global intellectual history of Marxism and critical theory;
- Literature and philosophy.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Prehistories of the Present: Conrad, Ngũgĩ, and the Global Historical Novel," *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, vol. 58, no. 2 (August, 2025).

“C. L. R. James and the Characterological Imagination,” *Modernism/Modernity* [forthcoming].

Edited Books

Fredric Jameson, *After Year Zero: On Postwar German Thought* (Verso, 2026) [with a preface].

Fredric Jameson, *The Years of Theory: Postwar French Thought to the Present* (Verso, 2024) [with a preface].

Book Reviews and Other Essays

“Introduction: Narrative and Crisis,” eds. Benjamin Crais, Veronica Davis, and Carson Welch, *Polygraph: An International Journal of Culture and Politics*, no. 29 (June, 2024).

“Thought Without Thinkers: A Review of *Free Indirect: The Novel in a Postfictional Age* by Timothy Bewes,” *Radical Philosophy*, no. 214 (April, 2023).

FELLOWSHIPS, PRIZES, AND AWARDS

Duke University

2020-2026 Graduate School Fellowship

2024 International Dissertation Research Travel Award, Graduate School
Research location: Alma Jordan Library, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, Trinidad

2023, 2024 Conference Travel Grant, Graduate School

2021, 2022 Summer Funding Award, Graduate School

2024 Summer Research Fellowship, Graduate School

2021-2022 Working Group Grant, John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute
Working group title: “Politics and Aesthetics After Globalization”

Potsdam Universität

2024-2025 Exchange Fellow
Hosted by the Center for Post-Kantian Philosophy and Cultural Studies Department

Fulbright Program

2019-2020 Fulbright Fellowship (Batumi, Georgia)

Princeton University

2019 Nicholas Bachko Jr. Class of '66 Prize, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

2019 Senior Departmental Award, Lewis Center for the Arts

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

* *Indicates panel creation*

“Are We There Yet? Navigational Aesthetics from Thomas Hardy to Google Maps,” Graduate Symposium, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC; November 11, 2025.

“How to Historicize ‘Theory,’” Invited Talk on Fredric Jameson’s *The Years of Theory*, The Louisville Conference (online); February 17-22, 2025.

*“Genres of the Haitian Revolution: The Tragedy of Consequence in *The Black Jacobins*,” panel titled “Hegel and World Literature” (co-organized with Thomas Waller), American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference (online); May 29-June 1, 2025.

*“Novelist as Historian: Achebe, Conrad, and Uses of the Colonial Past,” panel titled “Fictions of Underdevelopment: Empire, Capital, and the Post/Colonial Novel” (co-organized with Alya Ansari, Chris Cañete Rodriguez Kelly, and Liam Kruger), Institute for Culture and Society, Conference of the Marxist Literary Group, Montreal, Canada; June 11-15, 2024.

“Henry James, the Atlantic, and the Tragedy-Novel,” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada; March 14-17, 2024.

“Prehistories of the Global Anglophone Novel,” panel titled “Critical Fabulations,” Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present Annual Conference, Washington University, Seattle, October 4-7, 2023.

“Accidental Realism: Reading Lukács Reading Flaubert,” Institute for Culture and Society, Annual Conference of the Marxist Literary Group, Boston University; June 12-16, 2023.

“Collectivity and Literary Character in C. L. R. James’s *The Black Jacobins*,” University of Minnesota Graduate Conference, “Culture and Theory in Reactionary Times”; October 21-22, 2022.

Respondent to Annie McClanahan, “Microwork, Automation, and the Insecurity of Contemporary Labor,” Critical Theory Workshop, Duke University; April 30, 2021.

“Metacinema as Political Allegory in *Symbiopsychotaxiplasm*,” Society of Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference (online); March 17-21, 2021.

“Late Modernism and the Concept of Control,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Conference (online); March 10-14, 2021.

“The Concept of Form in Mikhail Bakhtin’s Theory of the Novel,” Thesis Presentation,
Comparative Literature Department, Princeton University; March 1, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record - Duke University

Spring 2026 “The Puzzle of Personal Identity: Literature and Philosophy,” Program in Literature,
cross-listed with Philosophy (co-taught with Maya Kronfeld)

Independent Teaching

Spring 2026 “Science Fiction and Utopia,” Butner Federal Prison, Durham County, NC
A reading course for inmates at Butner Federal Prison, organized through the Duke Prison Engagement Initiative, planned for May-June, 2026.

Spring 2020 “Introduction to Modern English Poetry,” Batumi Public Library, Georgia
A reading course for C1-level English language learners, offered while an ETA Fulbright Fellow.

Teaching Assistant - Duke University

Fall 2023 “Introduction to Critical Theory,” LIT391, Nima Bassiri, Program in Literature
Guest lectures: “Orientalism,” “Gayatri Spivak and Postcolonial Studies,” “Postmodernism”

Spring 2023 “Marxism and Society,” LIT380, Michael Hardt, Program in Literature

Fall 2022 “Foucault,” LIT390S, Michael Hardt, Program in Literature
Guest lecture: “What Is Enlightenment?”

Spring 2022 “Flaubert and Modernism,” LIT690-7, Fredric Jameson, Program in Literature

Fall 2021 “Post-War German Thought,” LIT690-8, Fredric Jameson, Program in Literature

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS AND ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2025-2026 Conference Organizer, “Fredric Jameson and the Futures of Critical Theory,” Duke
University, April 10-12, 2026

2024-2025 Working Group Participant, “Minor Cosmopolitanisms,” Potsdam Universität, Germany

2021-2022 Convener, “Politics and Aesthetics After Globalization” Working Group, John Hope
Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University

2019-2020 English Language Instructor, Batumi State Maritime Academy (Batumi, Georgia)
2017 Intensive Russian Language Program, Derzhavin Institute, St. Petersburg, Russia

INSTITUTIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025-2026 Steering Committee Member, Prison Education Program (Prison Engagement Initiative), Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University
2025-2026 Liaison and Organizer, Duke Prison Engagement Initiative and Petey Greene Program
2023-2024 Co-Chair, Critical Theory Workshop, Institute for Critical Theory, Duke University
2022-2024 Community Volunteer, Care Connections, Durham N.C.
2022-2024 Programmer, Experimental Film Society, Duke University
2022-2023 Aravamudan Lecture Series Graduate Representative, Duke University
2022-2023 Departmental Representative, Graduate and Professional Student General Assembly, Graduate School, Duke University
2021-2022 Committee Member, Task Force on Graduate Curriculum Revision, Program in Literature, Duke University
2017-2019 Instructor, Petey Greene Program, Garden State Youth Correctional Facility

WORKING LANGUAGES

English, German, Russian, French (reading), Latin (reading)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association
American Comparative Literature Association
Society for Novel Studies
Modernist Studies Association
Marxist Literary Group

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST