

# Karen Weingarten

English Department  
65-30 Kissena Boulevard  
Queens, NY 11367  
karen.weingarten@qc.cuny.edu

## Employment

Associate Professor of English. Queens College, CUNY, Fall 2016- Present

Assistant Professor of English. Queens College, CUNY, Fall 2009- Spring 2016

## Education

Ph.D., English and the Certificate in Women's Studies, Graduate School and  
University Center, City University of New York, May 2009

B.A., English (with Honors), Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, May 2002

## Books

*Pregnancy Test*. Object Lessons Series, Bloomsbury Press, March 2023.

*Abortion in the American Imagination: Before Life and Choice, 1880- 1940*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, July 2014. Reviewed in *The Times Literary Supplement*, *Journal of American History*, *Conscience: The Newjournal of Catholic Opinion*, *American Studies*, and *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*.

## Edited Collections

Forum for *Feminist Studies* on "50 Years after Roe v. Wade." Winter 2022/2023.

Special Issue of *Women's Studies Quarterly*, "Inheritance." Co-edited with Maria Bellamy. Spring/ Summer 2020.

Special Issue of *South Atlantic Quarterly*, "Disorienting Disability." Co-edited with Michele Friedner. July 2019. Reviewed in *Disability Studies Quarterly*.

*The Broadview Guide to Writing: A Handbook for Students*. Co-edited with Corey Frost, et. al. Broadview Press, May 2017.

<b>Peer-Reviewed Articles</b>
-------------------------------

"From Maternal Impressions to Eugenics: Pregnancy and Inheritance in the Nineteenth-Century U.S." *Journal of the Medical Humanities* 43.4 (June 2022): 303-317.

"13 Ways of Looking at Reproductive Lives." (Invited Review Essay.) *American Literary History* 33.1 (December 2020): 180-191.

"Disability and Debility in Edith Wharton's Novels." *College Literature* 47.3 (Summer 2020): 580-605.

"Philosophy's Futures: The Reproductive Body's Turn." (Invited Review Essay.) *Hypatia* vol. 34 no. 1. (January 2019): 1-6.

"Talking Sex: The Rhetorics of Reproduction, Sex Education, and Sexual Expression in the Modern United States." (Review Essay) *Feminist Studies* 39.1 (Spring 2013).

"Impossible Decisions: Abortion, Reproductive Technologies, and the Rhetoric of Choice." *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 41.3 (Spring 2012).

"Authoring Wikis: Digital Collaboration and the Concept of Authorship in First-Year Writing." Co-authored with Corey Frost. *Radical Teacher* 90. Special Issue on Teaching with Technology. (Spring 2011).

"Bad Girls and Biopolitics: Popular Fiction, Population Control, and Abortion Politics." *Journal of Literature and Medicine* 29.1 (Spring 2011).

"Between the Town and the Mountain: Abortion and the Politics of Life in Edith Wharton's *Summer*." *Canadian Review of American Studies* 40 (Fall 2010).

"The Inadvertent Alliance of Anthony Comstock and Margaret Sanger: How Abortion Became Politicized." *Feminist Formations* 22.2 (Summer 2010). (Formerly National Women's Studies Association Journal.)

### Introductions to Edited Issues/ Forums

"Introduction: Fifty Years Since Roe v. Wade." Forum "50 Years after Roe v. Wade." *Feminist Studies* 48.3: Winter 2022/2023.

"Introduction: An Intersectional Inheritance." Introduction to Inheritance. Co-authored Maria Bellamy. *Women's Studies Quarterly* vol. 48 no. 1-2: Spring/Summer 2020.

"Introduction: Disorienting Disability." Introduction to Disorienting Disability. Co-authored with Michele Friedner. *South Atlantic Quarterly* 118.3. (July 2019).

### Book Chapters

"'Is that a test from the supermarket?': How the Home Pregnancy Test Changed the Representation of Abortion in American Television and Film." In *Rewriting the Abortion Narrative: The Power of Popular Culture*. Eds. Brenda Boudreau and Kelli Maloy. Lexington Books. April 2023: 3- 25.

"Edith Wharton's Ethan Frome and the History of Literary Scholarship." *Teaching Edith Wharton's Major Novels and Short Fiction*. Ed. Ferda Asya. Palgrave-MacMillan, May 2021: 197- 206.

"It's All Biopolitics: A Feminist Response to the Disability Rights Critique of Prenatal Testing." *The Politics of Reproduction: Adoption, Abortion, and Surrogacy in the Age of Neoliberalism*. Eds. Modhumita Roy and Mary Thompson. Ohio University Press, October 2019: 155- 171.

"Gender." Co-authored with Lilla Toke. *Literature: An Introduction to Theory and Analysis*. Ed. Mads Rosendahl Thomsen. New York: Bloomsbury, March 2017: 201- 212.

"Shame Before the Law: Affects of Abortion Regulation." In *American Shame*. Ed. Myra Mendible. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, April 2016: 27- 43.

"How to Read with Your Ears: Poetry and Online Audio Archives." Co-authored with Corey Frost. In *Teaching Literature with Digital Technology*. Ed. Timothy Hetland. New York: Bedford-St. Martins Press, 2016.

"The Inadvertent Alliance of Anthony Comstock and Margaret Sanger: How Abortion Became Politicized." (Reprint) *Taking Sides: Clashing Views in Women's Studies*. Ed. Rachel Pienta. New York: McGraw-Hill, August 2013.

<b>Public Writing, Book Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries</b>
---

Review of *Certain Concealments: Poe, Hawthorne, and Early Nineteenth-Century Abortion*. Forthcoming 2023 in *American Literary History* (1500 words).

Review of *Female Physicians in America Literature: Abortion in 19<sup>th</sup>-century Literature and Culture*. *Edith Wharton Review* 37.2 (2021/ published 2022): 182-186.

Review of *From Back Alley to the Border: Criminal Abortion in California, 1920- 1969*. *Journal of American History* 109.2 (September 2022): 460-161.

"Making Sense of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization." Nursing Clio. December 2021. <https://nursingclio.org/2021/12/08/making-sense-of-dobbs-v-jackson-womens-health-organization/>

"Reproductive Designs and the Stories Behind Them." Nursing Clio. August 2021. <https://nursingclio.org/2021/08/10/reproductive-designs-and-the-stories-behind-them-a-review-of-designing-motherhood/>

"Abortion out West: an interview with Alicia Gutierrez-Romine," Nursing Clio. July 2021. <https://nursingclio.org/2021/07/29/abortion-out-west-an-interview-with-alicia-gutierrez-romine/>

"Working Mothers." Nursing Clio. April 2021. <https://nursingclio.org/2021/04/14/working-mothers/>

"The Collective Power of Our Abortion Stories." Nursing Clio. August 2020. <https://nursingclio.org/2020/08/27/the-collective-power-of-our-abortion-stories/>

"Representing Abortion." Avidly in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. August 2020. <http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2020/08/18/representing-abortion/>

"Cutting us to the Bone." (Op-ed.) *Queens Daily Eagle*. May 2020.

<https://queenseagle.com/all/karen-weingarten-queens-college-cuny-cutting-to-the-bone>

"The Vaccine at the End of this Pandemic." Nursing Clio. April 2020.  
<https://nursingclio.org/2020/04/21/the-vaccine-at-the-end-of-this-pandemic/>  
1,500 words.

"Eugenic Sperm." Nursing Clio. February 2020.  
<https://nursingclio.org/2020/02/24/eugenic-sperm/>

Review of *Romancing Sperm: Biopolitics and the Making of Modern American Families*. *Feminist Formations* 31.3 (December 2019).

"What to Expect When You're Expecting in the Nineteenth-Century U.S." Nursing Clio. October 2019. <https://nursingclio.org/2019/10/17/what-to-expect-when-youre-expecting-in-the-nineteenth-century-u-s/>  
(On JSTOR's "Best of Suggested Readings from 2019:  
<https://daily.jstor.org/best-of-suggested-readings-from-2019/>)

"A DNA Test Told Me My Father Was a Sperm Donor." Op-Ed for the *Los Angeles Times* (print and online). August 18, 2019.  
<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2019-08-16/father-sperm-donor-adult-dna>

"Over-the-Counter Anxiety: Selling the Home Pregnancy Test." Nursing Clio. August 2019. <https://nursingclio.org/2019/08/14/over-the-counter-anxiety-selling-the-home-pregnancy-test/>

"The Eugenicists on Abortion." Nursing Clio. July 2019.  
<https://nursingclio.org/2019/07/02/the-eugenicists-on-abortion/>

"Disability as Diversity: A New Biopolitics." Co-authored with Michele Friedner. *Somatosphere: Science, Medicine, and Anthropology*. May 2016.  
<http://somatosphere.net/2016/05/disability-as-diversity-a-new-biopolitics.html>

"Testing Eugenics." Avidly in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. March 2016.  
<http://avidly.lareviewofbooks.org/2016/03/10/testing-eugenics/>

"Eugenics: Historical and Ethical Aspects." (3,000 word encyclopedia entry.) *In The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*. March 2016.

"Creating a Vital Materialist Politics." (Book Review.) *Configurations: Journal for the Society for the Study of Literature, Science, and the Arts* 19.2 (Spring 2012)

### Interviews

Interview for Colin McEnroe Show about pregnancy testing on Connecticut Public Radio/ NPR, January 19, 2023.

Interview for *Nursing Clio* about abortion in American literature (in response to Rutgers UP offering free downloads of all their books connected to abortion, including mine), December 8, 2022.  
<https://nursingclio.org/2022/12/08/abortion-in-the-american-imagination-before-life-and-choice-1880-1940-by-karen-weingarten/>

Interview for "Could 19th century sexism negate Michigan's abortion ban?" by Matthew Miller for MLive (Michigan), July 13, 2022.  
<https://www.mlive.com/news/2022/07/could-19th-century-sexism-negate-michigans-abortion-ban.html>

Interview about Abortion in the American Imagination. On Process: the Blog for the Organization of American Historians (OAH), the Journal of American History (JAH), and The American Historian (TAH), September 2015.  
<http://www.processhistory.org/?p=422>

### Fellowships and Awards

PSC-CUNY Research Foundation Award, Summer 2011, Summer 2012, Summer 2017  
Research Enhancement Grant, Queens College, Spring 2013

Hybrid/ Peer-Mentoring Course Development Grant, Fall 2010

PSC-CUNY Research Foundation Travel Grant, Summer 2010

University Seminar for Teaching and Learning. CUNY-wide competitive faculty development grant, Fall 2009- Spring 2010

Woodrow Wilson Foundation, Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Fall 2008-Spring 2009

Alumni and Faculty Dissertation Award, CUNY Graduate Center, Fall 2008

Center for the Study of Women and Society, College and Community's Conviction

Project, CUNY, Fall 2006- Spring 2007

New York Council for the Humanities Fellowship in Race and Rebellion in Early America, Morris-Jumel House, Fall 2005.

### **Presentations, Talks, and Seminars**

#### **1. Invited Talks**

"Abortion Today," Gender Matters Symposium, New School, April 29, 2023.

"From Rabbit Tests to Wands: How the Home Pregnancy Test Changed Pregnancy and Abortion Forever." Special Conversations Series, South Orange Public Library, NJ, November 16, 2023.

"Abortion in the American Imagination: Then and Now," English Department, University of Manchester, England, October 20, 2022.

"The Pregnancy Test," Women and Gender Studies Department, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, February 18, 2022.

"Meg Crane and the History of Pregnancy Testing," New Zealand Reproduction Reading Group, October 26, 2021.

"Abortion Access in the U.S.: What is its History? What needs to be changed?" Women and Gender Studies Department, George Washington University, October 1, 2021.

Faculty presenter, "Road to Tenure," sponsored by PSC-CUNY for untenured faculty, Queens College, November 2018.

Guest Lecturer on reproductive justice and prenatal testing in "Disability Studies Language, Narrative and Rhetoric," graduate course taught by Professor Michele Friedner at Stony Brook University, October 2016.

Salon Talk on Abortion in the American Imagination. New York Metro American Studies Association, Hunter College, October 2014.

"The Trunk Mystery: Abortion Sensationalism in Late-19<sup>th</sup>-Century New York." Women and Gender Studies Program, Queens College, September 2014.

Discussion of Abortion in the American Imagination. Harriet Beecher Stowe Center/  
Mark Twain House, Hartford, CT, September 2014.

"Beyond Life and Choice: A Conversation about Abortion." Center for Ethnic,  
Religious, and Racial Understanding," Queens College, CUNY, March 2014.

"Reading Backward to Look Forward: Abortion in Literature and Culture."  
Reproductive Justice Conference. Queens College, Flushing, NY, March 2012.

"A Room of One's Own, 500 Pounds, and Birth Control." Townsend Harris High  
School,  
Flushing, NY, May 2009- 2015. (Yearly invitation)

## **2. Selected Conference Presentations**

"Pregnancy Testing Before and After Roe." Conception and Its Discontents  
Conference at the Heyman Center for the Humanities at Columbia University.  
New York, NY. Forthcoming May 2023.

"Eugenic Sperm and Making an American Family." Sperm|Health|Politics Workshop.  
Yale University. Forthcoming April 2023.

"What Can the Humanities Teach Us about Abortion Post-Roe v. Wade?" Just-in-Time  
Session. Modern Language Association Conference. San Francisco, CA.  
January 2023.

"How the Pregnancy Test Reinvented Maternity in the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century." Modernist  
Studies Association Conference. Portland, OR. October 2022.

"Future Then: The First Test Tube Babies and Dystopic Technologies." Reproductive  
Futures Conference, sponsored by Tampere University and Cambridge  
University. Tampere, Finland. June 2022.

"Labor Solidarity." Modernist Studies Association In-Between the Acts Conference  
(online). April 2022.



- "The First Test Tube Babies: Artificial Insemination and the Diagnosis of Male Infertility." Modern Language Association (MLA) Conference. Toronto, Canada (online), January 2021.
- "Maternal Impressionism, Pregnancy, and Disability in the Nineteenth-Century U.S." Modern Language Association Conference. Seattle, WA, January 2020.
- "Disability and Cultures of Anxiety in American Pregnancies." (Invited.) Canadian Association of American Studies Symposium. Montreal, October 2019.
- "Our Mothers, Our Monsters: The Visible Fetus and Disability Anxiety." The Coming of Age of the Public Fetus Workshop. Uppsala, Sweden, May 2019.
- "Writing about Reproduction." Organized Seminar for Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. Louisville, KY, February 2019.
- "Articulating Success: Facilitating Student Continuity and Transfer from Two-Year to Four-Year Colleges." Community Colleges and the Future of the Humanities Conference/ CUNY Humanities Alliance. LaGuardia Community College, New York, October 2018.
- "The Scarlet Letter, Pregnancy, and Disability Anxiety: Tracing a Genealogy of Ableism and Reproduction." American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, CA, May 2018.
- "Pregnancy, Anxiety, and Specters of Disability in Arrival." Science Fiction and Embodiment Conference. Hamilton, Ontario, May 2018.
- "Dissenting from Disability-as-Diversity: A Biopolitical Argument." Co-authored with Michele Friedner. American Studies Association Conference. Chicago, November 2017.
- "Can We Call It Eugenics? The Biopolitics of Abortion and Disability Rights." National Women's Studies Association Conference. Montreal, QC, November 2016.
- "The Child to Come in Disability and Reproductive Politics." Book Panel for Rebekah Sheldon's newly released *The Child to Come: Life after the Human Catastrophe*. Society for the Study of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Atlanta, GA, November 2016.

- "The Biopolitics of Disability Rights and Reproductive Justice." Personhood Conference. Queens College, CUNY, December 2015.
- "Disability, Reproduction, Economy: Edith Wharton's Novels as Case Studies." Modern Language Association Conference. Vancouver, BC, January 2015.
- "Imagining Abortion in American Literature." Abortion: The Unfinished Revolution Conference. First international conference on abortion in Canada. Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, August 2014.
- "Environmentalism and the Rhetoric of Life." Panel Organizer and Presenter. National Women's Studies Association Conference. Cincinnati, OH, November 2013.
- "Biopolitics, Environmentalism, and the Management of Reproductive Lives." Modern Language Association Conference. Boston, MA, January 2013.
- "Making a Living." Panel Organizer and Presenter at American Comparative Literature Association Conference. Providence, RI, March 2012.
- "Economies of Abortion in Modernist Literature." Panel Organizer and Presenter at Modernist Studies Association Conference. Victoria, British Columbia, November 2010.
- "Abortion and the Politics of Life in Nineteenth-Century America." Society for the Study of Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference. Indianapolis, IN, October 2010.
- "'Responsible Reproduction': Remembering a History of Abortion in Film." National Women's Studies Association. Atlanta, Georgia, November 2009.
- "Edith Wharton and the Politics of Life, Refugees, and Summer." Modern Language Association National Conference. San Francisco, CA, December 2008.
- "Margaret Sanger's The Birth Control Review and the Codes of Racialized Reproduction." Society of Literature and Science Conference. Portland, Maine, November 2007.

"Women's Private Shame: A Regulating Mechanism of American Abortion Practice."  
National Women's Studies Association Conference. Oakland, CA, June 2006.

<b>Selected Teaching Experience</b>
-------------------------------------

**Graduate Courses (MA-level)**

English 728: "Eugenics and Racial Anxieties in American Literature"

English 727: "What's American about American Literature?"

English 729: Modern Memoir: Tales of "Real Life in the 21<sup>st</sup>-Century U.S."

English 701: Graduate Methodologies

English 736: What Can a Body Do: Intersections of Feminist Theory and Disability  
Studies in American Literature

English 795: Teaching Practicum for Graduate Student Instructors

English 781: Science and Literature in Early Twentieth-Century American Literature

**Undergraduate Courses**

English 391W: Senior Seminar: Medical Narratives in American Literature

English 326: Feminist Science Fiction Writers

English 316: Medicine and American Literature

English 244: Theory

English 391W: Senior Seminar: Reading Digital Archives

English 391W: Senior Seminar: Reproductive Racism and Pseudoscience in Modern  
America

English 382: Philosophies of the Twenty-First Century and Literary Criticism

English 384: Eugenics and Reproduction in American Fiction, 1890-1940

**MA Thesis Supervision as Chair**

Vincent Valenti

Veronica Kordmany

Lloyd Letizia

Jude Binda

Alicia Farouk

Alison Eldredge

Sofana Rabb

Deanna Philippe

Maria Stefanidis

Anne Marie del Rosario

Katherine Skaris

<b>Service</b>
----------------

**Department**

Acting Chair, Fall 2018- Summer 2020/ Fall 2022

Associate Chair, Fall 2014- Spring 2017; Fall 2020- Spring 2022; Spring 2023.

Personnel and Budget Committee, Fall 2011, Fall 2014- present

Writing Minor Committee, Fall 2018- Spring 2019

MA Committee, Fall 2018- Spring 2019

Curriculum Committee, Fall 2014 Spring 2017; Fall 2020- present

Assessment Committee, chair, Fall 2014- Spring 2017

First Year Writing Committee, Fall 2009- Fall 2010

Technology Committee, Fall 2009- Fall 2012

New Faculty Handbook Committee, Spring 2010

**University**

Chair of English Panel for PSC-CUNY Research Awards Program, Fall 2021- Spring 2024

Honors and Awards Committee, sub-committee of Academic Senate, Fall 2022- Spring 2024

Executive Committee for College-Wide Personnel and Budget Committee, Fall 2018 – Spring 2020, Fall 2022

Enrollment and Retention Committee, Fall 2019- Summer 2020

College-Wide Teaching Awards Committee, Fall 2016

Fulbright Undergraduate Application Assessment Committee, Fall 2014

Co-Director of First Year Writing, Fall 2010/ Fall 2011/ Fall 2012/ Fall 2013- Spring 2014

General Education Council, Fall 2010- Fall 2011

Grant Reviewer: PSC-CUNY Research Foundation, Spring 2010

**Union (Professional Staff Congress)**

Representative, Delegate Assembly, Fall 2022- Spring 2023

Alternate Representative, Delegate Assembly, Fall 2020- Spring 2022.

Executive Committee for PSC Queen College Chapter, Fall 2020- Spring 2022

Legislative Committee for PSC-CUNY, Fall 2021- Spring 2022

**Profession**

Nursing Clio Board of Directors Member, Summer 2022- present

Citizens & Scholars Women's Studies Advisory Council, Fall 2021- present

Manuscript Reviewer for the following presses: SUNY Press, Bloomsbury Press,  
University of Massachusetts Press

Manuscript Reviewer for Rob Kroes Award for best unpublished book-length  
manuscript in American studies by a European scholar (European American  
Studies Association)

Manuscript Reviewer: *Victorian Web*, *Journal of Medical Humanities*, *Feminist  
Formations*, *Feminist Theory*, *Hypatia*, *Feminist Studies*, *ESQ: A Journal of  
Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture*, *Rhetoric Society  
Quarterly*, *South Atlantic Quarterly*, *Journal of Basic Writing*, *American Literary  
History*, *Literature Compass*, *Medical Humanities*, *Journal of American History*,  
*Canadian Literature*, *Journal of Literature and Medicine*, *Frontiers: A Journal of  
Women's Studies*, *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Studies in  
American Fiction*

Conference Proposal Reviewer: National Women's Studies Association Conference