

## **Larissa Werhnyak**

Department of American Studies  
210 Jefferson Building  
129 E. Washington St.  
Iowa City, IA 52245

221 Fairchild St. #1  
Iowa City, IA 52245  
larissa-werhnyak@uiowa.edu  
319.400.1390 (mobile)

### **Education**

**University of Iowa**, December 2015, Ph.D. (American Studies)

**Dissertation:** "Oh, Perjured Lover, Atone! Atone! : Breach of Promise to Marry in the United States, 1885-1940"

**University of Michigan**, May 2005, J.D.

**Cornell University**, May 2001, B.A. (History)

### **Awards and Honors**

2014-2015, Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Iowa  
2014, Kern Professional Travel Award, University of Iowa  
2005, Dean's Public Service Fellowship, University of Michigan Law School

### **Teaching Experience**

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of American Studies, University of Iowa (current)

Instructor, Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa (2007-2009, 2013-2014, 2015)

- Taught six independent sections of the University's introductory course emphasizing reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.
- Independently constructed syllabi, assignments, and in-class activities and presentations.
- Evaluated and provided feedback for student essays and speeches.

Instructor, Department of American Studies, University of Iowa (2009-2013, 2016)

- Taught six stand-alone sections of Understanding American Cultures, the department's introductory course.
- Independently developed and implemented syllabi and curriculum for stand-alone sections.
- Served as teaching assistant for Understanding American Cultures, Food in America, and Sex and Popular Culture in the Postwar U.S. Duties included leading discussion sections, meeting with students, and grading essays and take-home exams.

Grader, Hanson Center for Technical Education, University of Iowa (2010-present)

- Evaluated and provided feedback for engineering students' case studies, essays, and lab reports.
- Developed and implemented rubric for scoring assignments.

- Gained significant experience in the assessment and editing of scientific and technical writing.

### **Academic Presentations**

2017 (proposed panel), "Protective Legislation in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century America"

2015, "Food for the Gossips: Freedom of Contract, the Right to Privacy, and Breach of Promise to Marry, 1880-1900," presented to the Department of American Studies, University of Iowa.

2014, "To Make the World Safe For Men: The Anti-Heart Balm Campaigns of the 1930s," presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History

2012, "From Goddesses to Gold Diggers: Breach of Promise to Marry and Anti-Heart-Balm Legislation in the Early Twentieth Century" at Presenting American Studies, University of Iowa

2012, "He Had It Coming? : Breach of Promise to Marry, Legislative Abolition, and Constitutional Challenge in Twentieth-Century Illinois" at the May Brodbeck Symposium, University of Iowa

2009, "The Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause and the Prosecution of Domestic Offenders: Absent Complainants, Indicia of Reliability, and Testimonial Evidence" at the May Brodbeck Symposium, University of Iowa

### **Publications**

2016, "A Kiss is Not a Contract: Twentieth-Century Anti-Heart Balm Statutes as Protective Legislation," under review at *Law & Society Review*.

2015, "To Make the World Safe for Men: Roberta West Nicholson and the Indiana Anti-Heart Balm Campaigns," under review at *Law & History Review*.

### **Departmental Service**

**American Studies Graduate Student Association** (President, 2010-11; Professionalization Committee chair, 2012-13)

**American Studies Steering Committee** (Graduate student representative, 2011-12)

### **Extracurricular Service**

**Campaign to Organize Graduate Students** (Financial Officer, 2010-2012)

### **Languages**

French (proficient)

### **Memberships**

American Society for Legal History

American Studies Association

American Historical Association