

MITCHEL JURASEK

Columbia University, Department of English and Comparative Literature
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EDUCATION

Columbia University, New York, NY August 2024 - Present
Ph.D. Student, English and Comparative Literature
Master of Arts, English and Comparative Literature May 2025
MA Thesis: "Paddling Toward Anti-colonial Ecologies: The Herring Protectors, Tlingit Cosmopolitics, and Supranatural Contracts"; advisor, Branka Arsić
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME May 2021
Bachelor of Arts, English, *cum laude* with Honors

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship, Summer Institute in Environmental Humanities at Colby College July - August 2026

- Selected participant in an international summer institute on environmental humanities, ecological justice, and human/nonhuman futures.

Robert John Bennett Memorial Award, Columbia University March 2026

- Awarded for the best paper in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences expressing original thought in comparative literature or across literature and the arts/sciences; departmental nomination required.

Provost Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia University August 2024

- For PhD students who have demonstrated a strong commitment to academia.

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, Columbia University August 2024-Present

- Funding for six years of graduate study and research for the PhD program in English and Comparative Literature.

Pray Prize, Bowdoin College May 2021

- Presented to a senior for excellence in English literature scholarship and original composition.

Kaufman Family Fellow, Bowdoin College May 2020

- Research fellowship to support the study of ecological resistance in contemporary conversion therapy camp literature.

PRESENTATIONS, INVITED TALKS, & GUEST LECTURES

Heyman Center for the Humanities, Columbia University, New York, NY March 2026

- Moderator for "'Face, Breath, Rock, Reef, Box: Thoughts on the Language of Tlingit Art," a talk given by Matthew Spellberg, Dean and Chair of Literature at Outer Coast in Sitka, Alaska.

American Comparative Literature Association Conference, Montreal, QC February 2026

- "Paddling World Canoes: Unsettling John Muir's Colonial Imaginary in Lingít Aaní."

Environmental Humanities Working Group, Columbia University, New York, NY February 2026

- Film Discussion "The Herring Protectors: Intertidal Storytelling and Indigenous Ecological Activism in Alaska."

“Intro to Latinx Literature and Culture,” Columbia University, New York, NY Spring 2026

- Guest Lecture titled “Who? What? When? Where?: Muñoz and Queer Theory’s Genealogy”

“Jazz and American Culture,” Columbia University, New York, NY Fall 2025

- Guest Lecture titled “Queering Jazz with James Baldwin: ‘trying to write the way they sound.’”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, New York, NY Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant for Professor Carlos Alonso Nugent’s Course “Intro to Latinx Literature and Culture.”

- Held regular office hours, graded student papers and exams, and assisted in managing the course webpage and communication for a section of 30 students from the class.

Columbia University, New York, NY Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant for Professor Robert O’Meally’s course “Jazz and American Culture.”

- Held regular office hours, graded student papers and exams, and managed the course webpage and schedule for a class of 39 students.

Outer Coast College, Sitka, AK Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant for:

- Alaska Native Indigenous Studies, *Professor Matthew Spellberg* Fall 2023, Spring 2024
- Southeast Alaska Mycology, *Professor Caroline Daws* Fall 2023, Spring 2024

Newark Academy, Livingston, NJ Fall 2021

Teaching Fellow

- Taught 9th Grade English, 10th Grade English, and AP Philosophy.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Departmental Graduate Student Council, Columbia University August 2026 - Present

- Facilitate dialogue between administration, faculty, and graduate students. Manage departmental requests by graduate students including funding, events, and curriculum development.

Environmental Humanities Working Group, Columbia University October 2025 - Present

- Co-Facilitator with the Center for Science and Society, English and Comparative Department Lead

Literature, Culture, and Environment Colloquium, Columbia University March 2025 - Present

- Facilitator and Workshop Lead

Learners Teaching Learners Tlingit Language Conference, Sitka, AK April 2023

- Organizer for a conference for Tlingit language learners, educators, and elders from across Southeast Alaska and the Yukon. The conference facilitated an extended weekend of workshops and celebration of language and community in advance of the Yaaw koo.éex’ cultural ceremony.

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, New York, NY

October 2025 - December 2025

Research Assistant for Professor Carlos Alonso Nugent

- Copyedited Professor Alonso Nugent's forthcoming monograph, *Imagined Environments: Mediating Race and Indigeneity in the Borderlands*, University of California Press.

Alaska Mountaineering School, Talkeetna, AK

April 2021 - Present

Summer Coordinator

- Assisted mountaineering expeditions and courses on Denali and in the Alaska Range.

Outer Coast College, Sitka, AK

July 2023 - June 2024

Year Coordinator and Teaching Assistant

- Coordinated academics for a rural experimental college that reimagines higher education by making Indigenous studies and language central to the curriculum.

LANGUAGES

Italian (Proficient), Lingít (Basic) German (Basic), French (Basic), Spanish (Basic)