

*Curriculum Vitae*  
**Dr. Mary Battenfeld**

**CONTACT:**

American & New England Studies Program  
Boston University  
226 Bay State Road, Rm. 210  
Boston, MA 02215  
mbatten@bu.edu

**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND** (College Park, Maryland)

- Ph.D. in American Studies (May 1990)  
*Dissertation: "Writing on the Battlefield: Women and Documentary Discourse in the 1930s"*  
*Advisors: Hasia Diner and Carla Peterson*
- M.A. in American Studies (May 1985)

**SWARTHMORE COLLEGE** (Swarthmore, PA)

- B.A. with Honors in Linguistics. Minors in English and French. (May 1980)

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & TEACHING**

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY** (Boston, Massachusetts)

- Professor (Clinical) of American Studies (June 2018-present)
- **Courses taught: (\*indicates course developed)**
  - \*Native American and Indigenous Studies
  - \*Whose Schools? Power, Equality and Public Education
  - American Arts and Society
  - Writing, Research, and Inquiry
  - Innovation, Culture and Society
  - Perspectives on the American Experience

**WHEELOCK COLLEGE** (Boston, Massachusetts)

- Professor of Humanities and Literature (2017-2018 merger with Boston University)
- Associate Professor of Humanities and American Studies (2001-2017)
- Assistant Professor of Humanities and Literature (1993-2001)
- **Selected Courses taught at Wheelock College (\*indicates course developed)**
  - Advanced Studies in the Novel
  - African American Literature
  - \*American Identities
  - \*Children's Literature
  - \*Coming to America
  - Film and Fiction
  - History of Women in America
  - Introduction to the Humanities

\*Native American Literature  
The New England Renaissance  
\*Political and Social Change in America  
Research Seminar in the Humanities  
\*The Resilient Spirit: Lessons from Life and Literature  
\*Studies in American Popular Culture  
Survey of American Literature  
Women in Literature  
\*Work in American Culture (joint Colleges of Fenway course)

## **SCHOLARSHIP & PUBLICATIONS**

### **Books, Articles, and Conference Presentations**

*Notable Books, Notable Lessons: Putting Social Studies Back in the K-8 Curriculum* (with Andrea S. Libresco and Jeannette Balantic) ABC-CLIO, November, 2017.

“Using Picture Books to Nurture Informed, Critical Thinkers: *She Stood for Freedom: The Untold Story of a Civil Rights Hero, Joan Trimpauer Mulholland.*” Presentation at the National Council of Social Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA, November 2017.

“Real Parent Choice – Real Parent Voice: How Parents Fight Corporate Reform.” Panelist at Network for Public Education conference, Oakland, CA, October 2017.

“Why Every Student Succeeds Act Still Leaves Most Vulnerable Kids Behind” (with Felicity Crawford), *U.S News and World Report*, Dec. 14, 2015.

“Objects of Compassion? Irish Famine Orphans in Quebec and Boston,” American Studies Association annual meeting, Toronto, Ontario, October 2015.

“Round and Round Together: The Civil Rights Movement Comes to an Amusement Park,” *Social Studies and the Young Learner* 26, no. 2, November-December 2013.

“Injun Joe’s Ghost: The Indian Mixed-Blood in American Writing,” *The Journal of Popular Culture* 39, no. 1, 2006.

“Introduction” to new edition of Helen Doss, *The Family Nobody Wanted*. University Press of New England, 2002.

“Been Shapin Words T Fit M Soul:” *Cane*, Language, and Social Change, *Callaloo* 25, no. 4, 2002.

### **Opinion and Commentary**

“State takeover of schools would be a ‘high-risk, low-gain’ strategy,” *Boston Globe*, Feb. 19, 2020.

“Pro-charter forces block progress on equity in school funding,” *Boston Globe*, Oct. 11, 2019.

“Boston superintendent search fell short on community engagement,” *Commonwealth Magazine*, April 30, 2019.

“It’ll take more than leaning on teachers to close achievement gap,” *Boston Globe*, May 23, 2019.

“Why Change to an Elected School Committee Can’t Wait,” *Bay State Banner*, Dec. 27, 2018.

“In Choice of Boston Schools Leader, Another Case of White Privilege Holding Sway,” *Boston Globe*, July 22, 2018.

“A Travel Ban, and a Shift in the Court,” *New York Times*, June 27, 2018.

“Governor Baker Lags in Boosting Public Education,” *Boston Globe*, April 16, 2018.

“Freedom to Express Racial, Cultural Identity is a Key to Success,” *Boston Globe*, May 26, 2017.

“Planter of Seeds,” *Swarthmore College Bulletin* CXIV, no. 3, Spring 2017

“Boston Parents Say No On 2” (with Odette Williamson), *Beacon Hill Times*, November 4, 2016.

“Education Reform, with a Dose of Pain and Suffering,” *Boston Globe*, April 9, 2016.

“Budget Will Hurt the State’s Poorest Children and Schools,” *Cognoscenti*, April 13, 2015.

“Framing Debate as Moral Question Overlooks Needs of Many Students,” *Boston Globe*, March 10, 2015.

“Democracy in Action on Charter-School Cap,” *Boston Globe*, July 17, 2014.

“State Should Keep the Cap on Charters,” *Boston Globe*, May 23, 2014.

“Charters Take Note: Rankings should account for schools that boost students,” *Boston Globe*, May 6, 2014.

“Our Choices for Schools,” *New York Times*, April 26, 2014.

“We’re Real Parents in a Real Crisis,” *Washington Post*, April 13, 2014.

“New Mayor has much to do before we become ‘one Boston,’” *Boston Globe*, January 9, 2014.

“Hoping Mayoral Hopefuls Take a Stand Against Interest Group,” *Boston Globe*, June 10, 2013.

“School Plan: Neighborhood over Quality?” *Boston Globe*, March 1, 2013.

“School Assignment Plan is Pinned to a Fantasy,” *Boston Globe*, February 4, 2013.

“Making Quality and Justice Keys to BPS Plans” (with Megan Wolf), *Jamaica Plain Gazette*, Dec. 21, 2012.

### **Academic Editing and Reviewing**

Peer reviewer/editor for *MELUS*, the Journal of The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, 2009-present.

Manuscript review for Vanderbilt University Press, book on Harriet Beecher Stowe and nineteenth-century women novelists, 2005.

Editorial Board member and reviewer, *KATA: A Biannual Publication on the Study of Language and Literature*, 1999-2001

Editor, *NEASA INK: The Newsletter of the New England American Studies Association*. Responsible for soliciting, editing and writing articles for quarterly newsletter, 1995-1999.

### **AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS**

National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Institute for College Teachers: What Happened to the Civil Rights Movement? (Harvard University, Hutchins Center) (summer 2017)

Participant, children's literature writing workshop with Ellen Wittlinger, Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA. (Summer 2013)

Finalist, JP Reads Fiction Contest, for story "Mermaid Rock." (2013)

Edward Ladd Award for Academic Excellence and Service, Wheelock College, Boston. (2012)

Davis Grant for support of General Education capstone courses. (2011)

Fellowship and Seminar Participant, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Slave Narratives Summer Seminar. (2010)

Gordon Marshall Award from Wheelock College to research the 1851 Massachusetts "Act for the Adoption of Children" (2006)

Davis Grant to develop inter-institutional American Studies at the Colleges of the Fenway. (2002)

Davis Grant for development of team-taught Colleges of the Fenway course, "Work in American Culture." (1999)

Fulbright grant teaching award to Indonesia. Council for International Exchange of Scholars (CIES) (1992-93)

## **PROFESSIONAL and COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Member, Council, New England American Studies Association, 2019-present.

Elected representative and Executive Committee Member, Boston Citywide Parent Council, 2015-present.

Board, Parents Across America (national advocacy group for public school parents), 2014-present.

Founding member, QUEST (Quality Education for Every Student), a Boston educational advocacy and equity parent group, 2013-present.

Program Review, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Department of Learning, Teaching, and Educational Transformation, 2011.

President, New England American Studies Association, 2009-2010.

Vice President, New England American Studies Association, 2008-2009.

Outside Reviewer, Keene State College, Department of American Studies, 2002.

Regional Chapters Committee, American Studies Association. Elected New England Representative to the national American Studies Association Committee, 2000-2002.

Program Committee, New England American Studies Association. Developed conference program on the theme "Fear Itself: Enemies Real and Imagined in American Culture," 1997.

Program Committee, New England American Studies Association. Developed conference program on the theme "Native Peoples in New England," 1996.

## **ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP**

Boston University, Program Committee, American and New England Studies Program.

Wheelock College, Chair of General Education (2008 – 2018). Led effort to revise Wheelock's General Education program, and served as program chair.

Co-Chair, Wheelock College, Curriculum Committee

Wheelock College Faculty Senate (1995-1997, 2012–2016)

Chair of Humanities, Wheelock College (Spring 2006)