

MARY CATON LINGOLD, PhD

Department of English and Foreign Languages, Virginia Commonwealth University

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Professional Appointments

Virginia Commonwealth University

Associate Professor of English

Fall 2023 – Present

Director, PhD Program in Media, Art, and Text (MATX)

Fall 2023 – Present

Affiliate Faculty, Department of African American Studies

Assistant Professor of English

Fall 2017 – Spring 2023

Education

Duke University, PhD in English, 2017

Graduate Certificate in African & African American Studies

University of Colorado at Boulder, MA in English, 2010

Trinity University, BA in English, 2004

Minors in Spanish & Women's Studies

Publications

BOOKS

(in-progress) Emily H. Green, Mary Caton Lingold, and Maria Ryan, Eds. *Notated Sources in Early Black Music: A Guide for Teaching and Performance*.
Under contract with Oxford University Press.

Lingold, Mary Caton. *African Musicians in the Atlantic World: Legacies of Sound and Slavery*.
UVA Press, 2023.

Lingold, Mary Caton, Darren Mueller, and Whitney Trettien, Eds. *Digital Sound Studies*.
Duke University Press, 2018.

ARTICLES

Lingold, Mary Caton and Maria Ryan. "Hearing 'African' and 'European' Music in the Atlantic World," *Atlantic Studies* 23 (3), 267-284, 2026.

Lingold, Mary Caton. Review Essay on "Our Colonial Inheritance," Wereldmuseum, Amsterdam.
Museum Worlds 12, 2024.

Lingold, Mary Caton. "In Search of Mr. Baptiste: Early Caribbean Music, Race, and a Colonial Composer," *Early Music*, xlix.1, February 2021.

Lingold, Mary Caton. "Digital Performance and the Musical Archive of Slavery: Like Running Home," *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* 49, 2020.

Lingold, Mary Caton. "Peculiar Animations: Listening to Afro-Atlantic Music in Caribbean Travel Narratives" *Early American Literature* 52.3, 2017.
Richard Beale Davis Prize Co-Winner for Best Essay in *EAL*, 2017.

JOURNAL ISSUES

Lingold, Mary Caton, Editor. Special Issue on Sound, Reviews in Digital Humanities, 2.1, August 2021. <https://reviewsindh.pubpub.org/v2-n8>

BOOK CHAPTERS

Dubois, Laurent, David K. Garner, and Mary Caton Lingold, "Musical Passage: Sound, Text, and the Promise of the Digital Black Atlantic," in *Debates in the Digital Black Atlantic*, Kelly Josephs and Roopika Risam, eds. University of Minnesota Press, 2021.

REVIEWS

Lingold, Mary Caton. "Black Elders: The Meaning of Age in American Slavery and Freedom by Frederick C. Knight (Review)." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 82, no. 2 (2025): 326–30.

Lingold, Mary Caton. "How Haiti Got Free," Public Books. April 16, 2019. <https://www.publicbooks.org/how-haiti-got-free/>

Lingold, Mary Caton. Review essay on *Black Atlas: Geography and Flow in Nineteenth-Century African American Literature* by Judith Madera (2015) and *The Black Atlantic Reconsidered: Black Canadian Writing, Cultural History, and the Presence of the Past* by Winfried Siemerling (2015). *American Literature* 89:1 (March 2017).

PUBLIC WRITING AND MEDIA

"[A Vision for a New South.](#)" Richmond Times-Dispatch, June 15, 2020 https://www.richmond.com/opinion/columnists/mary-caton-lingold-column-a-vision-for-a-new-south/article_2ff492fb-eb9f-5c90-9486-b910df9bb4c6.html

"[Tena, Too, Sings America: Listening to an Enslaved Woman's Musical Memories of Africa.](#)" C19 Podcast Season 1 Episode 10. June 18, 2018. <https://soundcloud.com/c19podcast>

"[Fiddling with Freedom: Solomon Northup's Musical Trade in 12 Years a Slave.](#)" *Sounding Out! The Sound Studies Blog*. December 16, 2013. <https://soundstudiesblog.com/2013/12/16/11444/>

Digital Humanities & Public Humanities

- [Living Histories of Sugar](#) (public humanities), Key participant. International project funded by AHRC (UK national grant) led by PI Marisa Wilson, University of Edinburgh.
- [Musical Passage: Voyage to 1688 Jamaica](#) (digital humanities), Co-creator with Laurent Dubois and David K. Garner. June, 2016. www.musicalpassage.org. Refereed in *sx archipelago: A Small Axe Journal of Digital Practice*. Issue 1: June 2016. <http://smallaxe.net/sxarchipelagos/index.html>
- [Provoked!: Digital Sound Studies](#) (digital humanities), with Darren Mueller and Whitney Trettien. January, 2015. www.soundboxproject.com.

- [The Sonic Dictionary](http://www.sonicdictionary.org) (digital humanities), Founder and Director. Originally supported through the Humanities Writ Large at Franklin Humanities Institute, funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. 2013- 2020 www.sonicdictionary.org

Awards

Society of Early Americanists Junior Scholar of the Month, August 2022
 Society of Early Americanists Essay Competition, 2018 Honorable Mention
 For “Digital Performance and the Musical Archive of Slavery: Like Running Home”
 Richard Beale Davis Prize for Best Essay in Early American Literature, 2017 co-winner
 For “Peculiar Animations: Listening to Afro-Atlantic Music in Caribbean Travel Literature”
 Graduate Student Leadership Award, given by the “Forever Duke” Alumni Association, 2016-17

Fellowships & Grants

2025-2026	Humanities Research Center Residential Fellow, VCU
2022	Humanities Research Center 5x5 Collaborative Research Grant (\$500) African American History Workshop, in collaboration with Carolyn Eastman, Grace Gipson, Michael Dickinson, and Adam Ewing
2021	Co-PI, 4VA Grant (\$20,000) “Music of Enslaved Virginians: History, Practice, Performance, Place” PI Emily H. Green (GMU), Bonnie Gordon (UVA) and Michael Nickens (GMU)
2021	VCU College of Humanities and Sciences Seed Award (\$5,000)
2020	Research Center for Material Culture, Leiden, The Netherlands Junior Fellowship, for study at Museum Volkenkunde, The Netherlands (€1,500)
2018 - 2019	John Carter Brown Library, Alice E. Adams Two-Month Research Fellowship (declined)
2016 - 2017	Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library Graduate Fellowship, Duke
2016	James Ford Bell Library, U. of Minnesota, W. Reese Company Fellowship
2016	Humanities Writ Large Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant (\$7,000)
2015 - 2016	William Preston Few Fellowship, Department of English, Duke University
2014, 2015	Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University
2015	Society of Early Americanists Travel Grant
2012	Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies Mellon Travel Grant, Duke
2011	Graduate Digital Scholarship Initiative, Franklin Humanities Institute (\$10,000)

Selective Scholarly Institutes

2013	NEH Summer Institute, "Music and Travel in Europe and the Americas: 1500-1800" Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois
2012 - 2013	PhD Laboratory in Digital Knowledge Scholar, Duke University
2012	Dartmouth Futures of American Studies Institute

Invited Talks

James Ford Bell Annual Lecture, University of Minnesota Libraries, October 16, 2025
 “Hearing African Music Across the Early Modern Atlantic World”
 Plenary Panel, Society for Textual Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, May 30, 2025
 “Musical Passage: A Decade of Performance, Remediation, and Remembrance”
 John Hopkins University Program in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latinx Studies
 Book Talk: *African Musicians in the Atlantic World*, February 22, 2024
 NEH Summer Institute on Reconstructing the Black Archive, Clemson University, June 27, 2023
 “Sound as Archive”
 William Clark Memorial Library, UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies Conference

Approaches to Sound in the Early Modern Atlantic World
 "Sound Legacy: Music and Slavery in an African Atlantic World" February 3, 2023
 Research Center for Material Culture, Leiden, The Netherlands, December 6, 2022
 "Feedback: Making Historical Sounds for the Present"
 Cambridge University, Music Faculty Colloquium, May 4, 2022 (canceled due to illness)
 "Sonic Artifacts, African Music, and the Atlantic World"
 University of Edinburgh, Living Histories of Sugar Co-Creation Workshop, April 26, 2022
 "Songs of Slavery"
 Birbeck University, London Renaissance Seminar, October 22, 2021
 "Music, Memory, Sound, and Slavery," presented in conversation with co-panelist
 specialists in early modern sound, Bruce R. Smith, and Simon Smith
 American University, Cairo, Digital Humanities Online Lecture Series, June 17, 2020
 "Sound and Digital Humanities"
 University of South Carolina School of Music, Peake Music & Culture Colloquium, Feb. 7, 2020
 "In Search of Mr. Baptiste: on Early Caribbean Music, Race, and a Colonial Composer"
 Yale Center for British Art, Yale University, April 29, 2019
 Black Music: Its Circulation and Impact in 18th Century London
 in conjunction with Historic Royal Palaces, Hendrix and Handel House, and the Paul
 Mellon Centre for British Art
 "Mr. Baptiste: Early Black Composer?" & "Circulating African Music in Sound and Text"
 University of Minnesota Department of English, January 29, 2019
 "Traveling Sounds of the African Atlantic: Across Texts and Time"
 Case-Western Reserve University, Cleveland OH, October 1-2, 2018
 Freedman Center for Digital Scholarship
 "Like Running Home': on Performing History in Sound"
 SAGES Pedagogy Workshop
 "Sound Pedagogy: The Sonic Dictionary"
 University of West Indies - Mona, Kinston, Jamaica, July 10, 2018
 Musical Passage Workshop II held with the UWI Chorale and hosted by the Department
 of History and Archaeology (Introductory Remarks)
 National Humanities Center, America in Class Webinar Series, February 20, 2018
 "Listening to Literature, Hearing History"
 Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, UK, October 11-12, 2017
 Black Music in 18th Century Britain Workshop, held in conjunction with Historic Royal
 Palaces, Yale Center for British Art, and Hendrix and Handel in London, and the
 "Enlightened Princesses" exhibit, Kensington Palace.
 "Circulating African Music in Sound and Text"
 "Musical Passage: A Voyage to 1688 Jamaica"
 The Caribbean Digital, A Small Axe event, Columbia University, December 4, 2015
 "Musical Passage: Voyage to 1688 Jamaica," with Laurent Dubois
 Newberry Library Colloquium, The Newberry Library, Chicago, IL, August 7, 2013
 "Blackface Minstrelsy and the J.F. Driscoll Collection"

Invited Guest Lecturing

University of Connecticut, Music and Migration in the Global Early Modern (graduate seminar)
 by Dr. Janie Cole, February 18, 2025
 Yale University, Seminar in Global Early Modern Music, Dr. Janie Cole, February 16, 2024
 Florida State University, Sound Studies Graduate Seminar in the Department of Music, Dr.
 Sarah Eyerly, September 2021, September 30, 2020, and October 24, 2018
 George Mason University, Graduate seminar in the Department of Music, Dr. Emily H. Green,

March 9, 2021
 Christopher Newport University, Undergraduate seminar on literature and sound in the Americas, Dr. Sarah Finley, April 8, 2021
 University College London, Graduate Seminar on Public History and Slavery, Dr. Matthew Smith February 18, 2021
 Columbia University, "Singing against Slavery: Five Centuries of Resistance," Music history course for non-majors, Julia Hamilton, February 3, 2021
 Lehman College, CUNY, "Kind of Blue" American Literature course, Dr. Israel Durham, September 8, 2020
 University of Virginia, Caribbean Digital Seminar, Dr. Marlene Daut, with support from the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures, October 12, 2018

Media Appearances

Interviewee, *Esclavages & Post-Esclavages/ Slaveries and Post-Slaveries*. 10. 2024. Charlotte Grabli and Mary Caton Lingold. <http://journals.openedition.org/slaveries/11523>; DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4000/12shc>
 Interviewee, With Good Reason (Nationally distributed public radio program) November 2023.
 Interviewee, *Black Fiddlers* (Documentary Film) 2020.
 Interviewee, "In our City," Imperial Voice radio show and podcast, Bath, UK.
 Interviewee, Afro-Irish Links (Documentary Project) 2019.

Conferences & Symposia

ORGANIZER

Co-organizer, with Sarah Finley (CNU), Miguel Valerio (WashU), and Sarah Eyerly (FSU)
Intersections: Black and Indigenous Sound in the Atlantic World
 Virginia Commonwealth University, October 14-15, 2022
 Co-organizer, with Emily Green (GMU), Michael Nickens (GMU), and Bonnie Gordon (UVA)
Performing Early Black American Music: An Exploratory Symposium
 George Mason University, June 23-24, 2022

PRESENTER

Society of Early Americanists, University of Notre Dame, June 2025
 "Teaching with Historical Heritage Sites: Problems and Possibilities"
 MedRen (Medieval and Renaissance Music) Conference, Granada Spain, July 2024
 "African Atlantic Interstices: An Evening in Cape Verde"
 American Musicological Society Conference, Denver, CO, November 2023
 "African or European? Music and the Rise of Slavery"
 Society of Early Americanists Conference, College Park, Maryland, June 2023
 "Centering Africa in Early Black Atlantic Performance Histories"
 Universität Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies
 Digital Humanities on Slavery Workshop Invited Participant, June 2021
 "Reconstitute and digitalize African music collected in 1688 Jamaica"
 Cambridge University, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities
 Eighteenth-Century Africa Workshop, June 2021
 "Jangle, Buzz, and Rattle: African Instruments, European Ears, & the Birth of "Black Musicality"
 Society of Early Americanists, March 2021
 "Lifecycle of a Project: on Managing Musical Passage"
 American Musicological Society, November 2020
 "Considering Mr. Baptiste: Black Composer of Early Caribbean Music?"

MLA International Symposium, Universidade Católica, Lisbon, Portugal, July 2019
 "In Search of Mr. Baptiste, Musician and Composer of African Music in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica"
 Boston University, Center for Early Music Studies, June 2019
 Atlantic Crossings: Music from 1492 through the Long 18th Century Symposium
 "Reviving Mr. Baptiste: a 17th Century Composer of African Music"
 University of Richmond, February 2018
 Contested Frequencies Conference (invited participant)
 "Performance Possibilities: Digital Repatriation and the Musical Archives of Slavery"
 American Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018
 "Super-elders of the Slave Trade: Heroes of History or Emblems of Racialized Difference?"
 American Society for the Study of Eighteenth-Century Culture & Society, Orlando, March 2018
 Early Caribbean Society Panel, "Slavery in the Caribbean: Archives & Representations"
 "Creating a Multimodal Digital Artifact of Slavery, Musical Passage"
 American Studies Association, Chicago, IL, November 2017
 Sound Studies Caucus Panel, "
 "Archival Ethics and the Recorded History of an Enslaved Woman's Song"
 University of Wisconsin, Madison, Center for the History of Print and Digital Culture
 Book History & Digital Humanities Conference, September 2017
 "Performing Book History in the Digital Present: A Musical Passage"
 Society of Early Americanists, Tulsa, OK, March 2017 (Panel Organizer & Presenter)
 Sounds of Public Life in Early America: A Listening Session
 American Studies Association, Denver, CO, November 2016
 "A True and Exact History of Early African Diasporic Music"
 Society for American Music, Boston, MA, March 2016 (Invited Participant)
 Roundtable on Time, Space, and Subject: What Is Early American Music?
 Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture & Society of Early Americanists Joint Conference, Chicago, Illinois, June 2015
 "The Sound of Archival Silence"
 African-American Expression in Print & Digital Culture, University of Wisconsin, Sept. 2014
 "Tina Speaks: Print, Digital, and Oral Circulation of African-American Musical Artifacts"
 Society of Early Americanists Conference on London and the Americas: 1492-1812
 Kingston University, London, July 2014
 "Representations of Early Afro-Atlantic Music in British Travel Narratives"
 Digital Humanities 2013, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, July 2013
 "Toward a Noisier Digital Humanities, with Darren Mueller and Whitney Trettien"
 HASTAC 2013, Toronto, CA, April 2013
 "Amplifying the Digital Humanities: The Soundbox Project" with Darren Mueller, Whitney Trettien, Nicholas Bruns, Dr. Michael J. Kramer, and Dr. Robin James
 Society of Early Americanists Biennial, Savannah, GA, February 2013
 "Musical Instruments as Social Technology: Sound, Song and Slavery"
 Society of Early Americanists Biennial, Philadelphia, March 2011
 "Disciplining Genre in Early American Studies"
 Atlantic World Research Network, Greensboro, NC, October 2010
 "The Making and Unmaking of African Princes in Circum-Atlantic Literature"

Teaching

Sound Studies (Doctoral Seminar)
MATX 690

Cultural Discourses: Literature & Culture of the Early Modern Atlantic World (Master's Seminar)
ENGL 614

Texts and Contexts: African Royals of the Atlantic World (Master's seminar)
ENGL 560

Senior Seminar: Imagining the Past—Now
ENGL 499

African American Literature: Beginnings to the Harlem Renaissance (Upper-division survey)
ENGL 379, AFAM 379

Caribbean Literature (Upper-division survey)
ENG 365, AFAM 365, INTL 367

American Literary Beginnings to 1820 (Upper-division survey)
ENG 371

Popular Culture: Race and Identity in American Music (Upper-division special topics)
ENGL 313, AMST 391

Reading Literature: Early African America (Gen-ed)
ENG 215

DUKE UNIVERSITY

Sounds of the South, Fall 2013
English seminar for non-majors on U.S. Southern and African-American Literature

Studies in Music Genre: Listening, Thinking, Writing, Spring 2013
First-year seminar on popular music genres, sound studies, and composition

Pedagogy Forum Co-Leader, Duke University
Selected to train English graduate students in college teaching 2014-2015

Teaching Assistant, Duke University

Michael Malone, "American Dreams, American Movies"	Spring 2015
Victor Strandberg, "American Literature: 1820-1860"	Fall 2014
Tom Ferraro, "American Radiance"	Spring 2014
Deborah Jenson, Haiti Humanities Laboratory Group Independent Study	Fall 2012
Wahneema Lubiano, "Fictions that Mark the Moment"	Spring 2012
Cathy Davidson, "21 st Century Literacies"	Spring 2011

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AT BOULDER

Graduate Instructor, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries
Fall 2007—Spring 2010

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Vocal Program Director and Instructor, Walltown Children's Theatre, Durham, NC 2011—2015

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION

ELS Language Center, University of Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX
March 2006—July 2007

International Language Center, Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara in San Antonio, TX
Fall 2005—Spring 2006

Institut Jazykoveho Vzdelavani, Prague, Czech Republic
Fall 2004

TEFL Certificate, with distinction, from Next Level Language Institute, Prague, CZ
Summer 2004

Professional Service

2023-present Chair, Community and Culture Committee, Department of English, VCU
2023-present Graduate Affairs Committee, College of Humanities and Sciences
2023-present Graduate Affairs Committee, School of the Arts
2021-present Organizer, Early Caribbean Music Working Group, international collective
2021 Interim Secretary-Treasurer, Early Caribbean Society
2021-2022 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Department of English, VCU
2019-present Advisory Board, Humanities Research Center, VCU
2019-present Advisory Board, MATX PhD Program, VCU
2018-2021 Executive Committee, Department of English, VCU
2018-2022 Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of English, VCU
2018 Society for Eighteenth Century Music ASECS Panel Selection Committee
2016-2017 Doctoral Training for the Versatile Humanist Advisory Committee
NEH Next Generation Humanities Grant awarded to Duke University
2016-2017 Humanities Writ Large Steering Committee
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant awarded to Duke University
Spring 2016 Remapping Sound Studies Symposium Co-Organizer, Duke University
2015-2016 Digital Humanities Initiative Advisory Board, Duke University
2015-2016 The Forum for Scholars and Publics Advisory Committee,
Duke University
2011-2013 Graduate & Professional Advisory Board, Duke University Libraries
2010-2012 Interdisciplinary Music Collective Co-founder and leader, Duke University
Spring 2008 Displacing Directionality Conference Co-Organizer, UC-Boulder

Digital Humanities Workshop Presentations

Digital Humanities Sandbox Chat, Duke Libraries, March 18, 2015

The Sonic Dictionary: A Digital Database of Sounds

Doing Digital Humanities Series, Duke Libraries, Durham, NC, November, 2013

Digital Humanities Project Management: Maintaining Interest

Professional Development

Participant, CIMER Research Mentor Facilitator Training, February, 2025
Mentee, VCU Office of the Provost Peer Mentoring Program, 2019-2020
OpEd Project Workshop Participant, VCU Humanities Research Center, April 5, 2019
Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Diversity & Development, Summer 2019
Award funded by VCU Office of the Provost
VCU SafeZone (LGBTQIA+) Workshop, August 18, 2017
HASTAC Scholar, AY 2011-2012

Humanities Consulting & Research

The Banjo Project, Smithsonian Center for Folklife, Washington D.C., June 23-24, 2016
EBSCO Information Services, Consultation with Director of Product Management, April 2, 2015
Website Development Assistant, Franklin Humanities Institute, Duke University, 2013
Research Assistant to Professor Cathy N. Davidson, 2011-2012

Languages

Spanish. Proficient in speaking, reading, and writing.
French. Good reading knowledge, some speaking and writing.

Professional Memberships & Affiliations

Modern Language Association
Society of Early Americanists
Society for American Music
Early Caribbean Society
Society for Eighteenth-Century Music