



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

## I. What books have been influential in shaping your career?

- Francis Barker, *The Tremulous Private Body: Essays on Subjection* (Methuen, 1984)
- Eve Sedgwick, *Epistemology of the Closet* (University of California Press, 1990)
- Laura Brown, *Ends of Empire: Women and Ideology in Early Eighteenth-Century English Literature* (Cornell University Press, 1993)
- Ellen Pollak, *The Poetics of Sexual Myth: Gender Ideology in the Verse of Swift and Pope* (University of Chicago Press, 1985)
- Joseph Roach, *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance* (Columbia University Press, 1996)
- Rajani Sudan, *Fair Exotics: Xenophobic Subjects in English Literature, 1720-1850* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002)



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

Taking stock of books that have been influential on my career—my thinking, my reading, my writing, and my teaching—I’m drawn to name titles I encountered as I found my critical footing in grad school and as a beginning assistant professor. In different ways, these each gave me voices to emulate and new ways to think. Reading Laura Brown’s *Ends of Empire* and Ellen Pollak’s *The Poetics of Sexual Myth*, I knew I had a community and a stake in the field as a feminist scholar. Francis Barker, in *The Tremulous Private Body*, and Eve Sedgwick, in *Epistemology of the Closet*, first taught me how to think about subjects and subjectivity. And Joseph Roach’s *Cities of the Dead* and Rajani Sudan’s *Fair Exotics: Xenophobic Subjects in English Literature* introduced me to the ethics of an archive. And all these years later, I still pick up Roach and Sudan, always finding something new.

July 2020



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

## II. What books would you recommend to our readers?

- Kandice Chuh, *The Difference Aesthetics Makes: On the Humanities "After Man"* (Duke University Press, 2019)
- Tiffany Lethabo King *The Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies* (Duke University Press, 2019)
- Natasha Myers, *Rendering Life Molecular: Models, Modelers, and Excitable Matter* (Duke University Press, 2015)
- Nikki Hessell, *Romantic Literature and the Colonised World: Lessons from Indigenous Translations* (Palgrave, 2018)
- Hazel V. Carby, *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands* (Verso, 2019)
- Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval* (Norton, 2019)



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
*University of Maryland*

I'd like to move beyond the field to answer this question for the most part. These titles have some of the most original and exciting ideas I have had the pleasure to read. The theoretical work that Chuh, King, and Myers make possible excites me deeply. Their work—moving to understand more fully our pasts and our possibilities—also gives me hope, as a scholar, teacher, citizen, that we can think differently. An example of that is Hessel's book, particularly for its embodiment of decolonization. Every scholar of 18th-century Britain needs to read Carby, especially the chapter on Bristol. And Saidiya Hartman—I was moved by her exquisite rendering of young black women's lives and was also in awe of the ethics and scholarship at the heart of that rendering. I have never read anything like it and, frankly, nothing is the same.

*July 2020*



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

### III. What books are you looking forward to reading?

- Jess Keiser, *Nervous Fictions: Literary Form and the Enlightenment Origins of Neuroscience* (University of Virginia Press, 2020)
- Josie Gill, *Biofictions: Race, Genetics and the Contemporary Novel* (Bloomsbury, 2020)
- Kathleen Lubey, *Pornography without Sex* (forthcoming from Stanford University Press)



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

## IV. What article would you like to highlight from your tenure as editor of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*?

It is impossible for me to select a favorite or best article we've published in *The Eighteenth Century*, but I would very much like to draw everyone's attention yet again to the Critical Conversation that Chi-ming Yang guest edited for us in spring 2017 (58.1), "Globalizing Eighteenth-Century Literary History." Yang's introduction positions this work as a "response to the British overrepresentation and the many conspicuous absences" in the field (and in the immediate context of comparative studies at the MLA conference), and features terrific essays by Naoki Sakai, Birgit Tautz, Taiwo Adetunji Osinubi, Nabil Matar, and Rebecca C. Johnson.



# EDITOR'S PICKS

*Tita Chico*  
University of Maryland

## V. One last recommendation for our readers that's "beyond the page"?

I'd like to recommend a different form of scholarship, *Digital Grainger: An Online Edition of The Sugar-Cane* (1764), co-edited by Julie Chun Kim and Cristobal Silva (former Editor of *The Eighteenth Century*), along with Elizabeth Cornell, Stephen Fragano, Alex Gil, Lina Jiang, Vanessa Lee, Kimberly Takahata, and Ami Yoon. Collaboratively imagined and produced, *Digital Grainger* joins smart archival work with innovative formal design.