



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Department of English and Comparative Literature

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Professor Branka Arsić Awarded Visiting Professorship at Princeton University

June 03, 2024



Branka Arsić, the Charles and Lynn Zhang Professor of English and Comparative Literature, has been named a Class of 1932 Long-Term Visiting Fellow in the Humanities Council and the Efron Center for the Study of America at Princeton University in Spring 2025.

Professor Arsić specializes in literatures of the 19th century Americas and their scientific, philosophical, and religious contexts. She is the author of several essays and books, including *Bird Relics: Grief and Vitalism in Thoreau* (Harvard University Press, 2016), which was awarded the MLA James Russell Lowell Prize for the outstanding book of 2016. Arsić is currently completing a book entitled *Ambient Life, Melville, Materialism*

and the Ethereal Enlightenment, a project for which she was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2019. The book focuses on images of the elemental, vegetal, and animal that traverse Melville's work as a means of investigating how he imagined the capacity of matter to move and transform.

Professor Arsić will be a Class of 1932 Long-Term Visiting Fellow in the Humanities Council and the Efron Center for the Study of America in Spring 2025. She will co-teach an undergraduate course with Sarah Rivett (*English and American Studies*) on Indigenous cosmologies.

Read more about the Visiting Professorship at Princeton [here](#) .

Congratulations, Professor Arsić!

News

March 06, 2026

[Molly Murray Receives Humanities Award for Community Building & Engagement](#)

March 06, 2026

[Dennis Yi Tenen Receives Lenfest Distinguished Faculty Award](#)

March 06, 2026

[Bruce Robbins Receives René Wellek Prize](#)

December 05, 2025

[Joseph Albernaz Awarded MLA Prize for a First Book](#)

December 04, 2025

[English and Comparative Literature Major, Fatima AlJarman AlNuaimi, Wins Prestigious Rhodes Scholarship](#)
