

## **Amanda Jo Goldstein**

Born 1981 in Oakland, California; B.A. Comparative Literature (English/Italian) from Brown University, 2002; PhD Candidate and Instructor at UC Berkeley, Department of Comparative Literature (English/German/French), 2004-present

### **Dissertation Project:**

*'Sweet Science': Tender Empiricism, Mortal Materialism, and Romantic Form*

This dissertation in comparative romanticisms and the history of biomedical science concerns crossings between pre-Darwinian biology, romantic poetics, and historical critique in the decades surrounding the French Revolution. From Diderot to Herder, Erasmus Darwin, Percy Shelley and Marx, it traces attempts at what Goethe named “zarte Empirie” and Blake “sweet Science”: poetic physiologies and physiological poetics that sought to revise the scene of empirical observation and contest the then-deepening distinction between objective and imaginative knowledge. The project re-mobilizes historically-available alternatives to the idealist conceptions of *life*, *matter*, and *figure* that have dominated the twentieth century reception and deconstruction of romantic aesthetics, inhabiting various hylozoist positions and investigating the romantic afterlife of Lucretian figural materialism. Its genre-bending texts of choice strain poetic and empirical protocols to address the social relations surrounding selves and things, the untidy likelihood that experiment transforms both observer and observed, the continuity between somatic and cognitive interchange, and the evidence that bodies in time—whether textual, animal, or political—are sculpted by losses, impacts, and incorporations of what is not self and not immediately present.

### **Dissertation Committee:**

Prof. Steven Goldsmith, UC Berkeley Department of English  
Prof. Kevis Goodman, UC Berkeley Department of English  
Prof. Niklaus Largier, UC Berkeley Department of German  
Prof. Judith Butler, UC Berkeley Department of Rhetoric and Comparative Literature  
Prof. Anne-Lise François, UC Berkeley Department Comparative Literature

### **Stipendium, Fall 2009:**

DAAD Stipendium für eine Forschungsarbeit zu Goethes *Morphologie* bei der Klassik-Stiftung Weimar, dem Max-Planck-Institut für Wissenschaftsgeschichte sowie der Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

**Most Recent Paper / Forthcoming Article:**

“Growing Old Together: Composite Physiognomy and Lucretian Prosopopoeia in Shelley’s *The Triumph of Life*” (Versions presented at the annual conferences of the American Comparative Literature Association (Harvard, March 2009); and the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, (Duke University, May 2009).

**Teaching at UC Berkeley, 2005-2008:**

“Introduction to Lyric Poetry and Genre Theory: *Lyric Time*” (Comp Lit Genre Series)  
“Presenting the Dead: Ghosts in Literature and Photography,” (Comp Lit, Introduction to Reading and Composition).

*Co-Instructor*, “New York in Fiction, Film, Painting, and Poetry” (CL R&C).

*Co-Instructor*, “Literary Muses,” (CL R&C).

*Teaching Assistant*, “Modernism,” Professor John Bishop, (English).

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