



Elizabeth Kessler

Advanced Lecturer, American Studies

Bio

BIO

Elizabeth Kessler's research and teaching focus on twentieth and twenty-first century American visual culture. Her diverse interests include: the role of aesthetics, visual culture, and media in modern and contemporary science, especially astronomy; the interchange between technology and ways of seeing and representing; the history of photography; and the representation of fashion in different media. Her first book, *Picturing the Cosmos: Hubble Space Telescope Images and the Astronomical Sublime*, on the aesthetics of deep space images, was published in 2012. She's currently writing on book on extraterrestrial time capsules, as well as developing a new project on fashion photography.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, American Studies

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- BA, University of Notre Dame , English
- MA, University of Illinois, Chicago , Art History
- PhD, University of Chicago , History of Culture

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199A (Aut)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199B (Win)
- American Studies Pre-Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 198 (Spr)
- Perspectives on American Identity: AMSTUD 160, ENGLISH 165 (Win)
- Picturing Americans: AMSTUD 104Q, ARTHIST 104Q (Aut)
- Silicon Valley: AMSTUD 145 (Spr)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 143X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 43X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: ARTHIST 264B, FILMEDIA 264B (Aut)

2024-25

- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199A (Aut)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199B (Win)
- American Studies Pre-Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 198 (Spr)
- Picturing Americans: AMSTUD 104Q (Aut)
- Silicon Valley: AMSTUD 145 (Win)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 143X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 43X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: ARTHIST 264B, FILMEDIA 264B (Aut)
- The American Look: Fashion and American Culture: AMSTUD 128 (Win)

2023-24

- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199A (Aut)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199B (Win)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199C (Spr)
- American Studies Pre-Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 198 (Spr)
- Perspectives on American Identity: AMSTUD 160, ENGLISH 165 (Spr)
- Picturing Americans: AMSTUD 104Q (Aut)
- Silicon Valley: AMSTUD 145 (Win)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 143X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 43X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: ARTHIST 264B, FILMEDIA 264B (Aut)

2022-23

- American Studies Capstone Development Workshop: AMSTUD 99 (Aut, Win)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199A (Aut)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199B (Win)
- American Studies Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 199C (Spr)
- American Studies Pre-Honors Seminar: AMSTUD 198 (Spr)
- Perspectives on American Identity: AMSTUD 160, ENGLISH 165 (Spr)
- Silicon Valley: AMSTUD 145 (Win)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 143X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: AMSTUD 43X (Aut)
- Starstuff: Space and the American Imagination: ARTHIST 264B, FILMEDIA 264B (Aut)
- The American Look: Fashion and American Culture: AMSTUD 128 (Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Picturing the Cosmos: Hubble Space Telescope Images and the Astronomical Sublime**
Kessler, E. A.
University of Minnesota Press.2012

- **Everyday Fashion in Found Photographs: American Women of the Late 19th Century (Book Review)** *DRESS-THE JOURNAL OF THE COSTUME SOCIETY OF AMERICA*
Book Review Authored by: Kessler, E. A., Hodgkins, L.
2023
- **How do the James Webb Space Telescope's cosmic views represent what we cannot see?** *APERTURE*
Kessler, E. A.
2023: 11-12
- **Life in Space: NASA Life Sciences Research during the Late Twentieth Century (Book Review)** *ISIS*
Book Review Authored by: Kessler, E. A.
2023; 114 (2): 464-465
- **The Next Generation Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration: History, Philosophy, and Culture** *GALAXIES*
Galison, P., Doboszewski, J., Elder, J., Martens, N. C. M., Ashtekar, A., Enander, J., Gueguen, M., Kessler, E. A., Lalli, R., Lesourd, M., Marcoci, A., Ramirez, S., Natarajan, et al
2023; 11 (1)
- **More to Search Than Time Allows** *The Heart's Knowledge: Science and Empathy in the Art of Dario Robleto*
Kessler, E. A.
Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University.2023: 127-137
- **Technology's Palette: Voyager's Eyes and the Hyperchromatic Enhancement of Jupiter and Saturn.** *Technology and culture*
Kessler, E. A.
2021; 62 (4): 1087-1118
- **"This is Home": Imagining and Reimagining the Extraterrestrial through the Voyager Golden Record,"** *New Geographies 11: Extraterrestrial*
Kessler, E. A.
2020: 21-24
- **To See the Unseeable** *APERTURE*
Kessler, E., Galison, P.
2019: 75-78
- **Cutting through Abundance: Raf Simons and the Artful Slice** *JOURNAL OF VISUAL CULTURE*
Kessler, E. A.
2015; 14 (2): 208-212
- **Resolving the nebulae: the science and art of representing M51** *Annual Meeting of the History-of-Science-Society*
Kessler, E. A.
ELSEVIER SCI LTD.2007: 477-91