



Shirley Samuels, Professor

Biography

I am a Professor of English and American Studies, with affiliate membership in History of Art and FGSS. My Ph.D. is from the University of California at Berkeley. My research areas include American literature and visual culture, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American fiction, feminist criticism, and American studies. I have published several books in these areas and am now editing a book on race and visibility in the nineteenth century United States and writing a monograph, currently titled “Democratic Witness.”

Candidate Statement

I am honored to run for election as Associate Dean of the Faculty. After more than thirty years at Cornell, I draw on a deep sense of dedication to both students and colleagues. I have been able to collaborate and serve as a mentor for both faculty and students through my participation as the Dean and House Professor at Flora Rose House on west campus and my involvement with chairing the History of Art Department, serving as Director for FGSS, and currently working as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for American Studies. I feel fortunate to have been able to work with interdisciplinary programs across the university. During my time at Cornell, many changes in the intellectual programs as well as the physical campus have taken place. I have observed the questions of faculty governance emerge as I served for two terms in the Faculty Senate and two terms on the board of the Society of the Humanities. Among the commitments that I bring to the table are an activist investment in diversity -- of students, faculty, and programs -- and a commitment to social and environmental justice.