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Education

Ph.D., Case Western Reserve University, 1989
M.A., Case Western Reserve University, 1986
B.A., Ohio University, Honors Tutorial College, 1982
Trinity College, Carmarthen, Wales, 1980-81

Academic Employment

Professor of English, James Madison University, 2001-
Associate Professor of English, James Madison University 1995-2001
Assistant Professor of English, James Madison University, 1991-1995
Assistant Professor of English, Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, 1989-1991

Books

Reading the Victorian Novel. Routledge, 2024.
Charles Dickens: But for you dear stranger. Oxford U P, 2022.
Thus I lived with words: Robert Louis Stevenson & the Writer's Craft. U of Iowa Press, 2017.
Engagements with Close Reading. Routledge, 2015.
Idol of Suburbia: Marie Corelli and Late-Victorian Literary Culture. U of Virginia Press, 2000.
Masculine Identity in Hardy and Gissing. Fairleigh Dickinson U Press, 1991.

Edited collections

My Victorian Novel: Critical Essays in the Personal Voice. U of Missouri Press, 2020.
Gilbert and Gubar's The Madwoman in the Attic After Thirty Years. U of Missouri Press, 2009.

Essays

"Hopefulness." *George Orwell in Context*. Ed. Nathan Waddell. Cambridge University Press (forthcoming 2025).

"Dickens and His Publics." Introduction with Michelle Allen-Emerson to a special issue of *Dickens Quarterly*. March 2024.

"Walking-sticks." *The Gissing Journal*. Supplement to Vol. LIV, No. 4 (October 2020).

"Introduction: In the Personal Voice" *My Victorian Novel: Critical Essays in the Personal Voice*. Ed. Annette Federico. U of Missouri Press, 2020, pp. 3-34.

"The Hand of Fate: On Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*." *My Victorian Novel: Critical Essays in the Personal Voice*. Ed. Annette Federico. U of Missouri Press, 2020, pp. 279-302.

- “Blessed Little Room: Re-reading *David Copperfield*.” *Times Literary Supplement*. June 26, 2020.
- “An Imaginary Paradise of Individuals.” *Studies in the Novel* 51.1 (Spring 2019), pp. 51-53. (Invited contributor to 50th anniversary issue.)
- “Satis House.” *Literary Imagination* 21.1 (March 2019), pp. 63–76.
- “Stevenson’s Mortal Questions.” *Victorians Institute Journal* 42.2 (2014), pp. 1-31.
- “Dorothea’s Boudoir: Reading, Dream Work, and Ethical Perception.” *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 56.5 (Winter 2014), pp. 400-27. Tony Hilfer Award for Best Essay in TSL 2014.
- “The Violent Deaths of *Oliver Twist*.” *PLL: Papers on Language and Literature* 47.4 (Fall 2011), pp. 363-85.
- “Bursting All the Doors’: *The Madwoman in the Attic After Thirty Years*.” *Gilbert and Gubar’s The Madwoman in the Attic After Thirty Years*. Ed. Annette R. Federico. U of Missouri Press, 2009, pp. 1-26.
- “Irony, Ethics, and Self-Fashioning in George Moore’s *Confessions of a Young Man*.” *Marketing the Author: Authorial Personae, Narrative Selves and Self-Fashioning, 1880-1930*. Ed. Marysa Demoor. Palgrave, 2004, pp. 96-113.
- “Marie Corelli: Aestheticism in Suburbia.” *Women and British Aestheticism, 1860-1934*. Eds. Talia Schaffer and Kathy Alexis Psomiades. U of Virginia Press, 2000.
- “Marie Corelli and the New Woman.” *Victorian Women Writers and The Woman Question*. Ed. Nicola Diane Thompson. Cambridge U Press, 1999.
- “Thomas Hardy’s *The Well-Beloved*: Love’s Descent.” *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 50.3 (2007), pp. 269-90.
- “Making Do: George Orwell’s *Coming Up for Air*.” *Studies in the Novel* 37.1 (2005), pp. 50-63. Reprinted in *Bloom’s Modern Critical Views*, ed. Harold Bloom (Chelsea House, 2007).
- “*David Copperfield* and the Pursuit of Happiness.” *Victorian Studies* 46.1 (2003), pp. 69-95.
- “Being Torn: *The Mill on the Floss*.” *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory* 12 (2001), pp. 359-79.
- “Dickens and Disgust.” *Dickens Studies Annual* 29 (2000), pp. 145-62.
- “Samuel Butler’s *The Way of All Flesh*: Rewriting the Family.” *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 38.4 (1995), pp. 466-82.
- “The Other Case: Gender and Narration in Charlotte Brontë’s *The Professor*.” *PLL: Papers on Language and Literature* 30.4 (1994), pp. 323-45. Reprinted in *The Brontës*, ed. Patricia Ingham

(Longman, 2002); *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* (2002); *The Brontës: Critical Assessments*, ed. Eleanor McNeese (Helm, 1995).

“Books for Boys: Violence and Representation in *Kidnapped* and *Catriona*.” *Victorians Institute Journal* 22 (1994), pp. 115-33. Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* 236 (2011).

“Subjectivity and Story in George Moore’s *Esther Waters*.” *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 36.2 (1993), pp. 141-57.

“‘A cool observer of her own sex like me’: Girl-watching in *Jane Eyre*.” *Victorian Newsletter* 80 (1991), pp. 29-33. Reprinted in *Novels for Students*, ed. Diane Telgen (Gale 1997).

“‘I must have drink’: Addiction, Angst, and Victorian Realism.” *Dionysos: The Journal of Literature and Addiction* 2.2 (1990), pp. 11-25.

“The Waif at the Window: Emily Brontë’s Feminine *Bildungsroman*.” *Victorian Newsletter* 68 (1985), pp. 26-28. Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism* (1993) and *Novels for Students*, ed. Diane Telgen (Gale, 1997).

Encyclopedia entries & book reviews

Rev. of *In Dialogue with Dickens: The Mind of the Heart* by Rosemarie Bodenheimer and Philip Davis. *The Dickensian*. Winter 2024.

Rev. of *Charles Dickens and Georgina Hogarth: a curious and enduring relationship* by Christine Skelton. *Times Literary Supplement*. September 15, 2023.

Rev. of *Dickens and the Bible: ‘What Providence Meant’* by Jenny Gribble. *Times Literary Supplement*. Feb 25, 2022.

Rev. of *The Turning Point: A Year that Changed Dickens and the World* by Robert Douglas-Fairhurst. *Times Literary Supplement*. September 3, 2021.

Rev. of *The Artful Dickens* by John Mullan, *The Case of the Initial Letter: Charles Dickens and the Politics of the Dual Alphabet* by Gavin Edwards, and *Dickens on Railways*, ed. Tony Williams. *Times Literary Supplement*. December 18/25, 2020.

Rev. of *Beautiful Untrue Things: Forging Oscar Wilde’s Extraordinary Afterlife* by Gregory Mackie and *Oscar Wilde: A Literary Life* by Kimberly J. Stern. *Times Literary Supplement*. January 24, 2020.

Rev. of *Thomas Hardy and Victorian Communication: Letters, Telegrams, and Postal Systems* by Karin Koehler. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 61.2 (2018): 266-69.

Rev. of *Romance’s Rival: Familiar Marriage in Victorian Fiction*, by Talia Schaffer. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 60. 3 (2017): 394-98.

Rev. of *Slow Print: Literary Radicalism and Late-Victorian Print Culture*, by Elizabeth Carolyn Miller. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 58. 1 (2015): 21-23.

Rev. of *Museum Trouble: Edwardian Fiction and the Emergence of Modernism*, by Ruth Hoberman. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 55.3 (July 2012). 55-59.

Rev. of *A Polite Exchange of Bullets: The Duel and the English Gentleman 1750-1850*, by Stephen Banks. *Victorian Studies* 54.1 (2011): 149-51.

Rev. of *Onida the Phenomenon: Evolving Social, Political, and Gender Concerns in Her Fiction*, by Natalie Schroeder and Shari Hodges Holt. *Victorians Institute Journal* 38 (2011).

Rev. of *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Oscar Wilde*, ed. Philip E. Smith II. *ELT: English Literature in Transition 1880-1920* 53: 1 (2010): 101-06.

Rev. of *George Gissing, the Working Woman, and Urban Culture*, by Emma Liggins. *Victorian Studies* 49.4 (Summer 2007): 703-05.

Rev. of *The Citizen's Voice: Twentieth-Century Politics and Literature*, by Michael Keren. *Studies in the Novel* 39.1 (2007): 125-27.

Rev. of *Literature, money, and the market: from Trollope to Amis*, by Paul Delany. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 47: 1 (2004): 78-82.

Rev. of *The Cambridge Companion to Thomas Hardy*, ed. Dale Kramer. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 41.4 (2000): 465-67.

"Marie Corelli." *Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers*. Ed. Abigail Burnham Bloom. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 2000.

"Flora Thompson" and "Marie Corelli," *The Cambridge Guide to Women's Writing in English*. Ed. Lorna Sage. Cambridge: Cambridge U P, 2000.

Rev. of *Reading Thomas Hardy*, ed. Charles P. C. Pettit and *Thomas Hardy's Major Novels: An Annotated Bibliography*, ed. Julie Sherrick. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 42.4 (1999): 317-21.

Rev. of *George Gissing*, by Robert R. Selig. *ELT: English Literature in Transition* 39.2 (1996): 228-31.

Conference papers

"Fellow Travelers: Dickens, Orwell, Trilling, Wilson." The Dickens Society Symposium, Birmingham UK, July 2024.

"Perfectly Reasonable: Re-reading *Hard Times*." The Dickens Society Symposium, London, July 2022.

“The Space Between Creative Nonfiction and Literary Criticism: Theorizing, Writing, Publishing Critical/Creative Hybrids.” Roundtable member. Modern Language Association, Seattle WA, January 2020.

“Satis.” The Dickens Society Symposium, Tübingen, Germany, August 2018.

“Pater’s and Stevenson’s *essays* on Style” North American Victorian Studies Association, Madison WI, October 2012.

“Stevenson’s Ethical Turn.” Locating Stevenson: The 6th biennial Stevenson conference, Stirling, Scotland, July 2010.

“The Violent Deaths of *Oliver Twist*.” Northeast Modern Language Association, Montreal, Quebec, April 2010.

“*The Madwoman in the Attic* After Thirty Years.” College English Association Women’s Caucus (invited speaker), St. Louis MO, March 2008.

“Sympathy and Revenge in *A Tale of Two Cities*.” College English Association, New Orleans LA, April 2007.

“Reading Emotion.” Special Session organizer. South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta GA, November 2005.

“‘Fanaticism of Sympathy’ and Aesthetic Emotion in *Middlemarch*.” College English Association, Richmond VA, April 2004.

“*Wuthering Heights*.” Living in Exile Conference, James Madison University, October 2002.

“Happiness.” Locating the Victorians International Conference, The Victoria and Albert Museum, London, July 12-15, 2001.

“Victorians and ‘Happiness.’” Special session organizer. Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C., December 2000.

“‘A modern affair’: Victorian Liberalism and the Discourse of ‘Happiness.’” The Consortium on Revolutionary Europe 1750-1850. University of Alabama, Huntsville, March 3-5, 2000.

“Dickens and Disgust.” Nineteenth Century Studies Association Seventeenth Annual Conference, University of Alabama, Huntsville, April 2-4, 1998.

“Relocating Marie Corelli.” Leeds Centre for Victorian Studies, Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds, July 14-16, 1997.

“Marie Corelli: Idol of Suburbia.” Nineteenth Century Studies Association Sixteenth Annual Conference, Davidson College, Davidson NC, March 20-22, 1997.

“‘A photograph of a lady who will not be photographed’: The Case of Marie Corelli.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Eleventh Annual Conference, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT, April 12-13, 1996.

“The Sorrows of Satan: Marie Corelli’s Decadent Novel.” Fourth Annual Conference on Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century British Women Writers, University of Notre Dame, South Bend IN, March 4-6, 1995.

“The Other Case: Charlotte Brontë’s *The Professor*.” Carolinas Symposium on British Studies Twenty-first Annual Conference, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA, October 15, 1994.

“Gender in Stevenson’s *Kidnapped*.” The Robert Louis Stevenson Centenary Symposium, The University of South Carolina, Columbia SC, March 23, 1994.

“Gissing’s *The Odd Women*: Feminism and the New Fiction.” English Department Colloquium, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond VA, April 30, 1993.

“The Masculine Subtext in Gissing’s Novels.” College English Association of Ohio, The Ohio State University, Columbus OH, April 1988.

Awards & grants

Edna T. Shaeffer Humanist Award, James Madison University, 2021.

Edna T. Shaeffer Humanist Award, James Madison University, 2016.

Roop Distinguished Professor of English, James Madison University, 2011-2014.

NEH Summer Seminar, “The Remaking of Charles Dickens,” University of California, Santa Cruz CA, June 28-July 30, 2004.

Edna T. Shaeffer Humanist Award, James Madison University, 1999.

Summer Research Grant, College of Arts and Letters, James Madison University, 1996.

Sigma Tau Delta English Teacher of the Year Award, James Madison University, 1992-93.

Madison Fellowship, James Madison University, 1992.

Faculty Development Award, James Madison, 1992.

NEH Summer Institute, “Victorian Culture and Society,” Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT, July 1991.

Professional service

Editorial

Studies in the Novel

ELT: English Literature in Transition

Manuscript referee

Victorian Studies; *PMLA*; *Dickens Studies Annual*; *Journal of Victorian Culture*; *ELT*; *Studies in the Novel*; *Victorians Institute Journal*; *Nineteenth Century Contexts*; *Nineteenth Century Literature Criticism*; *Broadview Press*; *Clio*; *Mosaic*; *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*; *Women’s Writing*; *Papers on Language and Literature*; University of Missouri Press; University of Notre Dame Press; Broadview Press; Routledge; Palgrave Macmillan; Anthem; ELT Press; Yale University Press; NEH Summer Seminars, and others.

