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Education

Ph.D. (ABD) English 2006 University of Iowa

M.A. English 1999 University of Illinois at Chicago

Master's Thesis: "How Does One Describe a Life? Seventeenth-Century Scientific Writing and the Narrative of Defoe's *Moll Flanders*"

B.A. English 1995 University of Illinois at Chicago

Dissertation: "Character Matters: Enlightenment Materialism and the Novel"

My dissertation reveals the troubling influence of Enlightenment science on the conception and representation of the human person via literary characterization in eighteenth-century Britain. I argue that mounting scientific evidence for the materialist worldview commonly accepted in the sciences today—that matter is the only reality—called into question the humanist assumptions of both the Anglican establishment and the common reader, and that authors responded to materialism by embracing this possibility, recoiling from it, or demonstrating its implications with pointed ambivalence. As a result, the characters that they produced were unique to the period; some works created characters that behaved like mechanical objects while others replaced their human protagonists altogether with object narrators. By imaginatively characterizing persons in this way, the novels and other writings of the period called attention to the ethical and theological problems inherent in materialist thinking, as well as the issues of agency and personal responsibility that they entailed. Through a historical examination of this aspect of Enlightenment science, my project provides a new window into one of the formal concerns of the writing of the day, as well as a broader understanding of the types of humanity conceivable in eighteenth-century Britain.

Publications Under Review

"Materialism, Feminism, and Mary Hays's *Memoirs of Emma Courtney*." Revised and resubmitted for publication to the *European Romantic Review*.

Awards and Honors

University of Iowa Teaching Assistant Award, Spring 2005.

Freda Dixon Malone Dissertation Scholarship, Spring 2004.

Irwin Award, Fall 2004. Teaching Award for excellence in teaching in the General Education Literature Program.

First Prize for a Graduate Student Paper, Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA., 2001.

Teaching and Research Interests

British Literature of the Long Eighteenth Century; Literature and Science; Theories of the Novel; Literary Characterization; British Romanticism; Sensibility and the Passions in Literature

Conference Papers and Participation

“Materialism, Feminism, and Mary Hays’s *Memoirs of Emma Courtney*.” Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, Chicago, IL, November 10-13, 2005.

“*Tristram Shandy*: The Errors of Association and the Impossibility of a Material Mind.”
Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Terre Haute, IN, October 27-29, 2005.

“Sentient Matter, David Hartley, and Imagining the Human in the Eighteenth-Century British Novel.” Society for Literature, Science and the Arts, Durham, NC, October 14-17, 2004.

“Sentient Matter, David Hartley, and Imagining the Human in the Eighteenth-Century British Novel.” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, St. Louis, MO, October 7-10, 2004.

Moderator, “Writing the Sciences” Panel, Craft, Critique, Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA, April 12-14, 2002.

“More Than Just an ‘Elaborate Farewell’?: Beauty and Disease in a Town Eclogue by Lady Mary Wortley Montagu,” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Iowa City, IA, November 9-11, 2001.

Moderator, “British Fictions” Panel, Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Iowa City, IA, November 9-11, 2001.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, General Education Literature Program, University of Iowa, 2002–Present.

Interpretation of Literature (8 Sections)

Representative Units:

Realism in Literature from Defoe to Tennessee Williams

The East in Context: Hwang’s *M. Butterfly* and Murakami’s *Wild Sheep Chase*

Texts about the Home: Frost, Dickinson, and Shelley’s *Frankenstein*

Poetry (2 Sections)

Contemporary American Poetry through Slam Poetry

Contemporary American Poetry and Twenty-First Century Women’s Poetry

Instructor, Department of Rhetoric, University of Iowa, 2000–2002

Rhetoric I (1 Section)

Topical Controversies

Rhetoric II (1 Section)

The Rhetoric of Scientific Argument
Accelerated Rhetoric (2 Sections)
Globalization from the Right and Left
Topical Controversies

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1999.
Eighteenth-Century and Victorian Literature Survey, Professor Nancy Cirillo

Instructor, Composition Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1997–1998.
Introduction to College Writing (2 Sections)
Writing the Research Paper (1 Section)

Teaching Assistant, Composition Department, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1997.
Introduction to College Writing (1 Section)

Tutor, Writing Center, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1997.

Academic Service

Program Associate, General Education Literature Program, Fall 2003–Present.
Responsible for the training of incoming instructors to the General Education Literature Program.

Textbook Committee, General Education Literature Program, Fall 2002.

Professional Development Program Co-leader, Rhetoric Department, 2001–2.
Responsible for the training of incoming instructors to the Rhetoric Department.

Web Developer, *electronic book review*, ed. Professor Joseph Tabbi, University of Illinois at Chicago, 1996–1997.

Professional Organizations

Modern Language Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
Society for Literature, Science and the Arts
Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

References

Professor Eric Gidal, Department of English. University of Iowa.
308 English-Philosophy Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. (319) 335-1510
eric-gidal@uiowa.edu

Professor Deidre Lynch, Department of English. Indiana University. 402 Ballantine,
Bloomington, IN 47405. (812) 855-0521 delynych@indiana.edu

Professor Alvin Snider, Department of English. University of Iowa.
308 English-Philosophy Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. (319) 335-0470
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Professor Daniel Gross, Rhetoric Department. University of Iowa.
171 English-Philosophy Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242. (319) 335-0183
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Professor Judith Pascoe, Director of General Education Literature Program. Department of
English. University of Iowa. 308 English-Philosophy Building, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.
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For dossier, please contact Educational Placement, N302 Lindquist Center, University of Iowa,
Iowa City, IA 52240.