

Rachael Isom

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EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D., English, expected May 2019
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC
Dissertation: “The Female Enthusiast: Nineteenth-Century Women and the Poetics of Inspiration”
Director: Jeanne Moskal
Committee: Beverly Taylor, Laurie Langbauer, Eliza Richards, and Janice Koelb

By tracing the evolution of the female enthusiast across generic and disciplinary boundaries, this project enacts a postsecular rethinking of women’s writing about inspiration and genius in the first half of the nineteenth century. Enthusiasm’s religious inheritance lent authority to Romantic-era women in a literary marketplace skewed toward masculinized expressions of feeling, but linking their writing to prophetic zeal also compromised its legitimacy. Many women aimed to renovate female enthusiasm by uniting the prophetess with the secular *improvisatrice*, a strategy that helped cultivate more vocational authorship in the Victorian age.

- 2013 M.A., English Literature, May 2013
Murray State University, Murray, KY
- 2011 B.A., English, Concentration: Literature, Minor: Spanish, May 2011
Murray State University, Murray, KY

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2019 “Prophetic Poetics and Enthusiasm in Mary Shelley’s *Valperga*,” *Studies in Romanticism* 58.1, forthcoming.
- 2018 “John Watson Dalby’s Poetic Reception of Mary Shelley’s *Valperga*,” *Keats-Shelley Review* 32.1 (2018): 11-16.
- 2018 ““Do you think I can’t read between the lines?”: Discourse of the Unsaid in J. M. Coetzee’s *Diary of a Bad Year*,” *The Journal of Commonwealth Literature* 53.1 (2018): 7-20.
- 2016 ““Habituat[ing] to Reflection?: Hannah More’s Romantic Novel,” *Essays in Romanticism* 23.1 (2016): 95-112.
- 2014 “Caroline Fry’s *Death, and Other Poems* in Conversation with the *Night Thoughts* of Edward Young,” *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century* 2.1 (2014): 63-74.

Book Chapter

- 2018 ““With Faithful Pencil”: Pastoral and Picturesque Composition in *Beachy Head*,” in *Placing Charlotte Smith*, ed. Jacqueline M. Labbe and Elizabeth A. Dolan (Lehigh University Press), forthcoming.

Reference Articles

- 2018 “*The Remorseless Assassin; or The Dangers of Enthusiasm*,” in *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1660-1820*, ed. April London (Cambridge University Press), forthcoming.
- 2018 “*Theodore; Or, The Enthusiast. In Four Volumes*,” in *Cambridge Guide to the Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1660-1820*, ed. April London (Cambridge University Press), forthcoming.

HONORS AND GRANTS

National and International

- 2018-19 Short Term Research Fellowship, New York Public Library
- 2018-19 Visiting Scholar Fellowship, Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University
- 2018-19 W. M. Keck Foundation Short-Term Research Fellowship, The Huntington Library
- 2017 NAVSA Travel Grant, North American Victorian Studies Association
- 2017 DHSI Tuition Scholarship, “XML: Applications for Historical and Literary Research,” Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria

Institutional

- 2018-19 Maynard Adams Fellowship for the Public Humanities, Carolina Public Humanities, UNC
- 2018-19 Dean’s Graduate Fellowship, College of Arts & Sciences, UNC
- 2018 Fred and Joan Thomson Award for Outstanding Work on a Dissertation in 18th- or 19th-Century British Literature, Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC
- 2018 GPSF Travel Award, Graduate and Professional Student Federation, UNC
- 2017 Evan Frankel Dissertation Fellowship, Department of English and Comparative Literature, UNC
- 2016- Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Student Honor Society, UNC
- 2015 Doris Betts Award for Excellence in Teaching First-Year Composition, Writing Program, UNC
- 2012-13 Graduate Innovation Assistantship, Committee for Institutional Studies and Research, Office of the Provost, Murray State University

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2018 “‘The Christian Saint and the Heathen Priestess’: Revisiting Religious Contact in Sydney Owenson’s *The Missionary*”
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS) Annual Meeting, Orlando, FL, March 2018

- 2017 “Preserving the Female Enthusiast in Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s *Aurora Leigh*”
North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) Conference, Banff, AB, November 2017
- 2017 “Enthusiasm and Dramatic Monologue in L.E.L.’s *The Improvisatrice* (1824)”
British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), Chapel Hill, NC, June 2017
- 2017 “Campus History goes Digital: Annotating a 19th-Century Scrapbook in First-Year Composition”
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP), Victoria, BC, June 2017
- 2016 “Enthusiasm, Repression, and the “Darkened Mind” in Sydney Owenson’s *The Missionary*”
International Conference on Romanticism (ICR), Colorado Springs, CO, October 2016
- 2016 “Making a ‘Sylvan Scene’: Charlotte Smith’s Pastoral Reflections in *Beachy Head*”
British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), Athens, GA, June 2016
- 2015 “Literary and Cultural Reproduction in the Johnstone Family *Miscellanea*”
South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAML A) 87, Durham, NC, November 2015
- 2015 ““On Reading a Line of Lord Byron’s”: Caroline Fry’s Response to *The Giaour*”
International Conference on Romanticism (ICR), Park City, UT, October 2015
- 2014 ““Habituat[ing] to Reflection?: Hannah More’s Evangelical Take on the Romantic Novel”
International Conference on Romanticism (ICR), Minneapolis, MN, September 2014
- 2014 “*The Assistant of Education: Caroline Fry’s Comprehensive Approach to Texts ‘Intended for the Use of Young Persons’*”
North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR) Conference, Washington, DC, July 2014
- 2014 “Caroline Fry’s Romantic ‘Reflecting Glass’: Social and Religious Examination in *The Listener*”
British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), Binghamton, NY, June 2014
- 2014 “Mary Robinson: Marketing the Woman Poet and ‘Literary Performance’”
40th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS), Knoxville, TN, March 2014
- 2013 “Caroline Fry’s *Death, and Other Poems* in Conversation with the *Night Thoughts* of Edward Young”
39th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS), Charleston, SC, March 2013
- 2012 “The Religious, Literary, and Historical Landmarks of Caroline Fry and *Serious Poetry*”
British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), Boulder, CO, June 2012

Invited Campus and Community Talks

- 2018 “Teaching Unusual Genres in First-Year Composition,” Pedagogy Workshop co-led with Mary C. Learner, Writing Program, UNC, upcoming December 2018
- 2018 ““Do not imagine that *I* often read novels?; or, Dangerous Fiction and the Regency Reader,”
Context Talk for *Northanger Abbey* and *Frankenstein: 200 Years of Horror*, Jane Austen Summer Program, UNC, June 2018, Video Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T_noWdpXwCA&feature=youtu.be

- 2018 “Tracing Female Enthusiasm in Mary Shelley’s *Valperga*,” Guest Lecture for ENGL 841: Graduate Seminar on Romanticism in England: Mary Shelley & the Bicentenary of *Frankenstein*, Jeanne Moskal, UNC, April 2018

Rare Book Exhibitions Curated

- 2017 “Records of Woman?: A Special Exhibition of Rare Books for the 2017 British Women Writers Conference,” co-curated with Kelli M. Holt, June 2017
Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC
Abstract and label texts: <http://bwwc17.web.unc.edu/rare-books-exhibit-records-of-woman/>
- 2016 “*Mansfield Park*: Texts and Contexts,” a Special Rare-Book Exhibition for the 2016 Jane Austen Summer Program, co-curated with Taras V. Mikhailiuk, June 2016
Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC
Blog post: <http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/rbc/index.php/2016/07/08/mansfield-park-texts-and-contexts/>
- 2015 “Emma at 200,” a Special Rare-Book Exhibit for the 2015 Jane Austen Summer Program, co-curated with Ted Scheinman, June 2015, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library, UNC
Blog post: <http://blogs.lib.unc.edu/rbc/index.php/2015/07/27/emma-at-200/>

INSTITUTES AND SEMINARS

- 2017 Rare Book School, Library of Congress, July 2017
“H-100: The Eighteenth-Century Book” (week-long course)
Taught by Mark Dimunation and Michael F. Suarez
- 2017 Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, June 2017
“XML: Applications for Historical and Literary Research” (week-long course)
Taught by Jonathan Martin and Scott Paul McGinnis
“Archives for Digital Humanists” (one-day workshop)
Taught by Lara Wilson and Heather Dean, University of Victoria Special Collections
- 2016 Digital Mitford Coding School, University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg, June 2016 (four-day course)
Topics included XML, XPath, regular expressions, Schematron, and the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI)
Taught by Elisa Beshero-Bondar, Editor of *Digital Mitford: The Mary Russell Mitford Archive*

TEACHING

Graduate Teaching Fellow, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department of English and Comparative Literature

Courses Designed and Taught (10 sections, 4 different courses)

- 2019 Writing in the Humanities (ENGL 105i, Honors)
- 2018 Introduction to Fiction (ENGL 123)
- 2017 First-year Composition (ENGL 105)
- 2016 Introduction to Poetry (ENGL 125), Course Website: <http://poetryintro.web.unc.edu/>
- 2016 First-year Composition (ENGL 105)
- 2013-15 First-year Composition (ENGL 105)

Course Assisted (2 sections)

2015 Nineteenth-Century British Novel (ENGL 338), Laurie Langbauer

Graduate Research Consultant, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Office of Undergraduate Research

Courses Consulted (6 sections, 4 different courses)

2018 Approaches to Drama: PlayMakers Fall Season (ENGL 274), Laurie Langbauer

2017 Transnational Romanticism (CMPL 460), Janice Koelb

2016 Approaches to Drama: Regional Theater (ENGL 274), Laurie Langbauer and Susan Irons

2016 Romanticism and Film (ENGL 143), Jeanne Moskal

2015 Transnational Romanticism (CMPL 460), Janice Koelb

Blog post: <http://grc.web.unc.edu/2015/09/01/transnational-romanticism-and-undergraduate-research/>

2014 Nineteenth-Century Women Writers (ENGL 438), Jeanne Moskal

Blog post: <http://grc.web.unc.edu/2014/06/02/english-438-nineteenth-century-women-writers/>

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Murray State University

Department of English and Philosophy

Courses Designed and Taught (3 sections, 2 different courses)

2012-13 First-Year Composition (ENG 105)

2012 Basic Writing (ENG 100)

Course Assisted (2 sections)

2011 Basic Writing (ENG 100), Misty Evans and Nancy Phillips

SERVICE**Professional Service**

2017- Managing Editor, *Keats-Shelley Journal*

2015- Project Assistant, *The William Blake Archive*

Blog Posts (available from blog.blakearchive.org):

March 2018: "Over-reading Overwriting? A Textual Anomaly in *Songs of Innocence*, Copy Q"

April 2016: "The Strange Unknowns of Spell-Checking *Blake: An Illustrated Quarterly*"

January 2016: "Hidden Behind a Screen"

2017 Steering Committee Member, 25th annual British Women Writers Conference at UNC

2015-17 Assistant Editor, *Keats-Shelley Journal*

2014-15 Editorial Intern, *Keats-Shelley Journal*

Institutional Service

- 2018 Graduate Assistant, Humanities for the Public Good Initiative, College of Arts and Sciences, UNC
Supervisor: Robyn Schroeder, Initiative Director
- 2018 Presenter and Transportation Committee Member, Jane Austen Summer Program, UNC
- 2017 Panel Moderator, 18th Annual Celebration of Undergraduate Research, Office for Undergraduate Research, Frank Porter Graham Student Union, April 2017
- 2017 Invited Contributor, Adobe Modules Teaching Project, UNC Writing Program
- 2016-18 Peer Mentoring Committee Member (Classroom Observation), UNC Writing Program
- 2016-17 Vice President, Frank Porter Graham Graduate and Professional Student Honor Society, UNC
- 2016-17 Transportation Chair and Discussion Leader, Jane Austen Summer Program, UNC
- 2015-16 Rare Book Exhibit Curator, Jane Austen Summer Program, UNC
- 2014-15 Registration Staff Member, Jane Austen Summer Program, UNC
- 2011-13 Writing Center Consultant, Racer Writing Center, Murray State University
Director: Jeffrey Osborne, Department of English and Philosophy

ADVOCACY TRAINING

- HAVEN (Helping Advocates for Violence Ending Now), September 2018, February 2015
Safe Zone, April 2017
Green Zone, March 2017

AFFILIATIONS

- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)
British Women Writers Association (BWWC)
International Conference on Romanticism (ICR)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
North American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR)
North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA)
Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP)
South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA)
Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS)
Victorian Poetry Caucus (Affiliated with NAVSA)

LANGUAGES

- Spanish: Intermediate reading, writing, and speaking proficiency
French: Basic reading proficiency