

Heather McLeer

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of English
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Education

Degrees earned

- 2017 Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2009 M.A., English, Brown University
2006 B.A., English Literature and French, Franklin & Marshall College

Dissertation

“Matters of Verisimilitude: Transitional and Transnational Realisms in Ireland, 1880-1940”

My dissertation establishes an alternative literary history of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Ireland by tracing the emergence of an oppositional, politically committed version of literary realism during and after the Irish Literary Revival as a response to the cultural nationalism promoted by leading figures of the Revival.

Director: Vicki Mahaffey (Kirkpatrick Professor of English and Gender & Women’s Studies)
Committee: James Hansen, Andrew Gaedtke, Julia Saville

Research and Teaching Interests

Irish literature and culture of the 19th and 20th Centuries; 19th and 20th Century British literature; British and Irish modernism; Late Victorian literature and culture; Trans-channel and transnational literary networks; “Transitional” realist and modernist literature

Publications

“Victorian Orthodoxy and Modernist Ambivalence: Compromised Development in George Moore’s *A Drama in Muslin*.” *The Edinburgh Companion to Irish Modernism*, edited by Maud Ellmann, Sián White, and Vicki Mahaffey. Edinburgh University Press. (Forthcoming; expected 2020)

Works in Progress

“Conflict, Corruption, and Pleasure: Joyce’s Auricular Confessional in *Finnegans Wake*.” Article manuscript in revision.

“Departures, Dispossession, and Domestic Spaces in Elizabeth Bowen’s *To the North* [Working Title].” Article manuscript in progress.

“Modernist Commitment and Realist Ambivalence in the Irish Periphery: J.M. Synge and the Question of Verisimilitude [Working Title].” Article manuscript in progress.

Academic Employment

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| 2017-Present | Lecturer, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| 2009-2017 | Graduate Student, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research Assistant for Vicki Mahaffey: Summer 2016-Spring 2017• Teaching Assistant: Fall 2009-Summer 2017 |

Awards and Honors

Fellowships and Grants

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| 2015-17 | English Department Travel Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| 2015 | Kirkpatrick Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| 2014-15 | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| 2014 | Graduate College Block Grant Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |

Teaching Awards

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| 2018 | Department of English Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |
| 2009 | Nominee for Department of English Award for Outstanding Teaching, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign |

Conference Presentations

“Exterior Migration and Interior Exile in George Moore’s *The Lake*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2020 National Meeting: Borders and Borderlands. Houston, Texas, April 2020.

“Yeats, Martyn, and the Question of Realism in the Irish Literary Theatre.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2019 National Meeting: Declarations of Independence: Treaties, Transitions, and Tearing Away. Boston, Massachusetts, March 2019.

“Yeats’ Symbolic West: Irishness and Landscape in *The Celtic Twilight*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2018 International Meeting: Environments of Irish Studies. Cork, Ireland, June 2018.

- “New Realism and Cosmopolitan Patriotism in Joyce’s *Exiles*.” 2017 North American James Joyce Conference: Diasporic Joyce. Toronto, Ontario, June 2017.
- “Elizabeth Bowen’s Uneasy Cosmopolitanism: Departures, Dispossession, and Domestic Spaces in *To The North*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2017 International Meeting. Kansas City, Missouri, March 2017.
- “Impermanent Homes and Imaginary Mother(land)s in Elizabeth Bowen’s *The House in Paris*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2016 International Meeting: The Worlding of Irish Studies. South Bend, Indiana, March 2016.
- “Fallen Heroes and Displaced National Memory in Seán O’Casey’s *The Silver Tassie*.” Seminar presentation, “World War I: Reconsidering Rupture.” Modernist Studies Association 17th Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts, November 2015.
- “Resisting the Irish Middlebrow in Edward Martyn’s Irish Theatre.” Bad Books: 10th Annual British Modernities Group Graduate Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2015.
- “George Moore’s Alternative Realisms in *A Drama In Muslin*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2015 International Meeting: Irish Speculations. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 2015.
- “Modernist Commitment and Realist Ambivalence in the Irish Periphery: J.M. Synge’s ‘anti-commitment’ and the question of verisimilitude.” Seminar presentation, “The Long 1930s: Rethinking Commitment.” Modernist Studies Association 16th Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 2014.
- “Perceiving Percival: Subjective Perception and Residual Reality in *The Waves*.” 24th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf: Writing the World. Loyola University Chicago, June 2014.
- “Riotous Realism: Realistic Comedy, Patriotism, and the Reaction against J.M. Synge’s *The Playboy of the Western World*.” Comic Returns: 9th Annual British Modernities Group Graduate Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2014.
- “Acts of Contrition? The Auricular Confessional as Site of Fraternal Conflict in *Finnegans Wake*.” 2013 North American James Joyce Conference. Charleston, South Carolina, June 2013.

Invited Presentations

- “Elizabeth Bowen’s Uneasy Cosmopolitanism.” The New Academy Lecture Series. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 5 April 2019.

Teaching Experience

* University of Illinois List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students

Literature Instruction

British Literature 1800 – Present: Fall 2018

A survey of major British authors and cultural movements, covering Romanticism through contemporary British authors.

Introduction to Fiction: Spring 2016*; Fall 2015*; Spring 2013*; Fall 2012*; Spring 2011

A literature and composition course for non-English majors focusing on fiction across media and the craft of analytic prose writing.

The Short Story: Fall 2014

A humanities core course for non-English majors focused exclusively on the short story and its formal properties across a wide variety of periods and authors.

The British Novel: Fall 2013

A survey course for English majors focusing on the emergence and development of the British novel as a genre from the eighteenth century to the present.

British Literature from 1798 – Present: Spring 2012* [TA for Ted Underwood]; Fall 2011* [TA for Julia Saville]

A survey course for English majors covering major British authors and cultural movements of the 19th and 20th centuries in conversation with their historical contexts.

Introduction to Literary Studies: Fall 2010

The initial course in the English major sequence, focusing on literary methods and the practice of constructing analytic and critical literary arguments.

Composition Instruction

Principles of Research: Spring 2020

Principles of Writing: Fall 2019

Writing and Research: Spring 2018*; Fall 2017*

College Composition I: Fall 2013*; Fall 2012

College Composition II: Spring 2013; Spring 2012; Spring 2011*

College Writing I: Fall 2011*; Fall 2009*

College Writing II: Spring 2010*

Rhetoric Tutorial: Fall 2010; Spring 2010; Fall 2009 (*Note: Evaluations not conducted for this course*)

Professional Writing Instruction

Principles of Business Communication: Spring 2019; Fall 2018

Tutorial Experience

Writers Workshop Associate, University of Illinois: Spring 2017; Fall 2016; Spring 2016; Fall 2015

Writing Center Associate, Brown University: Summer 2008; Spring 2008; Fall 2007

Service

Co-founder and co-organizer, Illinois *Finnegans Wake* Reading Group. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2010-Present.

Elected representative, Specialized Faculty Committee. Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019-2020.

Panel respondent, Stranger Things: The Weird, The Paranormal, and the Problem of Belief, British Modernities Group 2018 Graduate Conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 20-21 April 2018.

Co-organizer, The Great War: Transnational Literary Responses Reading Group. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 2014.

Co-organizer, Modern Brains, British Modernities Group 2012 Graduate Conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 9-10 March 2012.

Professional Memberships

American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

Languages

French (speaking and reading fluency)

References

To request letters of recommendation, please contact Stephanie Shockey at shockey@illinois.edu.

Vicki Mahaffey, Kirkpatrick Professor
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James Hansen, Associate Professor
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Andrew Gaedtke, Associate Professor
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Julia Saville, Professor Emerita
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