

Brian McCuskey
Professor and Department Head
Department of English
Utah State University
Logan UT 84322
brian.mccuskey@usu.edu

EMPLOYMENT

2022 to present: Professor of English, Utah State University
2001 to 2022: Associate Professor of English, Utah State University
1995 to 2001: Assistant Professor of English, Utah State University

EDUCATION

1995: Ph.D., University of Michigan, English
1991: M.A., University of Michigan, English
1989: B.A., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, English

RESEARCH

SCHOLARLY MONOGRAPH

How Sherlock Pulled the Trick: Spiritualism and the Pseudoscientific Method, University Park, PA: Penn State University Press, 2021.

NATIONAL AWARD

Honorable Mention (runner-up), 2013 Donald Gray Prize for Best Essay, North American Victorian Studies Association, for “Sherlock Holmes and Intelligent Design.”

SCHOLARLY ESSAYS

“221B–9/11: Sherlock Holmes and Conspiracy Theory,” in *Transatlantic Literature and Culture after 9/11*, ed. Kristine Miller, Palgrave Macmillan (2014): 50–67.

“Sherlock Holmes and Intelligent Design,” *Quarterly Review of Biology* 87 (2012): 225–35.

“Last Words in *Deadwood*: Literacy and Mortality on the Frontier,” *Journal of Popular Culture* (2011): DOI: 10.1111/j.1540-5931.2011.00876.x. Printed in v. 47 (2014): 284–306.

Reprinted in *Dirty Words in Deadwood: Literature and the Postwestern*, ed. Melody Graulich and Nicolas Witschi, University of Nebraska Press (2013): 18–43.

“Not at Home: Servants, Scholars, and the Uncanny,” *PMLA: Publications of the Modern Language Association* 121 (2006): 421–36. Reprinted in *Short Story Criticism*, v. 201, ed. Lawrence Trudeau, Gale (2014): 287–97.

“The Kitchen Police: Servant Surveillance and Middle-Class Transgression,” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 28 (2000): 359–75.

“Fetishizing the Flunkey: Thackeray and the Uses of Deviance,” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 31 (1999): 384–400.

“Children Below Stairs: Original Sin and Victorian Servants,” *Australasian Victorian Studies Journal* 5 (1999): 96–105.

“No Followers: The Victorian Servant Problem,” *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 24 (1997): 105–23.

“Your Love-sick Pickwick: The Erotics of Service,” *Dickens Studies Annual* 25 (1996): 245–66. Reprinted in *Dickens, Sexuality and Gender*, ed. Lillian Nayder, Ashgate (2012): 437–56.

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

“How Sherlock Pulled the Trick,” Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul, MN, 2024.

“Turning to Zoom,” Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States Conference, Reno, 2021.

“A Cautionary Tale,” Utah Symposium on the Digital Humanities, Utah State University, 2018.

“Friending Sherlock: Social Networks and Literary Studies,” North American Victorian Studies Conference, Arizona State University, 2016.

“Sherlock Holmes: Virtual Reality Goes Viral,” *Virtually Human* Speaker Series (invited lecture), Illinois State University, 2016.

“Shamming Sherlock: Neo-Victorian Pseudoscience,” Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States Conference, Denver, 2015.

“Esotericism and the Occult in the University,” *Enchanted Modernities* Conference, Utah State University, 2013.

“Critical Fantasies of Sherlock Holmes,” North American Victorian Studies Conference, Pasadena, 2013.

“Our Poor Students; or, the March of Intellect in the Butchering Line,” *Future of Victorian Studies* Conference, University of Michigan, 2008.

“Calculating the Uncanny,” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., 2005.

“Not at Home: Servants at the Séance,” North American Victorian Studies Conference, University of Virginia, 2005.

“Servants and Spirits,” Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association Conference, Pepperdine University, 2005.

“Literature and Technology,” Modern Language Association Convention, New Orleans, 2001.

“Below Stairs and Beyond: Servants and Middle-Class Spiritualism,” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, New Haven, 2000.

“Children Below Stairs,” Australasian Victorian Studies Association Conference, Sydney, 1999.

“Domestic Surveillance: The Servant and the Professional,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Chapel Hill, 1997.

“Fetishizing the Flunkey,” Western Conference on British Studies, Colorado Springs, 1996.

“Servants, Sex, and Commodity Culture,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Pittsburgh, 1996.

“Eccentric Functionaries in *The Pickwick Papers*,” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, 1995.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Jennifer McMahon and Steve Csaki, eds., *The Philosophy of the Western* (2010), in *Western American Literature* 46 (2011): 106–107.

Review of Julie Nash, *Servants and Paternalism in the Works of Maria Edgeworth and Elizabeth Gaskell* (2007), in *Victorian Studies* 51 (2009): 554–55.

Review of Leonard Engel, ed., *Sam Peckinpah’s West* (2004), in *Western American Literature* 41 (2006): 79–80.

Review of Herbert Tucker, ed., *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture* (1999), in *Victorian Periodicals Review* 34 (2001): 194–96.

Review of Tom Lloyd, *Crises of Realism: Representing Experience in the British Novel, 1816-*

1910 (1997), in *Victorian Studies* 41 (1998): 652–54.

Review of William Cohen, *Sex Scandal: The Private Parts of Victorian Fiction* (1996), in *Victorian Periodicals Review* 31 (1998): 312–14.

Review of Claudia Nelson, *Invisible Men: Fatherhood in Victorian Periodicals, 1850-1910* (1995), in *Victorian Periodicals Review* 30 (1997): 171–74.

Review of James Kincaid, *Annoying the Victorians* (1995), in *Victorian Periodicals Review* 29 (1996): 330–31.

Review of Elizabeth Langland, *Nobody's Angels: Middle-Class Women and Domestic Ideology in Victorian Culture* (1995), in *Journal of Pre-Raphaelite Studies* 5 (1996): 108–11.

Review of Jeff Nunokawa, *The Afterlife of Property: Domestic Security and the Victorian Novel* (1994), and Harry Stone, *The Night Side of Dickens: Cannibalism, Passion, Necessity* (1994), in *Victorian Periodicals Review* 29 (1996): 44–46.

REFERENCE ARTICLES

“Hannah Cullwick,” *Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers*, ed. Abigail Burnham Bloom (Westport: Greenwood, 2000): 140–42.

“Jane Austen” in *A Biographical Dictionary of Literary Influences: The Nineteenth Century, 1800-1914*, ed. Derek Blakeley and John Powell (Westport: Greenwood, 2000): 27–28.

“Charles Dickens” in *A Biographical Dictionary of Literary Influences: The Nineteenth Century, 1800-1914*, ed. Derek Blakeley and John Powell (Westport: Greenwood, 2000): 128–29.

TRAVEL GRANTS

Travel and Data Collection Grant (\$1,000), CHaSS, USU, 2013 (British Library).

Travel and Data Collection Grant (\$1,000), CHaSS, USU, 2011 (British Library).

Travel and Data Collection Grant (\$1,000), CHaSS, USU, 2010 (University of Minnesota).

TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

ENGL 2220: Introduction to Fiction

ENGL 2600: Literary Analysis
ENGL 3335: Nineteenth-Century British Literature
ENGL 4320: British Writers
ENGL 4330: World Writers
ENGL 4340: Studies in Fiction
ENGL 4365: Studies in Film
ENGL 5300: Special Topics in Literature
ENGL 5310: Contemporary Literature
ENGL 5340: Literature, Science, and the Environment
ENGL 6330: Topics in Literary Study
ENGL 6340: British Literature and Culture
ENGL 6630: Studies in Film and Popular Culture

TEACHING AWARDS

Honors Outstanding Capstone Mentor, USU Honors Program, 2020.

Honors Outstanding Capstone Mentor, USU Honors Program, 2019.

Honors Outstanding Professor (“Last Lecture”), USU Honors Program, 2017.

Valedictorian Faculty Escort, USU Commencement, 2016.

Honors Outstanding Capstone Mentor, USU Honors Program, 2016.

Teacher of the Year, Department of English, USU, 2009.

Professor of the Year, College of HASS, USU, 2000.

Teacher of the Year, Department of English, USU, 2000.

“Top Prof,” Mortar Board Society, USU, 1997.

Honors Professor, USU Honors Program, 1996-97.

STUDENT MENTORING

Master’s Thesis Committees:

Elsa Torgersen, “From Governess to Wife in Victorian Society” (chair, 2021); Kelly Kirkham, “Suspense Radio, Gothic Literature, and the American Family” (member, 2018); Moira Hammons, “Dracula and Ireland” (member, 2018); Shannon Branfield, “Women and Silence in the Novels of Wilkie Collins” (chair, 2016); Tori Fica, “The Slash Between” (member, 2016); Kendall Pack, “The Modern Hardboiled Detective” (member, 2015); Samantha Latham, “Emily Dickinson’s and May Swenson’s Language

of Spiritual and Scientific Possibility” (member, 2015); Trisha Haber, “Reimagining Robin Hood” (member, 2014); Jeffrey Howard, “Transcending the Material Self in Richardson’s *Clarissa*” (member, 2013); Melinda White, “Seeking Multimodal Enlightenment” (member, 2007); Kelli Towers, “Nineteenth-Century Gardening Discourses and Jane Webb Loudon” (member, 2006); Michelle Parkinson, “Ophelia, Madness, and Renaissance Women” (member, 2000); Brian Jensen, “Postcolonial Resistance as Textual Strategy” (member, 1998); Jana Kay Lunstad, “Women and the Evolution of the Gangster Genre” (member, 1998).

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor:

Stephanie Pointer (2021); Emma Hallock (2020 Joyce Kinkead Outstanding Capstone Award), Morgan Sanford (2019 Kinkead Award), Danielle Green (2017), Alyssa Quinn (2016 Kinkead Award), Maria Williams (2016), Rachel Telfer (2016), Kolbie Astle (2014), Trenton Olsen (2010).

Undergraduate Honors Contracts:

Landon Graham (2018), Madison Behrend (2018), Sylvia Smith (2017), Danielle Green (2016), Alyssa Quinn (2015), Amele Welliver (2013, 2011), Britney Marler (2013, 2011), Kolbie Astle (2012), Hannah Dulin (2011), Kirianna Florez (2009), Vienna Boyd (2009), Emily Arnold (2009).

Undergraduate Honors Book Labs:

Jorge Luis Borges (2020), Mary Wollstonecraft (2019), Ernest Cline (2018), Arthur Conan Doyle (2017), Lewis Carroll (2016).

NON-CREDIT INSTRUCTION

“*Frankenstein: How Not to Go to College*,” USU Connections Convocation Lecture, 2014.

Guest Class Lectures:

Jane Austen’s *Emma* (USU Theater, 2013), Russian Literature (USU History, 2013), Silent Film (USU Art, 2012), Boris Pasternak’s *Doctor Zhivago* (USU History, 2011), Beethoven and Cultural Heritage (USU Honors, 2008), William Blake (USU English, 2008), Genre Theory (USU English, 2006).

Concurrent Enrollment and AP English High School Visits:

Ridgeline HS (2020, 2018, 2017, 2016), Logan HS (2018, 2017, 2015), Sky View HS (2018), Mountain Crest HS (2018), Green Canyon HS (2018).

USU Summer Citizen Program (one-week film courses), 2001–2006.

SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Associate Department Head of English, 2020–2023.

Member, Advisory and Coordination Committee, 2009–2020.

Chair, Undergraduate Literature Emphasis, 2006–2020.

Member, Undergraduate Literature Emphasis, 1995–2006.

Member, Graduate Literature and Writing Program, 1995–2006.

Member, British and Commonwealth Studies Minor, 1995–2006.

Member, Promotion and Tenure Committees:

Adena Rivera-Dundas (2021–2023), Cree Taylor (2020–2023); Russell Winn (2020–2023); Lezlie Christensen-Branum (2020–2023); Lynne McNeill (2016–2020); Mattie Burkert (2016–2020); Rebecca Walton (2012–2017); David Wall (2011–2017); Kerin Holt (2008–2013); Christine Cooper-Rompato (2004–2011); Ryan Moeller (2004–2010); Charles Waugh (2009–10); Shane Graham (2005–2009); Alan Blackstock (2000–2005); Pallavi Rastogi (2002–2004).

Member, Faculty Search Committees:

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in British Literature, 2020; Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow in American Literature, 2020; Eighteenth-Century British Literature, 2016; Medieval British Literature, 2004; Postcolonial Literature, 2002; Medieval British Literature, 1999.

Computer Facilities Committee, 1995–2001.

COLLEGE SERVICE

Scholarship Awards Committee, 2016–17.

Member, Research Support Committee, 2008–09.

Mentor, Spotlight on Teaching Program, 2000.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Chair of Humanities, General Education Subcommittee, Educational Policies Committee, 2008–2018. Work profiled in “Aligning General Education and the Major at Utah State University,” *Toolkit Resources: Campus Models and Case Studies*, Association of American Colleges and Universities, October 2014 (online).

Teaching Coach, New Faculty Teaching Academy, 2008–09, 2014–15.

Representative, USU Faculty Senate, 2006–2009.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

Lecture: “Sherlock Holmes and Spiritualism,” USU Brigham City Lecture Series, 2024.

Interview: “Jane Austen,” *Access Utah*, Utah Public Radio, 2017.

Interview: “Sherlock Holmes,” *Access Utah*, Utah Public Radio, 2016.

Interview: “Summer Reading Program at USU,” *Good 4 Utah*, KTVX, 2014.

Interview: “Frankenstein,” *Access Utah*, Utah Public Radio, 2014.

Lecture: “Before Downton: Comic Servants in English Fiction,” Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, Delaware, 2014.

Lecture: “Monsters and Culture,” USU Library, 2014.

Lecture: “Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle,” Logan Public Library, 2013.

Interview: “Dickens and Religion: A Tale of Two Views,” Peggy Fletcher Stack, *Salt Lake Tribune*, February 6, 2012 (reprinted in *Washington Post*, February 7, 2012).

Lecture: “The Life and Work of Charles Dickens,” Logan Public Library, 2012.

Lecture: “Lewis Carroll and Nonsense,” English Studies Forum, USU, 2012.

Interview: “Contemporary Film,” Utah Public Radio, *Access Utah*, 2009.

Lecture: “Jekyll and Hyde on Film,” Salt Lake City Public Library, 2006.

Lecture: “Douglas Sirk’s *All That Heaven Allows*,” Tanner Symposium, USU, 2006.

Lecture: “Alfred Hitchcock’s *The Birds*,” Logan Country Club, 2006.

Column: “Wide-Angle Lens” (weekly film reviews), *Herald Journal*, 2003–2005.

Lecture: “The Wild West on Film,” Haight Alumni Center, USU, 2002.

Lecture: “Mistresses, Maids, and Mediums,” Women and Gender Research Institute, USU, 2000.

MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association
North American Victorian Studies Association