

Dr. Heather Nelson

Distinguished Scholar in English Literature
Co-Director of Humanities and Diversity

Communication Arts, Language & Literature Department
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Education

[Purdue University](#)

Ph.D., English

Concentration: Literary Studies

Major Field: Nineteenth Century

Secondary Area: Women's Literature and Feminist Theory

May 2015

[Wake Forest University](#)

M.A., English

May 2005

[Yale University](#)

B.A., English Language and Literature

May 2003

[Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art](#)

Yale-in-London British Studies

Spring 2002

Employment (Selected)

[Western Colorado University](#)

Distinguished Scholar in English Literature and Co-Director of Humanities and Diversity

Fall 2022-present

[Colorado State University-Pueblo](#)

Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Affiliated Faculty of Women's Studies

2017-2018

Miami University
Instructor of English
2016-2017

Antioch College
Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature
2015-2016

Purdue University
Bilsland Dissertation Fellow
2014-2015

Purdue University
Purdue Research Foundation Dissertation Fellow
2013-2014

Purdue University
Teaching Assistant of English
2008-2013

Duke University
Instructor of English, Talent Identification Program Academy for Summer Studies
Summer 2011

Kansas State University
Instructor of English
2007-2008

Publications

I Do?: Women, Consent, and Marriage in Nineteenth-Century England
University of Toronto Press, advance contract, 2024

"Elizabeth Bennet's Proposal Scenes and Nonconsensual Consent"
Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal, no. 42, 2020, pp. 194-206

"'Nothing' That She Could Allege Against Him in Judicious or Judicial Ears':
'Consensual' Marital Abuse in Victorian Literature"
George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies, vol. 69, no. 1, 2017, pp. 89-119

"[She](#) Sins While She Remains Away': Marital Consent, Restitution of Conjugal Rights, and Anthony Trollope's Phineas Novels"
Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature, no. 129, Spring 2016, pp. 98-111

"[When](#) a Daughter Elopes to Gretna, Generally It Is a Wicked Thing': Female Consent, Clandestine Marriage, and Susannah Frances Reynolds's *Gretna Green; Or, All for Love*"
ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews, vol. 28, no. 2, April-June 2015, pp. 79-86

"[You](#) Could Be Judas': *Pudd'nhead Wilson's* Black Slaveowner"
Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South, vol. 22, no. 1, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 16-44

Funding (Selected)

[Western](#) Colorado University
 Professional Activity Fund Award
 Spring 2023

[Modern](#) Language Association
 Professional Development Grant for Part-Time Faculty Members
 Spring 2020

[Colorado](#) State University-Pueblo
 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Development Fund Grant
 Fall 2017

[Purdue](#) University
 Bilisland Dissertation Fellowship
 2014-2015
 Purdue Research Foundation Research Grant Dissertation Fellowship
 2013-2014
 Graduate School Summer Research Grant
 Summer 2012

Conference Presentations

"'I Should Force Her to Return to My House': Consent, Restitution of Conjugal Rights, and Anthony Trollope"
 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
 Knoxville, TN
 April 2023

"'No Daughter of Mine Should Be Married to Any Man Alive under Such a Settlement': Consent and *The Woman in White*"
 Nineteenth-Century Studies Association
 Rochester, NY
 March 2022

"'It's a Great Shame She Has to Part with Anything': Consent and The Dower Act in Victorian Drama"
 Unearned Wealth: A Literary History of Inheritance (1600-2015)
 Aarhus University
 November 2019

"'Recovery from Engagements: Jilting, Actions for Breach of Promise of Marriage, and Elizabeth Gaskell's *Wives and Daughters*'"
 Victorians Institute
 Furman University
 October 2017

"'If You Don't Want to Live with Him Any More You Have a Right to Leave Him': Female Consent, the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857, and the Victorian Divorce Novel"
 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
 Asheville, NC
 March 2016

"'When a Daughter Elopes to Gretna, Generally It Is a Wicked Thing': Female Consent, Clandestine Marriage, and Susannah Frances Reynolds's *Gretna Green; Or, All for Love*'"
 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
 Atlanta, GA
 April 2015

"[Women](#) Made a Fuss about It in Books': A Network of Victorians against the 'Consensual' Marital Rape Exemption"
 North American Victorian Studies Association
 University of Wisconsin
 September 2012

"[Keeping](#) Them Ignorant Who I Was': Performativity and Colonialism in *The Female American*"
 Society of Early Americanists
 Flagler College
 May 2010

"[You](#) Could Be Judas': A Black Slaveowner in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*"
 Society for the Study of Southern Literature
 New Orleans, LA
 April 2010

"[Till](#) This Moment, I Never Knew Myself': Developing Self, Love, and Art in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*"
 Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States
 Pepperdine University
 October 2006

Invited University Presentation

"[I](#) Do?: Victorian Women, Consent, and Marriage"
 Cool Women, Hot Topics
 Colorado State University-Pueblo
 March 2018

Webinar Presentation

"[We](#) Made the Compact, and Surely We Can Cancel It': Consent, the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857, and Victorian Divorce Novels"
 Works in Progress Webinar in Law and Literature
 July 2022

Invited Course Presentations

"[Consent](#), Modesty, and *Sense and Sensibility*"

Women and Literature

Western Colorado University

March 2023

"[Consent](#), Marital Abuse, and Class in Nineteenth-Century England"

Victorian Women Writers and Fictions of Feminism

Miami University

February 2017

Invited Society Presentation (Selected)

"[Consent](#) and Restitution in the Phineas Novels"

Winter Lecture

Trollope Society

March 2023

Courses Taught (Instructor of Record)

[Western](#) Colorado University

Academic Writing: American Short Stories

2022-2023

Critical Approaches to Literature: Feminist Theory

2022-2023

Hitchcock's Adaptations

Fall 2022

Literary Theory and Criticism: Shakespeare

Spring 2023

Senior Seminar I: Jane Austen

Fall 2022

Senior Seminar II: Futures

Spring 2023

[Colorado State University-Pueblo](#)

The Brontës and Gaskell

Spring 2018

Introduction to Literature

2017-2018

Literary Criticism and Theory: Shakespeare

Fall 2017

Literature of England II

Spring 2018

Senior Seminar: Jane Austen

Fall 2017

[Miami University](#)

The Brontës

Spring 2017

Composition and Rhetoric: The American Short Story

Fall 2016

Life and Thought in English Literature, 1660-1901

Spring 2017

[Antioch College](#)

Introduction to the British Literary Tradition

Spring 2016

Introduction to World Literature

Fall 2015

Jane Austen

Winter 2016

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century African-American Literary Experience

Fall 2015

Shakespeare and Theory

Winter 2016

The Victorian Novel

Spring 2016

[Purdue University](#)

Introduction to Fiction

2012-2013

Introductory Composition: Composing Through Literature—The American Short Story

Fall 2009-Fall 2012

Introductory Composition: Documenting Realities

2008-2009

Duke University
 Creative Writing: Express Yourself
 Summer 2011
 Myths and Legends
 Summer 2011

Kansas State University
 Expository Writing I
 Fall 2007
 Freshman Seminar
 Fall 2007
 Great Books
 Spring 2008
 The Short Story
 2007-2008

Awards (Selected)

Western Colorado University
 Men's Basketball Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
 Spring 2023
 Women's Basketball Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
 Spring 2023
 Wrestling Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
 Fall 2022

Purdue University
 Von's Book Shop Literary Award, Honorable Mention
 Spring 2011
 Kneale Literary Award in Graduate Literary Criticism, Second Place
 Spring 2010
 Von's Book Shop Literary Award, Honorable Mention
 Spring 2010

Service

Western Colorado University
 Co-Director, Humanities and Diversity
 Fall 2022-present
 Member, Graduate Studies Council
 Fall 2022-present

Yale University
 Member, Yale Alumni Schools Committee
 Fall 2018-present

Antioch College
 Hearings Member, Community Standards Board
 Spring 2016
 Search Committee Member, Assistant Director for Residence Life and Education
 Winter-Spring 2016

Training (Selected)

Purdue University
 Practicum in Teaching Literature
 Fall 2012
 Teaching First-Year Composition
 2008-2009

Kansas State University
 Practicum in Teaching University Expository Writing
 Fall 2007

Memberships

18th- and 19th-Century British Women Writers Association
 American Association of University Professors
 Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities
 Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
 Jane Austen Society of North America
 Modern Language Association
 National Women's Studies Association
 Nineteenth Century Studies Association
 North American Victorian Studies Association