

ANNA HENCHMAN
CURRICULUM VITAE

Boston University English Department
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Boston University Associate Professor of English. 2015-present.
Assistant Professor of English. 2007-2015.

Harvard Society of Fellows Junior Fellow. 2004-2008 (on leave 2006-7).

Harvard University Lecturer in History and Literature. 2006-7.

Boston University Visiting Assistant Professor. 2006-7.

EDUCATION

Harvard University Ph.D. in English and American Literature. 2004.
Dissertation: “Astronomy and the Problem of Perception in Nineteenth-Century
British Literature,” directed by Elaine Scarry and Philip Fisher.

M.A. in English and American Literature. 1999.

Yale University B.A. in English, *cum laude* with distinction in the major. 1992.

SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Books

The Starry Sky Within: Astronomy and the Reach of the Mind in Victorian Literature. Oxford
University Press, 2014.
Shortlisted for the British Society of Literature and Science’s 2014 book prize.

The Starry Sky Within has been reviewed in *Victorian Studies*, *The Thomas Hardy
Review*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *Journal of British Studies*, *Review 19*, *The Modern
Language Review*, *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, *George Eliot-George Henry
Leves Studies*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Oxonian Review*, the *Review of English
Studies*, *The Sun News Miami*, and *Renaissance Mathematicus*.

Tiny Creatures and the Boundaries of Being in Victorian Literature and Science. In progress.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Tallow Candles and Animal Residue in Dickens.” Special Issue on “Fire” in *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Edited by Anne Sullivan and Kate Flint. Forthcoming, 2017.

“Charles Darwin’s Final Book: *The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the Action of Worms, 1881.*” *BRANCH: Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History*. Peer-reviewed and accepted for publication. Forthcoming, 2017.

“Fragments out of Place: Body Parts and the Logic of Nonsense in Edward Lear.” In *Edward Lear and the Play of Poetry*, edited by James Williams and Matthew Bevis. 2016.

“Technology and Time in Victorian Literature.” *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature*, edited by Dino Franco Felluga, Pamela K. Gilbert, and Linda K. Hughes. 2015.

“Edward Lear Dismembered: Word Fragments and Body Parts.” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 35.5 (2013): 479-87.

“Outer Space: Physical Science.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Victorian Poetry*, edited by Matthew Bevis, 2013.

“The Telescope as Prosthesis.” *Victorian Review*. Special Issue on Disability, edited by Jennifer Esmail and Christopher Keep. 35.2 (Fall 2009): 27-32.

“Hardy’s Stargazers and the Astronomy of Other Minds.” *Victorian Studies* 51.1 (2008): 37-64.

“Hardy’s Cliffhanger and Narrative Time.” *English Language Notes*. Special Issue on Time and the Arts, edited by Sue Zemka. 46.1 (Spring/Summer 2008): 127-35.

“‘The Globe we Groan in’: Astronomical Distance and Stellar Decay in *In Memoriam.*” *Victorian Poetry*. Special Issue on Science and Victorian Poetry, edited by Sally Shuttleworth and Gowan Dawson. 41.1 (Spring 2003): 29-45. Reprinted in full in *Nineteenth-Century Literature Criticism*. Topics Volume: Astronomy; Humanism; Madness. Detroit: Gale Cengage Learning, 2010. 29-37.

PRIZES & MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS

2012-13 **Junior Faculty Fellowship.** Boston University Center for the Humanities.

2004-08 **Junior Fellowship.** Harvard Society of Fellows (on leave 2006-07).

2007 **John Clive Teaching Prize.** History and Literature (Harvard).

2007 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (Harvard).

2004 **Walter L. Arnstein Prize.** For Dissertation Research in Victorian Studies (Midwest Victorian Studies Association).

2004 **Bowdoin Prize.** For graduate essay of originality and high literary merit (Harvard).

- 2003 **Packard Fellowship.** For Dissertation Completion (Harvard).
- 2002 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (Harvard).
- 2001 **Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** (Harvard).
- 2001 **Merit Fellowship.** For outstanding students in the humanities (Harvard).
- 2001 **Arthur Lehman Scholarship.** For work of an exceptional order (Harvard).
- 1993 **Ralph Paine Memorial Prize.** Awarded for best senior essay (Yale).
- 1992 **Edward Thompkins McLaughlin Scholarship.** For excellence in English composition and the study of English literature during the first three years (Yale).

INVITED TALKS

- 2017 **Pedagogy Panel Member.** Northeast Victorian Studies Association, Georgetown.
- 2015 **“Darwin’s Earthworms and the Sense of Touch.”** Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, University of London.
- 2014 **“Worm Minds and Worm Work in Darwin’s Last Book.”** Symposium on “Animal Consciousness,” Harvard.
- 2014 **“New Books: *The Starry Sky Within*.”** History of Science Department, Harvard.
- 2014 **“Visualizing the Novel: Astronomy and Narrative Universes.”** Victorian Literature and Culture Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard.
- 2013 **Panelist, “Twenty Questions with Mario Livio. A Conversation about *Brilliant Blunders: From Darwin to Einstein – Colossal Mistakes by Great Scientists that Changed Our Understanding of Life and the Universe*.”** Mahindra Humanities Center, Harvard.
- 2011 **“Waves of Conscious Atoms’: Hardy’s Battle Scenes.”** Seminar at Beinecke Library on Richard L. Purdy Collection. Hardy at Yale II, Yale University.
- 2009 **“Astronomy and Narrative Space in Hardy and Dickens.”** Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Colloquium, Yale University.
- 2009 **“Consciousness and Scale: The Inner Lives of Worms.”** Darwin Day Symposium on Darwin and the Arts, Brandeis University.
- 2008 **“The Starry Sky Within: Astronomy, Optics and Consciousness in De Quincey.”** CUNY Victorian Seminar, New York.
- 2005 **“The Starry Sky Within: Astronomy in 19th-Century British Literature.”** Cognitive Theory and the Arts Seminar, Harvard Humanities Center

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- 2017 **“Animal Residue: Dirty Energy and Greasy Air in *Bleak House*.”** NAVSA / AVSA Conference in Florence, Italy.
- 2014 **“Stone Deaf: Sentient Surfaces and Penetrability.”** International Conference on Narrative, MIT.
- 2014 **“Making Sheep Sheepy.”** Special Session on “Remote Sensing in Victorian Literature.” MLA, Chicago.
- 2013 **“Mystic Links and Fragile Vision: Astronomy and the Poetry of the Unseen.”** North American Victorian Studies Association Conference on Evidence, Pasadena, California.
- 2013 **“Soaked, Shorn, and Punctured: Making Sheep Sheepy in *Far from the Madding Crowd*.”** Victorian Tactile Imagination Conference, Birkbeck College, London.
- 2013 **“Literary Simultaneity and Scientific Expeditions Across the Globe.”** NAVSA / BAVS / AVSA International Conference on Local and Global, Venice.
- 2013 **“Fragments Out of Place: Body Parts and the Logic of Nonsense in Edward Lear.”** Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies conference on Play, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2013 **“Bookworms, Earthworms, and the Sense of Space.”** Special Session on “Small Worlds: Projection, Magnification, and Scale in Victorian and Modern Britain.” MLA, Boston.
- 2012 **“Phantasmal Intelligences and Alien Minds in *The Dynasts*.”** Special Session on “Impossible Plays.” MLA, Seattle.
- 2011 **“Hardy’s Epic-Drama and its Modern-Day Chorus.”** North American Victorian Studies Association, Nashville.
- 2011 **“Scraping the fur off: Skin as a Portal into Alien Minds in Darwin, Hardy, and Kafka.”** Panel on “The Boundaries of Animal Life.” International Conference on Narrative, St. Louis.
- 2010 **“Consciousness, Edges, and Scale in Tiny Creatures.”** Panel on “Tiny Creatures, Great Wonders.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Montreal.
- 2010 **“Without a Shape: De Quincey’s Vertiginous Cosmology.”** Special Session on “Historical Cosmologies.” MLA, San Francisco.
- 2007 **“The Inner Lives of Tiny Creatures in Hardy and Naturalist Writers”** North American Conference on British Studies, San Francisco.
- 2007 **“The Astronomy of Other People: Stargazing and Other Minds in Hardy.”** Hardy at Yale.

- 2006 **“Seeing Things as a Whole: Battle Scenes and the View from Somewhere.”** International Conference on Narrative, Ottawa.
- 2004 **“‘To see what I see’: Thomas De Quincey and the Nebula in Orion.”** History of Science Society, Austin, Texas.
- 2004 **“Cinders of Stars, Solar Catastrophes: The Terror of Victorian Astronomy.”** British Association of Victorian Studies, Keele, England.
- 2004 **“The Terror of Victorian Astronomy.”** Dickens Project, Santa Cruz, California.
- 2004 **“Thomas De Quincey and Nebula in Orion.”** Society for Science and Literature, Paris.
- 2004 **“Fixed Gems and Milky Nebulae: Stargazing in Adam Smith.”** American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Boston.
- 2003 **“Red Apples and Bright Stars: Narrative Fluctuation in *The Dynasts*.”** MLA, San Diego.
- 2003 **“Fearing the Skies: Thomas Hardy and the Terror of Astronomy.”** Society for Literature and Science, University of Texas at Austin.
- 2003 **“‘The All-Conquering Telescope’: De Quincey on the Leviathan Telescope.”** Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference on Technologies and Media in the Nineteenth Century, MIT.
- 2003 **“The Leviathan of Parsonstown: Lord Rosse’s All-Conquering Telescope”** Thinking About Progress, 1800-1850, Birkbeck College, London.
- 2003 **“Astronomy and Narrative Standpoints in Hardy.”** International Conference on Narrative, University of California at Berkeley.
- 2002 **“Deferred Identification: A Narrative Technique in Hardy’s Novels.”** International Conference on Narrative, Michigan State University.
- 2001 **“‘Nocturnal Reconnoitres’: Hardy’s Stargazers.”** Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference on Victorian Nocturnes, Brown University.
- 2001 **“‘Nocturnal Reconnoitres’: Astronomy in 19th-Century British Literature.”** Conference on the Inspiration of Astronomical Phenomena. Palermo, Italy.
- 2000 **“Astronomy, Vision and Blindness in Thomas Hardy.”** University of Virginia Graduate Student Conference on Science and Culture, Charlottesville, Virginia.
- 2000 **“Celestial Globes: Hardy’s Astronomy and Failed Representations.”** Failure: A Graduate Student Conference, Harvard University.

BOOK REVIEWS AND JOURNALISM

- 2017 **Review** of Devin Griffith's *The Age of Analogy: Science and Literature Between the Darwins*. *Victorian Review*.
- 2015 **Review** of Allen MacDuffie's *Victorian Literature, Energy, and the Ecological Imagination*. *Nineteenth-Century Literature*.
- 2014 **Review** of Anne Stiles's *Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century*, in *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, 2014.
- 2012 **Contributor** to **"Dickens's Best Novel? Six Experts Share Their Opinions"** by Kevin Hartnett (www.themillions.com/2012/08/dickens-best-novel-6-experts-share-their-opinions.html).
- 2012 **Review** of Barri J. Gold's *ThermoPoetics: Energy in Victorian Literature and Science* and Bruce J. Hunt's *Pursuing Power and Light: Technology and Physics from James Watt to Albert Einstein*. *Victorian Studies* 54.1 (Autumn 2011): 142-5.
- 2011 **Review** of Gillian Beer *Darwin's Plots: Evolutionary Narrative in Darwin, George Eliot and Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, Third Edition. *The Hardy Review* 13.1 (Spring 2011): 80-91.
2008. **Review** of Pamela Gossin, *Thomas Hardy's Universe: Astronomy, Cosmology, and Gender in the Post-Darwinian World*. *The Hardy Review* 10.2 (Autumn 2008): 180-3.
- 1997 **"Will Self: An enfant terrible comes of age."** *Publisher's Weekly* 244.37 (8 Sept. 1997): 52-3.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Conferences Organized

Co-Organizer and Workshop Leader for "Breakthroughs: Creativity Across the Disciplines" and "The Scientist Within: Scientific Biography and The Creative Moment" at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, with John Plotz and Ray Jayawardhana. Critics and practitioners explored revolutionary leaps in understanding and sudden moments of startling insight in a variety of contexts. Participants considered the things that connect (and distinguish) breakthrough moments in sciences, the arts, and in other intellectual vocations. Speakers included poet David Ferry, music critic Alex Ross, poet-critic Maureen McLane, art historian Maria Gough, physicist Maria Spiropulu, White House pastry chef Bill Yosses, architect Rahul Mehrota, neuroscientist Gina Turrigiano, and author Richard Holmes.

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/news/radcliffe-magazine/principles-of-creativity>

<http://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2013/05/creative-bursts-from-all-corners>

<https://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2013-richard-holmes-lecture>

Site Chair for Northeast Victorian Studies Association at Boston University, with Aaron Worth, 2013. Conference Topic: "1874."

Site Chair for Northeast Victorian Studies Association at Harvard University, with Vanessa Ryan, 2007. Conference Topic: “Victorian Cosmopolitanism.”

Program Committee member, Northeast Victorian Studies, 2007-9 and 2010-3.

Program Committee member, International Conference on Narrative, MIT. 2014.

Co-organizer of “Failure: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference” at Harvard University, 2000.

Seminars Organized

Cognitive Theory and the Arts seminar co-chair, with Elaine Scarry and Alan Richardson. Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard. 2007-2015.

<http://mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/content/cognitive-theory-and-arts>

<http://www.janelleweaver.com/resources/colloq2.pdf>

Graduate Panel in Victorian Studies Founder and Organizer. Began annual event on New Work in Victorian Studies, with Debra Gettelman, as part of the Victorian Literature and Culture seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard Seminar. 2006-2013.

<http://mahindrahumanities.fas.harvard.edu/content/victorian-literature-and-culture>

British Literature Colloquium Organizer. Led workshop for graduate student work in progress, and invited outside speakers. 1999-2004.

Presentations to Graduate Students

Scholarly Publication Workshop, with Laura Saltz (Colby College), to British Literature Colloquium and American Literature Colloquium, Harvard University. 2013.

Panelist on Conferences and Conference Abstracts. British Literature Colloquium, Harvard University. 2010.

Panelist on Considering Graduate Study in English. Wellesley College. 2009.

Panelist, State of the Field in Victorian Studies. British Literature Colloquium, Harvard University. 2004.

“Close Reading and Close Looking.” Winter Teaching Conference, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University. 2003.

Manuscript Referee

Oxford University Press (1); *Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History* (1)

Journal of Literature and Science (1); *Literature Compass* (1)

19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century (1)

Studies in the Novel (1); *Studies in Romanticism* (2); *Victorian Studies* (3)

Victorian Review (2); *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* (1)

SERVICE TO BOSTON UNIVERSITY

UROP Advisor, Brett Driben on the Representation of Time in Graphic Narratives. Spring 2016.
Satellite Committee Member, BU Hub Learning Outcomes. Fall 2016.
UROP Advisor, Maya Kammourieh on Public Displays of Affection in Victorian Novels. Fall 2016.
Search Committee for the Director of Kilachand Honors College. Summer 2016.
UROP Advisor, Nina Jobim on Fairy Tales, Fantasy, and Imaginary Places, Summer 2015.
Academic Advising Symposium Subcommittee, 2014-15.
College of Arts and Sciences Advisor for undeclared students, 2013-14.
UROP Advisor. "Time, Space and Scale in English Literature 1790-2010," Spring 2013.
Faculty representative, student recruitment meeting in Cleveland, 2010.
Dissertation Defense Committee Member for the Editorial Institute, 2010.
Translation Prize Judge, 2008.

SERVICE TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2014-present (on leave Fall 2015).
Graduate Placement Director, 2013-14.
Merit Committee member (elected position), 2014.
Graduate Committee member, 2013-present.
Merit Committee member (elected position), 2013.
Curriculum Review Committee chair, 2011-13.
Curriculum Review Committee member, 2010-11.
Romanticism Search Committee member, 2008-9.

TEACHING AND ADVISING

Courses Taught

Children's Literature: Fairy Tales, Fantasy, and Imaginary Spaces. (English Department, BU)
Innovation, Culture, and Society. (Kilachand Honors College, BU)
The Boundaries of Life. (English Department, BU)
Animals and Literature since 1800. (English Department, BU)
Literature and Science. (English Department, BU)
Nineteenth-Century British Novel. (English Department, BU)
Narrative Theory and Literary Conceptions of Time. (Graduate Seminar, English Department, BU)
Time and Literature 1800-1930. (English Department, BU)
Victorian Age I (English Department, BU)
British Literature II, from Pope to Wilde (English Department, BU)
From Victorian to Modern: Charles Dickens to James Joyce (BU, Harvard Summer School)

Graduate Student Advising

Dissertation Committee Member
Shannon Draucker, 2012-present.
Annael Jonas-Paneth, 2011-present.
Kate Neilsen, 2011-present.
Sheila Cordner, 2007-12.
Leslie Simon, 2007-11.

Orals Examination Committee Member

Annael Jonas-Paneth, 2016.
James Brophy, 2016.
Shannon Draucker, 2015.
Kate Neilsen, 2013.
Andrew Christensen, 2012.
Michael Hogan, 2011.
Sheila Cordner, 2009.

Dissertation Defense Committee Member

Reed Gochberg, 2016.
Mary Kuhn, 2014.
Sheila Cordner, 2012.
Michael Hamburger, 2011.
Dora Goss, 2011.
Leslie Simon, 2011.
Alex Bove, 2006.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Interpreter in Tino Sehgal's *This Progress*. Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. 2010.
Player in Tino Sehgal's *This Situation*. Marian Goodman Gallery. New York. 2007-8.
Head of Fact-checking, Editor and Reporter. *The New York Observer*. New York. 1995-7.