

ANNA HENCHMAN
CURRICULUM VITAE

Boston University English Department
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Boston University Associate Professor of English. 2015-present.
Director of Undergraduate Studies. 2014-2019.
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.

PRIZES & MAJOR FELLOWSHIPS

2019-20 **American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship.**
2019 **BU Undergraduate Academic Advising Award.**
2018 **BU Henderson Senior Research Fellowship** (declined due to ACLS).
2017 **Outstanding Mentor Award.** Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (BU).
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 (MVSA).
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).

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.

Paperback edition published 2017.

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 Lewes Studies*, *Times Higher Education*, *The Oxonian Review*, the *Review of English Studies*, *The Sun News Miami*, *Renaissance Mathematicus*, *Victoriographies*, and *Contemporary Physics*.

Tiny Creatures and the Boundaries of Being in the Nineteenth-Century British Imagination.

In progress.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Sentience.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*. Special issue on “Keywords.” 46.3-4 (2018): 861-865.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1060150318001043>

“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. Peer reviewed. 2017.
<https://19.bbk.ac.uk/articles/10.16995/ntn.794/>

“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. 2017.
http://www.branchcollective.org/?ps_articles=anna-henchman-charles-darwins-final-book-on-earthworms-1881

“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. Peer reviewed. 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.

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 **Speaker at Symposium on “Picturing the Universe”** Cal Tech Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences. January, 2021.
- 2019 **Final Wrap-Up Speaker** for Northeastern Victorian Studies Association conference.
- 2018 **“Empiricism”** Panelist with Jonah Siegel, Elaine Auyoung, David Coombs, and Jonathan Kramnick at Society of Novel Studies. Cornell.
- 2017 **“Representing Change Over Time: Synchrotopes and Panoramas.”** Invited Speaker for Mellon-Sawyer Seminar on “Genres of the Anthropocene.” Georgetown.
- 2017 **“Movement Through Time.”** Panel on Pedagogy. 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*.”** 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

- 2021 **“Invertebrate Space”** in panel on Non-Human Worlds. Society for Novel Studies, Oxford University.
- 2020 **“Porous Creatures and Sentient Plants”** MLA Anthropology and Literature Forum.

- 2019 **“Mollusk Minds”** Panel on “Scales, Environments, Mentalities). North American Victorian Studies Association, Ohio State University.
- 2019 **“Character as Bodymind in *Middlemarch* and the Consequences of Metaphor”** in Panel on “Thinking Otherwise in *Middlemarch*,” George Eliot 2019: An International Bi-centenary, Leicester, UK
- 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.
- 2009 **“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

- 2019 **Review** of Devin Griffith’s *The Age of Analogy: Science and Literature Between the Darwins*. *Victorian Review*.
- 2019 **V21 Collective Book Forum Review** of Michael Tondre’s *The Physics of Possibility*.
- 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.

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; 2010-3; 2016-7; 2018-9.

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

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

Seminars Organized

Graduate Panel in Victorian Studies Founder and Organizer. Began annual event on New Work in Victorian Studies as part of the Victorian Literature and Culture seminar. Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard Seminar. 2006-2013; 2018-present.

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

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

Presentations to Students

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

On Introductions. English Graduate Student Workshop Presentation. 2012.

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

W.W. Norton (1); Oxford University Press (2); Edinburgh University Press (1); Yale University Press (1); *Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History* (2) *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* (3); *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* (1); *Keats-Shelley Journal* (1); *Victorian Poetry* (1); *Victorian Literature and Culture* (1).

SERVICE TO BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Undergraduate Advising and Recruiting

Public Humanities Undergraduate Selection Committee, 2020.
Augustus Howe Buck Scholarship Committee, 2018-present.
Public Humanities Undergraduate Selection Committee, 2018.
Presenter at UROP Humanities Research Conference. 2019.
Speaker at “Undergraduate HumaniTeas.” Boston University Center for the Humanities, 2018.
Beinecke Scholarship Nomination Committee, 2018.
Lecturer at CAS Open Houses, Spring 2017.
Satellite Committee Member, BU Hub Learning Outcomes. Fall 2016.
Academic Advising Symposium Subcommittee, 2014-15.
College of Arts and Sciences Advisor for undeclared students, 2013-14.
Faculty representative, student recruitment meeting in Cleveland, 2010.

Other University Service

Tiny Creatures and the Boundaries of Being. English Graduate Student Association Colloquium on Faculty Research, 2018.
Study Discover Seminar on Children’s Literature, Howard Gotlieb Archival Research Center, 2017.
Presenter at CAS Dean’s Advisory Board Meeting on the Humanities, 2017.
Howard Gotlieb Student Book Collecting Awards Committee, 2017.
CAS Teaching Awards Committee, 2017.
Search Committee for Associate Directors of Kilachand Honors College, Fall 2016.
Search Committee for the Director of Kilachand Honors College, Summer 2016.
Dissertation Defense Committee Member for the Editorial Institute, 2010.
Translation Prize Judge, 2008.

Undergraduate Student Advising: UROPs

UROP Advisor, Carina Imbornone “The Film Dialogue of Fitch Trecartin Studios: An Inquiry into New Patterns of Language.” Summer 2019.
UROP Advisor, Brett Driben on Comics’ Page-turners and Other Cliffhangers. Summer 2018.
UROP Advisor, Daria Lugina on *Far from the Madding Crowd*: Narrative Voice and Gender Construction through Language. Summer 2018.
UROP Advisor, Brett Driben on the Representation of Time in Comics Panels. Summer 2017.
UROP Advisor, Brett Driben on the Representation of Time in Comics Panels. Spring 2017.
UROP Advisor, Maya Kammourieh on Public Displays of Affection in Victorian Novels. Fall 2016.

UROP Advisor, Nina Jobim on Fairy Tales, Fantasy, and Imaginary Places. Summer 2015.
UROP Advisor. Luke Quehl. Time, Space and Scale in English Literature 1790-2010. Spring 2013.

Undergraduate Theses Supervised

Daria Lugina (English) 2018-9.
Brett Driben (English) 2017-8.
Cathy Kirch (UNI) 2010-1.

Undergraduate Thesis Committees

Morgan Lehofer, 2018.
Alicia Rosenthal, 2018.
Brett Driben, 2018.
Lola Adoeson, 2018.
Sofia Zocca, 2018.
Mor Levy, 2011.
Lauren Hockensen, 2011.
Cathy Kirch, 2011.

SERVICE TO THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Undergraduate Advising and Recruiting

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2014-2019 (on leave Fall 2015).

Other Department Service

Merit Committee member (elected position), 2017.
Graduate Placement Director, 2013-14.
Merit Committee member (elected position), 2014.
Graduate Committee member, 2013-14.
Merit Committee member (elected position), 2013.
Curriculum Review Committee chair, 2011-13.
Curriculum Review Committee member, 2010-11.
Romanticism Search Committee member, 2008-9.

Graduate Student Advising

Dissertation Committee First or Second Reader

Holly Wiegand, (First Reader)
Sophia Panayioto, 2018-present (First Reader)
Eric Bjornson, 2018-present (Second Reader)
James Brophy, 2015-present. (Second Reader)
Shannon Draucker, 2012-2019. (Second Reader)
Annael Jonas-Paneth, 2011-2019. (Second Reader)
Kate Neilsen, 2011-17. (Second Reader)
Sheila Cordner, 2007-12. (Second Reader)
Leslie Simon, 2007-11. (Second Reader)

Orals Examination Committee Member

Sophia Panayioto, 2020.

Eric Bjornson, 2018.

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

Annael Jonas-Paneth, 2019.

Shannon Draucker, 2019.

Kate Neilsen, 2017.

Andrew Christensen, 2017.

Reed Gochberg, 2016.

Mary Kuhn, 2014.

Sheila Cordner, 2012.

Michael Hamburger, 2011.

Dora Goss, 2011.

Leslie Simon, 2011.

Alex Bove, 2006.

TEACHING

Climate Change (interdisciplinary team-taught sophomore class in Kilachand Honors College, BU).

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)

Time and Literature 1800-1930. (English Department, BU)

Literature and Science. (English Department, BU)

Nineteenth-Century British Novel. (EN 331, EN 534; EN 744.English Department, BU)

Narrative Theory and Literary Conceptions of Time. (Graduate Seminar, 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)