

KRISTEN L. FIGGINS

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333 Kimpel Hall, Department of English, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR 72701

EDUCATION & AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Ph.D. in English, University of Arkansas (Fayetteville, AR) Expected: **Dec. 2021**
Concentration: 19th-century British Literature and Culture and Adaptation
Dissertation: “Adapting Animals in Nineteenth-Century Literature, Science, and Philosophy”
Defense scheduled for October 2021

M.A. in English, University of Louisiana (Lafayette, LA) **2012**

B.A. in English, University of Texas-Permian Basin **2010**

Specializations: Nineteenth-Century British and Anglophone Literature and Culture; Adaptation; Critical Animal Studies; Ecocriticism; Media Studies; Digital Humanities; Science and Literature; Law and Literature; Gender Studies; Visual Culture; Film and Television; Graphic Novels; Rhetoric and Composition; Creative Writing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE— 72 SECTIONS TOTAL

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR

Instructor of Record, English Department **2017-present**

- 12 sections: Composition 1, Composition 2, Special Topics: Mutations, Monsters, and Media, Technical Composition, and World Literature I (Beginnings to 1650)
- Overall median instructor rating for AY 2017-2021: 4.71 out of 5.0 scale
- Department of English median instructor rating for AY 2017-2021: 4.49 out of 5.0 scale

University of Texas-Permian Basin, Odessa, TX

Lecturer, English Department **2015-2017**

- 25 sections: Composition 1, Composition 2, and American Literature Since 1865

Odessa College/New Tech Odessa High School, Odessa, TX

Dual-Credit Lecturer, Humanities Department **2012-2015**

- 30 sections: Dual-Credit/Advanced Placement British Literature 1 & 2

University of Louisiana, Lafayette, LA

Instructor of Record, English Department **2010-2012**

- 4 sections: Introduction to Academic Writing & Writing and Research about Culture

Prepared to offer the following courses: Film and Literature, Introduction to Literature, Introduction to Fiction, Introduction to Poetry, Science in Literature, Adaptation and the Nineteenth Century, Women & Other(ed) Animals, Race and Empire in British Literature, The Literary Animal, Comic Books as Literature, Ecocriticism and Animal Studies

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Academic Conferences & Symposia

“Speaking the Animal’s Voice: Language in Transnational and Transmedia Adaptations of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*,” Modern Language Association, January 2021 (upcoming)

“‘Our Ways Are Not Your Ways’: Contracting Time and Space in Adaptations of Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* (1897),” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2021 (chair) (upcoming)

[“He Spreads His Cape Like a Bat”](#): Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* as Invasive Species in Adaptation,” Graduate Students in English Interdisciplinary Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas, April 2021.

“Darwin’s Influence on Literature and Culture,” Invited guest speaker for interdisciplinary Honors Darwin Seminar, University of Arkansas, March 6-9, 2021.

“You Should Not Peep at Goblin Men”: Tracking the Animal Body in Christina Rossetti’s ‘Goblin Market’ and Adaptations.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, November 2020.

“Taming the Jungle: Adaptation and Appropriation.” Literature/Film Association, November 2020.

“‘Dead Since 1865’: Ways of Knowing in Faulkner’s Post-Apocalyptic South,” Society for the Study of Southern Literature, Fayetteville, Arkansas, April 2020. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]

“‘To Talk of Many Things’: Lewis Carroll and His Animals,” Graduate Students in English Interdisciplinary Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas, March 2020. [Cancelled due to COVID-19]

“‘They’d Eaten Every One’: Predation, Consumption, and Consent in Lewis Carroll’s ‘The Walrus and the Carpenter’ and Adaptations.” South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, Georgia, November 2019.

“Dumbing Down Nature: How the Mythology of an Unintelligent Nature Supports Systems of Power and Abuse in Jeff VanderMeer’s *Area X*,” Graduate Students in English Interdisciplinary Conference, Fayetteville, Arkansas, March 2018.

“Bats, Beasts, and Bullets: The Fable as Comic Book” Midwest PCA/ACA Conference, St. Louis, Missouri, October 2017, Chair

“Fire Bad, Tree Pretty: Psychoanalysis at Work in *Buffy*,” Pop Culture Association Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, Spring 2012

“The Frenchman at the Kitchen Table: The Influence of Jean Baudrillard, Roland Barthes, and Jacques Derrida on a Modern American Literary Family,” presented at the Language, Literature, and Culture Conference, Lafayette, Louisiana, March 2012

“Lost In the Gaze: Paralyzing Female Power in Spenser’s *The Faerie Queene*,” presented at the South Central Renaissance Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 2012

“The Vampire Divided: An Examination of the Vampire’s Progress from Dracula to Cullen,” presented at The Best of Three: The 36th Annual Children’s Literature Association Conference, Charlotte, North Carolina, June 2009.

Pedagogy-Centered Presentations and Invited Talks

“[Grading Contracts are Great.](#)” Introductory video for University of Arkansas’s pilot contract grading system, which adapts my grading contract for use across all sections of first-year composition, May 2021

“Grading Contracts: Why They’re Worth It.” Teaching Workshop for Rhetoric and Composition Office, 10 March 2020.

“Primary and Secondary Schooled: Tools for Teaching Types of Sources.” Teaching Workshop for Rhetoric and Composition Office, 19 September 2018.

“Teaching Rhetorical Appeal Using the Zombie Apocalypse.” Teaching Workshop for Rhetoric and Composition Office, 18 April 2018

“The Effect of Mindfulness on Phobias and Blocks in the Writing Center,” South Central Writing Center Association Conference, Conway, Arkansas, February 2018.

“Career Options for English Majors,” Early College High School Guest Presentation, UT Permian Basin, April 2017

“Tutoring Connections Between Critical and Creative Writing,” presented at the South Central Writing Center Association Annual Conference, Houston, Texas, February 2010.

PUBLIC-FACING & LEADERSHIP SERVICE

Administrative Public-Facing Roles

Program Manager, NEH Summer Institute for K-12 Educators **2020-present**

- “Remaking Monsters and Heroines: Adapting Classic Literature for Contemporary Audiences” at University of Arkansas: Institute Dates: 2020 (Institute postponed until June 2021)
- Organized a competitive review process.
- Along with co-directors, I worked with K-12 educators and guest speakers to organize and coordinate a two-week, intensive summer institute.
- Institute Website: <https://monstersandheroines.uark.edu/>

Project Coordinator & Grant Writer, NEH Grant Project: “Boom or Bust” **2015-2017**

- “Boom or Bust: A Collection and Study of Energy Narratives” at University of Texas-Permian Basin
- Award Amount: \$83,799 for Hispanic-Serving Institutions
- Co-Primary Investigator, with Rebecca Day Babcock and Jason Lagapa
- Coordinated and publicized a speaker series, monthly book clubs in three cities, and writing workshops.
- Archive Website: <https://www.boomorbustpermianbasin.org/>

Editorial Public-Facing Roles

Board of Directors , Gateway Literary Press	2020-present
Judge , Jessie O'Kelly Freshman Essay Award	2019 & 2020
Judge , Best of the Net Contest, Sundress Publications	2017
Editorial Assistant , Sundress Publications	2016-2017
Judge , Fabulist Fiction Contest, The Gateway Review	2016 & 2017
Director , Evolving Voices Reading Series	2015-2016
Founding Director , Hector Mendez Reading Series	2013-2015
Founding Director , New Tech Odessa Writing Center	2013-2015
Director , <i>Thursday Night Reading Series</i>	2011-2012
Senior Tutor , University of Texas-Permian Basin Writing Center	2007-2010

Leadership Roles

Member , Diversity and Inclusion Committee	2019-present
President , Graduate Students in English Organization	2019-2021
President , Sigma Tau Delta, Chapter Lambda Zeta	2011-2012
President , Sigma Tau Delta, Chapter Alpha Alpha Iota	2009-2010

DIGITAL HUMANITIES SERVICE

Website Developer , Boom or Bust Research Collection	2019-2020
Media Development Director , Graduate Studies in English Organization	2018-2019
Digital Media Coordinator , Society for the Study of Southern Literature	2018-2020
Research Instruction Assistant , University of Arkansas Libraries-Mullins Library	2019-2020
Lead Investigator , S.A.V.E. Affordable Textbook Grant	2015-2016
- Headed a committee who were awarded a grant to create two digital textbooks for use by first-year composition students. Editor of both books.	
Assistant Fiction Editor , <i>Rougarou: An Online Literary Journal</i>	2010-2011
Editor-in-Chief , <i>Sandstorm Literary Magazine</i>	2009-2010
Editor-in-Chief , <i>The Mesa Journal</i>	2007-2010

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

“‘Are We Not Men?’ Science, Sympathy, and Women in Adaptations of H.G. Wells’s *The Island of Dr. Moreau*.” *Literature/Film Quarterly*. Summer 2019.

Peer Reviewed Book Chapters

“Alice, Animals, and Adaptation: How Alice’s Early Adaptation History Nurtured John Tenniel’s Influence on Wonderland.” in *Adaptation Before Cinema*, Ed. Glenn Jellenik and Lisette Lopez Szwydky, Palgrave, forthcoming 2022.

“Testimonies of the Permian Basin,” in *Oil Fictions: World Literature and our Contemporary Petrosphere*, AnthroScene Series, Ed. Stacey Balkan and Swaralipi Nandi, Pennsylvania State University Press, forthcoming October 2021.

“Crude: The Unrefined Communities and Landscapes of Petrofiction.” in *Boom or Bust: Narrative, Life, and Culture in the West Texas Oil Patch*, University of Oklahoma Press, April 2021. *Wrote above chapter and co-wrote introduction. Co-edited book, which contains both creative nonfiction and peer-reviewed scholarly chapters about the petroleum industry in West Texas.*

“‘The Integrity of Nature’: A Comparative Analysis of Environmental Anxieties in the Fictions of H.P. Lovecraft and Jeff VanderMeer in *Fiction and the Sixth Mass Extinction: Narrative in an Era of Loss*, Ed. Jonathan Elmore, Rowman & Littlefield, April 2020.

“Flash and Fabulism: A New Marriage of Old Forms,” *Critical Insights: Flash Fiction*, Grey House Publishing, 2016

Works-in-progress: “Towards a Biological Model of Cultural Adaptation” (essay, in development for publication)

Edited Collections

Boom or Bust: A Collection and Investigation of Energy Narratives. Ed. Sheena Stief, Kristen Figgins, and Rebecca Babcock, University of Oklahoma Press, forthcoming 2021

AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS

National Awards:

Fellow, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/Humanities Without Walls Pre-Doctoral Career Diversity Summer Workshop, 2021

NEH Grant, “Boom or Bust: A Study and Collection of Energy Narratives,” National Endowment for the Humanities Grant for Hispanic-Serving Institutions, \$83,799, 2016-2018
(Co-Primary Investigator with Rebecca Day Babcock and Jason Lagapa), UTPB

Best Fiction Award, *Puerto del Sol*, 2015

Graduate Awards:

Excellence in Research Award, Graduate and Professional Student Congress, 2021

James J. Hudson Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities, University of Arkansas, 2020-2021

Vance/Mary Celestia Parler Randolph Award, University of Arkansas, 2020-2021

Ben Kimpel Award, University of Arkansas, 2019-2020

Graduate Assistantship, University of Arkansas, 2017-2021

Doctoral Academy Fellowship, University of Arkansas, 2017-2021

Timothy W. Adams Thesis Award, University of Louisiana, 2012

Lyceum Grant, University of Louisiana, 2011

Graduate Assistantship, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, 2010-2012

TECHNOLOGICAL & LANGUAGE PROFICIENCIES

Office Software: Microsoft Office Suite

Learning Management Systems: Blackboard, Canvas, Moodle, Echo

Business Communication Platforms: Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Slack, Skype, Google Hangouts, WebEx, GoToMeeting

Workflow and Presenting Software: Prezi, PowerPoint, Trello, Mendeley

Digital Teaching Software: Padlet, Perusall, Flipgrid, Answer Garden, & others

Web Design, Promotion, and Management: Content Management Systems, Wordpress, Wix, Weebly, Search Engine Optimization (SEO)

Digital Design and Productivity: Adobe PhotoShop and Adobe Illustrator (image editing), Adobe InDesign and Quark (desktop publishing and typesetting), Adobe PremierePro and iMovie (film editing), Adobe Audition (sound editing, podcasting), Canva (accessible social media and marketing documents)

Spanish, reading and writing fluency & limited conversational proficiency

French, reading and writing proficient & limited conversational proficiency

Russian, reading and writing proficient with dictionary

Latin, reading and writing proficient with dictionary

Old English, reading and writing proficient with dictionary

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment (ASLE)

South Atlantic Modern Language Association (SAMLA)

Literature/Film Association (LFA)

South Central Writing Center Association (SCWCA)

REFERENCES

Lissette Lopez Szwydky, University of Arkansas

Associate Professor & Associate Director of Arkansas Humanities Center

Email: lissette@uark.edu

Robin Roberts, University of Arkansas

Professor

Email: roberts1@uark.edu

Rebecca Day Babcock, University of Texas- Permian Basin

William and Ordelle Watts Endowed Professor & Director of Undergraduate Research

Email: babcock_r@utpb.edu

Glenn Jellenik, University of Central Arkansas

Associate Professor of English

Email: gjellenik@uca.edu