

Victoria Ford Smith

Associate Professor, Department of English
University of Connecticut, Storrs

First appointment: 2012

Last revised: April 18, 2022

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2010 English, Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Rice University
M.A. 2009 English, Rice University
B.A. 2003 Literature and Print Journalism, *summa cum laude*, American University

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2018–present Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
2012–2018 Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut
2010–2012 Lecturer, Rice University, Program for Communication Excellence
2007, 2010 Instructor, Rice University, Department of English
2007–2009 Tutor, Houston Community College Writing Center

RESEARCH INTERESTS

children's and young adult literature and childhood studies; child-produced culture; nineteenth- and twentieth-century British literature and culture; material culture; book history and illustration

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Between Generations: Collaborative Authorship in the Golden Age of Children's Literature. UP of Mississippi, 2017.

Articles and Book Chapters

"Impertinent Pedagogy: A Forum on Mischievous Practice in Children's and Young Adult Literature and Culture." Introduction and editorship. *The Lion and the Unicorn*, forthcoming spring 2022.

"Walking Sideways into Paradise: Desire and Degeneration in Lord Alfred Douglas's Nonsense." *Victorian Poetry*, vol. 59, no. 1, Spring 2021, pp. 49–73.

"Nonsense Poetry." *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Victorian Women's Writing*, ed. Lesa Scholl, Palgrave, 2021.

"Adult." *Keywords for Children's Literature*, second edn., ed. Philip Nel, Lissa Paul, and Nina Christensen, NYU Press, 2021, pp. 1–3.

"Katharine Hull, Pamela Whitlock, and the 'Ransome Style.'" *Literary Cultures and Twentieth-Century Childhoods*, ed. Rachel Conrad and L. Brown Kennedy, Palgrave, 2021, pp. 203–218.

"Exhibiting Children: The Young Artist as Construct and Creator." *Journal of Juvenilia Studies*, vol. 1, 2018, pp. 62–81, <https://journalofjuveniliastudies.com/index.php/jjs/article/view/19/14>.

"Return of the Dapper Men and the Nonsense of Neo-Victorian Children's Literature." *The Victorian Period in Twenty-First Century Children's and Adolescent Literature and Culture*, ed. Sonya Sawyer Fritz and Sara K. Day, Routledge, 2018. 124–141.

"Art Critics in the Cradle: Fin-de-Siècle Painting Books and the Move to Modernism." *Children's Literature*, vol. 43, 2015, pp. 161–181.

"Toy Presses and Treasure Maps: Robert Louis Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne as Collaborators." *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 1, Spring 2010, pp. 26–54.

"Dolls and Imaginative Agency in Bradford, Pardoe, and Dickens." *Dickens Studies Annual*, 2009, pp. 171–97.

Reviews and Other Short Work

Review of *Life Narratives and Youth Culture: Representation, Agency and Participation*, by Kate Douglas and Anna Poletti. *Biography*, vol. 41, no. 2, Spring 2018, pp. 406–10.

"If You Give an Adult a Coloring Book." *Public Books*, November 17, 2016, <https://www.publicbooks.org/if-you-give-an-adult-a-coloring-book/>.

Blog post on teaching *Mr. Holmes* (2015, dir. Bill Condon). *Streaky Bacon: A Guide to Victorian Adaptations*, 31 July 2015.

Review of *Children's Literature and Capitalism: Fictions of Social Mobility in Britain, 1850-1914*, by Christopher Parkes. *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, vol. 69, no. 2, September 2014, pp. 276–80.

“What We Know about *What Maisie Knew*: A Critical Conversation.” Review of *What Maisie Knew* (2012, dir. Scott McGehee and David Siegel). *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*, 30 August 2013, <http://jvc.oup.com/2013/08/30/what-we-know-about-what-maisie-knew-a-critical-conversation/>. In collaboration with Ryan Fong, Kalamazoo College.

Review of “Dickens! Author and Authorship in 2012.” *The Dickensian*, vol. 108, no. 488, part 3, Winter 2012, pp. 276–8. In collaboration with Ryan Fong, Kalamazoo College.

“Happy Birthday, Dear Edward.” Victorians Beyond the Academy, *Journal of Victorian Culture Online*, 12 May 2012, <http://jvc.oup.com/2012/05/12/happy-birthday-dear-edward/>.

Media and Community Outreach

Co-host, webmaster, and social media coordinator of *The Children's Table Podcast*, initiated September 2021. Ongoing, with two seasons released and available on major platforms. See thechildrenstablepodcast.com.

Invited after-performance speaker on representations of adolescence, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Connecticut Repertory Theatre, 6 December 2014.

Invited radio guest, “If You Give a Kid a Book They Want, They’ll Read It.” *Colin Mcenroe Show*. WNPR, 14 May 2014.

Interviewee for Jill Martin Wrenn, “Raising Readers: How to Keep Kids Reading through the Summer.” *CNN*, 27 April 2014.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Creative Children: Methodologies for Exploring Child-Produced Culture. Edited collection with Pete Kunze. Contributing introduction and chapter on the child subjects and collaborators in Arthur Tress’s *The Dream Collector* photograph anthology.

“Child Authors: Pets, Pirates, and Professionals” for *The Cambridge History of Children's Literature in English, Vol. 2: 1830–1914*, ed. Eugene Giddens and Zoe Jaques.

"KidLit from Beyond the Grave: Spiritualism, Child Mediums, and the Haunting Problem of Child Agency" for *Alt KidLit: What Children's Literature Has Been, Never Was, and Might Yet Be*, ed. Kenneth Kidd and Derritt Mason.

How Children See: Children and Modernism. Book in progress.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

"A Nasty, Biting Thing: The Wayward Child as Collaborator." University of Illinois Center for Children's Books, October 2020.

"Exhibiting Children: The Young Artist as Construct and Creator in Early Twentieth Century England" Five Colleges Childhood Studies Seminar, Smith College, October 2017

"'Not I' but We: Robert Louis Stevenson and Creative Collaboration"
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, November 2015

Refereed Conference Presentations

"Victorian Ragged Children as Saplings in the Gutter"
Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, forthcoming June 2022

"Agency, Activism, Archive, and Airwaves: Challenges and Possibilities of a Childhood Studies Podcast"
The Child and the Book Conference, Malta, forthcoming May 2022

"The Child Inside Outsider Art"
Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, virtual, June 2022

"Impertinent Pedagogies: Mischievous Praxis in Children's and Young Adult Literature and Culture"
Organizer and moderator of roundtable
Modern Language Association Annual Conference, virtual, January 2021

"Angelic Instruments: Child Mediums and the Contradictions of Children's Vision"
Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, January 2020

"The Crab Means Nothing: Lord Alfred Douglas's Nonsense and the Unspeakability of Same-Sex Desire"
International Research Society for Children's Literature, Stockholm, Sweden, August 2019

"Children in the Boer War: Prisoners, Patriots, and a Protestor"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Indianapolis, IN, June 2019

"Early Human Figures: Child Artists and the Pleasure of Mistakes"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, San Antonio, TX, June 2018

Participant in "Showcase of Careers" session

Modern Language Association Annual Conference, New York, NY, January 2018

"Keyword: Adult"

International Research Society for Children's Literature Congress, Toronto, July 2017

"Daphne Allen as Art and Artist: A Study of the Real Child and the Scholar"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, June 2017

"Painting in Miniature: Young Artists, Child Agency, and Questions that Animate the Field"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Columbus, OH, June 2016

"Crimson Tentacles and Runcible Birds: Victorian Natural History, the Child Artist, and Nonsense"

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Asheville, NC, March 2016.

"*Return of the Dapper Men* and the Nonsense of Neo-Victorian Literature"

Children's Literature Association Conference, Richmond, VA, June 2015

"Talking *Trash*: Andy Mulligan's 'Unnamed Third World Country' and the Problem of Voice"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Univ. of South Carolina, June 2014

"Sketching the Smell of Lemons: Exploring the Senses at the Children's Royal Academy"

Northeast Victorian Studies Association, Stony Brook University, April 2014

"Art Critics in the Cradle: Fin-de-Siècle Painting Books and the Move to Modernism"

Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Chicago, Illinois, January 2014

"Scribble-Minded Sages or Mere Copyists: Child Artists and the Play of Modernism"

Children's Literature Association Annual Conference, Biloxi, Mississippi, June 2013

"Dickens as Mamie Recalls Him, and Mamie As We Recall Her"

Sketches for Bob: Papers in Honor of Robert Lowry Patten, Rice University, October 2012

Dickens! Author and Authorship in 2012, University of California–Santa Cruz, July 2012

“Active Listeners: Child Auditors and the Victorian Storyteller”

NAVSA Annual Conference, seminar, Vanderbilt University, November 2011

“Captains and Codfish: Collaboration and the Powerful Child Imagination in Barrie’s *Peter Pan*”

Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 2009

“Toy Presses and Treasure Maps”

Children’s Literature Association Annual Conference, UNC Charlotte, June 2009

“Mapping *Treasure Island*: The Collaborative Landscape of R. L. Stevenson and Lloyd Osbourne”

Dickens Universe Winter Conference, Vanderbilt University, February 2009

“Nonsense Verse, the Linguistic Fall, and Post-Epic Victorians”

Poetry in the Age of the Novel, Victorian Studies Conference, University of Houston, March 2007

“Miniaturization, Magnification, and Jenny Wren’s Dolls in Dickens’s *Our Mutual Friend*”

Things/Matter, English Department Symposium, Rice University, March 2006

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Book Review Co-editor, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, 2015–present

Editor, *Streaky Bacon: A Guide to Victorian Adaptations*, 2015–present

Consultant Editor, Adam Matthew Children’s Literature and Culture Digital Resource, 2019–2020

Senior Hobby Editorial Fellow, *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900*, 2007

Hobby Editorial Fellow, *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500–1900*, 2005–2007

Editorial Fellow, *Feminist Economics*, 2004–2005

TEACHING

Graduate Seminars, University of Connecticut

ENGL 5150: Advanced Research Methods

ENGL 5160: Professional Development

ENGL 6345: Seminar in Victorian Literature

 Around 1900: Apes, Aesthetes, and Auras in British Literature & Culture

 Growing Up Victorian

ENGL 5200: Children’s Literature

ENGL 6200: Seminar in Children’s Literature (Becoming Boys: Children’s Literature and Masculinity)

Undergraduate Courses, University of Connecticut

ENGL 2101: British Literature II

ENGL 3119: Modern British Literature

ENGL 3420: Children's Literature

ENGL 3422: Young Adult Literature

ENGL 4600W: Advanced Study Seminar in Literature (Fairy Tales and Adaptations)

Honors Thesis Projects, University of Connecticut

- 2019–20 Mia Shallcross, "The Daring Damsel and the Domestic: An Analysis of the Fall of Traditional Domesticity through the Lens of Collins's *The Hunger Games Trilogy*"
- 2019–20 Amelia Bowman, drafting a young adult novel
- 2016–17 Kaitlin Jenkins, "Empathy and Empowerment in K–2 Read Aloud Sessions: An Analysis of the Inclusion of Multicultural Children's Literature"
- 2014–15 Reilly Lynch, "A Call for Increased Use of Young Adult Fantasy and Science Fiction Novels in the High School Classroom"
- 2013–14 Erica Armaos, "The Feminist Fairy Tale: What Makes and Breaks the Heroine of 'Beauty and the Beast'"
- 2013–14 Allison Olderman, "'Dishing the Dirt': Gossip, Social Law, and Narration in Young Adult Literature"
- 2012–13 Carolyn Friedman, "Sinking Your Teeth into Popular Culture: Why Reading *Twilight* Could Kill You"

Independent Studies, University of Connecticut

Young Adult Literature, Trauma, and Mental Illness (graduate-level)

Child Agency and Child-Produced Culture (graduate-level)

Reading and Researching Young Adult Literature (graduate-level)

Masculinity in Young Adult Literature

British and American Women Writers

Death in Children's Literature

Undergraduate Courses, Rice University

ENG 175: Global Modernism and Its Successors

ENG 271: Survey of Children's Literature

SERVICE

Service to the Profession

2020–present Children's Literature Association, Member of the Board of Directors

2018 Children's Literature Association, Member of Graduate Student Essay Prize Committee
 2017–2020 Children's Literature Association, Chair of Article Award Committee
 2015, 2017 Children's Literature Association, Discussion Leader (job market and book publishing)
 2015, 2017 Children's Literature Association, New Member Mentor
 2014–2017 Children's Literature Association, Member of Article Award Committee
 2013, 2015–6 Children's Literature Association, Syllabus Exchange Leader
 2012–present Article manuscript reviewer for *Brock Education Journal*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, *Children's Literature*, *Children's Literature in Education*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, and *Studies in the Novel*
 2009 Children's Literature Association, Committee, Response, Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act

University Service

2020 CLAS Dean's Vision Implementation Committee
 2019–present University of Connecticut, Programming Committee, Maurice Sendak Collection
 2017–2020 University of Connecticut, prize committee, Malka Penn Award for human rights in children's literature
 2016–present University of Connecticut, Alternative Representative, Graduate Faculty Council
 2015–2017 University of Connecticut, Junior Faculty Forum Co-convener
 2012 Rice University, Steering Committee, Center for Written, Oral, and Visual Communication

Departmental Service

2021 University of Connecticut, Department Head Search Committee, Chair
 2019–present University of Connecticut, Director of Graduate Studies
 2018–2019 University of Connecticut, Subcommittee on Governance Documents
 2017–present University of Connecticut, Executive Committee
 2015–2019 University of Connecticut, Associate Director of Graduate Studies
 2014–present University of Connecticut, Graduate Executive Committee
 2014–2015 University of Connecticut, Undergraduate Courses and Curriculum Committee
 2013–2015 University of Connecticut, Honors Program Committee
 2012–2018 University of Connecticut, Job Market Committee
 2012–2018 University of Connecticut, Aetna Children's Literature Award Committee
 2012, 2015 University of Connecticut, Panelist for Graduate Professional Development Workshop
 2009 Rice University, Department of English, Co-organizer of Poetry & Poetics Colloquium
 2006–2007 Rice University, Department of English, Graduate Symposium Co-organizer

AWARDS

- 2018 Children's Literature Association Book Award (for *Between Generations: Collaborative Authorship in the Golden Age of Children's Literature*)
- 2017 Children's Literature Association Article Honor Award (for "Art Critics in the Cradle: Fin-de-Siècle Painting Books and the Move to Modernism")
- 2010 Chair's Dissertation Prize, Rice University
- 2009–2010 Lodieska Stockbridge Vaughn Fellowship, Rice University
- 2009–2010 Rice Humanities Research Center Sarofim Teaching Fellowship (declined due to conflict with the Vaughn Fellowship)
- 2007 Dunlevie Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Rice University

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Children's Literature Association
Modernist Studies Association
North American Victorian Studies Association
Modern Language Association