

Thomas E. Recchio
Professor, Department of English
University of Connecticut, Storrs

Date of first appointment to the University of Connecticut: 1989 Rev. May 6, 2025

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1982 Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
M.Phil. 1980 Rutgers University
M.A. 1980 Rutgers University
B.A. 1976 Rutgers College, Rutgers University, with Honors and High Distinction in English

DISSERTATION

The Shape of Elizabeth Gaskell's Fiction: Realism into Myth (1982). George Levine, director

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2018 – present Professor Emeritus
2010-2018 Professor
2010-11 Professor and Director of Freshman English
2004-05 Interim Director, WAC and the University "W" Center
1995-96 Director of London Program, City University, London, UK
1994-2010 Associate Professor and Director of Freshman English, Professor 9/1/10
1989-1994 Assistant Prof. and Director of Freshman English, UConn, Associate Professor, 9/1/94
1989-2015 English Coordinator for the Early College Experience Program at the University of Connecticut
1988-89 Acting Director, Rutgers University Writing Program
1986-88 Assistant Professor and Associate Director of Composition, Rutgers University
1982-1986 Visiting Lecturer in English, Fukui University, Japan
1976-1981 Teaching Assistant and Instructor, Rutgers University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Victorian literature and culture; melodrama performance history; publishing/book history; intersections of the novel, dramatic adaptation, and film; the essay, composition and rhetorical theory and pedagogy

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

The Novels of Frances Hodgson Burnett: In 'the World of Actual Literature.' London: Anthem Press, 2020.

Reviewed in *Victorian Studies*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *The Gaskell Journal*.

Elizabeth Gaskell's Cranford: A Publishing History. Vol. 1. Studies in Publishing History. Farnham, Surrey UK and Burlington, VT: Ashgate Press (2009); New York: Routledge (2016).

Reviewed in *Victorian Studies*, *The Times Literary Supplement* (UK), *Victorian Periodicals Review*, *SHARP News*, *English Studies* (the Netherlands), *The Gaskell Journal* (UK), *Cahiers Victoriens et Edouardiens* (Paris), *Revista di Studi Vittoriani* (Italy), *RAVON* (*Romantics and Victorians on the Net*), *CHOICE* ("Highly recommended")

Edition:

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *Mary Barton*. A Norton Critical Edition. Ed. Thomas Recchio. New York: W.W. Norton, 2008.

Book Chapters

"Elizabeth Gaskell's Cultural Reception: Illustration, Appropriation, and Fan Fiction." *The Routledge Companion to Elizabeth Gaskell*, Eds. Ludlow, Elizabeth and Rebecca Styler. London: Routledge, forthcoming 2025.

"Wordsworthian Pastoral and the Problem of Evil in *The Moorland Cottage*." *Evil and Its Variations in the Works of Elizabeth Gaskell: Sesquicentennial Essays*. Ed. Mitsuharu Matsuoka. Osaka, Japan: Osaka Kyoiku Tosho, 2015. 57-72.

"Sexuality and Gender in Victorian Sensation and Other Fiction." *Critical Insights: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality*. Ed. Margaret Soesner Breen. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press/Grey House Publishing, 2014. 153-166.

"Passion and Economics in *Jane Eyre* and *North and South*." *Critical Insights: Jane Eyre*. Ed. Katie R. Peel. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press/Grey House Publishing, 2013. 99-110.

“Adapting *Mary Barton*: History, Research, Possibilities.” *Adapting Gaskell: Screen and Stage Versions of Elizabeth Gaskell’s Fiction*. Ed. Loredana Salis. Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013. 33-49.

“Essaying TA Training.” *Preparing Teachers of College Writing: Histories, Theories, Programs, Practices*. Ed. Sarah Liggett and Betty Pytlik. New York: Oxford UP, 2002. 254-265.

“Initiation Rites, Initiation Rights” with Lynn Z. Bloom. *Composition Studies as a Creative Art: Teaching, Writing, Scholarship, Administration*. Logan, UT: Utah State UP, 1998. 223-228.

“A Bakhtinian Reading of Student Writing.” *Landmark Essays on Bakhtin, Rhetoric, and Writing*. Ed. Frank Farmer. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 1997. 197-204. (Reprint of 1991 CCC article).

“On the Critical Necessity of Essaying” in *Taking Stock: Reassessing the Writing Movement in the 90s*. Eds. Lad Tobin and Thomas Newkirk. Portsmouth, NH: Boynton/Cook, 1994. 219-235.

----- Reprinted in Bartholomae, David and Anthony Petrosky, eds. *Resources for Teaching Ways of Reading*, Eighth Edition. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2008. 281-291.

“A Dialogic Approach to the Essay,” in *Essays on the Essay: Redefining a Genre*. Ed. Alexander Butrym. U of Georgia P, 1989. 271-288.

Books Edited

Advising editor with Debra Rae Cohen and George Stade. General Ed. Christine Krueger.

Encyclopedia of British Writers: 19th Century. New York: Facts of File, Inc. 2003.

(In addition to vetting the list of entries and editing all material for factual accuracy and consistency in format and style, contributed twenty-eight entries: Thomas Arnold, Louise Bevington, Dion Boucicault, Thomas Edward Brown, John Baldwin Buckstone, James Burns, Menie Muriel Dowie, Richard Dowling, Michael Field, Phillip Gosse, John Hanmer, Frederic Harrison, James Hogg, Leigh Hunt, Anna Jameson, Douglas Jerrold, George Henry Lewes, Thomas Babington Macaulay, Thomas Malthus, Charles Maturin, Florence Nightingale, Walter Pater, Charles Reade, Samiel Smiles, Sydney Smith, Queen Victoria, the Pre-Raphaelites, and Sensation Fiction.)

Advising editor with Debra Rae Cohen and Christine Krueger. General Eds. George Stade and Karen Karbeiner. *Encyclopedia of British Writers: 20th Century*. New York: Facts on File, Inc. 2003.

Articles

- “Domestic Cosmopolitanism in the Re-presentation of the Yezidi in *Household Words* (1854).” *Dickens Studies Annual*, Vol. 56, No. 1 (2025): 33-56.
- “Embodied Scholarship: A Performance History of William Richard Waldron’s *Lizzie Leigh; or, The Murder Near the Old Mill* (1863).” *Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Film*, Vol. 47.1, (Spring 2020). 43-67.
- “Documents of Performance.” *Lizzie Leigh; or the Murder Near the Old Mill* by William Richard Waldron, edited for a one-hour performance with Lauren Eriks-Cline and Sophie Christman-Lavin. *Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Film*, Vol. 47.1 (Spring, 2020).
- “Elizabeth Gaskell as ‘A Dramatic Common’: Stanley Houghton’s appropriation of *Mary Barton* in *Hindle Wakes*.” *The Gaskell Journal*. Vol. 26 (2012). 88-102.
- “The Serious Play of Gender: Blackface Minstrel Shows by Mary Barnard Horne, 1892-1897.” *Nineteenth-Century Theatre and Film* 38.2 (2011): 38-50.
- “Melodrama and the Production of Affective Knowledge in *Mary Barton*.” *Studies in the Novel*, 43.3 (Fall 2011): 289-305.
- “Toward a Theory of Narrative Sympathy: Character, Story, and the Body in *The Mill on the Floss*.” *Dickens Studies Annual*, Vol. 38 (2007): 115-142.
- “Charming and Sane”: School Editions of *Cranford* in America, 1905-1914. *Victorian Studies*, 45.4, Summer (2003): 597-623.
- “Writing Program Administration as Conversation.” *WPA: Writing Program Administration*. Special issue on Collaborative Administration, Ed. Eugenia Gunner, Vol. 21 No 2/3 Spring (1998): 150-61.
- “A Monstrous Reading of *Mary Barton*: Fiction as ‘Communitas.’” *College Literature*, Vol. 23.3, October 1996): 2-22.
- “The University of Connecticut, English 300: Theory and the Teaching of Writing.” *Composition Studies/Freshman English News*; Special Issue, Composition Studies: A Forum on Doctoral Education, Vol. 23 No. 2, Fall (1995): 10-15.
- “The Politics of the Classroom.” *Issues in Writing*, Vol. 5. No. 1. Fall/Winter (1992): 37-53.
- “Parallel Academic Lives: Affinities of Teaching Assistants and Freshman Writers” in *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, Vol. 15. No. 3. Spring (1992): 57-61.

- “A Bakhtinian Reading of Student Writing” in *College Composition and Communication*, Vol. 42. No. 4. December (1991): 446-454.
- “On Composing Ethnographically: Strategies for Enacting Authority in Writing” in *Rhetoric Review*, Vol. 10. No.1. Fall (1991): 131-142.
- “Initiation Rites, Initiation Rights” with Lynn Z. Bloom co-author, in *WPA: Writing Program Administration*, Vol. 14. No. 3 Spring (1991): 21-26.
- “Discourse Communities and the Language of Social Life: The Place of 'Voice' in Academic Writing” in *Connecticut English Journal*, Vol. 19 Spring (1991): 42-49.
- “A Victorian Version of the Fall: Mrs. Gaskell's *Cousin Phillis* and the Domestication of Myth.” *The Gaskell Society Journal*. Vol. 5 (1991): 39-50.
- “A Dialogic Approach to the Essay.” *Issues in Writing*, Vol. 1 No. 2. Spring (1989): 99-119.
- “The Pinkerton and Jenkyns Sisters: A Literary Source for *Cranford*,” *The Gaskell Society Journal*, Ed. Alan Shelston, University of Manchester, Manchester, England Volume 2. April (1988): 76-80.
- “Cranford and the 'lawe of kynde,’” *The Gaskell Society Journal*, Ed. Alan Shelston, University of Manchester, Manchester, England, Volume 1. Summer (1987): 10-26.
- “The Problem of Form in Mrs. Gaskell's *Mary Barton*: A Study of Mythic Patterning in Realistic Fiction,” *Studies in English Literature* (Tokyo, Japan), English Number. March (1984): 19-35.
- “The Debate in Paradise: A Traditional Reading of Book IX, Lines 205-385 of *Paradise Lost*.” *Memoirs of the Faculty of Education*, Fukui University, Series I: The Humanities (Foreign Languages and Literature). No. 32. January 1983, Fukui, Japan.

Review Essays

- “Some Versions of Critical Pedagogy.” *College English*. Vol. 58 No. 7, November (1996): 845- 852.
- “Novel Interventions: Science, Pseudo-science, and the Law.” *College Literature*. 32.3 Summer (2005): 182-192.

Electronic Publications

“Bakhtin, Writing Pedagogy, and the Problem of Language.” *Proceedings of the Texas Federation Rhetoric Symposium*. CD Rom Caxton Modern Arts Press, Denton, Texas, 1999.

Editorial Board

The Gaskell Journal

CONFERENCE PAPERS, COLLOQUIA, AND PERFORMANCE

“Viral Character and the Eclipse of the Author: The Extra-textual Life of Little Lord Fauntleroy.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, October 19, 2019.

Panel chair: “Henry James and the play of Genre.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, October 18, 2019.

Edited play script with Cathrine Quirk (McGill U.) and Ana Parejo Vadillo (Birkbeck) for a staged reading of Michael Field’s *A Question of Memory*. North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, performed October 19, 2019.

“Making the Strange Familiar and the Familiar Strange: Images of the Yezidi in *Household Words* (1854).” North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, October 11, 2018.

Panel chair: “Colonialism.” North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, October 13, 2018.

Directed with Catherine Quirk (McGill U.) a staged reading of *Lizzie Leigh! Or the Murder Near the Old Mill* (1863) by William Richard Waldron. North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, October 12, 2018.

Edited the play script (with Lauren Eriks-Cline and Sophie Christman Lavin) and performed the role of Tom Haywood, the highwayman, in Waldron’s *Lizzie Leigh*. North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, Florida, October 12, 2018.

“Natural Science and the Preservation of ‘Wonder’ in Neo-Victorian Fiction.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Banff, Alberta, Canada November 16, 2017.

Panel chair: "Forms of Labour Repurposed, Appropriated, and Dramatized." North American Victorian Studies Association, Banff, Alberta, Canada November 16, 2017.

Performed the role of "Dixon (a Pettifogging London Lawyer, Struck off the Rolls)" in a staged reading of the Victorian melodrama "How We Live in the World of London" by J.B. Johnstone, last performed at the Surrey Theatre, London 24 March 1856. North American Victorian Studies Association, Banff, Alberta, Canada 17 November 2017.

"Learning from Elizabeth Gaskell: Francis Hodgson Burnett's 'Magpie' Art." Annual meeting of the North American Victorian Studies Association, Pasadena, CA, October 25, 2013.

"Cultural Mythmaking in the Mid-Victorian Press: Reimagining Britain's Past and Future." Panel respondent at the Northeast Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting at the University of Connecticut, October 4, 2013.

"Elizabeth Gaskell as a 'Dramatic Common': Stanley Houghton's Appropriation of *Mary Barton* in *Hindle Wakes*. Invited paper at the Victorian Afterlives: Elizabeth Gaskell Colloquium at King's College, Strand Campus, London, England, November 12, 2011.

"*Mary Barton* Dreams, *Hindle Wakes*. Annual Meeting of the North American Victorian Studies Association, Vanderbilt University, November 5, 2011.

"Cooperation, Parody, and Subversion in Minstrel Shows by Women in the 1890s: The Case of Mary Barnard Horne." Northeast Modern Language Association Convention, Rutgers University, April 7, 2011.

"*Cranford* and Community Theater." An invited lecture sponsored by the Humanities Institute and the Drama and Theater Interest Group, University of Connecticut, Storrs, April 16, 2009.

"Making the Landscape Literary: On the Road from Cranford to Wessex." Annual Meeting of the North American Victorian Studies Association, Yale University, November 15, 2008.

"The Visual Tradition of *Cranford*." Invited lecture for the Summer Lecture Series, Wellfleet Public Library, Wellfleet (Cape Cod), MA. June 30, 2008.

"Ambiguous Humor." Conference on Literacies, University of New Hampshire, October 11, 2007.

"We All Do Rhetoric, After All." Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), March 22, 2006, Chicago, Ill.

“What I Learned About Teaching Writing in Japan.” Teaching for Transformation Conference at the University of Massachusetts, Boston, January 20, 2006.

NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) Higher Education Reading Preparedness Panel for the National Assessment Governing Board (a board appointed by the United States Congress) in St. Louis, Missouri, December 8-9, 2005.

“Teaching the Dialogic Essay.” Breaking the Mold: Experimenting with Nonfiction at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, September 27-28, 2002.

Roundtable participant on Composition Administration at Conversations about Composition: An Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing in Connecticut, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT, October 20, 2001.

Assessing Student Writing, facilitator for faculty workshop at Three Rivers Community College, Mohegan Campus, Norwich, CT, October 19, 2001.

“What do we really mean by Academic Writing and the Essay? Or, what are academics writing today and how could that change the way we teach composition?” A half-day symposium for public school teachers sponsored by the Connecticut Writing Project, October 28, 2000.

“Bakhtin, Writing Pedagogy, and the Problem of Language” in the Texas Federation Rhetoric Symposium, Bakhtin and Rhetoric On-Line Panel. Texas Women’s University, Denton, Texas, 30 April - 7 May 1999.

“The Psychology and Philosophy of Memory.” Session moderator at the Northeast Victorian Studies Association Annual Conference, Yale University, April 17, 1999.

“Coming to Terms: Revisiting the Delivery of Instruction and Services Within the Framework of Developmental Education.” Conference respondent. Capitol Community Technical College, Hartford, CT, January 19, 1999.

“The Dialogics of Sympathy in *The Mill on the Floss* at the International Conference on Narrative, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, April 5, 1997.

“A Monstrous Reading of *Mary Barton*: Fiction as Communitas” II, at the Conference on College Composition and Communication, special session on essay writing, March 1995.

“Kitchen Tables and Rented Rooms: A Workshop for Essay Writers,” workshop leader for a pre-convention full day workshop at The Conference on College Composition and Communication, Nashville, Tenn. March 16, 1994.

“‘Answerability’ in the Composition Classroom” at the 10th Anniversary Writing Fellows Program Conference, *Peer Tutoring and the Writing Process: The Next Ten Years*. Brown University, Providence, R.I., April 17, 1993.

“On the Critical Necessity of Essaying” at *The Writing Process: Retrospect and Prospect*. University of New Hampshire, October 10, 1992.

“Reading, Personal Experience, and Critical Understanding,” at CCCC in Cincinnati, Ohio. March 19, 1992.

“Institutional Politics and Classroom Practice: Cultural Diversity and English Composition”. Panel organizer for the joint WPA/ADE Summer Conference at Skidmore College, June 13-16, 1991.

“Cultural Diversity, Institutional Politics, and Social Conflict: An Emerging Context for the Teaching of Writing” a paper delivered at the WPA/ADE Summer Conference, Skidmore College, June 14, 1991.

“Ethnographic Authority and Student Writing,” at CCCC in Chicago, March 22, 1990.

“Climbing Down from the Tower: Theory as a Way into Student Texts,” panel at CCCC’s convention, March 16, 1989, Seattle, Washington (Panel chair).

“Meeting Other Voices: Student Writing and Other Texts” at the New Jersey Conference on Writing, April 16, 1988, Stockton State College, Pomona, New Jersey.

“A Dialogic Approach to the Essay” at an NEH sponsored conference entitled “The Essay: Redefining a Genre for the Humanities” at Seton Hall University, June 19, 1987. Runner-up for the best of conference.

“An Aesthetic Approach to English Language Teaching: The Uses of Poetry in EFL Classes,” delivered at the 30th Annual National Convention of Private School Teachers in Japan, Fukui Technical University, October 29, 1983.

SERVICE

University Senate, Committee of Three, 2017-18

University Senate, elected member from 2004-2007, 2008, and 2009-2012

General Education Oversight Committee from 2002-2007

Center for Academic Programs Advisory Committee 1998-2018

Early College Experience Advisory Board 2005-2018

Teaching Institute Advisory Board 2001-02

University Early College Experience Program, English coordinator 1989-2018

Advisory Council for Intercollegiate Athletics 1999

Department Graduate Executive Committee from 1989

London Committee 1996-2004
Committee for Undergraduate Writing and Instruction from 1989
Department Executive Committee, elected member 2009-2010

External Department Reviewer

Curry College, Milton, MA Writing Program
University of Massachusetts, Boston English Department
Manchester Community College (CT) English Department
Naugatuck Community College (CT) Basic Writing Program

Tenure and Promotion to Full Professor Referee

New York University
University of Denver
University of Pittsburgh
University of Massachusetts, Boston

Professional Associations

Modern Language Association
North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA)
Theatre Caucus, NAVSA
Northeast Victorian Studies Association
National Council of Teachers of English
The Gaskell Society
The English Literary Society of Japan, 1982-86

AWARDS

University of Connecticut Early College Experience named (in perpetuity) award:
Thomas E. Recchio Faculty Coordinator Award for Academic Leadership 2016
American Association of University Professors Excellence in Teaching Mentorship
(career) 2011
University of Connecticut Provost's Research Fellowship, Spring 2008.
University of Connecticut Early College Experience Faculty Coordinator Award, 2006-
07.
Distinguished Service Award from Student Support Services Center for Academic
Programs, University of Connecticut, 2006.
American Association of University Professors Excellence Award for Teaching
Innovation, 2001.
Hewlett Teaching Fellow, University of Connecticut, 1997-2000.
Junior Faculty Summer Research Fellowship, University of Connecticut, 1990.
Rutgers College Fellow, Rutgers University, 1987-89.
Research Fellow at the Center for the Study of Writing in New Jersey, 1987-88.

LANGUAGES

German (advanced speaking and reading, B2/C1)

Japanese (basic)

Related Professional Experience

Educational Testing Service: outside item writer for the verbal SAT and reader for the Composition Achievement Test (later, the SAT II), New Jersey Basic Skills Test, and the CLEP writing test, 1978-92.

Pre-publication reviewer for Bedford Books of St. Martin's Press, Prentice-Hall, McGraw Hill, Random House, and Modern Language Association Publications.

Pre-publication reviewer for *PMLA*, *College English*, *Studies in the Novel*, *College Literature*, *Composition Studies*, and *College Composition and Communication*.

Manuscript reader for Ashgate Press, University of Pittsburgh Press, MLA Press, Oxford University Press