

**Dr. Sarah H. Ficke**  
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## Education

Ph.D., May 2011, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Major: Nineteenth-Century British Literature

Minor: African American Literature

Dissertation: “Pirates, Runaways, and Long-Lost Princes: Race and National Identity in Transatlantic Adventure Fiction”

- Directors: Laurie Langbauer and William L. Andrews

M.A., May 2005, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Nineteenth-Century British Literature

Thesis: “Exploring Space in the Works of Jane Austen and Virginia Woolf”

- Director: James Thompson

B.A., May 2001, Oberlin College, English (with Honors) and Religion

## Academic Experience

**2023-present** Teaching Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2017-2023** Associate Professor of Literature and Languages, Marymount University

**2011-2017** Assistant Professor of Literature and Languages, Marymount University

**2009-2011** Project Coordinator, James Lawrence Dusenbery Journal, *Documenting the American South*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2010-2011** Senior Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2004-2010** Graduate Teaching Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2004-2007** Research Assistant, *Documenting the American South*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**2003-2004** Research Assistant, *The William Blake Archive*, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

## Academic Publications

### Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

“From Text to Tags: The Digital Humanities in an Introductory Literature Course.” *The CEA Critic* 76.2 (2014): 200-210.

### Literary Scholarship

“House, Home, and Husband in Historical Romance Fiction.” *The Routledge Companion to Romantic Love*. Ed. Ann Brooks. Routledge, 2021. 139-150.

“The Historical Romance.” *The Routledge Research Companion to Popular Romance Fiction*. Ed. Jayashree Kamblé, Eric Murphy Selinger, and Hsu-Ming Teo. Routledge, 2020. 118-140.

“Pauline Hopkins: Rewriting the Imperial Adventure.” *Cultural Dynamics of Globalization & African Literature*. Ed. Sandra Dixon and Janice Spleth. Trenton, NJ: Africa World Press, 2016. 63-77. African Literature Association Annual Series 18.

“Constructing a Post-Victorian Empire: *Rupert Gray, a Tale in Black and White*.” *Studies in the Novel* 47.4 (2015): 514-531.

“Crafting Social Criticism: Infanticide in ‘The Runaway Slave at Pilgrim’s Point’ and *Aurora Leigh*.” *Victorian Poetry* 51.2 (2013): 249-267.

“Pirates and Patriots: Citizenship, Race, and the Transatlantic Adventure Novel.” *Transatlantic Literary Exchanges, 1790-1870: Gender, Race, and Nation*. Ed. Kevin Hutchings and Julia M. Wright. Aldershot, England: Ashgate Publishing Company. Ashgate Series in Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Studies, 2011: 115-129.

“Dusenbery Journal: Literature.” *Verses and Fragments: The James L. Dusenbery Journal (1841-1842). Documenting the American South*. August 2010. University Library, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. <http://wayback.archive-it.org/3491/20170215141550/http://docsouth.unc.edu/dusenbery/lit/>.

“Harriet Jacobs.” *The Student Encyclopedia of Great American Writers*. Vol. 2. Ed. Paul Crumbley. New York: Facts on File, 2008.

Contributing Editor: “Harriet Jacobs.” *The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature: An Anthology*. Ed. William L. Andrews. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2006: 171-216.

#### Scholarship in Progress

“Falling in Love Outside of the Law: Piracy, Race, and Freedom in Caribbean Historical Romance.” *Conflict, Colonialism and Exoticism in Twenty-First Century Historical Romance Novels*. Ed. Paloma Fresno-Calleja and Hsu-Ming Teo. (In development)

#### Book Reviews

Review: *Like Clockwork: Steampunk Pasts, Presents, and Futures* eds. Rachel A. Bowser and Brian Croxall, *The ALH Online Review Series XIV*, 2018, [https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/alh\\_review\\_series\\_14](https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/alh_review_series_14)

#### **Other Publications**

*North Carolina Craft Beer & Breweries*. Co-authored with Erik Lars Myers. Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, 2016.

#### **Conference Presentations: 2011-Present**

##### National and International Conferences

“Mysterious Lights and the Elusiveness of the Past.” Popular Culture Association National Conference, Virtual: April 13-16, 2022.

"Narrating Histories of Love and Violence: The Civil War and Alyssa Cole's *A Hope Divided*." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Virtual: June 2-5, 2021.

"Engaged, but Not Enfranchised: Political Women in the novels of Rose Lerner." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Washington, DC: April 17-20, 2019.

"House, Home, and Husband in Historical Romance Fiction." International Association for the Study of Popular Romance Conference, Sydney, Australia: June 27-29, 2018.

"Happily Ever After .... And After: time travel, history and romance in the novels of Susanna Kearsley." Researching the Romance Conference, Bowling Green, OH: April 13-14, 2018.

"Brewing up a Romance." Popular Culture Association National Conference, San Diego, CA: April 13-15, 2017.

"When Vampires Meet Clockwork: Fantasy Creatures in Steampunk Romance." International Association for the Study of Popular Romance Conference, Salt Lake City, UT: June 23-25, 2016.

"Loving the Machine and Hating the Factory in Steampunk Romance." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Seattle, WA: March 22-25, 2016.

"Love and the Machine: Romance in the Victorian Industrial Novel." Popular Culture Association National Conference, New Orleans, LA: April 1-4, 2015.

"Tinkering: Physical Construction and Emotional Connection in the Iron Seas world." International Association for the Study of Popular Romance Conference, Thessaloniki, Greece: June 19-21, 2014.

"Sleeping with the Enemy?" Popular Culture Association National Conference, Chicago, IL: April 16-19 2014.

"Incest, Murder, and a Critique of Romantic Patterns in *Of One Blood: Or, The Hidden Self*." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Washington, DC: March 27-30, 2013.

"Happily Ever After in a Time of Empire: The Problem of Pleasure in *Rupert Gray*." International Association for the Study of Popular Romance Conference, York, UK: September 27-29, 2012.

"'Outlaw Stories in Our Own Papers': Outlaw Heroes in African American Romance." Popular Culture Association National Conference, Boston, MA: April 11-14, 2012.

#### Regional Conferences

"Fighting towards Union: English, Irish, and Scottish Identity in W.H.G. Kingston's Fiction." Northeast Modern Language Association Conference, Harrisburg, PA: April 3-6 2014.

#### **Conference Presentations: 2004-2010**

"Men of Action: The British Adventure Genre and African American Fiction." Symbiosis Conference, Boston, MA: June 25-27, 2009.

"Citizenship, Race, and the Transatlantic Adventure Novel." Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Conference, Vancouver, Canada: May 31-June 3, 2008.

“Exploring Identity: Gilbert & Sullivan and the Victorian Adventure Novel.” Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Urbana, IL: April 20-22, 2007.

“Pauline Hopkins: Rewriting the Imperial Adventure.” African Literature Association Conference, Morgantown, WV: March 14-18, 2007.

“The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature: Harriet Jacobs” (co-presenter). Society for the Study of Southern Literature Conference, Chapel Hill, NC: March 26-28, 2004.

## **Invited Lectures, Workshops and Other Presentations**

### Pedagogy presentations

Workshop Leader, Department of Literature & Languages: Teaching Composition Online. Marymount University, Arlington, VA: 24 June, 2020.

Workshop Leader, Department of Literature & Languages: Teaching Non-Composition Courses Online. Marymount University, Arlington, VA: 25 June, 2020.

“Canvas: Setting up Tests and Peer Reviews.” School of Design, Arts, and Humanities Teaching Online: Training sessions (in response to the Covid-19 crisis), Marymount University, Arlington, VA: 17 Mar. 2020.

Panel discussion on student success, Faculty Conversation, Marymount University, Arlington, VA: January 29, 2020.

Presentation on constructing an online class using Canvas, School of Design, Arts, and Humanities Faculty Conversation, Marymount University, Arlington, VA: December 4, 2019.

Workshop session on transitioning to Canvas, Marymount Teaching Toolbox. Arlington, VA: January 6, 2016.

Student Engagement session, Online Teaching & Learning workshop, Marymount Teaching With Technology. Arlington, VA: May 14, 2014.

Workshop session on teaching effectively online (co-presenter), Marymount Teaching With Technology. Arlington, VA: May 15, 2013.

“Using Digital Tools in Classroom Teaching.” Marymount Innovations Conference. Arlington, VA: October 17, 2012.

### Literature presentations

Co-Panelist, talk-back session after a screening of *Frankenstein* (1931), Marymount Film Festival, April 5, 2018.

Co-Presenter, “Books: From the Beginning of Print to Digital Age.” Class at the Falls Church Senior Center. Falls Church, VA: November 9, 2017.

Invited panelist, “The N-word in Film and Culture.” Chapel Hill, NC: November 18, 2010.

Invited panelist, Carrboro Cybrary Community Book Forum discussion of *The North Carolina Roots of African American Literature*. Carrboro, NC: February 20, 2009.

## **Market Research and Analysis**

### **Researcher and Analyst, The Feedback Agency, April 2017-Present**

Collect, analyze, and evaluate audience sentiment for brands or organizations, identify significant trends, patterns, and consumer decision paths, and organize and present information to interested stakeholders.

## **Digital Humanities Experience**

### **Participant, Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, BC.**

Digitisation Fundamentals and Their Application, June 6-10, 2011

- Recipient of a DHSI Tuition Scholarship

### **Project Coordinator for the James Lawrence Dusenbery Diary project (2011), *Documenting the American South* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/>), Spring 2009-Spring 2011.**

Position requirements include organizing workflow, collaborating with contributing librarians and scholars, researching supplementary materials, writing site content, proofreading, encoding, and organizing publication of the diary and supplementary documents, contributing to site design and features using HTML and CSS, and training and supervising research assistants.

This site has been peer-reviewed and approved by NINES: Nineteenth-century Scholarship Online.

### **Research Assistant for multiple digital collections, *Documenting the American South* (<http://docsouth.unc.edu/>), 2004-2007.**

Position requirements included encoding, proofing, and publishing texts online in the collections *North American Slave Narratives*, *Library of Southern Literature*, *True and Candid Compositions*, *The First 100 Years of the First State University*, and *The Colonial and State Records of North Carolina*.

Additional duties included maintaining complex indices for manuscript collections, transcribing manuscripts, scanning and correcting images, collaborating on grant writing, conducting research in the Southern Historical Collection, and training and supervising other graduate assistants. Fully trained in Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) standards, oXygen XML editor, and Photoshop.

### **Research Assistant, *The William Blake Archive* (<http://www.blakearchive.org/blake/>), Fall 2003-Spring 2004.**

Position requirements included scanning transparencies of Blake's art, using Photoshop to color-correct the digitized images to ensure that they matched the originals, sending images to the web editors.

## **Teaching Experience**

### ***University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Composition Courses***

English Composition and Rhetoric (3 sections, 2023)

### ***Marymount University: Undergraduate Composition and General Courses***

Discover 101 (2 sections, 2018, 2019)

Discover 201 (1 section, 2015)

Composition I (11 sections, 2011-2020)

Composition II (9 sections, 2015-2022)

Introduction to College Writing (2 sections, 2013)

***Marymount University: Undergraduate Literature Courses***

Senior Seminar (1 section, 2021)

Major Author(s): Nnedi Okorafor (1 section, 2023)

Major Author(s): The Brontë Sisters (1 section, 2016)

World Literature: Romanticism through Post-Modernism (8 sections, 2011-2018)

Introduction to Visual and Cultural Study (2 sections, 2015, 2016)

Literary Superheroes/Heroes, Anti-heroes, and Superheroes (6 in-person sections, 2012-2022; 5 online sections, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2020, 2021)

Studies in the Novel: Nineteenth-Century British Novel (1 section, 2014)

Nineteenth-Century British Poetry (3 sections, 2012, 2014, 2017)

19th c. British Literature: Self, Community, and the World (1 section, 2019)

Major Women Writers (4 sections, 2011, 2014, 2020)

Literature of Childhood and Adolescence (3 sections, 2014, 2017, 2021)

Elements of Literary Study/ Approaches to Literary Study (4 sections, 2012, 2013, 2016, 2022)

Studies in Contemporary Literature: Historical Fiction (1 section, 2017)

American Multicultural Literature (2 online sections, 2018, 2019)

Studies in the Novel: Popular Romance Fiction (1 section, 2018)

Worldbuilding: Science Fiction and Fantasy (3 sections, 2021, 2022, 2023)

The Experience of Poetry (1 section, 2022)

***Marymount University: Graduate Courses***

Seminar in Literature Post 1800 (1 section, 2023)

Building Textual Interpretation (1 section, 2021)

Literary Proponents of Culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries (1 section, 2016)

Technology for College Literature and Writing (3 sections, 2013, 2015, 2020)

Origins of the Novel (1 section, 2012)

***University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Composition Courses***

Composition and Rhetoric: Writing in the Disciplines, Humanities (2 sections, 2011)

Composition and Rhetoric: Writing Across the Curriculum (9 sections, 2005-2010)

Composition and Rhetoric: Analysis and Argument (4 sections, 2004-2010)

***University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: Literature Courses***

Popular Genres (1 section, 2010)

Introduction to Fiction (1 section, 2008)

British Literature: Wordsworth to Eliot (1 section, 2007)

**Marymount University Service**

President of Faculty Council (May 2022-present)

President-elect of Faculty Council (May 2021-May 2022)

Graduate Director, English & Humanities Program (August 2020-January 2021; position was eliminated in restructuring)

Co-Chair, Graduate Studies Committee (August 2020-May 2022)

Member, Academic Policy, Budget & Planning Committee (August 2020-present)

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Member, University Budget Committee (August 2020-May 2021)

Chair, College of Sciences and Humanities Curriculum Committee (August 2021-May 2022)

Chair, School of Design, Arts, and Humanities Curriculum Committee (August 2019-May 2020)

Member, Undergraduate Curriculum and Instruction Committee (August 2019-May 2020)

Member, Liberal Arts Core Strategic Planning Initiative (August 2019-May 2020)

Interim Chair, School of Design, Arts, and Humanities Curriculum Committee (Fall 2018)

Interim member, Undergraduate Curriculum and Instruction Committee (Fall 2018)

Interim member, Liberal Arts Core Committee (Fall 2018)

Editor, Marymount SACSCOC reaccreditation report (2017)

Member, University Ethics Committee (2011-present)

Member, University Technology Online Content Governance Sub-Committee (2016-2018)

Chair, Quality Matters Committee for Online Learning (2016-2017)

Member, Quality Matters Committee for Online Learning (2012-2018)

Member, Steering Committee, International Studies Interdisciplinary Minor (2012-2016)

Participant, Liberal Arts Core Assessment (2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018)

Member, University Technology Committee (2014-2018)

Faculty panelist for Academic Integrity Hearings (2016-present)

Member, Hiring Committee, English Department (2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2019-2020)

Director for three M.A. theses, Graduate program in English & Humanities

Second reader for eight M.A. theses, Graduate program in English & Humanities

Supervisor for two M.A. practicums, Graduate program in English & Humanities

Director for eleven independent studies, ten M.A. level and one undergraduate.

Advisor to students in the Department of Literature and Languages, and the Liberal Studies program

Co-advisor, *Magnificat: A Journal of Undergraduate Nonfiction* (2013-2023)

Faculty Supervisor to English majors completing internships for credit

Faculty Advisor, Marymount chapter of Phi Eta Sigma (2019-2021)

Marymount Classroom visits:

- Dr. Katie Peebles's Book Histories, Book Futures class on March 28, 2023 teach a session on William Blake's poetry, images, and the *Blake Archive*
- Dr. Katie Peebles's Building Textual Interpretation class on October 7, 2019 to talk about the Digital Humanities
- Dr. Leigh Johnson's Senior Seminar class on Oct. 6, 2017 to lead the class discussion on *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* by Charles Dickens.
- Dr. David Brown's Building Textual Interpretation class on Sept. 13, 2017 to talk about my research area with our new MA students at that time

## **Professional and Community Service**

Web Manager, *International Association for the Study of Popular Romance* (2023-present)

Web Editor, *Journal of Popular Romance Studies* (2012-Present)

Peer Reviews: *Journal of Commonwealth Literature* (2016; 1); *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature* (2017; 1); *Journal of Popular Romance Studies* (2018, 2021; 2)

Joined authors Mary Robinette Kowal and C. L. Polk, and soft robotics and costuming expert Kari Love to discuss Netflix's *Bridgerton* on a charity livestream raising money for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank (February 23, 2021)

Guest Expert: TRT World Showcase segment titled "Netflix's Bridgerton" discussing historical romance and its cultural significance in the context of Netflix's blockbuster adaptation of Julia Quinn's *Bridgerton* novels: <https://www.trtworld.com/video/showcase/netflixs-bridgerton/6006f491b79074001853d379> (20 Jan. 2021)

## **Professional Development**

**Quality Matters Course, August 23-September 6, 2016**

Applying the QM Rubric

**Quality Matters Course, June 4-25, 2015**

Teaching Online-An Introduction to Online Delivery

**Digital Humanities Summer Institute, Digital Humanities Pedagogy course, June 4-8, 2012**

Course designed to teach participants the basics of digital pedagogy, with a strong emphasis on practice. Attended as a NINES affiliate with a partial scholarship

**Faculty Ethics Seminar, Marymount University, May 15-18, 2012**

Seminar designed to increase faculty comprehension of ethical principles and theories, and to discuss effective ways to incorporate ethical material into courses in a variety of disciplines.

## **Professional Memberships**



International Association for the Study of Popular Romance  
Modern Language Association

## **Fellowships and Awards**

**Faculty Development Sabbatical Grant.** Competitive funding awarded by the Provost's office at Marymount University to support research, Spring 2019.

**Faculty Development Grant.** Competitive funding awarded by the Provost's office at Marymount University to support research activities, Spring 2018.

**Last Minute Faculty Development Grant.** Competitive funding awarded by the Provost's office at Marymount University to support research activities outside of the regular funding cycle, Spring 2014.

**NINES DHSI Scholarship.** Partial scholarship from NINES: Nineteenth-century Scholarship Online to attend the Digital Humanities Summer Institute seminar on Digital Humanities Pedagogy in Victoria, British Columbia, as a NINES affiliate, Summer 2012.

**DHSI Tuition Scholarship.** Scholarship from the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria, British Columbia, to attend the seminar Digitisation Fundamentals and Their Application, Summer 2011.

**Fred and Joan Thomson Dissertation Award.** Competitive award from the UNC-CH Department of English and Comparative Literature for outstanding dissertation work in Eighteenth or Nineteenth Century British studies, September 2010.

**C.S. Herschel Course Development Award.** Competitive award from the UNC-CH Writing Program granted annually to recognize excellent unit assignment development for composition classes, September 2010.

**Future Faculty Fellowship Program.** Competitive award from the UNC-CH Center for Faculty Excellence to fund participation in an intensive faculty development seminar. August 12-18, 2009.

**Departmental Dissertation Fellowship.** Competitive award from the UNC-CH Department of English and Comparative Literature to fund work on dissertation. Summer 2008.