

Laura Kasson Fiss

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CURRENT POSITION AT MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Research Assistant Professor, Pavlis Honors College, 2016-

Affiliated Research Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, 2018-

Member, Graduate Faculty, 2014-

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Humanities, MTU, 2017-18

Instructor, Humanities, MTU, 2014-17.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Writing Program, Davidson College, Spring 2014.

Lecturer, University Writing Programs, UNC Charlotte, Fall 2013.

Visiting Scholar, Department of English, Vassar College, 2011-13.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Marist College, Fall 2012.

Associate Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007-11.

EDUCATION

PhD in English, Minor in Victorian Studies, Indiana University, February 2013.

COMMITTEE: Andrew H. Miller (chair), Joss Marsh, Ivan Kreilkamp, D. Rae Greiner.

DISSERTATION: *Laughing with the Victorians: Humor and Interrupted Reading*.

MA in Text and Book, University of Birmingham (UK), December 2006.

Degree with Distinction.

DISSERTATION: "Public Readers: Charlotte Brontë and George Henry Lewes's Self-Representation as Readers"

AB in English and Music, Vassar College, May 2005.

General Honors, Honors in English, Honors in Music, Phi Beta Kappa.

PUBLICATIONS (19TH-CENTURY STUDIES)

Clubs for the Unclubbable: Humor and Mass Readership from Jerome K. Jerome to P. G. Wodehouse. Full MS available.

"Out With It, as the Subeditor Said to the Novel: Wellerisms and the Humor of Excerption." *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 40, no. 1, 2017, pp. 228-37.

"The Idler's Club: Humor and Sociability in the Age of New Journalism." *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2016, pp. 415-30.

"Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book: Humor, Mediation and Distance in Carroll, Thackeray, and Stevenson." *The Lion and the Unicorn*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2014, pp. 258-78.

“‘This Particularly Rapid, Unintelligible Patter’: Patter Songs and the Word-Music Relationship.” *The Cambridge Companion to Gilbert and Sullivan*, edited by David Eden and Meinhard Saremba, Cambridge UP, 2009, pp. 98-108.

Reviewed by Helena Culliney in *The Journal of Victorian Culture*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2011, pp. 142-46, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13555502.2010.519547>.

Review of *Music & the British Military in the Long Nineteenth Century*, by Trevor Herbert and Helen Barlow; *Music and Academia in Victorian Britain*, by Rosemary Golding; and *Music and Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Britain*, edited by Paul Rodmell. *Victorian Studies*, vol. 58, no. 2, 2016, pp. 356-59.

With Andrew Fiss, “Laughing Out of Math Class: The Vassar *Mathematikado* and Nineteenth-Century Women’s Education.” *Configurations*, 27:3, forthcoming.

“The Tribulations of a Stock Character: Humor and Realism in Gilbert and Sullivan,” under review.

With Troy Bassett, “The Most Connected Men in Literature: London Club Membership among Novelists in the 1890s,” under review.

HIGHER EDUCATION RESEARCH

Publications

Lorelle A. Meadows, Mary Raber, and Laura Kasson Fiss, “Innovation and Inclusion—Applying design thinking and lean startup in the honors context,” *Excellence, Innovation and Ingenuity in Honors Education*, ed. Graeme Harper (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019) 79-97.

Lorelle A. Meadows, Maura Hollister, Mary Raber, and Laura Kasson Fiss, “GPA as a Product, Not a Measure, of Success,” *National Collegiate Honors Council* monograph series, in press.

Published, Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

Laura Kasson Fiss, Lorelle A. Meadows, Mary Raber, Kari B. Henquinet, and Richard Berkey, “An Educational Framework to Promote Self-Authorship in Engineering Undergraduates,” *2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida*, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32058>

Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, Laura Kasson Fiss, and Karla Saari Kitalong. “Exploring the Relationship Between Communication Skills and Performance in First-Year Engineering,” *2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida*, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32815>

Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, Laura Kasson Fiss, and Karla Saari Kitalong, “Comparing First Year Engineering Students’ Math and Verbal ACT scores and Performance in Introductory Engineering and Composition Courses,” *2018 FYEE Conference, Glassboro, New Jersey*, July 2018. <https://peer.asee.org/31389>

Presentations

Patricia Helsel, Libby Meyer, and Laura Kasson Fiss, "Unlocking and Promoting Creativity in All Disciplines," Upper Peninsula Teaching and Learning Annual Conference, May 2019.

Laura Kasson Fiss and Lorelle Meadows, "Reflection, Self-Authorship, and the Honors Experience," National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, November 2018.

Lorelle Meadows, Mary Raber, and Laura Fiss, "Using Design Thinking to Rethink Your Honors Program," Workshop Presentation, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, November 2017.

Rebecca Edwards, Laura Kasson Fiss, Andrew Fiss, and Peter Bunten. "Spirit of Freedom: Using Music to Teach Antislavery History." New York State Council for the Social Studies Conference, March 2013.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS (19TH-CENTURY STUDIES & RELATED FIELDS)

"From Idlers to Drones: P. G. Wodehouse, Clubs, and Class." North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, October 2019.

"J. M. Barrie and Unclubbability: The Politics of Social Awkwardness." Plenary Panel. Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2019.

"Recalling the Trenches from the Club Window: Contrasting Perspectives in Dorothy Sayers and P. G. Wodehouse." "Armistice & Aftermath: A World War One Symposium," Michigan Technological University, September 2018.

"The Bodies of the Idler's Club: A Quantitative Analysis of Column Contributors." "The Body and the Page," an international conference jointly hosted by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals and the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada, July 2018.

With Andrew Fiss, "Female 'Mathematikados': Parodying the Patriarchy in 19th-century STEMM Education." British Science Festival, Brighton, September 2017.

"Paradox of Character: Humor and Realism in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*." Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2017.

"Clubs for the Unclubbable: Humor and Literary Sociability among Doyle, Zangwill, and Others." North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2016.

"Contexts of the Newspaper Joke: The Wellerism and Scissors-and-Paste Journalism." Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Conference, September 2016.

"Reading Sam Weller through the Newspaper: Wellerisms and the Humor of Quotation." Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2016.

“The Unnatural Club in Late-Victorian Light Humor: The Diogenes Club and Beyond.” The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, March 2016.

“Club Chatter and Literary Sociability in the *Idler* Circle.” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Conference, September 2014.

“Clubs for Idlers: The Collective Energies of Jerome K. Jerome, Israel Zangwill, and J. M. Barrie.” The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, March 2014.

“Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book: Distance and Mediation in Victorian Reading.” Victorians Institute, November 2013.

“The Tribulations of a Stock Character: Metatheatrical Humor and Characters’ Suffering in Gilbert’s *Sensation Novel* and *Ruddigore*.” Modern Language Association Conference, January 2013.

“Imagining the Fireside: Networks of Reader Relationships in Victorian Children’s Humor.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, September 2012.

“‘O For a Muse of Fire’: What Does That Actually Mean?” *Shakespeare Connects* Conference, Grand Valley State University, MI, October 2009.

“The Sounds of Nonsense: Noise and Meaning in Gilbert and Sullivan’s ‘Nightmare Song.’” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2008.

“Charlotte Brontë and George Henry Lewes’s Competing Readings of Jane Austen.” British Women Writers Conference, March 2008.

“Language as Vocal Pedagogy.” *Words and Notes in the Nineteenth Century* Conference, hosted by the Institute of Musical Research and the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of London, July 2007.

Other presentations at graduate conferences, internal symposia, etc.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND PUBLIC LECTURES

“Clubs for the Unclubbable: Humor and Literary Sociability,” Tech Talks (Michigan Tech Research Forum), December, 2016.

“Feelings about Reading.” Public lecture at Portage District Library, part of programming for the Great Michigan Read through the Michigan Humanities Council, co-sponsored by the Copper Country Reading Council, November 2015.

“Women, Men, Babies, and Power in *Macbeth*.” Public lecture for the Rosza Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan Technological University, March 2015.

“The Idler’s Club: Humor and Gender in Jerome K. Jerome.” First Friday talk for the Women’s Studies Program, Vassar College, November 2012.

“Laughter by the Nursery Fireside: Humor in Victorian Children’s Literature.” Victorian Studies Tea, Vassar College, November 2011.

“Researching Charlotte Brontë’s Reading.” Lecture at Vassar College, invited by the Victorian Studies Program, November 2006.

PEDAGOGICAL PRESENTATIONS, PERFORMANCES, AND EXHIBITS

Dramaturg, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Patricia Helsel. April 2018.

Dramaturg, *Fires in the Mirror* at the McArdle Theatre, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Roger Held. November 2017.

Dramaturg, *West Side Story* at the Rozsa Center for Performing Arts, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Patricia Helsel. April 13-15, 2017. Supervised student work in program notes and lobby display.

Miss Temple in John Brougham’s melodrama adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, performed at the North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2016.

With Lisa Johnson de Gordillo. “Come In, We’re Open.” Collaborative partnership and exhibit of works in progress jointly created by students in Literary Survey A (taught by LKF) and Sculpture (taught by LJG), March 2016.

With Lisa Johnson de Gordillo. “To Hear with Eyes.” Collaborative partnership and exhibit of student art jointly created by students in Literary Survey A (taught by LKF) and 2-D Design (taught by LJG), December 2015.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Participated in: Marika Seigel, PI, “A Human-Centered Engineering Initiative” from NEH Humanities Connections. Award amount: \$34,999. Role: Participating Faculty.
- Participated in: Nassar Alaraje, PI, “Engineering Technology Scholars – IMPROving RETention and Student Success (ETS-IMPRESS)” from NSF S-STEM. Award amount: \$999,483. 2017-2022. Role: Other Personnel.
 - Nasser Alaraje, Lorelle A. Meadows, Laura Kasson Fiss, Susan L. Amato-Henderson, Guy C. Hembroff, Aleksandr Sergeev, Kellie H. Raffaelli, and John L. Irwin, “Board 3: Engineering Technology Scholars-IMPROving Retention and Student Success (ETS-IMPRESS): First Year Progress Report,” Paper presented at 2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32317>
- Evaluator, “Pucks and Guts” for the Michigan Humanities Council, 2017.
- The History of Science Section of the British Science Association and the British History of Science Society, international travel support, 2017.

- North American Victorian Studies Association Travel Grant, 2008.
- IU English Department Travel Grant, 2007.
- IU English Department First-Year Fellowship, 2006-07.
- Vassar Maguire Fellowship for Study Abroad, 2005-06.
- Kate Chittenden Memorial Scholarship for Summer Study, 2004.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

British literature, gender studies, reading studies, history of the book, print culture, humor, history of journalism, children's literature, media studies, music and text, Shakespeare, performance studies, comparative media, literature and science, STEAM, women in science, higher education, self-authorship, interdisciplinarity, design thinking.

COURSES TAUGHT

Michigan Technological University

HON 3150 Pavlis Seminar II

HU 2400 Introduction to Diversity Studies

HU 2503 Introduction to Literature

HU 2503 Literary Survey A

HU 2538 The British Experience in Literature

HU 3507 Critical Studies in Periods and Movements: The Victorian Era

HU 3513 Shakespeare

HU 3555 Modern and Contemporary British Literature

Davidson College

Writing 101: Writing in the Liberal Arts Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book

UNC-Charlotte

English 1101 Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts I

English 1102 Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts II

Marist College

English 270 Classics of Western Literature

Indiana University

English L-390 Children's Literature

English L-142 Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature 2: Celebrity

English L-142 Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature 2: Generational Stories

English W-231 Professional Writing

English W-131 Elementary Composition

SERVICE

Advising

- Graduate committee member for Emily Simmons, MS in Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture at Michigan Technological University, 2018.

- Graduate committee member for Richard Ward, MS in Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture at Michigan Technological University, 2017.

University

- Participant in Tech Forward working group, “Education for the 21st Century,” spring 2019.
- Curriculum and Assessment Working Group, Pavlis Honors College, Michigan Technological University, 2016-.
- Liberal Arts/English Committee, Michigan Technological University, 2014-15.
- Mentor to first-year graduate students, Indiana University Department of English, 2007-11.

National

- Bibliography Committee of the Victorian Division of the Modern Language Association of America, 2007-12.

Conferences

- Chaired/moderated sessions at several conferences, including ASEE, NAVSA and INCS, and internal symposia.
- Served on organizing committees for graduate conferences at Indiana University 2010-11.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- North American Victorian Studies Association
- Modern Language Association
- Research Society for Victorian Periodicals
- American Society for Engineering Education
- Midwest Victorian Studies Association