

## Wolfram M. Schmidgen

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## Curriculum Vitae

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### • Education

University of Chicago, Ph.D. in English Language and Literature, 1997.  
Free University Berlin, M.A. in American Studies, 1992.  
Binghamton University, M.A. in Comparative Literature, 1990.

### • Positions

Professor of English, Washington University, 2012-present.  
Associate Professor, Comparative Literature, Washington University, 2008-present (courtesy appointment).  
Associate Professor of English, Washington University, 2005-2012.  
Assistant Professor of English, Washington University, 2002-2005.  
Lecturer, University of Leeds, 1998-2002.  
Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Knox College, 1997-1998.

### • Publications

#### Books

*Eighteenth-Century Fiction and the Law of Property*

(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002; paperback 2006).

Reviewed in: *Times Literary Supplement* March 21 (2003) (Jonathan Lamb); *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* 37:1/2 (2003-4) (Ruth Mack); *Études Anglaises* 57:4 (2004) (Georges Lamoine); *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 37:1 (2004) (Susan Staves); *BARS Bulletin and Review* 25 (2004) (Paul Keen); *Modern Language Quarterly* 66:2 (2005) (James Thompson); *Eighteenth Century Fiction* 18:2 (2005-6) (John P. Zomchick); *The Review of English Studies* 55:218 (2004) (Joe Bray); *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 40:2 (2007) (Bonnie Gunzenhauser).

*Exquisite Mixture: The Virtues of Impurity in Early Modern England*  
(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013).

Reviewed in: *Times Literary Supplement* July 10, 2013 (Pat Rogers); *Journal for the Study of British Cultures* 20:2 (2013); *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies* 14:1 (2014) (Peter DeGabriele); *Cambridge Quarterly* 42:4 (2013) (Phoebe Dickerson); *Journal of Modern History* 86:3 (2014) (Brian Cowan); *Modern Philology* 111:4 (2014) (Mary Floyd Wilson); *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies* 37:2 (2014) (William Tullett); *Dublin Review of Books* June 2, 2014 (Michael Cronin); *Anglia* 132:1 (2014) (Gerd Bayer); *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 27:1 (2014) (Katherine Quinsey); *Eighteenth Century Studies* 48:2 (2015) (Viv Soni); *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture*,

1660-1700 39:1-2 (2015) (Brian C. Lockey); *South Atlantic Review* 84:4 (2019) (Scott Oldenburg).

*Infinite Variety: Literary Invention, Theology, and the Disorder of Kinds, 1688-1730* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021).

Reviewed in: *Modern Philology* 119:4 (2022) (Sean Silver); *The Seventeenth Century* 37:5 (2022) (Sorana Corneanu); *Choice* (July 2022) (M. H. Kealy); *The Scriblerian and the Kit-Cats* 55:1-2 (2022) (Melvyn New); *Modern Language Quarterly* 84:1 (2023) (Dustin Stewart); *The Year's Work in English* 102:1 (2023); *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 36:2 (2024) (Emma Major); *The Annals of the Japanese Association for the Study of Puritanism* 18 (2024) (Nakajima Wataru).

#### Refereed Articles

“Appreciation After Critique,”  
*New Literary History* 54:2 (2023), 1085-1111.

“The Metaphysics of *Robinson Crusoe*,”  
*ELH* 83:1 (2016), 101-126.

“The Last Royal Bastard and the Multitude,”  
*Journal of British Studies* 47:1 (2008), 53-76.

“Re-Embodying the Aesthetic,”  
*Modern Language Quarterly* 66:1 (2005), 55-84.

“Illegitimacy and Social Observation: The Bastard in the Eighteenth-Century Novel,” *ELH* 69 (2002), 133-166.

“*Robinson Crusoe*, Enumeration, and the Mercantile Fetish,”  
*Eighteenth-Century Studies* 35 (2001), 19-39.

“Picturing Property: *Waverley* and the Common Law,”  
*Studies in the Novel* 29 (1997), 191-213.

#### Solicited Articles/ Chapters

“Undividing the Subject of Literary History: From James Thomson’s Poetry to Daniel Defoe’s Novels,” *Eighteenth-Century Poetry and the Rise of the Novel Reconsidered*, ed. Kate Parker and Courtney Weiss Smith (Lewisburgh: Bucknell University Press, 2014), 87-104.

“The Politics and Philosophy of Mixture: John Locke Recomposed,”  
*The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 48:3 (2007), 205-223.

“Därför talar tingen” (Why Things Talk), *Axess Magazine* 4 (2007), 16-19.  
Reprinted in: *From the Present Future to Global Racism* (Axess Yearbook, 2007).

“New Approaches to the Long Eighteenth Century,” special focus section in *College Literature* 31 (2004), co-written (93-101) and co-edited (102-206) with Bonnie Gunzenhauser.

“The Principle of Negative Identity and the Crisis of Relationality in Contemporary Literary Criticism,” *Research in English and American Literature* 11 (1995), 371-405.

### Reviews

Yoon Sun Lee, *The Natural Laws of Plot: How Things Happen in Realist Novels* (Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, 2023), forthcoming in *Modern Language Quarterly*.

“Ruth Mack, *Literary Historicity: Literature and Historical Experience in Eighteenth-Century Britain* (Stanford UP, 2009),” *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 52 (2011), 231-235.

“Kevin Hart, *Samuel Johnson and the Culture of Property* (CUP, 1999),” *Romanticism* 7 (2001), 214-216.

“Disciplinary Dilemmas in the Study of Persons and Things,” *Journal of British Studies* 38 (1999), 246-251.

### • Grants and Awards

Eminent Scholar, Department of English and Humanities Center, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Fall 2014.

Graduate Student Caucus Excellence in Mentorship Award, ASECS Graduate Student Caucus, 2014.

NEH fellowship, Folger Library, Washington DC, 2007-2008.

Faculty fellow, Mellon Seminar “The Souls of Things,” Vanderbilt University, Spring 2006 and 2007.

Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor, Washington University, 2005-2006.

Fellow at the Summer Institute on *Tristram Shandy* at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, Summer 2005.

Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997.

Century Fellowship, University of Chicago, 1992-1996.

DAAD Fellowship (German Academic Exchange Service), 1988-1989.

### • Invited Presentations

Workshop on Postcritique, Rita Felski, Fall 2023.

Plenary address, *Defoe Society*, New Haven, Fall 2017.

Invited presentation, *Johnson Society of the Central Region*, Chicago, Spring 2015.

Invited presentation, *Johnson Society of the Central Region*, Columbus, Spring 2014.

Invited presentation, Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies, Eighteenth-Century Seminar, Spring 2012.

Invited presentation, Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Colloquium, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2012.

Invited presentation, UCLA Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies conference, “Letters Before the Law, 1640-1789,” Fall 2008.

Invited presentation, *Juxtapositions* lecture series at University at Buffalo, SUNY, Spring 2007.

Invited presentation, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Chicago, Conference on Academic Careers at Research Universities, Spring 2006.

Invited presentation for the panel “Reconsidering the Rise of the Novel,” *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Spring 2006.

Invited presentation for the panel “The New Defoe,” *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Las Vegas, Spring 2005.

Invited presentation, Huntington Library conference “Legitimacy and Illegitimacy: Law, Literature, and History, c.1780-1914,” San Marino, Spring 2005.

Invited presentation, Eighteenth-Century Workshop, University of Chicago, Fall 2001.

Invited presentation, Eighteenth-Century Seminar, University of York, Summer 2000.

- **Conference Papers and Panels**

“On Presence,” panel organized for the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Spring 2024.

“Do We Still Need the Human?” roundtable organized for the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Spring 2022.

Contributor, Roundtable “Has the Eighteenth Century Ever Been Modern?” *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, 2021.

“Transcendent Realism,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, 2022.

“Metaphysical Realism,” paper given at the *International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies* meeting in Rotterdam, Summer 2015.

“*Robinson Crusoe*’s Utopian Style,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Los Angeles, Spring 2015.

“Post-Secular Literary Histories,” panel organized for the *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Vancouver, Winter 2015.

“Rethinking the Place of the Novel in the History of Genre,” panel organized for the *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Chicago, Winter 2014.

“The Long Restoration,” panel organized for the *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Boston, Winter 2013.

“Mixture Unbound,” paper given at the *Modern Language Association Annual Conference*, Boston, Winter 2013.

“Thinking with Corpuscles,” paper given at the *Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Middletown, Fall 2012.

“Mediation, Radical Politics, and Christian Epicureanism,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, Spring 2012.

“Re-Locke-ing Defoe,” paper given at the *Defoe Society*, Worcester, Summer 2011.

- “Voices of Lyric: Theory and Practice,” panel organized for *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Vancouver, Spring 2011.
- “Mixture Unbound,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Albuquerque, Spring 2010.
- “The Political History of *The True-Born Englishman*,” paper given at the Inaugural Biennial Meeting of the *Defoe Society*, Tulsa, Fall 2009.
- “Bad Feelings,” panel organized for *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Richmond, Spring 2009.
- “Mixture and Identity in Early Modern Science,” paper given at *Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, Fall 2008.
- “Mixture and Modern Science in England, 1620-1670,” paper given at *The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts International Meeting*, Berlin, Summer 2008.
- “The New Locke,” panel organized with Helen Thompson for *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Portland, Spring 2008.
- “Locke and Matter,” panel organized with Helen Thompson for *Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Spring 2007.
- “Eighteenth-Century Multitudes,” panel organized for *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Montreal, Spring 2006.
- “Empiricist Multitudes in Boyle and Locke,” paper given at *The Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Meeting*, Chicago, Fall 2005.
- “Consuming the Bastard: The Duke of Monmouth and the Spectacle of Multitude,” paper given at *Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Annual Meeting*, Orlando, Fall 2004.
- “How Modern Is the Late Early Modern?” panel organized for *Mid-Western American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, St. Louis, Fall 2004.
- “Crossing Genres: James Thomson and the De-Modernization of the Novel,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Boston, Spring 2004.
- “The Hybrid Eighteenth Century,” ASECS-sponsored panel organized for *MLA*, San Diego, 2003.
- “Adam Smith and the Early Modern Commodity: Circulation and Narrative Economy in the 1770s,” paper given at *Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Annual Meeting*, Newport Beach, Fall 2003.
- “De-Modernizing the Novel: Dispersal, Collection, and the Form of Eighteenth-Century Narrative,” paper given at *English Department Faculty Colloquium*, Washington University, Spring 2003.
- “The Work of Paul Hunter,” ‘Living Festschrift’ organized for *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Colorado Springs, Spring 2002.

“The Ethics of Research,” paper given at the *Staff Seminar*, School of English, University of Leeds, Spring 2000.

“Doing the History of Things in the Eighteenth Century: The Case of the Novel,” paper given at the conference *Luxury and Aesthetics: Sense and Excess*, The University of Warwick, Summer 1999.

“Illegitimacy and Social Observation: The Bastard in the Eighteenth-Century Novel,” paper given at the *Staff Seminar*, School of English, University of Leeds, Spring 1999.

“The Natural Origins of Property in *Robinson Crusoe*,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Milwaukee, Spring 1999.

“Cultural Studies and Liberal Arts: Why the Teaching of Literature Is Changing,” paper given at *Cultural Studies Panel*, Knox College, Spring 1998.

“Bastardy and the Glorious Revolution in *Tom Jones*,” paper given at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting*, Nashville, Spring 1997.

- **Dissertations Directed**

Courtney Weiss-Smith, “Empirical Possibilities: Close Attention to Material Things in Early Eighteenth-Century England.” Defended May 2010. Started tenure-track at Wesleyan University, Connecticut, in fall 2011. Received Tenure in 2017.

Kate Parker, “Relational Selves in Eighteenth-Century Literature.” Defended December 2011. Started tenure-track job at University of Wisconsin, La Crosse, in fall 2012. Received tenure in 2017.

Anna Deters, “Translations of Stoic Selfhood in Eighteenth-Century British Literature.” Defended December 2012. Instructor, Kingston Grammar School, London, 2015-2020.

Nick Miller, “The Politics of Indistinction in Charles Brockden Brown, Mary Shelley, and Robert Montgomery Byrd.” Defended December 2014. Visiting Assistant Professorship, Hollins University, 2016-2018. Started tenure-track at Valdosta State University in fall 2018.

Margaret Tucker. “Iconic Works: How Catholicism Shaped Eighteenth-Century English Fiction.” Defended April 2018. In fall 2018, started as Senior Medical News Writer and Content Strategist, Siteman Cancer Center, St. Louis.

Lisa Brune, “Worlds of Their Own: Narrative Worldmaking in Eighteenth-Century British Women’s Literature.” Defended August 2022. In August 2022, started a position as Academic Writing Specialist at Counseling and Education Support Services, University Kansas Medical Center.

- **Professional Activities**

Member, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Committee for Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility, 2023-2024.

Leader, Vertical Mellon Seminar on the History of Ideas, Washington University, Fall 2019.

Vice President and President, *Johnson Society of the Central Region*, Fall 2014-Spring 2017. Organized the Johnson Society annual meeting at Washington University in St. Louis in spring 2017.

Fellowship Evaluations:

Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship (2012).

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (2018).

Member (elected) of the MLA Executive Committee on Restoration and Early-Eighteenth-Century Literature, 2011-2016.

Reader for the annual competition for the best graduate student essay, *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 2009-2012.

Participant in the *Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate* at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Palo Alto, Fall 2005.

Program Coordinator, ASECS 2002.

Articles evaluated for *British Journal of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Studies in English Literature (SEL)*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *MLQ*, *PMLA*, *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, *College English*, *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, *Philological Quarterly*, *William and Mary Quarterly*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Restoration*, *Journal of the History of Ideas*, *New Literary History*.

Book manuscripts evaluated for Cambridge University Press, Bucknell University Press, University of Virginia Press, University of Pennsylvania Press.

Promotion cases evaluated for West Virginia University, Georgetown University, University at Buffalo, Rutgers University, Marquette University, Tufts University, University of Colorado Boulder, University of St. Andrews, Boston University.

- **Administration**

- Washington University

- Member, Ad Hoc Library Committee, Fall 2014.

- College of Arts and Sciences, Washington University

- Member selection committee, Mellon Fellowship "Modelling Interdisciplinary Research," 2020-present.

- Member, University College Board, 2017-2018.

- Member, Dean's Committee on the First-Year Experience, Spring and Fall 2014.

- Chair, Advisory Committee for the New Director of the Humanities Center, 2013-2014.

- Member, Board of the Humanities Center, 2013-2014.

- Chair, Advisory Committee for the new Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, 2011-2012.

- Convener for External Review of Humanities Center, 2011-2012.

- Member, Academic Planning Committee, 2011-2013.

- Member, Mylonas Fellowship Committee, 2011.

Member (elected), Curriculum Committee, 2008-2011.

Chair (elected), Curriculum Committee, 2009-2011.

Member, Arts and Sciences Curriculum Implementation Committee, 2009-2010. Served on subcommittee on small group experiences.

Member, Arts and Sciences Review of Writing 1, 2009-2010. Served on executive subcommittee.

Member, Executive Committee, Comparative Literature, 2008-2012.

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee Comparative Literature, 2008-2012.

Member, Master of Arts in Teaching Board, Spring 2006.

Member, Graduate Council Policies and Services Committee, 2005-2007.

External Member Hiring Committee Department of Music, Washington University, Fall 2005 and Fall 2006.

Department of English, Washington University

Member (elected), Culture and Climate Committee, Fall 23-present.

Member, Placement Committee, Fall 23-present.

Director of Study Abroad, Fall 2021-present.

Member, Hiring Committee Anglophone and Diasporic Literatures, Fall 2021-Spring 2022.

Member, Planning and Strategy Committee, Fall 2019.

Chair, Hiring Committee for Harvey Endowed Professorship, 2017-2018.

Member, Hiring Committee Digital Humanities, 2015-2016.

Chair, Hiring Committee Contemporary American Fiction, 2014-2015.

Department Chair, Fall 2013-Spring 2018.

Chair, Committee on New Theory Requirement, Spring 2012.

Co-Chair, Hiring Committee Early American Literature, 2011-2012.

Chair, Committee on New 200-Level Requirement, Fall 2011.

Co-Chair, Hiring Committee Renaissance Drama, 2010-2011.

Member, Hiring Committee Renaissance Drama, 2009-2010.

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2008-2012.

Member, Writing 1 Planning Committee, 2008-2011.

Director of Graduate Studies, 2005-2007.

Member, Hiring Committee American Literature, Fall 2004.

Elected Member Executive Committee, 2004, 2008, 2011, 2023, and ex officio 2005-2007, 2013-2018,

Member Graduate Committee, 2004-2005, 2021-2222.

Director of Honors, Department of English, 2002-2005.

Member Undergraduate Committee, Spring 2002-2008.



School of English, University of Leeds

Joint Honours Tutor, 2000-2002.

Coordinator of Academic Exchange with Austria, 1998-2002.