

September 23, 2024

ERIN M. FINNERAN

Home Address:

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Department of English
Duncker Hall 127
Campus Box 1122
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St. Louis, MO 63130

Education

Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Ph.D. in English and American Literature, December 2006
Eye Training: Parodic Perception in Beckett—Focusing on Murphy
Steven J. Meyer, Director

M.A. in English and American Literature, May 1999

University College Dublin, Ireland

M.A. in Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama, October 1992
Sean O’Faolain and The Bell: Editor, Teacher, and Mentor
Declan Kiberd, Thesis Advisor

Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Honors English, May 1989
Journeying towards Home: Stephen Dedalus as Modern Anti-hero
Philip Church, Thesis Advisor

Positions Held at Washington University in St. Louis

1997-2002: Instructor of College Writing, Departments of English/Writing
2002-2003: Senior Preceptor for College Writing: Evaluated novice instructors, transfer essays, and course texts
2003-2021: Lecturer in University College, Department of English
2006-2009: Post-Doctoral Lecturer Department of English at Washington University
2011-2018: Full-time Lecturer, Department of English at Washington University
2018-present: Senior Lecturer, Department of English at Washington University

Courses Taught 1997-present:

Turn and Face the Strange: Alienation and Transformation in Modern Literature and Contemporary Music
Literature in English: Modern Texts and Contexts, L14 2152
FOCUS/Ampersand: The Irish Renaissance: Literature of Ireland: 1891-1932, FYP L61 2811
FOCUS/Ampersand: The Rocky Road to Dublin: Literature of Ireland: 1932-present, FYP L61 2812
The Art of Reading Poetry, L14 ELit 357
Rhetoric and Power; Principle of Rhetoric; L13 212Argumentation, L13 312; Exposition, L13 311
Introduction to Literature, L14 ELit 201; English Composition: L13 EComp 100 & 199; Writing 1; CWP 59
College Writing; Composition Tutor, L13 EComp 200; Intro to Reading and Writing about Literature, U65 151
Chief English Writers I, Chaucer to Milton, U65 211; Chief English Writers II, Swift to Woolf, U65 212
“Nohow on”: An Introduction to Samuel Beckett, U65 310
Lilies and Languor: The Life and Writing of Oscar Wilde, U65 310, 352
“A luminous halo”: Virginia Woolf and Her Relation to Our World, U65 351
Make ‘em Laugh: Comedy and Culture, U65 352
“I write to cheat the cat”: Irish Women Writers, U65 310
Modern Irish Drama: From Shaw to McDonagh, U65 310
“New in New Ways”: British and Irish Literary Modernism,
U65 351Major American Writers, U65 320

Honors

Arts and Sciences Council Faculty Award	2009
Nominated by class of 2018 as an Outstanding Writing 1 Faculty	2015
Certificate of Appreciation from WashU Panhellenic Association	2010
Post-doctoral Lectureship, Washington University in St. Louis	2006-2009
Graduate School of Arts & Sciences Dissertation Fellowship	2001-2002
Mellon Dissertation Seminar in Literature and History:	June 2001
First-year Graduate Fellowship	1996-1997
Rotary International Scholarship for fully funded masters in Ireland	1991-1992
Phi Beta Kappa	1989
NCAA Post-graduate Scholarship	1989

Service

Chairing English Honors thesis for Mary Rose Bell	2023-2024
Honors English Thesis Committee for Gracie Hine	2024
Chaired English Honors thesis for Jody Horn	2022-2023
Chaired English Honors thesis for Rhea Kukkal for Highest Honors.	2020-2021
Acted as second reader for Harper Lane's AMCS thesis defended on	April 14, 2021
A Spotlitged Faculty for Bear Beginnings	August 2022, 2023
August student orientation for the Olin Library Special Collections exhibit on Samuel Beckett, <i>Connecting Contexts: The Modern Literature Collection and The Letters of Samuel Beckett</i>	August 19, 2019
Representative for Ampersand First-year program: during "Bear Days"	April 5 and 15, 2019
Selections Committee member for Beta of MO chapter Phi Beta Kappa	2017, 2018, 2024
Break into Medical School Personal Statement Session Leader	2017
Composed Pre-Health cover letters	2015-2017
Secretary for Beta of MO chapter of Phi Beta Kappa	2011-2014
Four-year Academic Advisor	2012-2017
Honors English Thesis Committee for Jonathan Karp	2015
Faculty Associate to HIG Suites dormitory	2011-2013
Peer Mentoring Committee	2001-2002
Modernist Search Committee	2000-2001
Editor, <i>Graduate Student Senate Bulletin</i>	2000-2001
Graduate Student Senate representative for English Department	1998-1999
Graduate Council Committee, Teaching Assistant Committee	1998-1999

Dissertation

Eye Training: Parodic Perception in Beckett—Focusing on Murphy, Director, Professor Steven J. Meyer

Redirecting the tendency in current criticism to focus primarily on Beckett's life and writing following 1945, my dissertation, *Eye Training: Parodic Perception in Beckett—Focusing on Murphy*, explores how the parody in his 1935 novel, *Murphy*, prompts readers to apprehend inherited literary forms as material for ongoing transformations that will occur both in Beckett's own drama, fiction, and poetry, as well as throughout modernism generally. In *Murphy*, a two-step parodic process positions readers in the endless flux of a dynamic liminal space in which they read not only against the stock types and tropes being imitated, but also beside the narrator mocking them. Through this rigorously crafted, unsentimental yet entertaining education, Beckett prompts readers not only to subject stereotypical forms to ironic scrutiny, but also to experience such derision as the first step in a modernist reading practice that pragmatically perceives and re-functions received forms in endless cycles of creative destruction. Accordingly, Beckett's early work trains us to read all modernist texts both forward and backwards as dynamic forms playing in a continuous flux.

Conferences and Talks

Turn and Face the Strange: Teaching Irish Literature alongside Contemporary Music, American Conference of Irish Studies Midwest Regional Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, October 8, 2023.

Music and the Visual Arts panel. Chair. American Conference of Irish Studies Midwest Regional Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, October 8, 2023.

Beckett in the Classroom, discussing the challenges and opportunities for teaching Samuel Beckett's work and life in courses ranging from single-author, survey, and themed, at "What is the Word": Celebrating Samuel Beckett Colloquium (November 7-9, 2019) as part of the John M. Olin Library Special Collections exhibit on Samuel Beckett, *Connecting Contexts: The Modern Literature Collection and The Letters of Samuel Beckett*.

Teaching Irish Literature, History, and Culture to Undergraduates, American Conference for Irish Studies Annual International Meeting, University of Missouri-Kansas City, March 2017.

"*And such the farrago from eye to mind*": *Performing the Ordinary Extraordinarily in Beckett's Play*, a talk given at Kenyon College, March 2007.

"*Am I as Much as Being Seen?*": *A Look at How We See Beckett's Play*, Seminar on "How to Do Things with Modernist Drama," Modernist Studies Association 8th Annual Conference, Tulsa, OK, October 2006.

Contemporary Poetry and Fiction panel. Chair. American Conference of Irish Studies Midwest Regional Conference, University of Missouri-St. Louis, October 2002

Essayists and Autobiographers panel. Chair. American Conference for Irish Studies National Conference, Marquette University, June 2002

Traveling in Flann O'Brien's Comic Third Space: A Modern Irish Odyssey, for "2001: A Space Odyssey," Washington University English Department Critical Forum, April 2001

Publications

"Teaching Modern Irish Poetry to Undergraduates: The First-Year Conundrum." Dirk M. Killen and Erin M. Finneran, in *Teaching Modern Irish Poetry in English*, Eds. Guinn Batten and Anna Teekell. (MLA, Forthcoming)

Editor for Ellie Ito's contribution on the "Hippocratic Oath" for the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Death, Dying and Bereavement*, 2022.

Professional Affiliations

The Modern Language Association (MLA), member since 1996

The Modernist Studies Association (MSA), member since 1999

The American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS), member since 1998

Languages

Spanish (high fluency in speaking and reading); French (reading)

References

Guinn Batten, Associate Professor of English, WashU, mgbatten@wustl.edu

Vincent Sherry, Howard Nemerov Professor of the Humanities, sherry@wustl.edu

Dirk Killen, Associate Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, WashU, dkillen@wustl.edu

Amy Pawl, Teaching Professor, English Department, WashU, ajpawl@artsci.wustl.edu

Steven J. Meyer, former Associate Professor of English, WashU, sjmeyer@wustl.edu