

## William R. McKelvy

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**Education:** Ph. D., English, University of Virginia, 1998  
B. A., History and English, Stanford University, 1990

**Academic Employment:** Washington University: Associate Professor (2007-); Assistant Professor (1999-2007); Visiting Assistant Professor (1998-1999)

Wellesley College (1997): Instructor, Writing Program

Boston University (1995): Lecturer, Freshman-Sophomore Program in English

University of Virginia (1993-1995): Graduate Instructor, Department of English

### Publications

#### A. Books:

*The English Cult of Literature: devoted readers, 1774-1880*. University of Virginia Press, 2007.  
Selections from chapter one ("Orthodox Narratives of Literary Sacralization") republished in  
*Victorian Literature: Criticism and Debates*. New York: Routledge, 2016. 162-71.

Reviewed in: *Times Literary Supplement*, 7 Sept. 2007, 28 (Hillary Jackson); *Victorian Poetry*, 45:3 (2007), 266-67 (Andrew M. Stauffer); *SEL*, "Recent Studies in the Nineteenth Century," 47:4 (2007), 945, 951 (Margaret Russett); *Victorian Studies*, 50:2 (2008), 350-51 (Kate Flint); *Journal of British Studies*, 47 (2008), 443-45 (David Latane); *Church History*, 77:2 (2008) 489-91 (W. Clark Gilpin); *Victorian Review*, 34:1 (2008), 187-89 (Emma Mason); *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, 35:2 (2008), 237-40 (Donald Hall); *SEL*, "Recent Studies in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century," 48:3 (2008), 694, 703 (Adam Potkay); *Victorians Institute Journal*, 36 (2008), 335-39 (Ruth Windscheffel); *Studies in the Novel*, 41:1 (2009), 126-30 (Lisa Jadwin); *Religion and Literature*, 41:1 (2009), 181-83 (Sara Maurer); *Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 32:2 (2009), 272-74 (Terry Wright); *Perspectives in Religious Studies*, 36:3 (2009), 368-72 (Galen K. Johnson); *Religion and the Arts*, 14:1/2 (2010), 185-87 (Andrew Armond); *Christianity and Literature*, 59:3 (2010), 552-56 (Joshua King); *Wordsworth Circle*, 41:4 (2010), 227-29 (Jeffrey Barbeau).

#### B. Articles, essays and other publications (excluding reviews):

"Empire, Race, and Nation." *The Cambridge Companion to Religion in Victorian Literary Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2025.

- “The Importance of Being Ezra: Canons and Conversions in *The Moonstone*,” *ELH* 86 (Summer 2019): 495-523.
- “New Histories of English Literature and the Rise of the Novel, 1835-1859.” *The Oxford Handbook of the Victorian Novel*. Ed. Lisa Rodensky. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. 41-64.
- “Children of the Sixties: Post-Secular Victorian Studies and Victorian Secularization Theory.” Special Issue: Religion and Prose, ed. John Powell. *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 39.1-2 (Spring/Fall 2012): 17-32, 71-81.
- “‘This Enormous Contagion of Paper and Print’: Making Literary History in the Age of Steam.” *Bookish Histories: Books, Literature and Commercial Modernity 1700-1900*. Eds. Ina Ferris and Paul Keen. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. 61-84.
- “Iconic Destiny and ‘The Lady of Shalott’: Living in a World of Images.” *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*, Issue 47, August 2007.
- “*The Woman in White* and Graphic Sex.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 35.1 (March 2007): 287-308.
- “Ways of Reading 1825: Leisure, Curiosity, and Morbid Eagerness.” *John Keble in Context*. Ed. Kirstie Blair. London: Anthem, 2004. 75-88.
- “In the Valley of the Shadow of Books.” *Victorian Poetry* 41.4 (Winter 2003): 544-52.
- “George Eliot’s Reading Revolution and the Mythical School of Criticism.” *A Companion to the Victorian Novel*. Eds. William Baker and Kenneth Womack. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2001. 293-305.
- “Thomas Babington Macaulay.” *Makers of Western Culture, 1800-1914: A Biographical Dictionary of Literary Influences*. Eds. John Powell and Derek Blakeley. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2001. 265-66.
- “Primitive ballads, modern criticism, ancient skepticism: Macaulay’s *Lays of Ancient Rome*.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 28.2 (Oct. 2000): 287-309.
- “Much Better Burnt: Reading Arthur’s Return by the Light of Troy.” *King Arthur’s Modern Return*. Ed. Debra N. Mancoff. New York: Garland, 1998. 31-50.
- “Two Unpublished Macaulay Letters.” *Notes and Queries* 2 (June 1998): 215-6.
- “William Ewart Gladstone.” *Nineteenth-Century British Book Collectors and Bibliographers*. Eds. William Baker and Kenneth Womack. Detroit: Gale, 1997. 161-72.

### C. Reviews:

- The Victorian Cult of Shakespeare: Bardology in the Nineteenth Century*, by Charles LaPorte. *Style* 52.1-2 (2022): 129-134.
- Replication in the Long Nineteenth Century: Re-makings and Reproductions*, Julie Codell and Linda K. Hughes, eds. *Journal of British Studies* 58.4 (Oct. 2019): 854-55.
- Masking the Text: Essays on Literature & Mediation in the 1890s*, by Nicholas Frankel. *Victorian Studies* 52.2 (Winter 2010): 327-29.

*Catholicism, Sexual Deviance, and Victorian Gothic Culture*, by Patrick R. O'Malley. *Essays in Criticism* 59.2 (April 2009): 165-73.

*Nineteenth-Century Religion and Literature*, by Mark Knight and Emma Mason. *Victorian Studies* 50.2 (Winter 2008): 324-26.

*Tennyson and Victorian Periodicals: Commodities in Context*, by Kathryn Ledbetter. *Journal of British Studies* 47.1 (January 2008): 209-10.

*Identifying the Remains: George Eliot's Death in the London Religious Press*, by K. K. Collins. *Victorian Institutes Journal* 35 (2007): 313-15.

*Gladstone and Women*, by Anne Isba. *Victorian Studies* 49.4 (Summer 2007): 727-29.

*The Victorians and the Eighteenth Century*, Francis O'Gorman and Katherine Turner, eds. *Victorian Institutes Journal*, 33 (2005): 249-51.

*The Oxford Reader's Companion to George Eliot*, John Ringall, ed. *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies* 40-41 (Sept. 2001): 82-5.

*Word Crimes: Blasphemy, Culture, and Literature in Nineteenth-Century England*, by Joss Marsh. *Yearbook of English Studies* 31 (2001): 263-64.

*The Return of King Arthur and the Nibelungen: National Myth in Nineteenth-Century English and German Literature*, by Maïke Oergel. *Victorian Studies* 42.3 (Spring 1999/2000): 525-27.

*Gladstone, 1809-98*, by H. C. G. Matthew. *Victorian Studies* 42.1 (Autumn 1998/1999): 140-42.

#### **Lectures and presentations:**

- “Blindness and Iconoclasm in the Age of Steam,” Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States, Saint Louis University, Oct. 2025.
- “The Importance of Being Ezra: Canons and Conversions in *The Moonstone*,” The Uses of 'Religion' in 19th Century Studies, Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University, March 2016.
- “An Indian Pilgrim in England: Reading Religious Evidence in the Metropolitan Travelogue,” North American Victorian Studies Assoc., Oct. 2013 (Pasadena).
- “Kipling’s Dark Places at the Dawn of Global Mediation,” North American Victorian Studies Assoc., Oct. 2012 (Madison).
- “‘Bring Me News of Men’: Kipling’s Early Career and the Dawn of Global Mediation,” Washington University English Department Faculty Colloquium, October 2010.
- “Reading *Kim* (1901) by *The Light that Failed* (1891),” Reading the Long Nineteenth Century, SUNY-New Paltz, April 2010.
- “Sublime Sentimentality: Gallery Favorites from the British School,” Saint Louis Art Museum, July 2009.
- “‘Painted on the wall’: Robert Browning and the Fresco Revival,” North American Victorian

- Studies Assoc., Nov. 2008 (New Haven).
- “Revolutionary Typography: the Printing Machine and Circulation,” *Bookish Histories*, August 2007 (Ottawa).
- “Beauty, Truth, and the Pre-Raphaelite Creed,” Saint Louis Art Museum, March 2007.
- “Robert Chambers and the New Species of Writing,” *Periodicals in Romantic Edinburgh*, MLA December 2006 (Philadelphia).
- “‘The Mirror’s Magic Sights’: Tennyson, Reflection, and Replication,” *Visions of the Industrial Age*, Loyola Marymount University, May 2006 (Los Angeles).
- “Booksellers, Critics, and the ‘true Church of England’: Dr Syntax’s Latest Tour,” *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, April 2006 (Montreal).
- “*The Woman in White* and Graphic Sex,” *North American Victorian Studies Assoc.*, Oct. 2005 (Charlottesville).
- “Caxton’s Shadow: ‘the climax and consummation of the art of printing,’” *North American Victorian Studies Assoc.*, Oct. 2004 (Toronto).
- “*Daniel Deronda*’s Ecclesiastical Tone,” *Northeast Victorian Studies Assoc.*, April 2004 (Ithaca).
- “Scribal Priests: George Eliot, Liberalism, and the Return to Judaism,” *Washington University English Department Faculty Colloquium*, November 2003.
- “Ways of Reading 1825: Leisure, Curiosity, and Morbid Eagerness,” *John Keble in Context*, May 2003 (Oxford).
- “The Victorian Production of *English Literature*,” *Locating the Victorians*, July 2001 (London).
- “*English Literature*: the making of the book,” *English Speaking Union*, February, 2001 (St. Louis).
- “Context is Everything: Shakespeare and the Thirty-Nine Articles,” *Washington University English Department Faculty Colloquium*, November 2000.
- “Joyce’s *Dubliners* in the Writing Classroom,” *Washington University Teaching Seminar Series*, November 1999.
- “Reading Coleridge as a Man of Letters: 1824-1840,” *Victorians Institute Conference*, October 1999 (Richmond).
- “‘Mr. Gladstone is a problem’: Mental Perversions and Social Transformations,” *Midwest Victorian Studies Assoc.*, April 1998 (Chicago).
- “Victorian Sages and the Philistine Bard: Macaulay’s Roman Ballads,” *Washington University English Department Faculty Colloquium*, November 1998.
- “Tennyson’s Passionate Pilgrims,” *Victorian-Edwardian Studies Group*, February 1998 (New York).
- “The End Being Pleasure: Teaching Victorian Women Poets,” *Moderator of Special Session, MLA Convention* December 1997 (Toronto).
- “Native Revels and Foreign Pleasures: the Antiquarian Form of Byron’s Early Fame,” *Tufts*

University English Graduate Conference, October 1997 (Boston).  
“Theological Corruption: Remembering Gladstone’s Crazy Theories--And When They Weren’t,”  
Northeast Victorian Studies Assoc., April 1997 (Hartford).  
“Canonical Recovery: Macaulay’s ‘Lays of Ancient Rome,’ the Higher Criticism and the Lower Classes,”  
Midwest Victorian Studies Assoc., April 1995 (Chicago).

**Academic and Literary Awards:**

Winner, Midwest Victorian Studies Association First-Book Prize, 2009  
Graduate Student Senate Special Recognition for Mentoring Award, 2007  
Faculty Research Grant, Washington University, 2002  
Dissertation Fellowship, Department of English, University of Virginia, Fall 1996  
McGregor Scholarship, Saint Deiniol’s Library, Wales, 1996  
Arnstein Prize for Dissertation Research in Victorian Studies, 1995  
DuPont Fellowship, University of Virginia, 1993-1995  
Winner, *Memphis Magazine* Fiction Writing Awards, 1989

**Administration and Academic Service:**

**English Department**

Hurst Committee, 2025-2026, Chair 2014-2016  
Search Committee, Literary Scholarship and Creative Practice, 2022-2023  
Job Placement Committee, 2021-2023 , 2003-2005, 1999-2000  
Modern Texts and Contexts Revision Committee, 2020-2021  
Graduate Committee, 2019-2020, 2010-2011, 2003-2005  
Research Committee, 2018-2019  
Executive Committee, 2012-2014, 2010-2011, 2007-2010 (ex officio), 2001-2003  
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Jan 2012 to June 2013  
Curriculum Committee, Jan 2012 to June 2013, 2007-2010  
Director of Graduate Studies, 2007-2010  
Search Committee, Post-Doctoral Lecturer in Queer Studies, 2007-2008  
Director of Study Abroad, 2003-2006  
Undergraduate Committee, 2002-2003  
Director, Honors Program, 2001-2002, 1999-2000  
Open Search Committee, 2001-2002

Renaissance Search Committee, 1999-2000

**Dissertations Directed:**

Negeen Nikraves, “Victorian Gothic Realism: Ghostly, Grotesque, Mad, and Criminal Women,” (Aug. 2024).

Joshua Brorby, “Faith in Translation: Rewriting Secularity in the British Empire,” (Aug. 2021).

Amanda Farage, “Fatal Books: Dangerous Reading in Victorian England, 1850-1900,” (May 2017).

Barbara Barrow, “A ‘Living Political Dialect’: the Science of Language and the Victorian Epic Impulse,” (Aug. 2014).

Jennifer Becker, “‘Round the Corner’: Pawnbroking in the Victorian Novel,” (Aug. 2014).

Victoria Houseman, “Mary Gladstone and the Keble College Group: the Transformation of the Victorian Episcopate,” (Dec. 2003, Co-Chair).

**Dissertation Committees:**

Alexandra Swanson (Aug. 2023); Margaret Tucker (May 2018), Susanna Williams (May 2018), Margaret Dobbins (Dec. 2015), Lauren McCoy (Aug. 2014), Tamara Taylor (Aug. 2013), Heidi Pennington (May 2013), Anna Deters (May 2013), Mary Atwell (May 2013), Shannon Koropchak (May 2013), Birgit Noll (Dec. 2010), Elon Lang (Aug. 2010), Courtney Weiss Smith (May 2010), Brooke Taylor (May 2010), Matthew Augustine (Dec. 2009), Keya Kraft (Dec. 2009), Robert Patterson (Dec. 2009), Daniel Plate (May 2008), Ryan Shirey (May 2007), Michael Flynn (May 2006), Loretta Clayton (Sept. 2005), Lanya Lamouria (Sept. 2005), Rebecca Taylor (Aug. 2004), Debra Rudder, (May 2004), Misty Beck (Dec. 2002), Kristina Hochwender (May 2002), Janet Duckham (Dec. 2001), Jed Mayer (Aug. 2001), Susan Stiritz (May 2001), Cynthia Westerbeck (May 2000), Thomas Wendorf (Sept. 1999).

**Director, Undergraduate Honors Theses:**

Anna Caroline Gregg, “‘To Be a Lady is to Be Diseased’: The Function of Female Illness in Nineteenth-Century Gothic Literature” (May 2024).

Katherine Sandson, “Fictions of Adoption: The Search for a Family in Charlotte Brontë, Charles Dickens, and George Eliot” (May 2014).

Katherine Marcal, “Mental and Physical Illness in *Wuthering Heights*, *Jane Eyre*, and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*” (May 2013).

Anna Moorefield, “Tales with Tails: The Grotesque in Victorian Children’s Literature” (May

2008).

Stephanie Higgs, “A Fine Bit of Antithesis: George Eliot and Gender” (May 2006).

Bailey Bassi, “The Art of Emily Bronte” (May 2003).

Molly Sutter, “Walter Pater: Revival and Rebirth” (May 2003).

Helen Lee, “The Brontes and Nineteenth-Century Dream Theory” (May 2002, Literature and History, Co-Chair).

Matthew Thron, “Dangerous Associations: Oscar Wilde and Self-Representation” (May 2001, Literature and History, Co-Chair).

**Faculty Judge:** Leanna Boysko Essay Prize (2024, 2023, 2017, 2015, 2004), Cornelison Prize (2022, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2004), Kluver Prize (2021, 2020, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2000, 1999), F. Ward Denys Prize (2012, 2003), Frank Zych Prize (2004), Dramatics Club (2003).

### **College of Arts & Sciences**

Search Committee, Cultural Analytics/Digital Literary Studies, 2021-2022

Academic Integrity Committee, 2017-2021

Curriculum Committee, 2018-2019

MAT (Master of Arts in Teaching) Admissions Committee (English Representative), 2014-2016

First Year Reading Program, Faculty Discussion Leader, Fall 2012

College Writing Program, Director Search, 2010-2011

Modern Western Europe Search Committee (History), 2010-2011

Graduate Council, Policies and Services Committee, 2007-2010; Chair, 2009-2010

Writing 1 Review Committee (and Proposal Subcommittee), 2009-2010

Media and Audio Visual Committee, 2007-2008

Modern British Search Committee (History), 2004-2005

Library Council, 2000-2003

### **Dissertation Committees (non-English):**

Asher Gelzer-Govatos (May 2020, Comp Lit), Erika Rodriguez (Dec. 2019, Comp Lit), Petra Watzke (Aug. 2014, German), Magdalen Majors (May 2013, German), Shane Peterson (Aug. 2012, German), Noelle Paulson (Dec. 2009, Art History), John Winder (May 2009, History), Michael Markus (Dec. 2008, History), Nancy Richardson (May 2007, German), Sean McWilliams (May 2005, History), Richard Floyd (Dec. 2004, History), Carol Jenkins (Dec. 2003, German), Alyssa Lonner (May

2003, German), Michael Rutz (May 2002, History), Denys Leighton (May 2000, History).

**Faculty Judge:** Carl Neureuther Student Book Collection Competition (2000), Graduate Student Research Symposium (2000).

**Courses Taught (Washington University):**

Portraits of the Artist (500)

Literature and Religion (500)

The Literature of Globalization in the Age of Darwin and Marx (500)

Conspicuous Consumption (500)

The Victorian Invention of Culture (500)

The Cult of Literature: Enlightenment and Decadence (500)

Inventions of the Modern Author: Walter Scott and George Eliot (500)

The Work of Art in the Age of Steam (500, 400)

Wilde Times: Aestheticism and Decadence (400)

Henry James: the American in Europe (400)

Literature & Religion in an Age of Doubt? (400)

The Literature of Climate Change (400)

Best-Sellers and Baggy Monsters: Victorian Serial Fiction (400)

Nineteenth-Century British Novel (400)

Introduction to Graduate Studies (400)

Sacred and Profane: Major Victorian Writers and Religious Authority (400)

Victorian Literary Culture: Readings from 1858-60 (400)

Victorian Literature and Postcolonial Studies (400, 300)

The Life and Art of Charlotte Bronte (400, 300)

The Devil's Party: Blasphemy and Inspiration (300)

Victorian Period (300)

Art of the Novel (300)

Strangers and Savages, Aliens and Outcasts (300)

Introduction to Modern and Contemporary Poetry (300)

Gothic Traditions: from *Frankenstein* to *Dracula* (300, 100)

Literature in English: Modern Texts and Contexts (200)

Chief English Writers II (200)

Freshmen Focus Seminar: Writers as Readers (200)

The Art of Poetry (200)

Detective Fiction from Poe to Doyle (100)

**External Service and Evaluation:**

Associate Editor, Victorian Literature and Culture Series, University of Virginia Press, 2013-

Area Editor, Oxford Bibliographies: Victorian Literature, 2020-

Manuscript reviews for Broadview Press, Ohio State University Press, Oxford University Press,  
University of Georgia Press, *Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*,  
*PMLA*, *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*, *Victorian Institutes Journal*, *Victorian  
Literature and Culture* and *Victorian Studies*

Peer Reviewer, NEH Fellowships (British Literature, 2016, 2008)

Dissertation Committee: Heidi Snow (May 2008, Southern Illinois University)

Executive Committee, Midwest Victorian Studies Association, 2000-2004

Oct. 2025