

Conny Cassity

Department of English at the University of Colorado, Boulder
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EDUCATION

- 2022
(expected) **Ph.D. in English Literature**
University of Colorado Boulder
Dissertation: “Living Intertextually: British Women’s Writing and Community Building”
Certificate in College Teaching
Requires 40 total hours of trainings, two video observations, faculty observations, and a submission of a comprehensive teaching portfolio
- 2015 **M.A. in English Literature**
University of Colorado Boulder
- 2013 **B.A. in English Literature and Philosophy**
Chapman University
Magna cum laude and departmental honors in both majors

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century British literature, women’s writing, novels, the gothic, children’s literature, networks and communities, feminist theory, intertextuality, digital humanities, recovery work

CURRENT PROJECTS

“Living Intertextually: British Women’s Writing and Community Building” (dissertation)

Using intertextual studies, group theory, and network analysis, this dissertation reconstructs how eighteenth- and nineteenth-century women writers theorized and formed literary communities. My project expands literary work on coteries, which has focused on proximity and patronage and dwells on male writers, by arguing that women’s stylistic techniques create historically and geographically wide-ranging interpersonal frameworks that feature shifting hierarchies and levels of intimacy among group members. My research places Jane Austen’s *Northanger Abbey* and George Eliot’s *Middlemarch* into networks that include lesser-known women’s novels, demonstrating how these new contexts reshape how we read these canonical books. Methodologically, I prioritize female scholars and feminist frameworks of thinking in my project, thus also replicating through my own scholarship the sense of female community that I argue exists in women’s writing.

PUBLICATIONS

- Dec. 2021 (Forthcoming, invited) “You Speak like a *Perfect Englishwoman*?: Dissembling through Quotations in *The Woman of Colour*,” *Keats-Shelley Journal*, 2021.
- 2018 “Caught by the Throat: Anti-Slavery Assemblages in *Paul et Virginie* and *Belinda*.” *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, vol. 31, no. 1, 2018, pp. 99-116.
- 2016 “Refracted Artifacts: The Honours of Scotland’s Illusion of Security.” *English Language Notes*, vol. 54, no. 1, 2016, pp. 121-123.
- 2016 Editor of graduate section, *English Language Notes*, vol. 54, no. 1, Spring/Summer 2016. This publication included a selection of short pieces by graduate students, which I solicited, evaluated, and edited.
- In progress “Connecting through Recovery: Teaching Women’s Literary History and Recovery Work Online.” Essay, est. 6,000 words.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Teaching

- 2019-2021 **Digital Pedagogy Grant**
Continuing Education, University of Colorado Boulder, ~\$25,000/year
A two-year grant for support in developing and teaching online courses
- Fall 2020 **GPTI Guest Lecture Award**
Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado Boulder
Support to pay modest honoraria to guest lecturers for an undergraduate course (Fall 2020: Dr. Kirstyn Leuner on the Stainforth Project)
- Spring 2019 **Department Nominee for Graduate School Teaching Excellence Award**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder
Competitive application process to become the department's chosen nominee for the graduate school's award
- Spring 2018 **Graduate Teaching Excellence Award**
University Government of Graduate Students, University of Colorado Boulder
Competitive award based on student and faculty nominations

Research

- 2021-2022 **Center for Humanities and the Arts Dissertation Completion Fellowship**
Center for Humanities and the Arts, University of Colorado Boulder, \$26,000
- 2021 **Markward English Scholarship**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$4,000
- 2021 **Donna Robinson Meckley Graduate Fellowship**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$2,000
- 2020 **Dick Shahan Graduate Fellowship**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$1,000
- 2020, 2019 **Preston Summer Research Fellowship**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$6,000
- 2019 **Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant**
Center for British and Irish Studies, University of Colorado Boulder, \$500
- 2019, '15, '14 **Graduate Student Travel Grant**
Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder, \$300
- 2018, '15, '14 **English Department Graduate Student Travel Grant**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$500
- 2017 **Summer Graduate Research Fellowship**
Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder, \$6,000
- 2017 **Windfall Archival Research (WAR) Grant**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$2,000
- 2014 **Graduate Student Travel Bursary**
North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, \$250
- 2013 **Frederick C. and Eleanor Ruth Hager Graduate Fellowship**
Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder, \$1,000
- 2013 **Betty B. and James B. Lambert Graduate Scholarship**
Kappa Alpha Theta, \$1,200

CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Invited Talks and Events

- Sept. 2021 (Forthcoming) "Instructor Presence in Online Classrooms," Continuing Education and College of Arts & Sciences Online Pedagogy Café series, University of Colorado Boulder

- March 2021 Guest Lecturer in Prof. Omar F. Miranda's seminar, ENGL 320: The Gothic Obsession, to discuss *The Woman of Colour*, University of San Francisco (remote Zoom visit)
- Jan. 2021 Panelist on "Toward an Anti-Racist, 'Undisciplined' Romanticism" roundtable, Keats-Shelley Association of America, "Toward an Anti-Racist, 'Undisciplined' Romanticism" Online Event, Part 2 (<https://k-saa.org/k-saa-anti-racist-romanticism-roundtable-discussion-part-2/>)
- Dec. 2020 "Network Analysis and Literary Sisterhoods," for the Center for Research Data & Digital Scholarship, CU Boulder.
This recorded talk has been incorporated into the CRDDS's instructional resources.
- Nov. 2020 "Building White Lobbies: Quotation and Dissimulation in *The Woman of Colour*," Keats-Shelley Association of America, "Toward an Anti-Racist, 'Undisciplined' Romanticism" Online Event, Part 1 (<https://k-saa.org/k-saa-virtual-roundtable-toward-an-anti-racist-undisciplined-romanticism/>)
This recorded talk has since been used as a teaching resource by multiple colleagues.
- Nov. 2019 Guest on *CU at the Libraries* podcast, "Episode 8: Defining Digital Humanities at CU Boulder." (<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/ep-8-defining-digital-humanities-at-cu-boulder/id1478648269?i=1000456481116>)
- April 2019 "Text Mining Fundamentals," co-presented with Nickoal Eichmann-Kalwara (CU Boulder Digital Humanities Librarian), University of Colorado Boulder
- April 2019 "Feminist Positions in *Sex Education* (2019)," part of the Honors Program's "TV w/ a Prof" series, University of Colorado Boulder
- April 2013 "Charlotte's Chance at Happiness: The Modern Marriage of Convenience," Jane Austen Society of North America: South West, Orange, CA

Conference Papers

- March 2019 "Using Social Network Analysis to Highlight Literary Ladies," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), Denver, CO
- March 2019 "Joining Opposites: Satire and Sentiment in Mrs. Yeates's *Eliza*," ASECS, Denver, CO
- June 2017 "Maggie and Mary; or, the Matrilineal Histories of Eliot's Heroines," British Women Writer's Conference, Chapel Hill, NC
- Oct. 2016 "Peter Bell and Wordsworth's Spirits," International Conference for Romanticism, Colorado Springs, CO
- Aug. 2015 "Caught by the Throat: Abolitionist Sentiments in *Paul et Virginie*," NASSR, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- July 2014 "The Other's Other: Obeah-Men as the Host of English Colonial Fears in William Earle's *Obi; or, the History of Three-Fingered Jack*," NASSR, Washington, D.C.

Events Organized

- Sept. 6-8, 2018 "Resistance in the Spirit of Romanticism" Conference (~50 participants), University of Colorado Boulder. Part of the Romantic Bicentennials series. Co-organized with Thora Brylowe, Jeffrey N. Cox, Jillian Heydt-Stevenson, and Paul Youngquist. Collectively received \$20,000 in supporting grants
- Sept. 2016 Prof. Devoney Looser, "The Making of Jane Austen," 18/19 Reading Group Series speaker event, University of Colorado Boulder

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT (CU BOULDER)

Lower-Division Writing Courses

Freshman Writing Seminar (Spring 2020, online; Fall 2019, online): An introductory academic writing course for first-year students. Students produce their own academic written research project and subsequently adapt it for a non-academic audience.

Upper-Division Writing Courses

Syntax, Citation, Analysis: (The Politics of) Writing about Literature (Summer 2021, online): An advanced writing course focusing on developing skills around syntax, citation practices, and literary analysis.
Lower-Division Literature Courses

Introduction to Women's Literature: Recovering and Restoring Women's Voices (Spring 2021, online; Fall 2020, online; Summer 2020, online): An introductory, non-majors course about the history of women's writing and recovery work. Students engage in their own recovery project and produce their own anthology entry (biography, editorial notes, and sample text) of their woman writer. Cross-listed with Women and Gender Studies.

Introduction to Women's Literature: Women Writing the Gothic (Fall 2018, in person; Fall 2017, in person; Fall 2016, in person): An introductory, non-majors course that examines the history of women's gothic writing in America, Great Britain, and the Caribbean from 1790 to the present. Cross-listed with Women and Gender Studies.

Introduction to British Literature: Women, England, and Empire (Summer 2020, online; Spring 2020, online; Fall 2019, online): An introductory, non-majors course analyzing the role of female protagonists and women's writing in the development of the British empire (eighteenth through twentieth centuries).

Masterpieces of British Literature: From Workhouses to Neverland: British Children's Literature (Spring 2018, in person): An introductory, non-majors course examining the development of British children's literature, from the eighteenth-century to the present.

Masterpieces of British Literature: In Search of Mastery (Spring 2019, in person): An introductory, non-majors course interrogating the nature of the "canon" and examining different notions of "masterpieces" throughout British literature.

Upper-Division Literature Courses

Romanticism: Bigger 6 (Summer 2021, online): An advanced course for majors in which students analyze and engage with Romantic-era texts focusing on Black writers and characters. The course culminates in students proposing academic initiatives for how to reimagine university curricula to embrace inclusive and diverse points of view.

Romanticism: The Romantic Novel (Spring 2021, online; Fall 2020, online): An advanced course for majors focusing on analyzing the relationship between genre conventions and artistic production in the Romantic-era novel.

Modern and Contemporary Literature for Non-Majors: "Framing" Feminism (Spring 2017, in person): An introductory, non-majors course focusing on feminist theory and literature in twentieth- and twenty-first century literature, prioritizing writers of color.

Shakespeare for Non-Majors: Shakespeare and Society (Summer 2018, in person): An introductory, non-majors course that examines Shakespeare's plays alongside modern-day adaptations of those works in order to discuss how specific cultural moments impact a text's resonance with its audience.

Non-Credit Courses

Graduate Pedagogy Seminar (Fall 2018, in person; Fall 2017, in person): A semester-long course for MA and PhD students that teaches pedagogical theory and practice in preparation for being Teaching Assistants and Instructors of Record at CU Boulder. Students engage in teaching exercises and are paired with mentors. Instructors perform multiple video assessments and evaluations of students' teaching skills.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-2021 **Graduate Instructor and Digital Pedagogy Fellow**
Continuing Education, CU Boulder
Instructor of record for 12 sections of 6 classes that I designed

2017-2019 **Lead Graduate Instructor**
Department of English, CU Boulder
Co-taught two sections of the Graduate Pedagogy Seminar to incoming MA and PhD students; co-organized and led the department orientation for Fall 2017 and 2018; co-

organized and led the English Department Pedagogy Intensive (a week-long intensive teaching training for graduate students) for Fall 2017 and 2018. Leads also serve as teaching mentors for all incoming graduate students (~40 students annually)

2016-2019

Graduate Instructor

Department of English, CU Boulder

Instructor of record for 9 sections of 5 classes that I designed

2013-2014

Teaching Assistant

Department of English, CU Boulder

Taught and graded all material for two recitations per semester as part of a larger lecture class on the History and Literature of Georgian England. Supervised by Catherine Labio in 2014 and Jillian Heydt-Stevenson in 2013

ADDITIONAL PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING

Dec. 2020

Winter Residency Fellow for “How to Create Meaningful Online Learning Experiences”
National Humanities Center

A week-long intensive training involving workshops in online teaching strategies, the collaborative development of an online, open-access course, and a final set of presentations about the courses

July 2020

Summer Online Course Design Training

Arts & Sciences Support of Education Through Technology, University of Colorado Boulder
A two-week long, self-paced training in online course design, including particular focus on accessibility and universal design

Summer 2019

Digital Pedagogy Teacher Training

Continuing Education, University of Colorado Boulder

Summer-long training in using Canvas for asynchronous instruction and how to develop courses for online and nontraditional students

Fall 2013

Pedagogy Seminar

English Department, University of Colorado Boulder

A semester-long, non-credit-hour training involving weekly sessions in pedagogical theory and practice, multiple teaching observations and video evaluations of my teaching, and participation in a pedagogy mentorship program

ADDITIONAL MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

2015-2021

Peer Mentor

English Graduate Student Council, English Department, University of Colorado Boulder
General graduate school mentorship. 2020-2021 (1 PhD student), 2016-2017 (2 MA students and 1 PhD student), 2015-2016 (2 MA students)

2020-2021

Peer Mentor

Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder

General graduate school mentorship. 2020-2021 (1 PhD student, astrophysics)

Fall 2016

Pedagogy Mentor

English Department, University of Colorado Boulder

Mentoring specifically tailored to supporting teacher training programs within the English department. Fall 2016 (2 MA students)

SERVICE

Department Committee Work

Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder

- 2020-Present Member of English Department Graduate Careers and Professional Development Committee (mixed faculty and graduate student committee)
- 2015-2020 Board member of 18/19 Graduate Reading Group
- 2018-2019 Graduate co-liaison for the English Department Undergraduate Curriculum Revision Committee
- 2016-2017 Elected PhD representative for the English Graduate Student Council
- 2016-2017 Participant in the revision of the Graduate Student Handbook

Department Workshops

Department of English, University of Colorado Boulder

- Nov. 2019 “How to Find and Choose a Graduate School” panelist. Hosted by the English Department Undergraduate Student Advisory Council. CU Boulder, Boulder, CO
- Fall 2018, 2017 Co-organizer for the English Department graduate orientation
- 2016-2017 Organizer of graduate student “Works in Progress” colloquium series (12 sessions)
- Fall 2016 Organizer of PhD application workshops (four-part series)

To the Field

- Sept. 2018 Panel moderator at Resistance in the Spirit of Romanticism Conference, Boulder, CO
- Oct. 2016 Panel moderator at the International Conference for Romanticism, Colorado Springs, CO
- 2015-2016 Contributor for the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Graduate Student Caucus Blog (nassrgrads.com), 7 posts

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Professional Memberships

Keats-Shelley Association of America

Additional Employment

- 2016-2017 Copy editor for Academic Review and Planning Advisory Committee, University of Colorado Boulder
- 2016 Manuscript copy editor for Prof. Jillian Heydt-Stevenson, *Belongings* (manuscript form)
- 2014-2016 Research assistant for Prof. Jillian Heydt-Stevenson
- 2015 Manuscript copy editor for Prof. Paul Youngquist, *A Pure Solar World: Sun Ra and the Birth of Afrofuturism* (University of Texas Press, 2016)

Certifications

CU Boulder Skill Badge Certifications (image is a link): Communication



Last updated May 2021