

**RUTH M. McADAMS**

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**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. (2015), English Language and Literature, University of Michigan

M.Phil. (2008), English, University of Edinburgh (United Kingdom)

B.A. (2006), English, *summa cum laude*, University of Pennsylvania

**PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

2023-            Senior Teaching Professor, English Department, Skidmore College  
2021-23        Teaching Professor, English Department, Skidmore College  
2017-21        Visiting Assistant Professor, English Department, Skidmore College  
2016-17        Visiting Assistant Professor, Humanities Program, Boğaziçi University (Istanbul,  
Turkey)  
2015-16        Frederick Donald Sober Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of English Language  
and Literature, University of Michigan

**PUBLICATIONS**

**Articles**

“Three Cheers for the United Aggregate Tribunal!': Confronting Anti-Union Discourse, Then and Now.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Activism Issue, vol. 51, no. 4, Winter 2023 [forthcoming].

[“Progress.”](#) *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Keywords Issue, vol. 46, no. 3/4, Fall/Winter 2018, pp. 809-812. doi: 10.1017/S1060150318000906.

[“Clothing Napoleonic History in \*Vanity Fair\* and \*The Trumpet-Major\*.”](#) *Victorian Studies*, vol. 60, no. 1, Fall 2017, pp. 9-28. doi: 10.2979/victorianstudies.60.1.01.

[“‘Ladies Scorn Dates!': Women Life Writers Look Back on the Regency.”](#) *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, vol. 40, no.1, Fall 2017, pp. 33-50. doi: 10.1080/08905495.2017.1393735.

With Theresa Tinkle, Daphna Atias, and Cordelia Zukerman. [“Teaching Close Reading Skills in a Large Lecture Course.”](#) *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition, and Culture*, vol. 13, no. 3, Fall 2013, pp. 505-535. doi: 10.1215/15314200-2266432.

**Book Reviews**

“*The Fate of Progress in British Romanticism*, by Mark Canuel (review).” *Genre*, vol. 56, no. 3, Dec 2023, pp. 337-341. [forthcoming].

[“\*Brokering Culture in Britain’s Empire and the Historical Novel\*, by Matthew Carey Salyer \(review\).”](#) *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 54, no. 2, Summer 2021, pp. 383-385. doi:

10.1353/vpr.2021.0029

[“Home and Identity in Nineteenth-Century Literary London, by Lisa Robertson.”](#) *Review19*, 30 Oct 2020.

[“John Murray’s Quarterly Review: Letters, 1807-1843, edited by Jonathan Cutmore \(review\).”](#)

*Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 53, no. 1, Spring 2020, pp. 170-172. doi:

10.1353/vpr.2020.0001

[“Peter N. Miller, \*History and Its Objects: Antiquarianism and Material Culture since 1500.\*”](#)

*European History Quarterly*, vol. 49, no. 1, January 2019, pp. 145-147. doi:

10.1177/0265691418822189v.

[“Consumptive Chic: A History of Beauty, Fashion, and Disease, by Carolyn A. Day.”](#) *Victorian*

*Studies*, vol. 61, no. 1, Fall 2018, pp. 132-134. doi: 10.2979/victorianstudies.61.1.18.

[“Helen Kingstone. \*Victorian Narratives of the Recent Past: Memory, History, Fiction.\*”](#) *Review of*

*English Studies*, vol. 69, no. 290, June 2018, pp. 594-596. doi: 10.1093/res/hgx119.

[“Histories for the Many: The Victorian Family Magazine and Popular Representations of the](#)

[Past. \*The Leisure Hour, 1852-1870, by Doris Lechner \(review\).\*”](#) *Victorian Periodicals*

*Review*, vol. 50, no. 4, Winter 2017, pp. 833-836. doi: 10.1353/vpr.2017.0060.

“Review of *Writing the Stage Coach Nation: Locality on the Move in Nineteenth-Century British*

*Literature*, by Ruth Livesey.” *The Hazlitt Review*, vol. 10, Fall 2017, pp. 77-80. ISSN 1757-

8299.

[“The Historical Novel in Europe, 1650-1950, by Richard Maxwell.”](#) *Nineteenth-Century Contexts:*

*An Interdisciplinary Journal*, vol. 37, no. 3, Spring 2015, pp. 272-274. doi:

10.1080/08905495.2015.1030843.

### **Other Short Pieces**

[“The Napoleonic Wars.”](#) *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Victorian Women’s Writing*, edited by

Lesa School, Palgrave Macmillan, 12 June 2021. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-02721-6_323-1)

02721-6\_323-1

“Thomas Babington Macaulay,” “John Stuart Mill,” “Samuel Smiles.” *Edinburgh Biographical*

*Dictionary of Scottish Writers*, edited by Caroline McCracken-Flesher and Alan Riach,

Edinburgh University Press [dictionary entries forthcoming]

“Book Use, Book Theory: 1500-1700. Online Exhibition (Review).” *SHARPNews*, vol. 23, no. 4,

Fall 2014, pp. 6-7.

“Harriette Wilson’s *Memoirs, or, The Sex Scandal as History.*” *The Female Spectator* (Chawton

House Library Newsletter), vol. 18, no. 2, Spring 2014, pp. 7.

“‘War in Print’ Workshop at the University of Edinburgh (Conference Review).” *Leipziger*

*Jahrbuch zur Buchgeschichte*, vol. 18, Summer 2009, pp. 395-98.

“Publishing Abbotsford: Walter Scott’s Literary Legacy and the Abbotsford Edition of the

Waverley Novels.” *Journal of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society*, vol. 3, Fall 2008, pp.

12-37.

“Imprentit: 500 Years of the Scottish Printed Word (Exhibition Review).” *SHARPNews*, vol. 18,

no. 1, Winter 2008, pp. 3.

“Ideas that Shaped the World: The John Murray Archive Exhibition, *The National Library of*

*Scotland*. (Exhibition Review).” *SHARPNews*, vol. 17, no. 3, Summer 2008, pp. 4-5.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

*Temporality and Progress in Victorian Literature* [under contract, Edinburgh University Press]  
“The Regency of Pornography” for *Nineteenth Century Literature in Transition: The 1810s*,  
edited by Emma Mason [book chapter, under contract, Cambridge University Press]  
“Religious Violence without Religion: Bleak Secular Stasis in Dickens’s *Barnaby Rudge*” [article  
under review]

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

Podcast Guest, “[Bending the Clock: New Perspectives on Nineteenth-Century Ageing: A Roundtable Discussion](#),” hosted by Andrea Charise, *19: Interdisciplinary Studies in the Long Nineteenth Century*, 14 June 2021.

## INVITED TALK

Feb 2020 “Unfashionable Persistence in Disraeli’s Political Trilogy,” CUNY Victorian Seminar

## PRESENTATIONS

Jan 2024 “How and Why to Unionize the Contingent Faculty on Your Campus: Dispatch from Skidmore College,” MLA (Modern Language Association of America)  
Nov 2023 “‘Three Cheers for the United Aggregate Tribunal!’: Confronting Anti-Union Discourse, Then and Now,” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA)  
Oct 2022 “Temporalities of Religion in Dickens’s *Barnaby Rudge*,” Victorians Institute  
Sept 2022 “Temporalities of Religion in Dickens’s *Barnaby Rudge*,” NAVSA  
March 2022 “The Regency of Pornography,” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference (INCS)  
June 2021 “Non-Tenure-Track Labor in the Age of COVID-19,” NAVSA Professionalization Workshop  
March 2020 “Stasis and the Cycle in Harriet Martineau’s *Autobiography*,” INCS  
Jan 2020 “The Future is Female: Harriet Martineau on Getting Old,” Roundtable on “The Old Nineteenth Century,” MLA  
Oct 2019 “‘Our Prematurely Greybearded Culture’: Progress and its Limits,” NAVSA  
July 2019 “The Future is Female: Harriet Martineau on Getting Old,” The Dickens Project, Nineteenth-Century Seminar  
March 2019 “Victorian Presentism, Victorianist Presentism,” INCS  
Oct 2018 “Looking Backward: Progressive History, Then and Now,” NAVSA  
March 2018 “‘The individual dies’: Reform and the *Roman-à-Clef*,” INCS  
July 2017 “Reform and the *Roman-à-Clef* Character,” The Dickens Project, Form and

- Reform Conference
- Nov 2016 "The *Roman-à-Clef* Character and the Victorian Historical Novel," NAVSA
- March 2016 "The Antiquarianism of Victorian Pornography, or, Being John Murray," INCS
- March 2015 "A Taller Napoleon: The Historical Effigy in Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Culture," Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference (NCSA)
- Nov 2014 "Owning Napoleon: Historical Memorabilia in Victorian Literature and Culture," NAVSA
- May 2014 "False Alarms: The Surface Historicisms of *Vanity Fair* and *The Trumpet-Major*," Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English Conference (ACCUTE), joint session sponsored by NAVSA
- April 2014 "Objects of War: Napoleonic History on the Surface in *Vanity Fair* and *The Trumpet-Major*," Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference (MVSA), *Winner of the Burgan Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper*
- March 2014 "Napoleonic History on the Surface in *Vanity Fair* and *The Trumpet-Major*, or, Jos Sedley's Waist," INCS
- Dec 2013 "'The Days of High-Waisted and Muslin-Gowned Women': Napoleonic History on the Surface *Vanity Fair* and *The Trumpet-Major*," University of Michigan Nineteenth-Century Forum, Dissertation Chapter workshop
- Dec 2013 "Conversation and 'Conversation': Women Writers Look Back on the Regency," Community of Scholars Colloquium, Institute for Research on Women and Gender and Rackham Graduate School
- Sept 2012 "*Cranford* in the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*: Abolition and Transatlantic Reading Practices," NAVSA topic-based seminar
- May 2012 "Gulliver's Old Things," Michigan-Toronto Eighteenth-Century Gathering
- July 2011 "Telling *The Highland Widow*," Ninth International Walter Scott Conference
- Dec 2010 "Herder, Ossian, and the Timeliness of the Literary," University of Michigan German Department Graduate Student Colloquium
- May 2009 "Illustrating Scott: An Online Database of Pictorial Illustrations to the Waverley Novels and Its Implications," University of Edinburgh English Department, Postgraduate Works-In-Progress
- March 2009 "Illustrating Scott: An Online Database of Pictorial Illustrations to the Waverley Novels and its Possibilities," Book History Research Network Study Day
- March 2008 "Publishing Abbotsford: Walter Scott's Literary Legacy and the Abbotsford Edition of the Waverley Novels," Edinburgh Book History Seminar
- Aug 2007 "Robert Cadell, the Fisher edition of the Waverley Novels, and Walter Scott's Literary Legacy," Eighth International Walter Scott Conference
- July 2007 "Robert Cadell, the Fisher edition of the Waverley Novels, and Sir Walter Scott's Literary Legacy," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Conference (SHARP)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2020 Teaching Support Network Grant Recipient, Skidmore College
- 2018 Project VIS Course Development Mentoring Grant Recipient, Skidmore College

2014	Rackham International Research Award, \$6000 grant for research travel
2014	William and Mary Burgan Prize for best graduate student conference paper, MVSA
2014-15	Rackham Humanities Research Dissertation Fellowship
2014	Walter L. Arnstein Prize, Runner-Up, Midwest Victorian Studies Association
2014, 12, 11	Rackham Conference Travel Grants
2014	Rackham Humanities Research Candidacy Fellowship
2013	Rackham One-Term Fellowship
2013	Community of Scholars Summer Fellowship, Institute for Research on Women and Gender and Rackham Graduate School
2013	Chawton House Library Visiting Fellowship
2013, 10	Rackham Graduate Student Research Grants
2011	Graduate Student Travel Scholarship, 9 <sup>th</sup> International Walter Scott Conference
2010	Rare Book School Scholarship Recipient
2009-14	Mellon Fellowship Supplement, \$10,000, University of Michigan English Dept.
2008	G. P. Johnston Prize in Scottish Book History and Bibliography, Edinburgh Bibliographical Society
2006-08	Thouron Scholar
2006	Rittenberg Prize for Best English Major, U. of Pennsylvania English Department
2006	Best Senior Thesis Prize, Honorable Mention, U. of Pennsylvania English Dept.
2005	Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society (junior year)
2004	Dean's Scholar, U. of Pennsylvania

## TEACHING

### *As Instructor of Record*

#### *Skidmore College*

EN 105:	"Writing Gender," first-year writing (Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023)
EN 105H:	"Writing Gender," first-year writing in the Honors Forum (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)
EN 105:	"Work!" first-year writing (Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2023)
EN 105H:	"Work!" first-year writing in the Honors Forum (Spring 2022)
EN 110:	"Introduction to Literary Studies," gateway course for the English major (Fall 2018, Spring 2023, Fall 2023)
EN 211:	"Fiction," mid-level seminar (Fall 2019, Spring 2022)
EN 362:	"Objects and Materials in 18 <sup>th</sup> -Century British Literature," upper-level seminar (Fall 2018)
EN 362R:	"The 'Rise' of the Novel," upper-level seminar (Fall 2022)
EN 364:	"The Historical Novel in a Global Context," upper-level seminar (Fall 2019)
EN 371:	"Dostoevsky," independent study (Spring 2020)

GN 351A: "The English Major and Beyond," 1-credit course on post-college pathfinding (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

*University of Michigan*

EN 124: "Writing and Literature: The Devil's Pact," first-year writing with literature (Winter 2013)

EN 125: "The Arts and/in the Public," first-year writing in the Living Arts living-learning community (Fall 2012)

EN 125: "Travel and Tourism," first-year writing (Fall 2011, Winter 2012)

EN 318: "Historical Fiction from its Origins to *Mad Men*," upper-level seminar (Winter 2016)

***As Collaborator***

*Boğaziçi University*

HUM 101: an interdisciplinary Western humanities survey (*Gilgamesh* to Petrarch); Member of the Instructional Team, led by Dr. Leyla Kayhan Elbirlik (Fall 2016)

HUM 102: an interdisciplinary Western humanities survey (Shakespeare to Fanon); Member of the Instructional Team, led by Dr. Leyla Kayhan Elbirlik (Spring 2017)

*University of Michigan*

EN 350: "British Literature to 1660," upper-level lecture course; Graduate Student Instructor, supervised by Prof. Theresa Tinkle (Fall 2010)

EN 351: "British Literature, 1660-1830," upper-level lecture course; Graduate Student Instructor, supervised by Prof. Sean Silver (Winter 2011)

EN 450: "Gender, Sex, and Religion," upper-level seminar; Grader, supervised by Prof. Theresa Tinkle (Spring 2011)

*University of Edinburgh*

EL 1: "English Literature," course for first-year students; Tutor (discussion section leader), supervised by Dr. Jonathan Wild (2008-2009)

***As Guest Lecturer***

Oct 2022 Maggie Greaves's "English Literary Studies Colloquium" (Skidmore College)

April 2018 Dan Nathan's seminar, "Reading *The Wire*" (Skidmore College)

Nov 2016 Başak Demirhan's seminar, "19<sup>th</sup>-century British Fiction" (Boğaziçi University)

Nov 2008 Bill Bell's seminar, "Cultures of the Book" (University of Edinburgh)

**SERVICE**

***To the field***

- Ongoing Article Manuscripts reviewed for *Nineteenth-Century Contexts; Studies in the Novel; Journal of Narrative Theory; Victorian Literature and Culture*
- Ongoing Book Proposals reviewed for Edinburgh University Press
- 2023-25 Board Member, NAVSA
- 2020-22 Board Member, INCS
- 2018 Code of Conduct Subcommittee, NAVSA Gender and Sexuality Caucus
- 2012- Contributor to the Biennial Bibliography, Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP)
- 2012 Conference Administrator, “Transporting Bodies and Minds: Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Travel,” Eighteenth-Century Studies Group (ECSG) and Nineteenth-Century Forum (NCF), University of Michigan (U-M)
- 2012 Conference Administrator, Michigan-Toronto Eighteenth-Century Gathering, English Department, U-M
- 2008-09 Conference Administrator, Transnational Histories of the Book (Europe 1800-1945) Workshop Series, Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh
- 2008 Conference Administrator, Robert Louis Stevenson Textual Editing Workshop, Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh

***To the department or institution***

- 2023- Member of the Negotiating Committee, Skidmore Faculty Forward (NTT union)
- 2018-22 Member of the Organizing Committee, Skidmore Faculty Forward (NTT faculty unionization campaign)
- 2019-21 Group Leader, Scholarly and Creative Endeavors lunch series, Skidmore College
- 2016 Invited Speaker, Job Market Preparation Workshop, led by Professor Meg Sweeney, U-M English Department
- 2016 Invited Speaker, U-M English Department Faculty Meeting, “The Future of Graduate Study”
- 2011-13 Graduate Student Coordinator, ECSG, U-M
- 2010-13 Steering Committee, English Graduate Group, U-M
- 2009-13 Steering Committee, NCF, U-M
- 2007-08 Co-chair, Postgraduate Works-In-Progress Seminar Series, English Department, University of Edinburgh

***To the public***

- 2018 Book Discussion Leader for the “Great American Read” at Greenwich Free Library (Greenwich, NY)
- 2008-09 Event Organizer, Public Lectures Sponsored by the Royal Society of Edinburgh
- 2006-08 Reader, James Tait Black Memorial Prize for Biography

**COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2011 Investigating Student Learning Grant, With Daphna Atias, Theresa Tinkle, and Cordelia Zukerman, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), U-M
- 2010 Research assistant for Daniel Hack (U-M), Project on race and nineteenth-century transatlantic print culture
- 2010 Editorial assistant, *Edinburgh Companion to Robert Louis Stevenson*, Edited by Penny Fielding (Edinburgh University Press)
- 2008-09 Research associate, *Illustrating Scott* project and website (<http://illustratingscott.lib.ed.ac.uk/>), Supervised by Peter Garside (University of Edinburgh), Funded by the British Academy
- 2008-09 Research assistant for David Finkelstein (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh), Project on migration and the nineteenth-century Glasgow printing union
- 2005-06 Research Assistant, Early Novels Database (<http://earlynovels.org> - formerly the Transatlantic Fiction Project), Supervised by Michael Gamer and Rachel Buurma (University of Pennsylvania)

### **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

- 2020 “Reacting to the Past” Pedagogy Workshop, MLA
- 2013 Preparing Future Faculty Seminar Participant, CRLT, University of Michigan
- 2010 Rare Book School Course Participant, “Introduction to the Principles of Bibliographical Description”

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native, USA)  
 German (advanced reading, writing, speaking)  
 Turkish (basic reading, writing, speaking)  
 Latin (basic reading)

### **OTHER**

I am an active amateur oboist.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Adela Pinch, Professor of English, University of Michigan  
 435 S. State Street, 3187 Angell Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003  
 apinch@umich.edu / send.Pinch.249BB65A2B@interfolio.com / 734-647-7669

Daniel Hack, Professor of English, University of Michigan  
 435 S. State Street, 3187 Angell Hall, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1003  
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Tina Jane Lupton, Head of Department, Department of English, Germanic and Romance Studies,



University of Copenhagen, Emil Holms Kanal 6, DK-2300, Copenhagen S, Denmark  
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Leyla Kayhan Elbirlik, Assistant Professor of History, Western Languages and Literatures  
Boğaziçi University, 34342 Bebek, Istanbul, Turkey  
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