

RUTH M. McADAMS

Skidmore College, 815 North Broadway, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
+1 (734) 355-6157 • rmcadams@skidmore.edu

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

2025– Associate Teaching Professor, English Department, Skidmore College
**Title change under first Collective Bargaining Agreement
2023–25 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

Book

[*Temporality and Progress in Victorian Literature*](#). Edinburgh University Press, 2024.

Articles

[“Religious Violence without Religion: Bleak Secular Stasis in Dickens’s *Barnaby Rudge*.”](#)

Nineteenth-Century Literature, vol. 79, no. 4, March 2025, pp. 243–269.

<https://doi.org/10.1525/ncl.2025.79.4.243>.

[“‘Three Cheers for the United Aggregate Tribunal!’: Confronting Anti-Union Discourse, Then and Now.”](#) *Victorian Literature and Culture*, vol. 51, Special Issue no. 4 (Victorianist Activism: Past, Present, and Future), Winter 2023, pp. 555–567.

[“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

[“Book Review: Mark Canuel, *The Fate of Progress in British Romanticism*.”](#) *Genre*, vol. 56, no. 3, Dec 2023, pp. 337–341.

[“*Brokering Culture in Britain’s Empire and the Historical Novel*, by Matthew Carey Salver \(review\).”](#) *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/10.1007/978-3-030-02721-6_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. 395–398.

- "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

- "The Regency of Pornography: The 1810s, an Erotic Antiquarian Hoax, and the Resistance to Liberal Progress" for *Nineteenth Century Literature in Transition: The 1810s*, edited by Emma Mason [book chapter, under contract, Cambridge University Press]
- "Stasis in the Novel: *Romola* and the Rejection of Progressive Time," for *The Cambridge History of Victorian Women's Writing*, edited by Carolyn Dever and Amy Kahrmann Huseby [book chapter, under contract, Cambridge University Press]
- "Chartist Poetry and the Fate of Research: Writing and Activism, Then and Now." [article manuscript 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 TALKS

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| Nov 2024 | "How and Why to Unionize as Contingent Faculty," Association for the Study of Literature and Environment |
| April 2024 | "'I support unions, but...': Building Solidarity in Hard Times," Northeast Victorian Studies Association |
| Feb 2020 | "Unfashionable Persistence in Disraeli's Political Trilogy," CUNY Victorian Seminar |

PRESENTATIONS

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| Jan 2026 | "On Strike with John Barton," Modern Language Association of America (MLA) |
| Sept 2024 | "Confession Under Torture: The Fiction of Eliot's <i>Romola</i> ," North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) |
| Jan 2024 | "How and Why to Unionize the Contingent Faculty on Your Campus: Dispatch from Skidmore College," MLA |
| Nov 2023 | "'Three Cheers for the United Aggregate Tribunal!': Confronting Anti-Union |

	Discourse, Then and Now," NAVSA
Oct 2022	"Temporalities of Religion in Dickens's <i>Barnaby Rudge</i> ," Victorians Institute
Sept 2022	"Temporalities of Religion in Dickens's <i>Barnaby Rudge</i> ," 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 <i>Autobiography</i> ," 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 <i>Roman-à-Clef</i> ," INCS
July 2017	"Reform and the <i>Roman-à-Clef</i> Character," The Dickens Project, Form and Reform Conference
Nov 2016	"The <i>Roman-à-Clef</i> 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 <i>Vanity Fair</i> and <i>The Trumpet-Major</i> ," 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 <i>Vanity Fair</i> and <i>The Trumpet-Major</i> ," Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference (MVSA), <i>Winner of the Burgan Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper</i>
March 2014	"Napoleonic History on the Surface in <i>Vanity Fair</i> and <i>The Trumpet-Major</i> , or, Jos Sedley's Waist," INCS
Dec 2013	"'The Days of High-Waisted and Muslin-Gowned Women': Napoleonic History on the Surface <i>Vanity Fair</i> and <i>The Trumpet-Major</i> ," 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	" <i>Cranford</i> in the <i>National Anti-Slavery Standard</i> : Abolition and Transatlantic Reading Practices," NAVSA topic-based seminar
May 2012	"Gulliver's Old Things," Michigan-Toronto Eighteenth-Century Gathering
July 2011	"Telling <i>The Highland Widow</i> ," 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

2024	Universal Design for Learning consultancy program, Skidmore College
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 th 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
- EN 105H: "Writing Gender," first-year writing in the Honors Forum
- EN 105: "Work!" first-year writing
- EN 105H: "Work!" first-year writing in the Honors Forum
- EN 110: "Introduction to Literary Studies," gateway course for the English major
- EN 211: "Fiction," mid-level seminar
- EN 362: "Objects and Materials in 18th-Century British Literature," upper-level seminar
- EN 362R: "The 'Rise' of the Novel," upper-level seminar
- EN 364: "The Historical Novel in a Global Context," upper-level seminar
- EN 371: "Dostoevsky," independent study
- EN 389: Prep for Senior Thesis (with Abigail Svetlik)
- EN 390: Senior Thesis (with Abigail Svetlik, on letters and diaries in Rilke's prose)
- GN 351A: "The English Major and Beyond," 1-credit course on post-college pathfinding

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 (2008–09)

As Guest Lecturer

April 2025 Juliane Wuensch's "Allies in Teaching and Learning" (Skidmore College)
April 2024 Eileen Sperry's "English Literary Studies Colloquium" (Skidmore College)
Oct 2022 Maggie Greaves's "English Literary Studies Colloquium" (Skidmore College)
April 2018 Dan Nathan's "Reading *The Wire*" (Skidmore College)
Nov 2016 Başak Demirhan's "19th-century British Fiction" (Boğaziçi University)
Nov 2008 Bill Bell's "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

2023–24 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 Skidmore Faculty Forward, SEIU Local 200United

2025–28 Co-Chair
2023–25 Member of the Negotiating Committee
2018–22 Member of the Organizing Committee

To the department or institution

2023–24 Skidmore English Department Mission Commission

- 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)