

CURRICULUM VITAE

LORI PETERSON BRANCH

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EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Higher Education

Indiana University, 1994 – 2000, English Literature, Ph.D. 2000
Concentration in British long-18th-century and Romanticism
Ph.D. minor in Literary Theory
University of Memphis, 1992 – 1994, English literature, M.A. 1994
Harding University, 1988 – 1992, History, B.A. *summa cum laude* 1992

Academic Positions

Associate Professor, University of Iowa, English, Fall 2006 – present
Associate Chair, Director of Undergraduate Studies, University of Iowa, English, Fall 2008 –
Spring 2011
Assistant Professor, University of Iowa, English, Fall 2000 – 2006
Associate Instructor, Indiana University, 1996 – 1998
Graduate Assistant, University of Memphis, 1993 – 1994

Honors & Awards

Theology, Modernity, & Literature Working Group: 1 of 10 international working group
members invited by Lord Rowan Williams and Professor Dan Train, Duke Initiatives
in Theology and the Arts, 2022 – present
UI Honors at Iowa Award for Excellence in Mentoring, 2019
UI Geneva Campus Board “Faith & Learning Award,” for exemplary integration of faith
and scholarship, October 2013
Invited Member, Mellon Working Group on “Religion and Literature,” 2010-2013: Literary
division of a \$657,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant to the University of
Notre Dame for the study of “Religion Across the Disciplines.”
Book of the Year, 2007, for *Rituals of Spontaneity*, MLA Affiliate Organization, Conference on
Christianity and Literature. For award citation and previous winners, see
<http://www.pepperdine.edu/sponsored/ccl/awardsandcontests/bookawards.htm>
John Gerber Award for Excellence in Teaching, UI Department of English, 2009
Richard L. Greaves Award Nominee for *Rituals of Spontaneity*, 2007
University of Iowa Junior Faculty Nominee (sole) for NEH Summer Stipend, 2003-2004 and
2005-2006
Esther Kinsley Ph.D. Dissertation Award Nominee, Indiana University, 2000-2001
Mary Gaither Award, Best Graduate Paper in British Literature, Indiana University, 1997
Banks-James Award Nominee, for outstanding teaching by an Associate Instructor in the
final year of contract, Indiana University Department of English, 1997-98

Keisler Award Nominee, for outstanding teaching by an Associate Instructor in the first year of contract, Indiana University Department of English, 1996-97
Lawrence Wynn Award, Most Outstanding Graduate Student in English, University of Memphis, 1994
M.A. Comprehensive Examination “With Highest Honors,” 1994
History Major and English Major of the Year, Harding University, 1992

Memberships

Modern Language Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
International John Bunyan Society
Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
American Academy of Religion

SCHOLARSHIP

Publications—Scholarly Monographs

In progress: *Beyond Secularism – Postsecular Reason*.

Rituals of Spontaneity: Sentiment and Secularism from Free Prayer to Wordsworth. Baylor University Press, 2006.

Reviews of this monograph: (11 to date)

Michael Tomko, “The Seasons of the Secular: Revisiting the Secularization Thesis in Nineteenth-Century Studies” [3-book review essay], *Religion and Literature* 2009 [2011]: 127-37. 2 ¼ pp. plus integrated material.

Emma Major, *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era* 17 (2010): 367-70. 3 ¼ pp.

Peter J. Leithart, Full-length Feature Article (cover billing): “Freedom and Propriety: *Rituals of Spontaneity: Sentiment & Secularism from Free Prayer to Wordsworth*, by Lori Branch” *Touchstone* 22.6 (July/August 2009): 34-38. (5 pages/3,600+ words)

Deanne Westbrook, *The Wordsworth Circle* 39 (2009): 160-62. 2 pp. (8 ½ x 11”), approx. 2,000 words.

Alison Searle, *Journal of Religious History* 32 (2008): 472-73. 1 ½ pages.

Don Saliers, *Church History* 77 (2008): 732-734. 2 ½ pages.

Jane Shaw, *American Historical Review* 118 (2008): 574-75. 1 page.

Review/Book of the Year Award Citation. *Christianity and Literature* 57 (2008): 299-300. 1 ½ pages.

Deidre Lynch, “Recent Studies in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century,” *SEL (Studies in English Literature)* 47 (2007): 723-73. 1 ½ pages (in comprehensive review of 18th-century titles for 2006).

Scott Robertson, *Literature and Theology* 21 (2007): 442-44. 2 ½ pages.

Miriam E. Burstein, *CHOICE* 44 (2007): 1532. *Recommended*. ¼ page.

Monograph Series

Series Editor, “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies,” Ohio State University Press, 2012 – 2025. 20 volumes in print:

- Duc Dau, *Sex, Celibacy, & Deviance: The Victorians and the Song of Songs* (2024)
- Jordan Carson, *American Exceptionalism as Religion: Postmodern Discontent* (2020)
- Winter Jade Werner, *Missionary Cosmopolitanism in Nineteenth-Century British Literature* (2020)
- Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion: Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue*, Edited by Joshua King and Winter Jade Werner (2019)
- Mark Knight, *Good Words: Evangelicalism and the Victorian Novel* (2019)
- Kyle Garton-Gundling, *Enlightened Individualism: Buddhism and Hinduism in American Literature from the Beats to the Present* (2019)
- Scott Dill, *Updike and the Theology of Sense: John Updike, Embodiment and Postsecular Aesthetics* (2018)
- Jessica Hooten Wilson, *Walker Percy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and the Search for Influence* (2017)
- G. A. Rosso, *The Religion of Empire: Political Theology in Blake's Prophetic Symbolism* (2016)
- Albert H. Tricomi, *Clashing Convictions: Science and Religion in American Fiction* (2016)
- Bryce Traister, *Female Piety and the Invention of American Puritanism* (2016)
- William Franke, *Secular Scriptures: Modern Theological Poetics in the Wake of Dante* (2015)
- Joshua King, *Imagined Spiritual Communities in Britain's Age of Print* (2015)
- Lynne Walkout Hinojosa, *Puritanism and Modernist Novels: From Moral Character to the Ethical Self* (2015)
- Jean Kane, *Conspicuous Bodies: Provincial Belief and the Making of Joyce and Rushdie* (2014)
- Dawn Coleman, *Preaching and the Rise of the American Novel* (2013)
- Jasper Cragwall, *Lake Methodism: Popular Religion and Polite Literature in England, 1780-1830* (2013)
- Ilana Blumberg, *Victorian Sacrifice: Ethics and Economics in Mid-Century Novels* (2013)
- Thomas Haddox, *Hard Sayings: The Rhetoric of Christian Orthodoxy in Late Modern Fiction* (2013).
- Gail Turley Houston, *Victorian Women Writers, Radical Grandmothers, and the Gendering of God* (2013).
- Anthony Dyer Hoefler, *Apocalypse South: Judgment, Catachysm, and Resistance in the Regional Imaginary* (2012).

Publications—Articles & Book Chapters—Refereed

- Forthcoming*: “‘Eve is Set Free’: Women in Liturgical Poetry and the Council of Nicaea,” invited chapter in forthcoming edited volume, Lausanne-Orthodox Initiative. 6,000 words. 2026.
- Forthcoming*: “‘To the moth and the wren, to the sleepy dug-up clam’: Or, how I see my work on Literature & Religion relative to the state of the field,” Special Issue of *Literature and Belief*, 2026 (7,000 words)
- Forthcoming*: “Christian Identity and Literature.” *Routledge Companion on Literature & Identity*, co-edited by Merle Williams and Donald Wehrs. 8,000 words.
- “How to Talk About Religion: A Modest Proposal.” *Modern Language Quarterly* 2022 [2023] 83.4: 373-394. 6,500 words.
- “Belief: Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead* and James Wood’s *The Book Against God*.” In *Literature and Religious Experience: Beyond Belief and Unbelief*, edited by Caleb Spencer and Matthew Smith. Bloomsbury Academic, 2022. 125-40. 6,500 words.

- “*Dracula’s* Sacramental Prosaics and the Remains of Religion in Modernity.” In *Toward a Sacramental Poetics*, edited by Regina Schwartz and Patrick John McGrath. South Bend: University of Notre Dame Press, 2021. 237-58. 6,000+ words.
- “Bunyan, Theory, and Theology: A Case for Postsecular Criticism.” In *The Oxford Handbook of John Bunyan*. Eds. Michael Davies and W. R. Owens. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2018. 502-518. 8,000+ words.
- Co-authored with Mark Knight, “Why the Postsecular Matters: Literary Studies and the Rise of the Novel.” Solicited by *Christianity & Literature* for special issue, 67.3 (2018): 493-510. 8,000+ words.
- “Postcritical and Postsecular: The Horizon of Belief.” *Religion & Literature* 48.2 (2016 [2017]): 160-67.
- “Beauty and Belief: Postsecular Approaches to Literature and the Humanities.” *Literature & Belief* 36.1-2 (2016): 1-20.
- “Eastern Orthodoxy,” Co-authored with Ioana Patuleanu. *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Religion*, ed. Susan Felch. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2016. 202-217. 6,000 words.
- “Postsecular Studies.” *Routledge Companion to Literature and Religion*, ed. Mark Knight. 2016. 91-101. 6,000 words.
- “The Rituals of Our Re-Secularization: Literature Between Faith and Knowledge.” Single-authored essay in a Special Issue produced by the Mellon Working Group on Religion and Literature. In *Religion and Literature* 46.2-3 (2014 [2015]): 9-33.
- Co-authored with the Mellon Working Group on Religion and Literature: “Literature and Religion for the Humanities: Seven Theses,” in *Religion & Literature* 46.2-3 (2014 [2015]): 151-55 and other venues.
- “Between Suspicion and Enchantment: Reading Shaftesbury’s Private Writings.” In *New Ages, New Opinions: Shaftesbury in His World and Today*. Patrick Mueller, ed. Frankfurt: Peter Lang, 2014. 261-76. 6,000 words.
- “The Smallness of Hope, or Reason and the Child: The Case for a Postsecular Christopher Smart.” In *Reading Christopher Smart in the Twenty-first Century: ‘By Succession of Delight’*. Eds. Min Wild and Noel Chevalier. Bucknell UP, 2013. 143-64. 7,000+ words.
- “Carlisle’s Cross: Locating the Post-Secular Gothic.” In *The Twilight Mystique: Critical Essays on a Cultural Phenomenon*. Amy Clarke and Marijane Osborn, eds. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2010. 60-79.
- “*Metanoia*: An Eastern Christian Vision for Religion and Literature.” *Religion and Literature* 41.2 (Summer 2009 [2010]): 53-60.
- “‘As blood is forced out of flesh’: Spontaneity and the Wounds of Exchange in *Grace Abounding* and *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.” *ELH (English Literary History)* 74 (2007): 271-99.
- “Bishop Butler.” *The Oxford Handbook of English Literature and Theology*. Edited by David Jasper, Elizabeth Jay and Andrew Hass. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. 590-606 (8,000 words).
- “Coda: Secular Subjects.” *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies* 7 (2005 [published 2006]): 129-136.
- “The Rejection of Liturgy, the Rise of Free Prayer, and Modern Religious Subjectivity.” *Restoration* 29 (2005): 1-28.
- “The Desert in the Desert: Faith and the Aporias of Law and Knowledge in Derrida and *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*.” *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 71 (2003): 811-33.
- “Plain Style, or the High Fashion of Empire: Colonialism, Resistance and Assimilation in Adam Smith’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres*.” *Studies in Scottish Literature* 33 (2002 [published 2004]): 435-53.

“The Benefit of Doubt: The Ethics of Rereading.” In *Critical Ethics: Text, Theory and Responsibility*. Eds. Dominic Rainsford and Tim Woods. London and New York: Macmillan and St. Martin’s, 1999. 187-202.

Reviews

- “Undomesticated Love: Is it really ‘dissent’ that we need to recover today?” Review of Curtis W. Freeman, *Undomesticated Dissent: Democracy and the Public Virtue of Nonconformity* (Waco, TX: Baylor UP, 2017). For *Comment Magazine: Public Theology for the Common Good*, March 2018. <https://www.cardus.ca/comment/article/undomesticated-love/>
- Review of *Religion, Literature and the Imagination: Sacred Worlds*. Mark Knight and Louise Lee, eds. London: Continuum, 2012 (2010). In *Religion & Literature* 47.1 (Spring 2015 [2016]): 248-251. 1,000 words.
- “Performing the Self: Methodist, Secular, and Postsecular Productions.” Review of Misty G. Anderson’s *Imagining Methodism in Eighteenth-Century Britain: Enthusiasm, Belief and the Borders of the Self* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Univ., 2012). In *Eighteenth-Century Life* 40.1 (Jan. 2016): 108-111. 1,000 words.
- Review of Anthony Ashley Cooper, Third Earl of Shaftesbury, *ASKÉMATA [Exercises]*. Vol. 2.6 of *The Shaftesbury Standard Edition: Complete Works, Correspondence and Posthumous Writings*. In *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 46.2 (2013): 320-21.
- Review of Vera Camden, ed. *Trauma and Transformation: The Political Progress of John Bunyan*. In *The Scriblerian*, 44.2/41.1 (Spring-Autumn 2012): 130-1.
- Review of Jane Shaw, *Miracles in Enlightenment England*. In *American Historical Review* 118 (2008): 573-74.
- Review of John Schad, *Queer Fish: Christian Unreason from Darwin to Derrida*. In *Victorian Studies* 48 (2006): 754-56.

Public Humanities / Podcasts / Interviews

- “Orthodoxy, Literature, and the Postsecular: A Conversation with Dr. Lori Branch,” One-hour video interview by Dr. George Demacopoulos, Episode 14 of *Women Scholars of Orthodox Christianity*, Fordham University, Orthodox Christian Studies Center, April 19, 2021. {YouTube Link when available}
- “On Being Postsecular, with Guest Lori Branch,” *Faith and Imagination Podcast*, inaugural episode, 50 minutes, with Dr. Matt Wickman, January 15, 2021. Available on Audible, Apple, and Spotify: <https://www.amazon.com/arya/webplayer?asin=B08TGY5G8T&useRelativeUrl=true&contentDeliveryType=PodcastEpisode&fetchNewPlayQueue=true>

Grants & Fellowships

- UI CDA, Fall 2021
- UI Department of English, Associate Professor Mid-Career Fellowship, one course release, Spring 2020
- NEH Summer Seminar for Faculty Grant, 2018-2019, \$105,000 to teach 3-Week Summer Seminar for Faculty, “Religion, Secularism, and the Novel,” July-August 2019, Co-Director Mark Knight, Lancaster University, UK: see <https://religion-secularism-novel.sites.uiowa.edu/>

NEH Summer Seminar for Faculty Grant, 2015-2016, \$139,000 to teach 4-Week Summer Seminar for Faculty, "Postsecular Studies and the Rise of the English Novel, 1719-1897," July 2016, Co-Director Mark Knight, Lancaster University, UK

UI Faculty Support Fund Award, Summer 2010, \$2,000, for travel to Keele, UK to deliver plenary lecture at the Sixth Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society

Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant, University of Iowa, 2006-2007, \$7,500, for research in the "Private Case" of the British Museum Library, London, UK, related to second book project, "The Violation of God: Sex, Secularism and Enlightenment"

UI International Programs International Travel Grant, \$800, to present at ASECS, Montreal, Quebec, 30 March-2 April, 2006

National Humanities Center, Summer Institute in Literary Studies, July 10-15, 2005; 1 of 12 selected participants for seminar on Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy*, directed by Deidre Lynch; \$1,500 stipend

CLAS Travel Grant for Pre-Tenure Faculty in 4th and 5th years: \$600 to present at ASECS, Boston 24-28 March 2004

Arts and Humanities Initiative Grant, University of Iowa, Summer-Fall 2003, \$7,500, for summer salary and research in the Shaftesbury Papers, Public Record Office, Kew Richmond, Surrey, UK, related to book chapter, "'True Enthusiasm': Moral Sense, Rational Spontaneity, and Fissures of the Secular Self"

CLAS and Department of English, University of Iowa, Fall 2003, \$1,000 to attend "Religion and Postmodernism: Transcendence and Beyond," Villanova University, 18-20 September 2003

Old Gold Summer Research Fellowship, University of Iowa, Summer 2001

International Travel Grant, University of Iowa, Office of the Provost, to present at the British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Spring 2001, \$500

Dissertation Year Fellowship: 1999-2000, Indiana University, College of Arts and Sciences, \$10,000

Pew Younger Scholars Fellowship, 1 of 10 awarded annually nationwide for doctoral study in the humanities: 1994-1999, \$36,000

Conference Travel Grant: Spring 2000, Indiana University Department of English, to present at the ASECS annual national meeting in Philadelphia, \$250

Conference Travel Grant: Fall 1998, Indiana University Department of English, to present at the MLA national convention in San Francisco, \$250

Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant: Spring 1998, for travel to present at the BSECS annual nation meeting in Oxford and research in the Bodleian Library, Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences, \$300

Overseas Conference Travel Grant: Fall 1996, to present at the BSECS annual national meeting in Oxford and research at the Bodleian Library, Indiana University Research and the University Graduate School, \$350

Overseas Conference Travel Grant: Spring 1996, to present at the "Romanticism in Theory: international conference in Copenhagen and the "First International Conference in Literature and Ethics" in Aberystwyth, Wales, Indiana University Research and the University Graduate School, \$350

Invited Lectures

“Postsecular Studies for Graduate Work in the Humanities,” Two-day Workshop in the Taylor and Tamara Woods Workshop on Humanities and Belief, involving presentation, leading seminar, and mentoring, Brigham Young University, June 11-13, 2024

“Postsecular Studies,” Invited Guest Seminar Instructor, Graduate English Seminar taught by Professor James Reeves at Texas State University, June 4, 2024

“Literature and Christian Orthodoxy,” Veritas Forum Lecture, Furman University, March 13, 2024

Keynote Address, “Religion and Secularism: Postsecular Allies,” *Aliens and Allies*, Southwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Baylor University, September 21-23, 2023

Charles G. Smith Endowed Lecture in English Literature, Baylor University, spring 2020; cancelled due to COVID19

“Postsecular Studies for Graduate Work in the Humanities,” Two-day Workshop in the Taylor and Tamara Woods Workshop on Humanities and Belief, involving presentation, leading seminar, and mentoring, Brigham Young University, June 9-10, 2022

Two-session Lecture with Discussion for humanities faculty at Brigham Young University, “On the Intersection of Faith and Learning,” February 9 & 16, 2022, via Zoom

Invited Conference Speaker and Mentor for Undergraduates, Augustine Collective, Boston, MA, February 4-5, 2022

“Gothic Religion in the Novel, *Robinson Crusoe* to *Dracula*,” Lancaster University, UK, English Department, December 8, 2021

“Religion, Secularism, and the Novel”, University of St. Andrew’s, Scotland, UK, November 26, 2021

“*Dracula* and the Form of Secular Theology,” University of Cambridge, UK, Nineteenth-Century Literature Group, Trinity College, November 23, 2021

“Belief and the Novel: Secularism’s Theology,” Brigham Young University Humanities Center, Symposium on Belief [September 24-27, 2020, postponed due to COVID19], September 23-25, 2021

Plenary Address, “Grounds for Postsecular Studies in the Humanities,” The China Literature and Arts Workshop, Yiyue Hotel (near East China Normal University), Shanghai, China, August 7-10, 2019

“Postsecular Studies for Graduate Work in the Humanities,” Three-day Workshop in the Taylor and Tamara Woods Workshop on Humanities and Belief, involving presentation, leading seminar, and mentoring, Brigham Young University, June 20-25, 2019

“Imagining a Better Religiousness and Secularity: Marilynne Robinson and James Wood.” Invited lecture for the University of Toronto, Interdisciplinary Religion and Literature Group, March 14, 2019

“Frontiers in the Study of Christian Literature,” at International Workshop on Directions in Christian Literature and the Arts, conference and workshop for Chinese scholars of Christianity and literature, University of Notre Dame, August 5-9, 2018

“Postsecular Studies for Graduate Work in the Humanities,” Three-day Workshop in Taylor and Tamara Woods Workshop on Humanities and Belief, involving presentation, leading seminar, and mentoring, Brigham Young University, June 14-19, 2018

Series of invited lectures in China, May 4-14, 2018:
 —Four-session seminar on “Western Christian Literature,” including 7 lectures for faculty and graduate students, Beijing Normal University

- “The Religious Turn in the Humanities and Postsecular Approaches to Studying Literature,” East China Normal University, Shanghai
- “Wordsworth, Romanticism, and the Religious Turn,” East China Normal University, Shanghai
- “The Religious Turn in the Humanities and Postsecular Approaches to Studying Literature,” Xiamen University
- “*Dracula’s* Sacramental Prosaics and the Remains of Religion in Modernity,” University of Notre Dame, Religion and Literature Lecture Series, March 7, 2018
- Invited talk on the works of John Caputo and their significance for reading Scripture, with Caputo responding: “Scriptural Reasoning, Without Religion, With Singing: Or, the Doxological Remainder”, Scriptural Reasoning Annual Conference, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, Boston, MA, November 17, 2017
- “Postsecular Approaches for Humanities Studies,” two three-hour plenary sessions at the conference *Christianity and Modernity*, Beijing, China, August 22-29, 2017
- “Postsecular Studies for Graduate Work in the Humanities,” Three-day Workshop in Taylor and Tamara Woods Workshop on Humanities and Belief, involving presentation, leading seminar, and mentoring, Brigham Young University, June 26-28, 2017
- “Enchanting Secularity: Envisioning the Postsecular in the works of Marilynne Robinson,” The Religion & Literature Collaborative at Boston College, March 30, 2017
- “Postsecularity in the Humanities,” Art in a Postsecular Age, Biola Arts Symposium, Biola University, March 4, 2017
- “Postsecular Studies: Contexts and Premises,” invited lecture, plus seminar participation in the English department, Washington University, St. Louis, March 2-3, 2016
- “Postsecular Approaches to Literature and the Humanities,” Beauty and Belief Conference, invited keynote lecture, Brigham Young University, Nov. 4-7, 2015
- “The Religious Turn: Postsecular Approaches for Literature and the Humanities.” The Geneva Lecture Series, University of Iowa. 14 April 2015.
- “Limitless Love and the Truth About the Lie: Patristic and Postsecular Readings of Lacan’s *The Triumph of Religion*.” Christianity, Culture & Criticism Conference, Villanova University, 13-14 November 2014.
- “Postsecular Studies.” Religion and Literature Conference, University of Toronto, 4-6 June 2014.
- “Metanoia in the Works of Alexandros Papadiamandis.” Graduate Literature Colloquium at the University of Notre Dame, 21 March 2014.
- “Pretending to Believe, Pretending Not to Believe.” One of two invited speakers (4 total) for the Late-Eighteenth-Century Studies Division session, “Have We Ever Been Secular?” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, 9-12 January 2014.
- Plenary Address: “Bram Stoker’s *Dracula* and the Remains of Religion in Modernity.” Religion and Literature in the Long Nineteenth Century. Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL. 26 October 2012.
- Plenary Address: “Downsizing the Adult: Hope and the Child in Christopher Smart’s *Hymns for the Amusement of Children*.” Religion, Literature and the Arts: Theology and Critique, Iowa City, IA, 24-26 August 2012.
- Plenary Address: “Shaftesbury’s Self-Splitting and the Stakes of Psychoanalysis for Eighteenth-Century Studies.” New Ages, New Opinions: Shaftesbury in his World and Today. University of Erlangen, Bavaria, Germany. 30 August – 1 September 2012

- Plenary Address: "Gothic Transpositions: *Twilight*, The Post-Secular, and the Return of the Repressed." Craft, Culture and Critique: Transposition, University of Iowa, 14 April 2011
- Plenary Address: "Christopher Smart and Post-Secular Studies." International Christopher Smart Colloquium, Plymouth, Devon, UK, 14-15 September 2010
- Plenary Address: "Bunyan Studies: A Case for Post-Secular Criticism." Sixth Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society: Bunyan and the Dissenting Tradition, Keele University, UK, 26-28 July 2010
- "Enlightenment Erotica's Sacred Spaces: Seduction and Secularism," University of Michigan, Department of English, 12 November 2009
- "Imagining God in Eighteenth-Century Erotica." University of Chicago, Department of English Language and Literature, April 29, 2009
- "Reading the Book of Nature in Eighteenth-Century Erotica." Plenary session. Religion, Literature and the Arts: Theology and Critique, Iowa City, IA, 2-4 April 2009.
- "The Implicit Theology of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*." Plenary session. Religion, Literature and the Arts: Theology and Critique, Iowa City, IA, 27-30 March 2008.
- Invited Lecture Series and Seminar Leader for Faculty and Honors Students: Pew College Society, Ouachita Baptist University, Petit Jean State Park, 31 January-2 February 2003. Assigned readings and gave 6 sessions, including lectures and discussion groups on the topic "Reason and Faith in Post/Modernity"
- "Why Good Scholarship Should Make Us All Squirm, Part II." Pew Younger Scholars Program Annual Summer Conference, Colorado Springs, 9-12 August 2001
- "Ruin the Secular Truths, or Why Good Scholarship Should Make Us All Squirm." Pew Younger Scholars Program Annual Summer Conference, Colorado Springs, 10-14 August 2000

Conference Presentations (international unless specified)

Invited Lecture, SMU, Project Poëtica meeting, February 23-24, 2026, "Poetry, Liturgy, and Spontaneity across Wordsworth's Oeuvre."

- "The Shape of Metanoia in Eugene Vodolazkin's *Laurus*," The Second IOTA Conference, Volos, Greece, 11-15 January 2023
- "Talking about (Teaching) Religion," invited presentation for Talking About Religion: A Roundtable Discussion on The Place of Religion in Humanities Scholarship. North American Victorian Studies Association / NAVSA Religion and Spiritualities Caucus, February 27, 2021, on Zoom. Available on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qw1x_Kqy9EM
- "The Transformation of Secular Affect in James Wood's *The Book Against God*," at The Problem with God: Christianity and Literature in Tension, to be held at the Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 29-30 March 2019
- "The Prose of Everyday Reality: Fr. Roman Braga, Alexandros Papadiamandis, and the Living Literariness of Orthodox Spirituality," at The International Orthodox Theological Association Inaugural Conference, Iași, Romania, 9-12 January 2019
- "Reading Wordsworth Postsecularly," at the International Conference on Romanticism, El Paso TX, October 26-29, 2017
- Two lectures at the 8th Annual St. Emmelia Homeschooling Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA, 7-10 April 2016: "Reading as a Work of Love & Repentance: Critical

- Reading Across the Classical Curriculum” and “Unit Studies on Tolkien and Friendship”
- Two lectures at the 7th Annual St. Emmelia Homeschooling Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA, 23-25 April 2015: “Teaching The Pilgrim’s Progress, K-12” and “Reading as a Work of Love & Repentance: Critical Reading Across the Classical Curriculum”
- Two lectures at the 6th Annual St. Emmelia Homeschooling Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA, 27-30 March 2014: “Teaching *Beowulf*, K-12” and “Unit Studies on Tolkien and Friendship”
- “Religion and Literature – A Perspective from English.” Invited Round Table Presentation with Ida Beam Lecturer Regina Schwartz, UI Department of Religious Studies, 26 September 2013
- Three Lectures at the 5th Annual St. Emmelia Homeschooling Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA, 31 March – 2 April 2013: “Unit Studies on Tolkien and Friendship,” “Teaching *The Pilgrim’s Progress*,” and “Literature and the Difficult Moments”
- “Literature and the Difficult Moments: From Children’s Literature to the Classics.” 4th Annual St. Emmelia Homeschooling Conference, Antiochian Village, Bolivar, PA, 8-11 March 2012
- “Secularization as Secularism of the Subject: Seven Theses for Literary Study.” Roundtable on Secularization, Sponsored by The Literature and Religion Division. Modern Language Association Convention, Seattle, WA, 5-8 January 2012
- “Postsecular Criticism: Manifestoes and Manifestations.” The Hospitable Text: New Approaches to Religion and Literature, London, UK, 14-16 July 2011
- “Bunyan and Bishop Butler: Thinking Dissent and Secularism in the 18th Century.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 41st Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, 18-21 March 2010
- “Imagining God in Enlightenment Erotica.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 40th Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA, 26-29 March 2009
- “A Psalm for Enlightenment.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 38th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA 22-25 March 2007 (absent due to maternity leave)
- “Sex, Secularism, and the Particular Religiousness of *Clarissa*.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 37th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, 30 March-2 April 2006
- “Spontaneity, Sentiment and Secularism.” Fourth Annual Bloomington Eighteenth-Century Studies Workshop, “Custom, Ritual, Habit, Fetish: The Idols of the Eighteenth Century.” Bloomington, IN, 10-14 May 2005
- “New Directions and Challenges for Religion, Secularism and Eighteenth-Century Studies.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 36th Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 31 March-3 April, 2005
- “Violating God: Secular Contours of Sentimental Fantasy in *Clarissa*.” Modern Language Association National Convention, Philadelphia, PA, 27-30 December 2004
- “Sentiment, Stoicism, and the Unhappy (Secular) Consciousness of Shaftesbury’s Private Writings.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 35th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 24-28 March 2004
- “Enlightenment, Religion and Violence”: invited roundtable participant at American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 35th Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 24-28 March 2004

- “Gendering Sensibility: Masculinity in the Moral Sense Philosophy of Shaftesbury and Adam Smith.” 11th Annual British Women Writer’s Conference: “Gendering Philosophy,” (in absentia) Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, TX, 20-23 March 2003
- “Restoration Free Prayer and Dissenting Economies of Spontaneity.” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Springfield, MO, 10-12 October 2002
- “Moral Sense and Mastery: Psychologies of the Secular in Shaftesbury.” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Iowa, Iowa City, 9-11 November 2001
- “Victorian Censorship of Verdi: A religious or secular sensibility?” Response to Roberta Marvin, “The Censorship of Verdi’s Operas in Victorian London.” 18th- and 19th-Century Studies Colloquium, University of Iowa, 7 November 2001
- “Wounds of Exchange and Symptoms of the Real in *Grace Abounding*.” Third Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society, Kent State University, Cleveland, 10-14 October 2001
- “Oliver Goldsmith and the Ghost of Christopher Smart: Ritual, Spontaneity, and the Subversion of Sentiment in *Jubilate Agno*.” British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, St. John’s College, Oxford, 3-5 January 2001
- “Selling Christ, Buying the Soul: Spiritual Traumas and Symptoms of Exchange in John Bunyan’s *Grace Abounding* and *The Pilgrim’s Progress*.” Changing and Exchanging: Spiritual and Material Conversions along the Lines of Cultural Contact, 1600-1850, Princeton University, 6-7 October 2000
- “The Literary Aesthetics of Common Sense: Adam Smith’s *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres* in Political and Philosophical Context.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 30th Annual Meeting, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 1-5 April 2000
- “Repetition and Rituality in Postmodern Literary Theory.” Modern Language Association National Convention, San Francisco, 27-30 1998
- “Rituals of Spontaneity: Feeling and Repetition in the Liturgy/Free-Prayer Controversies of Early 18th-Century England.” British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, St. John’s College, Oxford, 3-5 January 1998
- “Mad Habits, Cultivated Tastes: (Un)Masked Repetition in Edmund Burke’s *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful*.” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 28th Annual Meeting, Nashville, 9-13 April 1997, **and also** at British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, St. John’s College, Oxford, 3-5 January 1997
- “Reading Romanticisms: Practices and Prospects for Rereading Women Romantic Writers.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, 4th Annual Conference, Boston, 14-16 November 1996
- “The Benefit of the Doubt: The Reading of Ethics and the Ethics of Reading.” First International Conference on Literature and Ethics, University of Aberystwyth, Wales, 4-7 July 1996
- “Wordsworth’s *The White Doe of Rylstone*: Violence, Gender, and Self-Production, Inside the Poem and Out.” Romanticism in Theory: Danish Society for the Study of Literature and Romanticism International Conference, Copenhagen, 28-30 June 1996
- “Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* and Post-Structuralist Conceptions of Belief, or Why Are There Always Two Gods?” GSAC Graduate Student Interdisciplinary Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington, 31 March – 1 April 1995

SERVICE

Profession

Cambridge Elements Series, *Literature and Religion since 1500*, Co-editor with Charles LaPorte, Cambridge University Press, 2024 – present

Literature & Belief, Editorial Board, 2024 – present

Co-organizer with Yunyan Zhang of US-China online symposium, *Mo Yan: Postsecularity, the Global Novel, and East-West Dialogue*. Friday April 28/29, 2023

National Humanities Center, invited review panelist 2022, for 2023-24 cycle

International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA), Board Member, 2022 – present

Faculty Mentor for junior faculty and graduate students, Christian Poetics Initiative, Yale Divinity School/Rivendell Institute, 2021-present

Book jacket endorsement for Matthew Wickman, *Life to the Whole Being: The Spiritual Memoir of a Literature Professor*, Neal A. Maxwell Institute for Religious Scholarship, 2022

Invited Conference Speaker and Mentor for Undergraduates, Augustine Collective, Boston, MA, February 4-5, 2022

Book Manuscript Peer Reviewer for Princeton University Press, 2021

National Endowment for the Humanities, invited review panelist, 2021-22 cycle

Book Manuscript Peer Reviewer for Fordham University Press, 2021

Book Manuscript Peer Reviewer for Routledge, 2020

Peer Reviewer for journal articles for *LIT* (2020), *Literature & Theology* (2020); *Studies in Romanticism* (2020); *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture; Religion and Literature* (2010, 2019); *Restoration* (2012, 2014, 2015), *Philological Quarterly* (2017), *PMLA* (2019)

Invited Consultant (1 of 12 internationally) for the “Christian Poetics Initiative,” Rivendell Center for Theology and the Arts, Yale University, 2019-2021

Invited Conference Speaker and Mentor for undergraduates, Augustine Collective, by Zoom, February 6, 2021

National Humanities Center Fellowship Competition reviewer, for 2020-21 grant cycle, by invitation of the VP for Scholarly Programs, November 2019

External reviewer for Dalhousie University, doctoral dissertation in English, B. Estey-Burt, *The Postsecular Messianic in Contemporary Literature*, August 2019

Book Manuscript Peer Reviewer for W.W. Norton & Co., 2018

Founding Co-chair, “Orthodoxy and Literature” Group, International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA), 2018-present

Steering committee co-chair (invited), “Orthodoxy and the Arts” Group, International Orthodox Theological Association (IOTA), 2018

Formal mentoring and workshopping with Chinese faculty at International Workshop on Directions in Christian Literature and the Arts, conference and workshop for Chinese scholars, University of Notre Dame, August 5-9, 2018

Jacket Blurb for Jeffrey Barbeau, *Religion in Romantic England*, Baylor University Press, 2017

Manuscript Reader for Oxford University Press, 2017

Advisory Board, invited member, *Religion & Literature* (journal) 2014-present

Series Editor, “Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies,” Ohio State University Press, 2012-2024

Editorial Board, *Philological Quarterly*, 2007-present

Promotion Review (tenure equivalent) for Lancaster University, Department of English and Creative Writing, Lancaster, UK, January 2014

Tenure Review for Eastern Mennonite University, Department of Language & Literature, Fall 2013

Jacket blurb for Jo Caruthers, *England's Secular Scripture: Islamophobia and the Protestant Aesthetic* (Continuum 2011 [2012])

Session Organizer, "New Directions in Dissent, Bunyan to Cowper." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 41st Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM, 18-21 March 2010

World Book Encyclopedia video project on literature, scholarly contributor, October 2009

College Board's College Curriculum Study, Contributing Instructor for UI's 8:005 Introduction to the English Major, February 2009

Session Organizer and Chair, "The Starry Heavens: Secular, Religious, Moral." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 40th Annual Meeting, Richmond, VA 26-29 March 2009

Tenure Case in 18th-century studies, External Reviewer, Grinnell College, Fall 2008

Conference Co-organizer (with David Klemm, Department of Religious Studies), Religion, Literature and the Arts: Theology and Critique, 27-30 March 2008

Book Proposal Reviewer for Bedford Press, 2006 and 2008

Guest Editor of the *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, Special Issue on "Religion, Secularism, and Cultural Studies," Spring 2006

Multiple Session Organizer and Chair, "Sex, Secularism and Enlightenment." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 37th Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, 30 March-2 April, 2006

Multiple Session Organizer and Panel Chair, "Religion, Secularism and Modernity: Connections, Conflicts, Conversations." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 36th Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 31 March-3 April, 2005

Session Organizer and Chair, "Desire and Devotion: *Clarissa*, Secularism, and Psychoanalysis." Modern Language Association National Convention, Philadelphia, PA, 27-30 2004

University

Arts and Humanities Initiative Review Panel, 2023 – present

Orthodox Christian Fellowship (OCF), UI Chapter Faculty Sponsor, 2005-2006, and 2008 – present

InterVarsity Graduate Christian Fellowship, UI Faculty Sponsor, 2006 – present

Dostoevsky Exhibit: From Revolutionary Outcast to a Man of God – choir director and singer at commemoration of Dostoevsky's 200th birthday. Held at the UI Main Library Gallery. Sponsored by / in collaboration with Dr. Anna Barker.

UI Presidential Scholars Review Committee, 2016

Invited Lecture for UI IntersVarsity Graduate Fellowship, Spring 2015, 2014, 2008, 2006, 2004, 2003

Invited Lecture for "Finding God at Iowa" Geneva lecture series, December 2010

Faculty Assembly Representative (departmental alternate), 2006 – 2009

Geneva Lecture Series, Advisory Board Member, 2000 – 2006

Secured departmental co-sponsorship for fall 2006 Geneva Lecture, "Asceticism as a Way of Love: The Life and Loves of a Desert Saint," by Professor David Jasper, University of Glasgow

Respondent to fall 2006 Geneva Lecture, “Asceticism as a Way of Love: The Life and Loves of a Desert Saint,” by Professor David Jasper, University of Glasgow
Invited speaker and secured sponsorship for lecture by Anna-Lisa Cox, Director of Rural History Seminars, Newberry Library, “Where God Wasn’t Racist: Religion and the Creation of a Racially Harmonious Community in the 19th-Century Midwest,” March 26, 2002
Secured departmental co-sponsorship for spring 2001 Geneva Lecture, “God and the Embarrassment of Meanings,” by Professor Susan Felch, Calvin College, as well as Felch’s special lecture on “Bakhtin’s Ethics” to course 8:195 “Literature & Ethics”
Invited Lecture, “*Redemptor Saeculi*: Toward a Mutual Problematization of the Religious and the Secular,” for Geneva Lectures “Finding God at Iowa” Monthly Colloquium, Iowa Memorial Union, 5 October 2001

College

CLAS Scholarship Committee, 2023-present
Faculty Assembly Alternate, serving for Melissa Febos, Spring 2022 & Fall 2022
CLAS Review Committee, Department of Religious Studies, April 2019
CLAS Collegiate Academic Standards Committee, 2015-2018
Invited Presentation to Faculty on Strategies for Teaching a Successful First-Year Seminar, August 2015
Teaching First-Year Seminars, 2010-present; currently teaching an Honors FYS on “Tolkien and the Inklings”

Department

English Department Lecture Series, Respondent to Joseph North, Yale University, “The Politics of Close Reading,” February 2024
English Honors Director, 2023-present
Co-led book group and discussion of Mo Yan’s *Life and Death are Wearing Me Out*
IDEAS Committee (Diversity, Equity, & Access), 2022-24
Faculty Liaison and Sponsor for International Visiting Scholar Yunyan Zhang, 2022-23
English Department Faculty Colloquium, Collaborative Presentation with Kaveh Akbar, “Pilgrimage,” November 2022
Graduate Admissions Committee, Spring 2022
English Department Executive Committee, elected member, 2020-21
English Department Assistant Professor Review Committee member, 2020-21
General Education Literature, TA mentoring committee, 2017-18, 2020-21
“*Dracula*, Gothic Literature, and *Nosferatu*,” Introduction for the University of Iowa English Society, film screening of *Nosferatu*, October 30, 2017
Colloquium presentation: “*Dracula*’s Sacramental Prosaics and the Remains of Religion in Modernity,” 28 February 2016
Honors Program Scholarships & Awards Committee Chair, 2014-present: oversaw transition to an all-online application process
Undergraduate Recruitment Committee, 2014-present
Honors Steering 2014-present
Undergraduate Steering 2013-2015
Guest session on Addison and Steele’s *Tatler* and *Spectator* essays on “Fashioning Taste” for Eric Gidal’s 8:32 course, 3 October 2013
Foundations of the English Major Committee 2013-14

English Honors Program (Interim) Director, Fall 2012
 Tenure Review Committee for Assistant Professor Lena Hill, 2012-2013
 Pre-Tenure Review Committee for Assistant Professor Lena Hill, 2011-2012
 Honors Steering, 2011-2012; Theses director, Spring 2012
 Colloquium lecture: "Enlightenment Erotica and the Secular Subject," November 2010
 Initiated New Departmental Recruiting measures, 2010
 Honors Steering Committee, 2009 – present
 Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2008 – present
 Curriculum Committee, 2008 – present
 Honors Program Task Force, 2008 – present
 Gateway Course, inaugural instructor and committee member, 2006 – 2009
 Organizer, Assistant Professor Mentoring Program, 2006 – 2007
 Ph.D. Placement Committee, 2006 – 2007
 Executive Committee, Elected Member, 2006 – present
 Ph.D. Placement Committee, 2005 – 2006
 Ph.D. Admissions and Finances Committee, 2005 – 2006
 Ph.D. Placement Committee, 2005 – 2006
 English Graduate Curriculum Task Force, 2004 – 2005
 English Graduate Admissions Committee, 2003 – 2004
 Faculty Advising Committee Member, General Education Literature Program: faculty mentor to first year literature instructors, 2002 – 2003
 Fall 2002: Organized "Religion, Secularism and Ethics" as an area of departmental specialization; drafted the departmental website statement for 5 faculty members teaching in this area
 Faculty Advising Committee Member, General Education Literature Program: faculty mentor to first year literature instructors, 2001 – 2002
 Authored departmental nomination of Professor Susan Gubar for College of Liberal Arts Alumni Fellows Award
 Faculty Advising Committee Member, General Education Literature Program: faculty mentor to first year literature instructor, 2000 – 2001
 Post-1660 Drama Search Committee Member, 2000 – 2001; MLA Interview committee member
 18th- and 19th-century Faculty Writing Group, 2000 – 2002
 Diversity Dialogue Group Member, Fall 2000

Community

Choir Director, St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church, Iowa City, 2001 – 2007, 2009 – present
 Choir director and cantor, St. George Orthodox Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 2000-2003
 Volunteer, Table to Table, Iowa City
 Chamber Singers of Iowa City, 2001
 University of Iowa, Collegium Musicum, vocal trio, under direction of Elizabeth Aubrey, Spring 2001