

# MARGOT GAYLE BACKUS

Curriculum vitae  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2002-present: University of Houston, associate professor of English  
2007-2008: National University of Ireland-Galway Centre for Irish Studies,  
Irish American Cultural Institute Research Fellow  
2000-2: University of Houston, assistant professor of English  
1993-2000: St. John Fisher College, assistant professor of English

## EDUCATION

- 1993: University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D. in English Literature  
1989: University of Texas at Austin, M.A. in English Literature  
1987: University of Massachusetts/Boston, B.A. in English Literature, *summa cum laude*

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

- 2015: *The Crux of the X: Literary Dispatches From Ireland's War on Children*. With Joseph Valente. In progress. Under consideration, Syracuse University Press.
- 2013: *Scandal Work: James Joyce, the New Journalism, and the Home Rule Newspaper Wars*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press. 328 pages, 8 halftones. October 2013.
- 1999: *The Gothic Family Romance: Heterosexuality, Child Sacrifice and the Anglo-Irish Colonial Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 304 pages. 1999.
- 2000: *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title.
- 2000: American Conference for Irish Studies Prize for a Distinguished First Book.

Selected Reviews: *Choice*, *Irish Literary Supplement*, *Criticism*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Victorian Studies*, *Interventions*, *E3W Book Review*, *Canadian Literature: A Quarterly of Criticism and Review*, *Victorian Literature and Culture*.

### Articles

- 2013 The Woman Who Did: Maria's Maternal Misdirection in James Joyce's "Clay" (with

- Martha Stallman). *Joyce Studies Annual* 2103, 129-150.
- 2013 Kate O'Brien, *The Land of Spices*, and the Stylistic Invention of Lesbian (In)visibility (with Joseph Valente). Solicited contribution to queer theory/Irish studies special issue, *Irish University Review* 43.1 (2013), 55-73.
- 2009 "The Children of the Nation?": Representations of Poor Children in Mainstream Nationalist Journalism, 1882 and 1913. *Eire/Ireland* 44: 1 & 2 (2009). Special issue on children, childhood and Irish society, eds. Maria Luddy and James Smith, 118-146.
- 2009 "An Iridescence Difficult to Account For': Sexual Initiation in Joyce's Fiction of Development" (with Joseph Valente). *ELH: Journal of English Literary History*, 76:2 (2009), 523-545.
- 2008 "More Useful Washed and Dead': James Connolly, W.B. Yeats, and the Sexual Politics of Easter 1916." *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, special issue on James Connolly, 10:1, 67-85.
- 2008 "'Odd Jobs': James Joyce, Oscar Wilde and the Scandal Fragment." *Joyce Studies Annual* 2008, 105-145.
- 2001 "Sexual Figures of National Identity in 'The Dead.'" *European Joyce Studies 11: James Joyce and the Fabrication of an Irish Identity*, 111-131.
- 2001 "'A Most Curious State of Affairs': Eamonn McCann on the Good Friday Agreement." *Rethinking Marxism*, 13:1 (Spring 2001), 83-97.
- 2001 "Riverine Crossings: Gender, Identity and the Reconstruction of National Mythic Narrative in *The Crying Game*" (with James Doan). *Cultural Studies*, 15:1, 173-191.
- 2001 "'It's Not Quite Philadelphia, Is It?': Interview with Eamonn McCann." *Eire/Ireland*, (Dec. 2001), 174-89.
- 1996 "Sexual Orientation in the (Post)Imperial Nation: Celticism and Inversion Theory in *The Well of Loneliness*." *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 15:2, 45-58.
- 1996 "Discourse and Silence in the Victorian Family Cell: Problems of Subjectivity in *The History of Sexuality: Vol. I*." *Victorian Literature and Culture*, 24, 159-74.
- 1994 "'Looking for that Dead Girl': Incest, Pornography, and the Capitalist Family Romance in *Nightwood*, *The Years*, and *Tarbaby*." *American Imago*, 51:4, 421-45.
- 1994 "Homophobia and the Imperial Demon Lover: Gothic Narrativity in Contemporary Irish Representations of the Great War." *The Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue Canadienne de Littérature Comparée*, 21:1, 45-63.
- 1994 "With His Pistol in Her Hand: Re-Articulating the Corrido Narrative in Helena María Viramontes' 'Neighbors'" (with JoAnn Pavletich). *Cultural Critique*, 27, 127-52.
- 1993 "Judy Grahn and the Lesbian Invocational Elegy: Testimonial and Prophetic Responses to Social Death in 'A Woman is Talking to Death.'" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 18:4, 815-37.
- 1990 "Using Sexton to Read Freud: The Pre-Oedipal Phase and the Etiology of Lesbianism in Anne Sexton's 'Rapunzel.'" *Journal of Homosexuality*, 19, 56-65.

### **Book Chapters**

- 2014 "Those Who Create Themselves Wits at the Expense of Feminine Delicacy": W.T. Stead, James Joyce, and the Maiden Tribute Sex Scandal. *Ireland and the New Journalism*, eds., Karen Steele and Michael de Nie. Forthcoming, Palgrave MacMillan Press, 27 pp.
- 2014 "The Children of the Nation?": Representations of Poor Children in Mainstream

- Nationalist Journalism, 1882 and 1913. *Children and Childhood in Ireland: 1700-2010*. Eds. Maria Luddy and James Smith. Forthcoming, Dublin: Four Courts Press, 28 pp.
- 2012 “An Encounter”: James Joyce’s Humiliation Nation (with Joseph Valente), in *Collaborative Dubliners: Joyce in Dialogue*, ed. Vicki Mahaffey. Syracuse University Press, pp. 48-68.
- 2009 “‘Things That Have the Potential to Go Terribly Wrong’: Homosexuality, Pedophilia, and the Kincora Boys Home Scandal.” In *The Ashgate Research Companion to Queer Theory*, eds. Noreen Giffney and Michael O’Rourke. Aldershot: Ashgate, pp. 237-256.
- 2008 “‘Everybody Knew, Nobody Said’: Transnational Laundries and Transnational Trauma across the Irish/Northern Irish Border.” In *Irish Studies: Geographies and Genders*, ed. Marti Lee and Ed Madden. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, pp. 21-37.
- 2002 “‘This Woman Has Received a Blow That Will Shut Her Up Forever’: Frank McGuinness’ ‘Baglady.’” *The Theatre of Frank McGuinness: Stages of Mutability*, ed. Helen Lojek. Dublin: Carysfort Press, pp. 41-49.
- 2001 “‘I’m Your Mother; She Was a Carrying Case’: Gender, Sexuality, and the Symbolics of Adoption in *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*.” *Imagining Adoption: Essays on Literature and Culture*, ed. Marianne Novy. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 133-149.
- 1999 “Revising Resistance: *In the Name of the Father* and *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* as Postcolonial Paternal Melodrama.” *Contemporary Irish Cinema: From The Quiet Man to Dancing at Lughnasa*, ed. James MacKillop. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, pp. 54-70.
- 1996 “Gender and Trauma in the Classroom.” *Situating College English: Lessons from an American University*, ed. Evan Carton, Alan Friedman. South Hadley, MA: Bergin & Garvey Press.
- 1995 “Exploring the Ethical Implications of Narrative in a Sophomore-level Course on Same-Sex Love: *Mrs. Dalloway* and *The Last September*.” *Re: Reading, Re: Writing, Re: Teaching Virginia Woolf*, ed. Eileen Barrett and Patricia Cramer. New York: Pace University Press, pp. 102-105.

### **Letters, Notes, and Reviews**

- 2013 Review of *The Poor Bugger’s Tool: Irish Modernism, Queer Labor, and Postcolonial History*, (Oxford Univ. Press, 2012) by Patrick Mullen. *James Joyce Quarterly*, Vol 50, Issue 1, forthcoming, 7 ms. pp.
- 2013 “What Difference Did Lillian Robinson Make?” An essay for a digital commemoration of Dr. Lillian Robinson for presentation at the Simone DeBeauvoir Institute’s Annual Conference, Concordia University, Montreal (April 2013), 6 ms. pp.
- 2013 Review of *The Myth of Manliness in Irish National Culture, 1880-1922*, by Joseph Valente. *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies*, 15.1, 165-69.
- 2013 Review of *Endangered Masculinities in Irish Poetry: 1540-1780*, by Sarah E. McKibben. *Irish Literary Supplement*, 32.2 (Spring 2013), 2-3.
- 2012 Review article, *Family Likeness: Sex, Marriage, and Incest from Jane Austen to Virginia Woolf*, by Mary Jean Corbett, *Modern Philology* Vol. 110, issue no. 2 (Nov. 2012), E104-E110.
- 2012 Review of *Oscar’s Shadow: Wilde, Homosexuality and Modern Ireland*, by Eibhear Walshe. *Modernism/Modernity*, Vol. 19, no. 2 (April 2012), 394-95.

- 2011 Review of *Pathologies of Desire: The Vicissitudes of the Self in James Joyce's A Portrait of the Artist as A Young Man*, by Gerald Doherty. (With Martha Stallman). *James Joyce Quarterly*. Vol. 47, no. 1, 51-54.
- 2010 Introduction to Jessica Reynolds's memoir, *All in the Same Boat*, Wilmington College Press, pp. i-iii.
- 2007 Review of *James Connolly: A Full Life*, by Donal Nevin. *Irish Literary Supplement*, 27:1, 9-10.
- 2007 Introduction to Bryan Lawrence's *incomplet...*, poetry collection, Amazon Press, pp. i-vi.
- 2004 Review of *Borders of Mourning: Remembrance, Commitment and the Contexts of Irish Identity* by Duncan Greenlaw. *Irish Studies Review* 13:1.
- 2004 Review of *The Politics of Culture in the Shadow of Capital*, ed. Lisa Lowe and David Lloyd. *Rethinking Marxism*, 16:2.
- 2004 Biography of Samuel Beckett, *Encyclopedia of Ireland: Vol. 1*, Macmillan Reference USA, 2004.
- 2003 Review of *Lytton Strachey and the Search for Modern Sexual Identity: The Last Eminent Victorian*, by Julia Taddeo. *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, 12:4.
- 2003 Review of *Dracula's Crypt: Bram Stoker, Irishness and the Question of Blood*, by Joseph Valente. *Irish Literary Supplement*, Fall 2003.
- 2000 Entry, Judy Grahn, *Encyclopedia of Lesbian Histories and Cultures*, ed. Bonnie Zimmerman. NY: Garland.
- 1995 Review of *From Husbandry to Housewifery: Irish Women, Labor, and Housekeeping from 1880-1914*, by Joanna Bourke. *Irish Literary Supplement*, 14:2, 28-9.
- 1994 "Rudolfo Anaya's *Bless Me, Ultima*." *Masterpieces of Latino Literature*, ed. A. J. Sobczak. Pasadena, CA: Salem Press, pp. 1964-68.
- 1991 "The Material Effects of Criticism," letter to the editor in response to Richard Levin's "The Politics and Poetics of Bardicide." *PMLA*, 106, 1172-73.

## TEACHING

### Dissertations Directed:

- 2013-present, Chris Larimore, Medieval Masculinities in J.R.R. Tolkien's Ring Trilogy.
- 2009-present, Eveline Bailey, Subjective Disqualification in late Victorian British Fiction.
- 2004-2013, Jacqueline Hedden, "*The Book is the Punchline*": *Shame and the ADHD Memoir* (successfully defended, April 2013)
- 2006-2011, Vicki Brown, the Oprah Book Club (ABD)
- 2001-2005, Carol Bernard, Homoeroticism in J.R.R. Tolkien's Ring Trilogy (successfully defended, April 2005). Tenured Associate Professor of English, Northeast Lakeview College
- 2000-2002, Doris Howgill, Maternal values in eighteenth/nineteenth-century British women's novels (successfully defended, April 2002).

### M.A. Theses/Reports Directed:

- 2012, Maryann Nguyen, on synesthesia in *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*
- 2012, Nicholas Cenegy, on existentialism in the writing of Paul Bowles
- 2010, Natalie Stigall, a feminist analysis of gendered space in the Twilight series.
- 2008, Courtney Rath, queer theoretical analysis of Jewishness in modernist novels

- 2005, Mindy Rubin, Nineteenth-century British representations of Jews  
 2004, Austin Westervelt-Lutz, rhetoric and audience formation in *Ulysses*.  
 2003, Elexia Strickland, Edna O'Brien's *Down By the River*

### **Honors Theses Directed:**

- 2013, Faith Hutto, contemporary young adult dystopian fiction (in process)  
 2011, Mark Mullee, on John McGahern's *The Dark* and James Joyce's *Portrait of the Artist*  
 (Best Honors Thesis, 2011)  
 2011, Damon Murrah, on the roots of George Orwell's political vision  
 2009, Martha Stallman, on child loss in the work of James Joyce (Best Honors Thesis, 2009)  
 2007, Kaye Moon-Winters, "Coming of Aging in Ireland," a memoir  
 2006, Krista Kuhl, on the recurrence of characters from *Dubliners* in *Ulysses*.  
 2004, Fresnel Phan, short story collection  
 2004, Timothy Peebles, the gap between signifier and the signified in Neil Gaiman's *Everwhere*  
 2004, Sarah Leonard, representations of childbirth in *Ulysses*' "Oxen of the Sun" episode  
 2003, Andrew Smith, representations of the global in *Heart of Darkness*

**UH Graduate Seminars:** Topics in Postcolonial Studies: Ireland (Spring 2013); Preseminar in British Modernism (Fall 2012, Fall 2010, Fall 2009, Fall 2005); The British Novel from 1832: Literary Critical Pedagogy (Fall 2012); Introduction to Doctoral Studies (Fall 2011); *Ulysses* (Fall 2005, Spring 2007, Spring 2009); Queer Closures: The Sexual Politics of Literary Form (Fall 2004); The British Novel from 1832: The British Women's Novel (Fall 2003); Gender and Sexuality in Contemporary Irish Literature and Culture (Fall 2002); Literary Modernism: The Aesthetics and Politics of Empire (Fall 2000)

**UH Undergraduate Courses:** Gay and Lesbian Literature (Spring 2012); Introduction to Literary Studies: *Middlemarch* (Spring 2013, Fall 2013); Introduction to Literary Studies: James Joyce and Discourse (hybrid course, ½ online) (Fall 2004); Introduction to Literary Studies: Reading *Ulysses* (Fall 2007, Fall 2009); The Contemporary Novel (Fall 2003); Postcolonial Literature (Spring 2004); Modern and Contemporary Irish Literature (Fall 2001); Modern Irish Literature (Fall 2002, Fall 2008, Fall 2011); Contemporary Irish Literature (Spring 2010); Modern British Literature (Fall 2010, Fall 2011); The British Novel from 1832 (Fall 2001, Fall 2009, Fall 2013); Film and Literature: Masculinity (Spring 2001).

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2013 "The only human person in that whole neighborhood": Edna O'Brien and Mid-Twentieth-Century Irish Scandal Culture. Keynote presentation, American Conference for Irish Studies Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference, Rochester, NY, November 2013.  
 2013 "That's what ruins children": Scandalous Rituals of Coded Confession in "Ivy Day in the Committee Room," "A Mother," "Grace" and "The Dead." Southern Illinois University-Carbondale's Annual Irish Studies Forum Address. October 2013.  
 2011 Taught a seminar on my work on scandal to the modernist graduate students' organization at the State University of New York at Buffalo. October 2011.

- 2011 “‘Smiling at Wild(e) Irish’: Pishoguary and the Sex Scandal in James Joyce’s ‘Telemachus’” Plenary Talk for the second annual Queering Ireland conference, University College Cork, July 2011.
- 2010 “‘Silence, Cunning, Exile’: James Joyce and Modern Scandal Culture.” State University of New York at Buffalo Poetry Collection. October 2010.
- 2009 “‘What Are You Doing after the Insurrection, Young Fella?’ Reworking Early Twentieth-Century Nationalist Representations of Children in *A Star Called Henry*,” Boston College Irish Studies Lecture Series, February 2009
- 2009 “Irish Nationalism, New Journalism and the Modernist Avant Garde: James Joyce and the New Journalist Sex Scandal, 1882-1885.” University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Feb. 2009
- 2009 “Poor Children, Trauma and the Public Sphere in the Mainstream Nationalist Press, 1882 and 1913.” University of Notre Dame Irish Studies Lecture Series, January 2009
- 2008 “How the Advanced Nationalist Press Invented the New Journalist Sex Scandal, 1882-1895,” National University of Ireland-Galway, Centre for Irish Studies Seminar Series, June 2008
- 2008 “*Stone Butch Blues*: Reading (Among) the Lines,” panel focusing on queer/feminist/psychoanalytic responses, symposium on Sara Ahmed’s *Queer Phenomenology*, University College Dublin, May 2008
- 2008 “Children, Trauma, and the Public Sphere in 1970s Northern Ireland,” Workshop on Irish Children and Childhood, Boston College Irish Studies Centre, Dublin, April 2008
- 2008 “Reinventing the Children of 1916,” University College of Dublin Literature Seminar, April 2008
- 2008 “A Methodological Autobiography,” Masters Interdisciplinary Seminar, NUI-Galway, February 2008
- 2008 “‘More Useful Washed and Dead’: The 1990s Clergy Scandals and the Sexual Politics of ‘Easter, 1916,’” Irish Studies Seminar, National University of Ireland-Galway, Jan. 2008
- 2008 “James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, and the New Journalism,” University of York, January 2008
- 2008 “James Joyce and the New Journalism,” Goldsmith College Seminar Series, U of London, January 2008
- 2007 “James Joyce’s *Dubliners*,” National University of Ireland-Galway, November 2007
- 2007 “The Cracked Lookingglass of a Servant”: The Oscar Wilde Scandal and Irish Nationalist Print Counterpublics,” National University of Ireland-Galway, October 2007
- 2007 “Irish and Northern Irish Scandal Culture,” Trinity College, Dublin, July 2007
- 2006 “Transnational Laundries, Transnational Trauma, Transnational Feminisms,” keynote address, Southern Region of the American Conference for Irish Studies, Univ. of South Carolina, February 2006
- 2005 “‘As Close to the Truth as We’re Ever Going to Get’: Derry People on the Film *Bloody Sunday*,” University of St. Thomas Center for Irish Studies, Houston, April 2005
- 2004 “Lies and Secrets: Homocolonialism and the Kincora Boys Home Scandal,” Third Annual SEQUELS Symposium, Ethnic and Third World Studies Program, University of Texas, Austin, April 2004
- 2004 “Wherever Green is Red: Yeats and the Subsequent Literary Politics of Easter 1916,” Yeats Summer School, Sligo, Ireland, August 2004

- 2001 “Homosexuality vs. Pedophilia: The Kincora Boys Home Scandal,” Rice University, November 2001
- 2000 “Decolonizing Gender in Contemporary Irish Film,” Univ. College, Dublin, June 2000
- 2000 “Elizabeth Bowen’s *The Last September*,” University College, Cork, March 2000
- 2000 “Sexuality, Gender, and the Politics of Adoption,” Univ. College, Dublin, March 2000
- 2000 “Sexual Figures of National Identity in ‘The Dead,’” Boston College, September 2000
- 1999 “Feminism and Nationalism in Twentieth-Century Ireland,” SUNY-Geneseo, Oct. 1999
- 1999 “Bisexual Identity Formation,” SUNY-Brockport, April 1999
- 1999 “Are You Still Bisexual?” Wells College, Aurora, New York, March 1999
- 1998 “The Traffic in Children: Gender, Sexuality, and the Symbolics of Adoption in Jeanette Winterson’s *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*,” East Carolina University, February 1998
- 1997 “Frail Bodies: Jonathan Swift and the Autophagous Logic of Settler Colonial Reproduction,” National University of Ireland, Maynooth, March 1997
- 1996 “The Traffic in Children: Adoption and Fosterage in the Modern Nation State,” Annual Summer Retreat, Association for Economic and Social Analysis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, July 1996
- 1995 “Colonialisms, Nationalities, and Sexualities as Categories for Analysis,” Symposium on Teaching Queer Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder, September 1995

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2013 “He’s a Pishogue, if You Know What That Is”: Oscar Wilde, Leopold Bloom and the Citizen at the Bar, working conference on Oscar Wilde and the Law at the University of Tulsa School of Law, November 2013.
- 2013 “From the pits and ditches where people have fallen”: Sex Scandal and the Reinvention of the Irish Public Sphere (with Joseph Valente). The Third International Queering Ireland Conference, State University of NY at Buffalo, August 2013
- 2013 Retro-fitting Ireland’s Architecture of Containment in Tana French’s *In the Woods*. American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2013.
- 2013 “He’s a Pishogue, if You Know What That Is”: Dennis Breen, Ambient Shame and the *Trouble With Normal*. American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2013.
- 2013 “Very Secret and Very Dirty”: Sex, Mortgages and Secrets in Anne Enright’s *The Gathering*. With Joe Valente. American Conference for Irish Studies Panel on Anne Enright, Modern Language Association Convention, Boston, January 2013.
- 2012 Moderator of “A Public Sphere for the Angloworld? The Commercialization of Culture in the British Empire,” Simon Potter. “Circuits of Empire: India as Metropole,” University of Houston, September 2012.
- 2012 “A Private Word ... That’ll Kill Me Outright”: *The Land of Spices*, Nell McCafferty, and the Open Secret. International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures Annual Conference, Montreal, July-August 2012.
- 2012 “God Wants Blood Victim”: Bait, Entrapment, Incorporation in “Lestrygonians.” American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 2012.
- 2011 “Joyce and the Modern Political Sex Scandal.” Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, SUNY-Buffalo, October 2011.

- 2011 Participant in “Ireland and the New Journalism,” an MLA special round table session co-organized by the American Conference of Irish Studies and the MLA Anglo-Irish Discussion Group. MLA, San Diego, January 2011.
- 2010 “The gaping wounds . . . the words had left’: Failed Sexual Overtures in Joyce.” New York College English Association. Saint John Fisher College, Rochester, NY, Oct. 2010.
- 2010 “Don’t be paradoxical, Larry’: Political Triangles in *John Bull’s Other Island* and *Ulysses*.” 2010 George Bernard Shaw Symposium, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, Jul 2010.
- 2010 “A People Sheltered Within His Voice’: James Joyce’s Akasic Scandal Work.” College English Association Conference, San Antonio. March 2010.
- 2009 “Spaces of Sexual Occlusion in Contemporary Women’s Writing.” MLA Special Session: “Bog Gothic: The Strangeness of Recent Irish Fiction.” Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, Dec. 2009.
- 2009 “An Iridescence Difficult to Account For’: Sexual Initiation in Joyce’s Fiction of Development” (with Joseph Valente). “Eire on the Erie,” North American James Joyce Conference, Buffalo, NY, June 2009.
- 2009 Round Table Participant: “Dublin Critics: The Future of Collaboration in Joyce Studies.” “Eire on the Erie,” North American James Joyce Conference, Buffalo, NY, June 2009.
- 2009 “Between a Gallous Story and a Dirty Deed’: Nell McCafferty and Nuala O’Faolain, Writing in the Gender Gap.” American Conference for Irish Studies Annual Meeting, Galway, Ireland, June 2009.
- 2008 “Partition, Gerrymandering, and Judicially-Sanctioned Abuse: Derry 1968/Houston 2008,” South Central Modern Language Association, San Antonio, October 2008.
- 2008 “‘Unspeakable Crimes’ in the British Library, or what James Joyce has been trying to tell us about the Oscar Wilde Trials,” American Conference for Irish Studies Panel on Oscar Wilde in the Archives, Modern Language Association, San Francisco, December 2008.
- 2008 “‘Odd Jobs’: James Joyce and Oscar Wilde in Trieste,” conference on Queer People: The Whole History of Sexuality, Cambridge University, July 2008.
- 2008 “James Joyce’s Knowing Innocents and the Children of 1913” (with Joseph Valente), International James Joyce Symposium, Tours, France, June 2008.
- 2007 “‘The Cracked Lookingglass of a Servant’: Scandal As Cultural Strategy in *Ulysses*,” Trinity College, Dublin, Conference on Irish Modernism, October 2007.
- 2007 “*Transcolonialamerica*,” Fourth International Conference on Colonialism, National University of Ireland-Galway, June 2007.
- 2007 “The Queer Old Josses’s Storm-Tossed Heart” (with Joseph Valente), International James Joyce Conference, Austin, TX, June, 2007.
- 2006 “‘More Useful Washed and Dead’: James Connolly and the Representational Politics of Easter 1916,” American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis, April 2006.
- 2006 “Secret, Rumour, Scandal: Sexual and Political Epistemologies in Northern Ireland,” Kansas State Annual Cultural Studies Conference, March 2006.
- 2005 “Diabolical Acts of Union: The Devil’s Compact as Social Contract in Scott and Maturin,” International Gothic Association, Montreal, August 2005.
- 2005 “Promoting Eccentricity,” South Central Modern Language Association, Houston, October 2005.

- 2005 "Secret, Rumour, Scandal: Sexual and Political Epistemologies in Northern Ireland" (with Kathryn Conrad and Lance Pettitt), American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Notre Dame, May 2005.
- 2005 "Limbo: Instantiating the Invisible in Northern Irish Representations of Unwed Pregnancy and Adoption," American Conference for Irish Studies, Univ. of Notre Dame, May 2005.
- 2005 Irish Nationalisms and the Scene of Sexual Initiation: James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (with Joseph Valente), Southern Regional Meeting, American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Saint Thomas, Houston, February 2005.
- 2004 "Child Sexual Abuse and the Politics of Scandal," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Dec. 2004
- 2004 "'Waking in Darkness and Secrecy and Loneliness': Sexual Initiation in Joyce's Ireland," Conference on Joyce's Ireland, University of Kansas, June 2004.
- 2004 "Sanitizing the Easter Rising in 'Easter 1916,'" Kansas State U Cultural Studies Conference, March 2004.
- 2003 "Evil Homoeroticism in Eoin McNamee's *Resurrection Man*," American Conference for Irish Studies, St. Thomas University, St. Paul, MN, June 2003.
- 2001 "What's Irish about Beckett's Alienation?" Modernist Studies Association, Rice University, October 2001.
- 2001 "Constructions of Homosexuality in Representations of the Kincora Boys' Home Scandal," American Conference for Irish Studies, Fordham University, NYC, June 2001.
- 2001 "'I Am Your Mother; She Was a Carrying Case': Narrating Adoption in Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*," conference on Narrative, Rice University, March 2001.
- 2000 "'Will the Dead Rise?' Gothic Historicity and Botched Rituals in *Carthaginians* and *Halloween Night*," Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, December 2000.
- 2000 "Managing Marx: Representations of Marxism and Socialism in the Northern Irish Civil Rights Movement." Rethinking Marxism international conference on Marxism 2000: The Party's Not Over, Amherst, MA, September 2000.
- 2000 "Rosamond Jacob's Gender(ed) Troubles," conference on Inroads and Outposts at Home and Abroad in the Empire: British Women in the Thirties, City University of New York, September 2000.
- 2000 "'I Should Like to Be Here When This House Burns': Post-Treaty Retrenchment and the (Burning) Big House Novel," American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Limerick, June 2000.
- 1999 "Lost in Space: Representations of Postcolonial Space in Beckett's *Molloy* and Timothy O'Grady's *Motherland*," American Conference for Irish Studies, Roanoke, VA, May 1999.
- 1998 "'Armed to the Teeth and Undressed to Kill': Mary Dorcey's Lesbian Feminist Reunification," Modern Language Association, San Francisco, December 1998.
- 1998 "'The Center of a Hideous Circle of Corruption': The Vampire in Nineteenth-Century Anglo-Irish Literature," International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures, University of Limerick, July 1998.
- 1997 "How Teaching at a Catholic Liberal Arts College Turned Me Queer," MLA, Toronto, December 1997.

- 1997 "Mary Dorcey: And Down Will Come Tyranny, Silence and All," American Conference for Irish Studies, Albany, NY, April 1997.
- 1997 "McGuinness and the Exorcists: Shakespearean Gothicism in Contemporary Irish Drama," Shakespeare and Ireland: A Conference at Trinity College, Dublin, March 1997.
- 1996 "'The Whole World Gave Me to Him': Capitalism and Compulsory Heterosexuality in Richardson's *Clarissa*," Rethinking Marxism's international conference on Politics and Languages of Contemporary Marxism, Amherst, MA, December 1996.
- 1996 "Inside/Out: Reading *Gulliver's Travels* as Cultural Studies," Modern Language Association, Washington, DC, December 1996.
- 1996 "Ideology and its Discontents," roundtable, American Conference for Irish Studies, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, April 1996.
- 1995 "Diabolical Acts of Union: The Social Contract as Devil's Compact in Scott's 'Rokeby,'" Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 1995.
- 1995 "Feminism across the Generations," roundtable, American Studies Association, Pittsburgh, November 1995.
- 1995 "Riverine Crossings: Mythic Reconfigurations of Gender, Sexuality and Nationality in *The Crying Game*" (with James Doan). American Conference for Irish Studies, Belfast, June 1995.
- 1994 "Ethnicity as Deformity in Beckett's *Molloy* Trilogy," MLA Convention, San Diego, December 1994.
- 1994 "Breaching the Borders/Reinventing World Orders: Male on Male Rape in *Melmoth the Wanderer*," Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Rochester, NY, November 1994.
- 1994 "'That Eloquence Which is Stronger Than the Eloquence of All Living Tongues': Settler Colonial Reproduction and Child Sacrifice in *Melmoth the Wanderer*," "Dissent and Marginality," University of Glasgow, September 1994.
- 1994 "Ghosts in the House of Empire: Images of Postcolonial Immigrants in *Sammy and Rosie Get Laid* and *In the Name of the Father*," Pacific Coast Conference of British Studies, Claremont Colleges, April 1994.
- 1994 "Historical Ruptures and Conventional Continuities in Karen Finley's 'St. Patrick's Truth,'" Southern Regional American Conference for Irish Studies, University of Charleston, February 1994.
- 1993 "Pre-Oedipal Voices and the Trauma of British History: Kate Bush and the Historical Imaginary," Popular Culture Association, New Orleans, April 1993.
- 1993 "Victorian Literary and Cultural Figures, Epistemological Anxiety, and the Problem of the Unitary Subject in *The History of Sexuality: Vol. I*," conference on Foucault's History of Sexuality: Revisions and Responses, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, April 1993.
- 1992 "Irish History, Gender, Silence and Emigration in *Dancing at Lughnasa*," MLA, NY, December 1992.
- 1992 "When the Mother is the Other: Celticism and Inversion Theory in *The Well of Loneliness*," conference on Gender and Colonialism, University College, Galway, Ireland, May 1992.
- 1991 "'The Demon Lover': Gothicism, Homoeroticism and the Great War in Irish Literature." Sesquicentennial Swift & Irish Studies Conference, University of Notre Dame, Oct, 1991.
- 1986 "Community Values in an Urban Working-Class Undergraduate Education," conference on College: The Undergraduate Experience in America, co-sponsored by Harvard

University and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, Cambridge, MA, November 1986.

## **PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

**Tenure review referee:** U of South Carolina Upstate, 2013; University of Oregon, 2011; Wabash College, 2011; Miami University, 2008; Boston College, 2006; University of Kansas, 2004.

**Manuscript reviewer:** Peer Reviewer for Government of Ireland Postdoctoral Fellowship 2012; University College Cork Press, 2010; *Rethinking Marxism*, 2009; *Twentieth-Century Literature*, 2008, 2007; *Emotion, Space and Society*, 2008; *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*, 2004, 2002, 2001; *LIT: Literature, Interpretation, Theory*, 2006; Syracuse University Press, 2006, 2000; Palgrave Macmillan, 2006; University of Florida Press, 2004; Duke University Press, 2004; University of Notre Dame Press, 2004; University of Wisconsin Press, 2004, 2003.

**Modern Language Association:** Organizer, "'Facts I Wish I Did Not Know': Interrogating Memory in Anne Enright's *The Gathering*," Boston 2013; Executive Board Member, Anglo-Irish Discussion Group, 2007-11; Organizer, Chair, "Untimely Feminisms," Co-organizer, "Ireland and the New Journalism," 2011; Chair, Michael Lynch Award Committee, MLA Lesbian/Gay Caucus, 2006; MLA Executive Committee for the Study of Nonfiction Prose Excluding Biography and Autobiography—President, 2004, Secretary, 2003; Organizer, "Reporting the Unspeakable: Nonfiction, Third Person Accounts of Child Sexual Abuse," 2004; Organizer, "Irish Audiences" and "'Damned or At the Bottom of the Ocean': Situating Ireland in Eighteenth-Century Studies," 2003; Organizer, "'Provincialism and Censorship'? Revisiting Ireland, 1935-1960" and "Representing Northern Ireland: The Form of Politics and the Politics of Form," 2002; Organizer, "'Cherishing All the Children of the Nation Equally': Irish Representations of Statehood and Maternity," 2001; Organizer, "Voices in the Wilderness: Teaching Queer Theory in Strange Places," 1997.

**American Conference for Irish Studies:** Organizer, "In the Wake of the Tiger: Tana French's Dublin Noir," American Conference for Irish Studies, Chicago, 2013. Chair: Co-organized three round table discussions on embodiment, commodification and queer sexuality under the rubric "How Normative is Molly Bloom Now?," American Conference for Irish Studies, UW-Madison, 2011. Chair, "The politics of camp: queering parades, performance, and the public in Northern Ireland," American Conference for Irish Studies, National University of Ireland at Galway, June 2009. Chair, "Troubling Narratives: Northern Irish Writing Since 1969," 2005; Co-organizer, Southern American Conference, 2005; Organizer, "Homocolonial Entanglements," 2003; Co-organizer, Foundation for Joyce Studies Annual Cocktail Party, Gotham Book Mart, MLA Convention, 2002; Literature Representative, 2001; Organizer, "Gothic Modernisms," 2000; Organizer, "Unstraightening the Records: Queer Revisions of Irish Culture and Society," 1997

**Organizer, other conferences:** "Circuits of Empire: India as Metropole," a working conference held at the University of Houston by the Empire Studies Working Group, September 2012. "The Shadow of Oscar: Wilde and Modern Ireland," a talk given by Eibhear Walshe at the University of Texas, Austin, April 2009. "Cowboys and Indians, Minxes and Mothers: Reading *Dubliners*'

Innocents Against the Grain,” Joyce International Conference, 2007; UH Colloquium, “Trauma: Public and Private,” 2006; “Rethinking Irish Modernism,” Modernism Studies Association, 2001; UH Colloquium on Gender and Sexuality in Irish Studies, 2001; “Marxism 2000: The Party’s Not Over,” Rethinking Marxism, 2000; “Where the Rubber Meets the Road: Critical Points of Articulation in a First-Year Learning Community Program,” SeaTac, 1999; “As If Feelings Mattered: What Can a Materialist Approach to Affect Contribute to an Analysis of Capitalism and Subjectivity?” Rethinking Marxism, 1996; “Reclaiming New Worlds,” University of Texas, 1992; “Women and War: An Interdisciplinary Conference,” University of Texas, 1991.

**Selection Committee, American Conference for Irish Studies Rhodes Prize**, 2009. Chair: 2003, 2002, 2001

**Board of Directors, Voices Breaking Boundaries**, a Houston-based arts organization, Summer 2010-present. Vice-President, Summer 2012-May 2013. President, May 2013-present.

**KPFT Radio Segments**: “Irish Aires” segment on Bloody Sunday, 2003; conducted, scripted and co-produced (with UH undergraduates Iaan Green and Kamran Ahwed) one-hour interview with Tim and Jessica Reynolds on first generation of anti-nuclear activism, 2004; “Thresholds” segment on state of the women’s movement, 2007; “Living Arts” segment on Bloomsday, 2012.

**Girl Scout Troop Leader**, September 2012-May 2013 (recognized by the Twin Oaks Service Unit for distinguished service, May 2013)

### **UH INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

Empire Studies faculty sub-committee, Department of English, 2010-present

Personnel Committee, Department of English, 2011-2013

Reader for Third Year Review Sub-Committees, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2010, Fall 2008.

Houston Endowment Committee, 2009-2011, 2012-2014

Planning Committee, Department of English, 2011-2012, 2008-10, 2002-2005

Graduate Committee, Fall 2009-10 (reviewed all MA and PhD applications, spring 2010)

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of English, August 2011-August 2012:

Ran orientation workshops for incoming MA, MFA and PhD (lit, RCP, and lit/CW) students; established graduate student listserv; taught and evaluated “Introduction to Doctoral Studies”; Fall 2012/Spring 2013 course rotation; researched and compiled report comparing funding for graduate students in our English graduate programs to comparable institutions; completed two program evaluations; organized and proctored area examinations; organized and hosted 2 professional workshops (total attendance 50-60), and mock exams for job seekers (8); oversaw fall 2011 and spring 2012 literature MA and PhD applications, admissions, funding, and recruitment; sought funding for recruitment and organized 10 on-campus visits; oversaw special problems and selected topics proposals; revised graduate student web materials for correctness and clarity; advised students preparing for the three area exams; handled CBM forms, oversaw committee review/approval of empire studies concentration; worked closely with GES in support of graduate student conference.

CLASS Teaching Awards Selection Committee, Spring 2009, Spring 2008.

Presentation at the Department’s Upper Division Retreat, April 2009.

University Committee on Sexual Harassment, 2008-2009  
 University Scholarship Committee, 2008-2009, 2006-2007  
 University of Houston Cougar Allies, 2006-2007  
 Upper Division Committee, 2010-12, 2008-2009; 2006-2007  
 Organized Symposium, "Public and Private Trauma," with Ann Cvetkovich and including a round table on trauma and Hurricane Katrina, 2004.  
 Undergraduate Council, 2003-2005  
 Organized Symposium: "Gender and Sexuality in Irish Studies," with Elizabeth Cullingford, Diane Negra, Kathryn Conrad, Marian Eide and Karen Steele, 2001  
 English: Director, Upper Division, 2002-2005  
 oversaw upper division self-study, 2003-2004  
 Hiring Committee (contemporary poetry), 2000-2001

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies: Focus Group to discuss Women's and Gender Studies Major, May 2013. Presentations for Women's Studies events: Introduced *The Magdalene Sisters*, Women's History Month, 2009, Introduced *Mrs. Dalloway*, National Coming Out Day, 2005. Selection Committees, dissertation fellowships, 2007; undergraduate scholarships, 2004

#### **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2012 University of Houston Grant-in-Aid, Spring 2012  
 2010-11 Two Houston Research Grants  
 2008-10 University of Houston Department of English Houston Research Professorship  
 2008 University of Houston Undergraduate Mentorship Award  
 2007-9 Two University of Houston research grants  
 2007-8 Visiting Fellowship in Irish Studies, Irish American Cultural Institute, National University of Ireland-Galway Centre for Irish Studies  
 2007 NEH Summer Seminar, "*Ulysses*," Kevin Dettmar, Director, Trinity College, Dublin  
 2007 University of Houston Ross Lence Award for Teaching Excellence in the Humanities  
 2005 University of Houston Women's Studies Program Summer Fellowship  
 2001 NEH Summer Seminar for University and College Teachers, "The Anglo-Irish, 1600-1800," Christopher Fox, Director, University of Notre Dame  
 2001 University of Houston Women's Studies Program Summer Fellowship  
 2000-2 Executive board member, Alliance for the Study of Kinship and Adoption in Literature and Culture  
 1994 NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers, "Social Change in Early Modern Britain and the Rise of the Novel," John Richetti, Director, University of Pennsylvania  
 1991 British Universities Summer School Fellowship, Austin English Speaking Union, to attend "British Literature and Culture, 1945-present," University of London  
 1991 Synge Summer School Scholarship, Synge Summer School, Nicholas Grene, Director, Wicklow, Ireland  
 1989 Yeats Summer School Scholarship, Yeats Summer School, Sligo, Ireland