

Melissa R. Bailes

502 Eleonore St.
New Orleans, LA 70115
(336) 508-4187

Tulane University
122 Norman Mayer
New Orleans, LA 70118
mbailes@tulane.edu

Current Position

Assistant Professor, 18c. British Literature, English Department, Tulane University, 2012-present
Newcomb Fellow, Newcomb College Institute, Tulane U, 2012-present
Affiliated Faculty, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, Tulane U, 2012-present
Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program, Tulane U, 2012-present
Environmental Studies Program, Tulane U, 2013-present
Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane U, 2015-present

Research Interests

British Literature, 1660-1830; History of Science; Enlightenment Thought; Women's and Gender Studies; Transatlanticism; British Empire and Colonialism; Digital Humanities

Education

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, May 2012
Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, U of North Carolina, Greensboro, 2005
M.A., English, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 2004
B.A., English and History, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2001

Publications

Books

Questioning Nature: British Women's Scientific Writing and Literary Originality, 1750-1830.
Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, May 2017.

This book argues that British women writers of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries often appropriated the natural sciences to reconfigure literary, social, and national orders and identities as a means of achieving alternative forms of authority and originality.

Journal Articles

"Transformations of Gender and Race in Late Eighteenth-Century Transatlantic Biopolitics"
(submitted; under consideration).

"Cultivated for Consumption: Botany, Colonial Cannibalism, and National/Natural History in Sydney Owenson's *The Wild Irish Girl*." *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 59.4
(Winter 2018): forthcoming.

"Linnaeus's Botanical Clocks: Chronobiological Mechanisms in the Scientific Poetry of Erasmus Darwin, Charlotte Smith, and Felicia Hemans." *Studies in Romanticism* 56.2 (Summer 2017):

223-252.

“Literary Plagiarism and Scientific Originality in the ‘Trans-Atlantic Wilderness’ of Goldsmith, Aikin, and Barbauld.” *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 49.2 (Winter 2016): 265-79.

“The Psychologization of Geological Catastrophe in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*.” *ELH: English Literary History* 82.2 (Summer 2015): 671-99.

“The Evolution of the Plagiarist: Natural History in Anna Seward’s Order of Poetics.” *Eighteenth-Century Life* 33.3 (Fall 2009): 106-27.

“Hybrid Britons: West Indian Colonial Identity and Maria Riddell’s Natural History.” *European Romantic Review* 20.2 (April 2009): 207-17.

Book Chapters

“‘On the green margin’: Science, Place, and Gender in Charlotte Smith’s ‘Flora’.” *Placing Charlotte Smith*, eds, Elizabeth A. Dolan and Jacqueline M. Labbe, Lehigh University Press, forthcoming 2018 (abstract accepted; full essay manuscript due to editors in September 2017).

Book Reviews and Short Essays (all invited)

Review of Lucinda Cole, *Imperfect Creatures: Vermin, Literature, and the Sciences of Life, 1600-1740* (U Michigan P, 2016), *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 29.4 (Summer 2017): 675-8.

Review of Norma Clarke, *Brothers of the Quill: Oliver Goldsmith in Grub Street* (Harvard UP, 2016), *Journal of British Studies* 56.1 (January 2017): 143-44.

“Gardens, Women, and Solitude in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” review of Stephen Bending, *Green Retreats: Women, Gardens, and Eighteenth-Century Culture* (Cambridge UP, 2013), *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 57.4 (Winter 2016): 537-41.

Review of Anne M. Thell, “[A]s lightly as two thoughts’: Motion, Materialism, and Cavendish’s Blazing World,” *Configurations* 23.1 (Winter 2015): 1-33 in *Journal of Literature and Science* 9.1 (2016): 58-9.

“Thomas Pennant’s Literary Appeal.” *Verso: The Blog of the Huntington Library, Art Collections, and Botanical Gardens*. 661 words, 4 illustrations. April 28, 2016.
<http://huntingtonblogs.org/2016/04/thomas-pennants-literary-appeal/>

“Paying Attention: Cognitive Psychology in Eighteenth-Century Poetry,” review of Margaret Koehler, *Poetry of Attention in the Eighteenth Century* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 56.4 (Winter 2015): 527-30.

“New Perspectives on the New Philosophy: Women’s Scientific Literature in the Long Eighteenth Century,” review of Judy Hayden, ed., *The New Science and Women’s Literary Discourse: Prefiguring Frankenstein*, (Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*, online supplement to vol. 55 (2015). <http://ecti.english.illinois.edu/links.html>

Review of Adelene Buckland, *Novel Science: Fiction and the Invention of Nineteenth-Century Geology* (U of Chicago P, 2013), *The Byron Journal* 42.1 (2014): 91-3.

Works in Progress

Nature's Clockwork: The Natural History of Time in British Literature of the Long Eighteenth Century (book project; two chapters drafted).

"Mining Originality: Alexander Pope's Grotto and Mining Metaphors in Mid-Eighteenth-Century Literary Criticism" (article in progress).

"Dis/Organizing the Dressing Room: Gender and Science in Jonathan Swift's 'A Beautiful Young Nymph Going to Bed'" (article in progress).

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors (External)

Barbara Thom Postdoctoral Fellowship, \$50,000, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA (2015-16)

- For 2015-16, the Huntington conferred long-term fellowships on 9 (or 7.6%) of 118 applicants

Chawton House Library Fellowship, Research Residency Award, Hampshire, UK (June 2013)

American Dissertation Fellowship, \$20,000, American Association of University Women (2010-2011)

- Open-discipline, national competition
- For 2010-11, this fellowship was awarded to 68 (or 5.6%) of 1,205 applicants

Ernestine Richter Avery Fellowship, \$2,500, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA (Dec. 2010)

Brynoff Award, Best M.A. Essay, \$50, S.E. Conference on Christianity and Literature (2004)

Awards, Fellowships, and Honors (Internal)

SLA Center for Scholars Grant (campus lecture by Judith Page), \$1,200, Tulane U (Fall 2017)

- Additional funds from Department of English and the Environmental Studies Program

Environmental Studies Program Faculty Travel Grant, \$500, Tulane U (Spring 2017)

SLA Center for Scholars Grant (campus lecture by Justine Murison), \$1,100, Tulane U (Fall 2016)

COR Summer Research Fellowship, \$9,640, Tulane U (2016)

Glick Research Fellowship, \$5,000, Tulane U (2015-16)

COR Summer Research Fellowship, \$9,639, Tulane U (2014)

Monroe Fellowship, \$3,800, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South (2013)

COR Faculty International Travel Award, \$500, Tulane U (2013)

SLA Center for Scholars Grant (campus lecture by Alan Bewell), \$1,542, Tulane U (Fall 2012)

- Additional funds from Depts of English, EEB, History, and the Environmental Studies Program

Nominated for Graduate College Dissertation Fellowship, \$20,000, U of Illinois (2010-11; declined)

- The two top-ranked Ph.D.s within the English department receive this nomination

LAS Fellowship, \$18,000, U of Illinois (2010-2011; as above, declined in favor of AAUW fellowship)

Gragg Barr Fellowship, \$9,000, U of Illinois (2009-2010)

Summer Fellowship, \$2,000, U of Illinois (Summer 2008)

Graduate Fellowship, \$5,000, U of Illinois (2005-2006)

Lane Fellowship, \$3,000, University of North Carolina-Greensboro (2004-2005)

Best Graduate Student Essay Award, \$200, English Department, UNC-Greensboro (2004)

Invited Talks (expenses paid by the sponsoring institutions)

“Questioning Nature” presented in the Society of Fellows’ public lecture series at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, March 21, 2016.

“Literary Plagiarism and Scientific Originality in the ‘Trans-Atlantic Wilderness’ of Goldsmith, Aikin, and Barbauld” presented in English Department Lecture Series at UCLA, Los Angeles, CA, January 21, 2016.

“‘Monstrous Productions’: Women, Slavery, and Botany in Maria Riddell’s *Natural History of the British West Indies*” presented at the *Colloquium on Women’s Scientific Travel Writing Before 1850* (sponsored by Nottingham Trent U and the British Academy) at the Senate House, London, England, June 28, 2014.

“The Psychologization of Geological Catastrophe in Mary Shelley’s *The Last Man*” presented in English Department Lecture Series at Baylor University, Waco, TX, April 4, 2014.

“Geological Bodies: Mock Elegies and the Gender Politics of Un/Published Scientific Verse” presented at the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, June 21, 2013.

Selected Conference Papers

“Plagiarism and the Poet-Naturalist: Charlotte Smith’s Collective Originality” presented at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Minneapolis, MN, March 30-April 2, 2017.

“Created for Consumption: Botany, Colonial Cannibalism, and National/Natural History in Sydney Owenson’s *The Wild Irish Girl*” presented at the *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*, meeting in conjunction with the *History of Science Society* and the *Philosophy of Science Association*, Atlanta, GA, November 3-6, 2016.

“Questioning Science, Questioning Originality” presented in the *Long-Term Fellows Colloquium* at the Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, November 11, 2015.

“Scientific Poetry and the Posthumous Gender Politics of Captain Cook” presented at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-22, 2015.

“Literary Plagiarism and Scientific Originality in the ‘Transatlantic Wilderness’ of Goldsmith, Aikin, and Barbauld” presented at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Williamsburg, VA, March 20-22, 2014.

“Laughter and Lava: Felicia Hemans, Feminine Propriety, and Romantic Geology” presented at the *International Congress of History of Science, Technology, and Medicine*, Manchester, England, July 22-28, 2013.

“The Alps and Chimborazo: Helen Maria Williams’s Geo-Revolutionary Cosmopolitanisms” presented at the *North American Society for Studies in Romanticism*, Neuchâtel, Switzerland, August 15-19, 2012.

Selected participant in the Digital Humanities workshop through DHCommons at the *Annual*

Convention of the Modern Language Association, Seattle, Washington, January 5, 2012.

“How ‘to think’ like a Naturalist: Anna Barbauld’s Poems of Natural History” presented at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Richmond, Virginia, March 26-28, 2009.

“Britons in the West Indies: Colonial Hybridity and Maria Riddell’s Natural History” presented at the *North American Society for Studies in Romanticism*, Toronto, August 21-24, 2008.

“Anna Seward’s Order of Poetics and the ‘Darwinian School’” presented at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Atlanta, Georgia, March 22-25, 2007.

“‘On the green margin’: Borders of Botanical Knowledge in Charlotte Smith’s ‘Flora’” presented at the *North American Society for Studies in Romanticism*, Purdue University, August 31-September 3, 2006.

“‘I turn’d’: Transitions of States and Meter in William Blake’s ‘The Garden of Love’” presented at the *International Conference on Romanticism*, Colorado College, October 13-16, 2005.

“Reforming Elegiac Functions in Charlotte Smith’s ‘Elegy’” presented at the *Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, March 3-5, 2005.

Teaching and Professional Experience

Assistant Professor, Tulane University, 2012-present

ENLS 7450: Literature and Science in the Long 18th Century, graduate seminar

ENLS 7450: Restoration and 18th-Century Drama, graduate seminar

ENLS 7050: Bibliography and Research Methods, graduate seminar

ENLS 5010: Literature and the Anthropocene, undergraduate capstone seminar

- Cross-listed with the Environmental Studies Program

ENLS 5010: Literature and Science in the Long 18th Century, undergrad capstone seminar

ENLS 4190: Enlightenment Literature and Culture (Restoration and 18c.), majors/general

- Cross-listed with the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program

ENLS 4160: Restoration and 18th-Century Drama, general survey

ENLS 4150: Early Modern Drama (Restoration and 18c), general survey

ENLS 2010: British Literature I, Beginning to 1789, general survey

All pre-1800 undergraduate courses (ENLS 2010, 4150, 4160, 4190) cross-listed with the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program.

Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2005-2009*, Fall 2011, Spring 2012

Enlightenment Literature and Culture (Restoration and 18c.)

Romantic Literature and Culture

Introduction to Poetry (British and American, 16c. to present)

Short Story (World Literature, 19c. to present)

British Literature, 1798 to present, section leader

Rhetoric/Composition

College Writing Tutorials

*Made university-wide list of *Teachers Ranked as Excellent* for seven semesters, 2005-2009.

Teaching Assistant, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 2004-2005
English Composition

Research Assistant, for Jennifer Keith's edition of the *Complete Works of Anne Finch* (Cambridge UP, 2017), performed research and bibliographical checking at the Huntington and Newberry libraries (2010-2012).

Digital and Research Assistant, UIUC, for Ted Underwood (Summer 2006; in Digital Humanities, Fall 2011), for Gillen Wood (Spring 2007), for Julia Saville and Hina Nazar (Fall 2011).

Consultant, Writing Center, UNC-G. Worked with students on an individual basis on papers, reports, research, and personal documents, 2004.

Professional Service

Invited reviewer of article submissions for the journal, *Studies in Romanticism*, Feb. 2017-present.

Chaired panel on "Creating Places: Wild Spots" at the *Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts*, meeting in conjunction with the *History of Science Society* and the *Philosophy of Science Association*, Atlanta, GA, November 5, 2016.

Chair and Respondent for panel on "Labor and Liberty in the Atlantic World" at the *Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies*, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, April 1-3, 2016.

Designated Digital "Power User" (testing/evaluating new digital tools) for 18thConnect, 2011-2015.

Chaired panel on eighteenth-century women's travel writing at the *American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-22, 2015.

Consultant for article reviews in the eighteenth-century division of the *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies* (ABES) through Routledge Publishing, 2007-2012.

Chaired panel on the "Romantic Novel" at the *International Conference on Romanticism*, Colorado College, CO, October 13-16, 2005.

University Service at Tulane

Environmental Studies Program Faculty Advisory Committee, Fall 2013-present.

- Members of this committee make executive decisions for the program, guest lecture in EVST 101 courses each year, advise the program's 100+ majors, serve on sub-committees to award research and course grants, and organize campus-wide events supporting the program's annual theme.

Center for Public Service Committee, 2017-2020.

- Member of sub-committees on Community-Engaged Research and CPS Petitions Committee

Organized campus visit by Prof. Judith Page (U Florida) to deliver a lecture, "Town, Country, and Natural Environment in Beatrix Potter's Imaginative World," as well as various meals and functions with faculty and students. Received funding from SLA Center for Scholars, the Department of English, and the Environmental Studies Program, October 19-21, 2017.

Organized campus visit by Prof. Justine Murison (U Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) to deliver a lecture, “Nudity and Other Sensitive States: Herman Melville’s Counterprivate Fictions,” as well as various meals, a class visit, and functions with faculty and students. Received funding from SLA Center for Scholars and the Department of English, October 6-8, 2016.

Co-organized, with Ed White, campus visit by Prof. Devoney Looser (Arizona SU) to deliver a lecture, “Jane Austen and the Women’s Movement,” March 2014.

Selection Committee for Monroe Fellowship, New Orleans Center for the Gulf South, Spring 2014.

Co-organized, with Molly Rothenberg, campus visit by Prof. Alan Bewell (U Toronto) to deliver an interdisciplinary lecture, “‘I see around me things which you cannot see’: William Bartram, William Wordsworth, and Colonial Environmental Historicism,” as well as various meals, a class visit, and functions with faculty and students. Received funding from SLA Center for Scholars, Depts of English, EBB, History, and the Environmental Studies Program, October 21-23, 2012.

English Department Service at Tulane

Director of Documentary Literary Studies Certificate Program, 2017-present.

Member of Salary Committee, 2017-19.

Member of Ferguson Lecture Committee, 2017-18.

Re-organized, with Mike Kuczynski, the Documentary Literary Studies Certificate Program to pair graduate students with individual faculty mentors, Spring 2017.

Member of Mellon Post-Doctoral Search Committee, 2016-17.

Member of Executive Committee, 2016-17.

Member of Committee awarding Adams Memorial Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, 2016-17.

Allocated funds from a COR grant to hire two graduate students (Mitch Therieau and Brianna Juare) to aid in transcribing early 19th-century manuscript poems about geology, Fall 2016.

Member of Chair Election Committee, 2014-15.

Member of Graduate Studies Committee, 2013-15.

Member of SLA Mellon Post-Doctoral Search Committee, 2013-14.

Delivered a lecture, “Laughter and Lava: Felicia Hemans, Feminine Propriety, and Romantic Geology,” in the departmental “Works in Progress” series, November 6, 2013.

Member of Panel on Professional Development, November 2012.

Service on Thesis Committees at Tulane

Claudia Ciccone, Documentary Literary Studies Certificate, Faculty Mentor, May 2018.
Rachel Bryan, Documentary Literary Studies Certificate, Faculty Mentor, December 2017.
Corley Miller, Senior Honors, "Post-Apocalyptic Women in Science Fiction," 1st Reader, May 2017.
Chance Lavergne, Self-Designed Major, "North Africa and Middle East," Advisor Committee, 2016.
Madeline Lafuse, Senior Honors, "Queer Letters of American Revolution," 1st Reader, May 2015.
Whitney Santora, MLA, "Humanism, Thomas More, and Henry VIII," 3rd Reader, May 2014.

Memberships

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)
British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS)
International Conference on Romanticism (ICR)
International Congress of the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine (ICHSTM)
Modern Language Association (MLA)
North American Society for Studies in Romanticism (NASSR)
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)