

MELISA KLIMASZEWSKI

CURRICULUM VITAE

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, DRAKE UNIVERSITY, DES MOINES, IA, 50311 (515) 271-2161
melisa.klimaszewski@drake.edu

EDUCATION

- 2002 PH.D. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
1999 M.A. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
1995 B.A. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, ANN ARBOR (WITH HIGH DISTINCTION)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2018- PRESENT	PROFESSOR	DRAKE UNIVERSITY
2012 – 2018	ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	DRAKE UNIVERSITY
2008 – 2012	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	DRAKE UNIVERSITY
2007 – 2008	VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	DEPAUW UNIVERSITY
2005 – 2007	VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	DRURY UNIVERSITY
2002 – 2005	VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	OAKLAND UNIVERSITY

PUBLICATIONS

MONOGRAPHS

- 2019 *Collaborative Dickens: Authorship and Victorian Periodicals*. Ohio University Press.
2011 *Wilkie Collins (Brief Lives)*. Hesperus Press.
2008 *Charles Dickens (Brief Lives)*. With Melissa Valiska Gregory. Hesperus Press.

EDITED AND CO-EDITED VOLUMES

- 2012 *The Perils of Certain English Prisoners* by Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens. Hesperus Press.
2011 *The Lazy Tour of Two Idle Apprentices* by Wilkie Collins and Charles Dickens. With Melissa Valiska Gregory. Hesperus Press.
2010 *The Seven Poor Travellers* by Charles Dickens. Hesperus Press.
2009 *The Holly Tree Inn* by Charles Dickens. Hesperus Press.
2008 *Another Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire* by Charles Dickens. Hesperus Press.
2007 *A Round of Stories by the Christmas Fire* by Charles Dickens. Hesperus Press.
2007 *Dr. Marigold's Prescriptions* by Charles Dickens. With Melissa Valiska Gregory. Hesperus Press.
2006 *Somebody's Luggage* by Charles Dickens. With Melissa Valiska Gregory. Hesperus Press.
2006 *The Wreck of the Golden Mary* by Charles Dickens. With Melissa Valiska Gregory. Hesperus Press.

BOOK REVIEW

- 2021 *Reading Dickens Differently*, Edited by Leon Litvack and Nathalie Vanfasse. Reviewed for *Victorian Studies*. Vol. 64. No. 1. (Autumn 2021): 132-35.

BIBLIOGRAPHY (COMMISSIONED & PEER REVIEWED)

- 2014 "Charles Dickens." *Oxford Bibliographies in British and Irish Literature*. Ed. Andrew

Hadfield. New York: Oxford University Press. The “Charles Dickens” bibliography in this series required the composition of 191 original entries and 31 brief essays.
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199846719/obo-9780199846719-0106.xml?rskey=IzkQTd&result=1>

REFEREED ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

- (2023) “Wilkie Collins’s Life.” *Wilkie Collins in Context*. Edited by William Baker and Richard Nemesvari. Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.
- (2023) “Race and Empire.” *Wilkie Collins in Context*. Edited by William Baker and Richard Nemesvari. Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.
- (2023) “Dickens and Rap Music.” *Edinburgh Companion to Dickens and the Arts*. Ed. Juliet John and Claire Wood. Edinburgh University Press. Forthcoming.
- 2022 “Charles Dickens.” Academic Advisor and co-author of introductory essay with Jelena Krstovic. *Short Story Criticism*. Vol. 310 Edited by Rebecca Parks. Gale Cengage Online Database/Layman Poupard Publishing.
- 2021 “Servants and Collaborative Storytelling Space in *The Haunted House*.” *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature*. No. 140 (Winter 2021): 114-125.
- 2017 “The Multiple Voices of Dickens.” *OUP Blog*. Oxford University Press. 19 February 2017. <https://blog.oup.com/2017/02/voices-charles-dickens/>
- 2014 “Rebuilding Charles Dickens’s *Wreck* and Rethinking the Collaborative.” *SEL: Studies in English Literature 1500-1900*. Volume 54, Number 4 (Autumn 2014): 815-833.
- 2007 “The Contested Site of Maternity in Charles Dickens’s *Dombey and Son*.” *The Literary Mother: Essays on Representations of Maternity and Child Care*. Ed. Susan Staub. McFarland & Co., 2007. 138-58.
- 2006 “Examining the Wet Nurse: Breasts, Power, and Penetration in Victorian England.” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal* 35.4 (2006): 323-46.
- 2002 “Writing the Victorian Home: A Nursemaid’s Perspective on Maternity and Empire.” *The Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*. 4.2 (Fall/Winter 2002): 180-90.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Reading from “S Christmas Dinner” and “What Christmas Is As We Grow Older.” Dickens-themed dinner. Django Restaurant. Des Moines, Iowa. (December 4)
- 2021 “The Mortals in the House” Reading Group Leader. Dickens Society Symposium. Virtual meeting hosted by Rochester Institute of Technology. (July 13)
- 2021 “Black Adaptations of *A Christmas Carol*.” Moderator and discussant with Kyra E. Hicks

- and Francine Haskins. The Dickens Universe: Fortieth Annual Dickens Project Conference. Virtual meeting hosted by the University of California, Santa Cruz. (July 27)
- 2021 “The Lessons That They Teach: *Christmas Carol* Pedagogies.” The Dickens Universe: Fortieth Annual Dickens Project Conference. Virtual meeting hosted by the University of California, Santa Cruz. (July 26)
- 2020 “Dickens, Collaboration, and Race.” Guest speaker, MA Seminar in Dickens Studies, University of Buckingham, England. (December 3 via Zoom)
- 2019 “Dickens and Christmas.” Post-performance talk. Iowa Stage production of *A Christmas Carol*. (December 21)
- 2019 “Collaborative Christmas Surprises.” Featured Speaker, Holiday Tea, Salisbury House. Des Moines, Iowa. (December 14)
- 2019 Reading from *The Seven Poor Travellers*. Dickens-themed dinner. Django Restaurant. Des Moines, Iowa. (December 8)
- 2017 Address and Workshop. “Increasing Racial Diversity.” The Dickens Universe: Thirty-seventh Annual Dickens Project Conference. University of California, Santa Cruz. (July 30)
- 2016 Pre-Conference Address. “Global Dickens.” International symposium event preceding the British Association for Victorian Studies Conference. Cardiff University, Wales, United Kingdom. (August 30)
- 2013 Plenary Lecture. “Hearing Two Voices: Collins and Dickens in Conversation.” The Dickens Universe: Thirty-third Annual Dickens Project Conference. University of California, Santa Cruz. (August 5)
- 2013 Featured Speaker. “Dickens as Collector of Voices.” First Annual Iowa Humanities Festival: “Collectors, Collections, and Collecting.” Co-sponsored by the University of Iowa's Obermann Center for Advanced Studies, Humanities Iowa, and the Salisbury House Foundation. (March 9)
- 2010 Seminar Leader. “Rethinking the Collaborative.” University of Leicester, England, UK. Victorian Studies Centre. Spring Seminar Series. (March 10)
- 2009 Roundtable Presenter. “Teaching the Hardcopy Periodical.” One Page of History: Introducing Students to the Victorian Periodical. Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Conference. University of St. Thomas. Minneapolis, Minnesota. (August 22)
- 2007 Afternoon Speaker. “The Collaborative Dickens.” Twenty-sixth Annual Dickens Project Conference. University of California, Santa Cruz. (August 2)
- CONFERENCES**
- 2022 “Dickens, Rappers, and Sex.” Dickens Society Symposium. City University, London, England. (July 10)

- 2019 “Collaborative Christmas Writing and Exploding Genres.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference. Columbus, Ohio. (October 19)
- 2018 “Collaboration, Race, and a Cannibalism Surprise.” Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Kansas City, Missouri. (November 15)
- 2017 “The Bodies at INCS: Increasing Racial Diversity.” Special Session Chair. Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. Muhlenberg College, Philadelphia. (March 18)
- 2015 “Collaborative Relations: Harriet Parr, Charles Dickens, and Textual Madness.” British Women Writers Conference. Graduate Center, City University of New York. (June 25)
- 2014 “Dickens Multiplied: Collaborative Energies and Careful Criticism.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference. University of Houston. (March 31)
- 2012 “The Perils of Certain English Collaborators: Dickens and Collins.” Reconfiguring Authorship Conference. Research on Authorship as Performance Project. Ghent University. (November 16)
- 2012 “Rappers and Their Dickens.” Dickens: Author and Authorship in 2012 Conference. University of California, Santa Cruz. (July 27)
- 2012 “So Many Dickens: Collaboration and the Idea of the Dickensian.” Dickens and the Idea of ‘The Dickensian’ – A Bicentenary Conference. Held at four locations in France and England, including The University of Paris and the University of Kent. (February 5)
- 2011 “Dickens and Rap.” Victorians Institute Conference: Charles Dickens – Past, Present, and Future. Coastal Carolina University, Myrtle Beach, SC. (October 22)
- 2010 “Moving Time and Learning Race in Zakes Mda’s *Cion*.” Pacific and Ancient Modern Language Association. Chaminade University, Hawaii. (November 13)
- 2010 “Vocal Forms and Collaboration in Charles Dickens’ *Rounds*.” British Association for Victorian Studies Conference. University of Glasgow, Scotland, UK. (September 4)

PARTIAL LIST OF COURSES TAUGHT

Paths to Knowledge: Detroit
 Introduction to Literary Study
 Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies
 The Victorian Novel/The British Novel in the Nineteenth Century/“Victorian Secrets”
 Literature of South Africa
 Reading Race and Ethnicity: South Africa and the United States
 Approaches to British Literature: Storytelling, Race, and Empire
 The “Classic” Then and Now
 “Major Figures” – Charles Dickens; Jane Austen; Stephen King
 Strange Relations: Kinship and Social Class in Nineteenth-Century Britain
 British Literature: Neoclassical & Romantic/Victorian Era to the Twentieth Century
 Women and Literature
 World Literature
 First Year Seminars: Dickens Won’t Die – 175 Years of Narrative and Adaptation

South African Literature and Culture
Jane Austen and Adaptation

Travel Seminars Designed (2 ½ to 3 weeks in length)

- 2020 British Identity in England
- 2018 The Country and the City in England and Wales
- 2016 Gothic Literature in England and Wales
- 2014 Gothic Literature in England
- 2013 Dickens in England
- 2012 Seeing South Africa: Race Relations and Storytelling
- 2010 Seeing South Africa: Race Relations and Storytelling

RECENT ADMINISTRATIVE, UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2022-present. Faculty Senator, representing Humanities in the College of Arts and Sciences.
- 2022-present. Director, African and African American Diaspora Studies minor, Drake University.
- 2016-present. Director, Women's and Gender Studies Program, Drake University.
- 2019 Faculty Advisor, newly established Drake University chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).
- 2011-2019. Faculty Advisor, Coalition of Black Students, Drake University.
- 2016 Chair, Curriculum Committee, English Department, Drake University.
- 2012-2014. Crew Scholars Program, Co-Founder and Faculty Director. The mission of Crew Scholars is to improve retention rates, support academic success, and build leadership skills among domestic students of color.
- 2010-2017. NAACP Youth Council Writing Workshop Coordinator, Des Moines, IA.
- 2010-2017. ACT-SO (Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological, and Scientific Olympics) Judge for Playwriting, Poetry, and Original Essay Submissions, NAACP, Des Moines, IA.
- 2009-2015. Honorary Degree and Drake Medal Selection Committee, Drake University.
- 2008-2012, 2013-14. Writers and Critics Speaker Series Organizing Committee, English Department, Drake University.
- 2011-2013. Global and International Programs Action Council (GIPAC), Drake University.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

UNIVERSITY

- 2023-2026 Humanities Center Research Scholar Award.
- 2018 Nominee, College of Arts and Sciences Teacher of the Year Award.
- 2017 Nominee, Madelyn Levitt Teacher of the Year Award.
- 2016 International Grant, Drake University Office of International Programs and Center for the

Humanities Grant. For travel to Cardiff, Wales to deliver invited lecture and to scout sites for January 2017 travel course.

2015 Madelyn Levitt Mentor of the Year Award.

2014-15 Drake Major Research Grant, Office of the Provost, Drake University.

2014-15 International Grant, Drake University Office of International Programs. For travel to England and site visit to Advanced Studies in English (ASE) study abroad program in Bath.

2011 Research Reassignment Time for Scholarship, Office of the Provost, Drake University.

2002 Barbara J. and Paul D. Saltman Excellent Teaching Award. Conferred by the University of California San Diego Academic Senate.

2002 Distinguished Teaching Award, Literature Department, University of California San Diego.

NATIONAL

2005 Mayers Fellow at the Huntington Library's Munger Research Center, July.

2004 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "The Remaking of Charles Dickens: Crisis and Transformation, 1857-1861." Directed by John Bowen, Keele University. Held at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR VICTORIAN STUDIES

THE DICKENS SOCIETY

INTERDISCIPLINARY NINETEENTH CENTURY STUDIES ASSOCIATION

MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

NORTH AMERICAN VICTORIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

RESEARCH SOCIETY FOR VICTORIAN PERIODICALS

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER