

SUE ZEMKA

Professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder
Boulder, CO 80309-0226

Core faculty in the Program in Humanities, University of Colorado, Boulder

EDUCATION

1981–1989: Stanford University. Ph.D., English literature.

1976–1980: Saint Louis University. Honors B.A., *Magna cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa.

MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

July 2017– current: Chair, Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder.

January 2015–July 2017: Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, English, University of Colorado, Boulder.

Fall 2018 – current: College of Arts and Sciences Personnel Committee.

2015–2017: Chair, Arts and Sciences Committee for Excellence.

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Time and the Moment in Victorian Literature and Society. Cambridge University Press, 2012.

Victorian Testaments: The Bible, Christology, and Literary Authority in Early-Nineteenth-Century British Culture. Stanford University Press, 1998.

Victorian Hands: Essays on the Manual Turn in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture. Co-Edited volume of essays with Peter J. Capuano (University of Nebraska). Forthcoming, Ohio State University Press, 2019.

Articles:

“The Bible and the Biographical Turn.” *The Bible and Literature*. Ed. Elisabeth Jay. The Bloomsbury Press. Invited essay. Forthcoming, 2019.

“Progress.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*, Keywords Special Issue (46:3–4, Fall/Winter 2018): 812–16.

“Sacred and Secular Time in Literature.” *Time and Literature*. Ed. Thomas Allen. Cambridge University Press, March 2018.

“Artificial Hands.” 10,000 words, peer reviewed. *BRANCH: Britain, Representation, and Nineteenth-Century History* (a peer-reviewed online resource) November 2015.

http://www.branchcollective.org/?ps_articles=sue-zemka-1822-1845-1869-1893-and-1917-artificial-hands

“The Body in Victorian Literature.” 7000 words, peer reviewed. *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literature*. Ed. Dino F. Felluga, Pamela K. Gilbert, and Linda K. Hughes. Wiley-Blackwell, 2015.

“Scriptural Margins: On the Boundaries of Sacred Texts,” Editor’s introduction to *ELN (English Language Notes)*. Co-authored with Justin Saxby. Special Issue, Religion and the Arts, (Fall/Winter 2012): 1–12.

“Response to Kent Puckett, ‘Celia Johnson’s Face,’” *ELN (English Language Notes)* Special Issue, The Shape of the I (Part 2), eds. Julie Carr and John-Michael Rivera 50.1 (Spring / Summer 2012): 87–93.

“The Death of Nancy ‘Sikes’, 1839 – 1912.” *Representations* 110 (Spring 2010): 29–57.

“Brief Encounters: Street Scenes in Gaskell’s Manchester.” *ELH* 76:3 (Fall 2009): 738–819.

“Stop – Loss: Extending Time in the Arts,” Editor’s introduction to *ELN (English Language Notes)* Special Issue, “Time and the Arts.” *ELN* 46:1 (Summer 2008), 1–7.

Interview with filmmaker Phil Solomon, *ELN* 46:1 (Summer 2008): 124–32.

“Chronometrics of Money and Love in *Great Expectations*.” *Dickens Studies Annual* 35 (Summer 2005): 133–55.

“*Erewhon* and the End of Utopian Humanism.” *ELH* 69 (2002): 439–472.

"Thomas Arnold and Spiritual Authority." *Victorian Studies* 32: 3 (Spring 1995): 429–62.

"From the Punchmen to Pugin's Gothics: The Broad Road to a Sentimental Death in The Old Curiosity Shop." *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 48:3 (Winter 1993): 291–309.

"The Holy Books of Empire: Translations of the British and Foreign Bible Society." In *The Macropolitics of Nineteenth-Century Literature*. Ed. Jonathan Arac and Harriet Ritvo. 1991. Reprint. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1994.

"Wagner's Opera of Redemption: *Parsifal* at Bayreuth," *Criticism* 27:3 (1985): article 3.

Books in Progress:

Lives of the Hand. The human hand plays an important role in myths of origins. In philosophy, anthropology, and human psychology, the human hand is cast as a site of identity formation, whether for the species, the individual, or a social class. This book shifts the focus from the hand's role in myths of the past to its semi-visible role in fictions of the present. It asks what the hand reveals about human agency and self-knowledge in the culture of the recent Anthropocene (1750– current day). By examining representations of hands in a variety of texts drawn from literature, philosophy, social politics, and television culture, the book argues that the behaviors and representation of our hands undermine assumptions about human autonomy and agency. Instead, by retelling familiar stories with an attention to hands as actants, we see the prominence of interdependence, uncertainty, and porous identities in human life.

Seven Mothers. "Seven Mothers" is a creative nonfiction memoir about my adoption story and the circuitous path that led me to birth mother. That path travelled through a repressed aspect of U.S. social history prior to *Roe v. Wade* and the development of artificial insemination techniques: the recruitment of poor or disadvantaged women by affluent, infertile couples to bear children. I bring to this story my lifetime experience as a student and scholar of the Victorian novel, a genre whose obsession with biological origins I share. Personal experience and literary history are thus in this project ways of reflecting on the powerful, mysterious investment we place in origins and on the unexpected answers we find in searching for them.

Victorian Hands: Essays on the Manual Turn in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture. Co-Edited volume of essays with Peter J. Capuano. Ohio State University Press, forthcoming, 2019. The guiding premise of this volume is that the human hand has escaped the notice of nineteenth-century cultural and literary historians because of its very centrality. Paradoxically, the hand is so ubiquitous to Victorian culture and its archive that it has only recently become visible as an object in its own right. This volume of essays contributes to a new understanding of manual culture by focusing on the role of the hand as a nexus between culture and the body in the British nineteenth century. The contributors to this volume, all of

whom are established or newly-established leaders in nineteenth-century studies, adopt the frame of “manual culture” to investigate their respective areas of interest and expertise: fiction, poetry, drama, industrial history, science, religion, photography, gender, spiritualism, and archivism.

Reviews:

Review. Breifel, Aviva. *The Racial Hand in the Victorian Imagination*, Cambridge University Press, 2015. *Nineteenth Century Contexts*. December 2016.

Review. Esmail, Jennifer. *Reading Victorian Deafness: Signs and Sounds in Victorian Literature and Culture*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2013. *Victorian Review*. Winter 2015.

Review. *Samuel Butler: Victorian Against the Grain*. Ed. James G. Paradis. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2007. In *Victorian Studies* 51:2 (Winter 2009): 378–80.

Review. Marsh, Joss. *Word Crimes: Blasphemy, Culture, and Literature in Nineteenth-Century England*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. 70:2 (2002): 213–15.

AWARDS

Center for Humanities and the Arts Faculty Fellow, CU Boulder, 2016–2017.

Kayden Book Prize, Best Book in the last three years by a member of the faculty of a language / literature department (for *Time and the Moment in Victorian Literature and Society*), University of Colorado, 2013.

Pope Woodard Award, Best Book in the last three years by a member of the English faculty (for *Time and the Moment in Victorian Literature and Society*), University of Colorado, Boulder, May 2012.

Donald Gray Essay Prize, Best Essay in Victorian Studies for 2010 (for “The Death of Nancy ‘Sikes’, 1839 – 1912”).

Center for Humanities and the Arts Faculty Fellow, CU Boulder, 2007–2008

American Philosophical Society Fellowship, 2004.

Woodrow Wilson Innovation Award, 2000.

Mortar Board Teaching Award, CU Boulder, 1995.

PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS (to 2000).

“The Long Arm of War in Merleau-Ponty’s *The Phenomenology of Perception*.” Forthcoming, *The Modern European Mind: Crisis and Identity*, University of Portsmouth, May 2019.

“Seven Mothers.” Forthcoming, Archives, Blood, and Memory panel, NeMLA (Northeast Modern Language Association) Annual Conference, Washington, DC, March 2019.

‘Our Porous Boundaries.’ VCologies (Victorian Ecologies) working group, University of Nevada – Reno, September 13 – 14, 2018.

‘Eating Our Children; A Christmas Story,’ Cagle Lecture, Rice University. December 2, 2017.

Round Table Member, “The Time of Literature” Special Session, MLA (Modern Language Association Annual Conference), New York, NY, January 2018.

“Hodor and the Knot of Time,” VCologies (Victorian Ecologies) working group, University of Houston, September 14 – 16, 2017.

“Read Like an Animal: Mammalian Semiosis in *Middlemarch*,” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Venice, Italy, May 2017.

“Disappearing Hands in Whistler’s Portraits,” INCS (Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association) Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March, 2017.

“Amputated Limbs and the Body Image Debate,” (INCS: Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association) Conference, Asheville, NC, March 2016.

“The Death of Gordon and the Birth of Modern Martyrdom.” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 2015.

“Medical and Cultural Modalities of the Hand, 1830-1900.” NAVSA North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 2015.

“Artificial Hands,” Invited seminar, Birkbeck Center for Nineteenth-Century Studies, University College London, May 2015.

“Prosthetic Hands and Phantom Limbs,” Work-in-Progress Seminar, NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Venice, Italy, June, 2013.

“The Evidence of the Hand,” MLA Division on the Victorian Period: “Evidence,” Annual Convention of the MLA (Modern Language Association), Seattle, January 2012.

“Gesture and *Mudra*: The Performative Hand after 1857,” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Vanderbilt University, November 2011.

“Morris’s Hands,” William Morris Society Panel, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, January 6-9, 2011.

“Murder Across Media.” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Annual Conference, Yale University, November 2008.

“Minds Calibrated to Machines: The Industrial Reader.” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, Purdue University, September 2006.

“The Crowd, the Novel, and the Moment.” NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association) Conference, University of Virginia, September 2005.

“(Re)forming Brook Farm: The Battle over Socialism in Late Nineteenth-Century America.” Hawthorne Society Panel. Annual Convention of the MLA (Modern Language Association), New York, December 2003.

“Chronometrics of Money and Love in *Great Expectations*.” The Dickens Project, University of California, Santa Cruz, August 2003.

“The Art of Making (a Perfect) Money.” Annual Convention of the MLA (Modern Language Association), New Orleans, December 2001.

“Utopias of Memory.” Annual Convention of the ACLA (American Comparative Literature Association), “Topos / Chronos: Aesthetics for a New Millennium.” Boulder, April 2001.

Editorial work:

Co-editor, with Peter Capuano. *Victorian Hands: Essays on the Manual Turn in Nineteenth-Century British Literature and Culture*. (Under review, Cambridge University Press).

Special Issue Editor, *ELN(English Language Notes)*, “Scriptural Margins.” *ELN*50:2. Forthcoming, Fall 2012.

Special Issue Editor, *ELN(English Language Notes)*, “Time and the Arts.” *ELN*46:1 (Summer 2008).

GRANTS AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (to 2000)

2917. April. Visiting Speaker, Professor Peter Capuano. Funded by the Department of English.

2015. April. Visiting Speaker, Professor Richard Menke. Funded by the 18/19 Century Graduate Student Group.

2012 (Fall): Visiting Speaker Grant, Professor Dino Felluga. Funded by the Center for British and Irish Studies, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2011 (May): Research Travel Grant. Funded by the Center for Research and Creative Work, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2009 (November): Visiting Speaker Grant, Professor Elaine Freedgood (New York University). Funded by the Center for British and Irish Studies, University of Colorado.

2009 (Spring): Kayden Award for Research Travel. Funded by the Kayden Committee, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2009 (April). Visiting Speaker, Nathan Englander. Funded by the Program for Jewish Studies, the Center for Western Civilization, and the Department of English, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2007–8: Faculty Fellow, Center for the Humanities and the Arts, “Faith, Reason, and Doubt.” University of Colorado, Boulder.

2006 (April): Visiting Speaker Grant, Professor Regenia Gagnier (Exeter University, England). Funded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2006: Research Travel Grant. Funded by the Center for Research and Creative Work, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2005 (April): Visiting Speaker Grant, Professor James English (University of Pennsylvania). Funded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2004–05: American Philosophical Society Sabbatical Fellowship.

2002 (February): Visiting Speaker Grant, Professor Joss L. Marsh (University of Indiana), Funded by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2000: Research Grant. Council for Research and Creative Work, University of Colorado, Boulder.

2000: Woodrow Wilson Innovation Award.

1999–2000: College Faculty Seminar on Globalization (Department of Political Science).

SERVICE

Public Presentations in the Community:

“Joseph, the Queer Hero of Genesis,” Christos Lecture, St. Aidan’s Episcopal Church, Boulder, CO.
December 12, 2014.

“Joseph, the Queer Hero of Genesis,” First Friday Lectures, Congregation Bonai Shalom. Boulder, CO.
December 6, 2013.

Profession:

Reader for *Victorian Studies*.

Reader for *Dickens Studies Annual*.

Editorial Board, *ELN* (*English Language Notes*).

Delegate for Romanticism and Nineteenth-Century British Literature, MLA (2002–2005).

External Referee for tenure and promotion (several cases).

College:

Dean’s Committee for Assessing Compensation for Chairs and Associate Chairs (Spring 2017).

President’s Fund for Excellence (2015–2017).

Arts and Sciences Funding Committee (2009 – present; Chair 2015–16)

Internal Review Committee for Religious Studies (2015)

Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee (2006–08)
Dean’s Budget Committee (2003–04)
Graduate Curriculum Committee (2003–04)
Internal Review Committee for Department of Film Studies (2002)
Arts and Sciences Grievance Committee (2001–03)

Department of English:

Chair of Department (Summer 2017– present).
Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Studies (Spring 2016 – Summer 2017)
Executive Committee (1990–92; 2003–05; 2016 – present)
Hiring Committees (six lines)
Tenure and Promotion Committees (seven cases; chaired two)
Graduate Committee (three terms)
Undergraduate Committee (2010–13).

Department of Jewish Studies:

Executive Committee (2012/current)
Undergraduate Committee (2013/current)

TEACHING

Undergraduate:

The Bible as Literature (lecture course, taught biennially)
Developments in the British Novel
Victorian Literature Survey
Senior Capstone Seminars, various topics
Critical Analysis of Poetry
Media History and Knowledge
Introduction to Literary Theory
Freshman Writing Seminar

Graduate:

The Victorian Anthropocene
Introduction to British Literature, 1660–1900
Introduction to Literary Theory
History of Embodiment: The Human Hand

Advanced Literary Theory: Time and Literature
Sexuality, Deviance, and Desire in 19th Poetry
War in the Long Nineteenth Century
Utopian Literature and Theory

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

MLA (Modern Language Association).
NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association).
INCS (Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association).

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2012 – Present: Professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder
2005 – 2012 Associate Professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder.
2004 – 2005: Associate Professor of English, Emory University.
1997 – 2004: Associate Professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder.
1989 – 1997: Assistant Professor of English, University of Colorado, Boulder.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Professor Nicholas Dames
Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities
Columbia University
nicholas.dames@columbia.edu

Professor Elaine Freedgood
Dept of English
NYU
244 Greene St
NY NY 10003
ef38@nyu.edu

Prof. Tim Morton
Rita Shea Guffey Professor
Department of English
Rice University
tbm2@rice.edu

Professor Jennifer Hill
Director of Program for Gender, Race, and Identity
University of Nevada, Reno
jmhill@unr.edu

Prof. Ruth-ellen Kocher
Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences
University of Colorado, Boulder
ruthellen.kocher@colorado.edu