

Makayla C. Steiner

Assistant Professor of English
Brigham Young University
4141 JFSB, Provo, UT 84602
makayla_steiner@byu.edu

EDUCATION

The University of Iowa, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences August 2021
Ph.D. English
Dissertation: “No Vague Believers”: *Postsecular Sensibilities in Contemporary American Fiction* (Director: Lori Branch)

Brigham Young University, College of Humanities April 2013
M.A. English

Brigham Young University, College of Humanities April 2009
B.A. English, Cum Laude
Minor: Marriage, Family, and Human Development

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2021 – Present: Assistant Professor of English, Brigham Young University

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“Cormac McCarthy’s Postsecular Faith.” *Cormac McCarthy and Theology*, special issue of *Intégrité*, vol. 20, no. 2, 2021, pp. 15-33.

“Jewish American Literature: A Scholar’s Map.” Co-authored with Gloria L. Cronin, *Resources for American Literary Study*, vol. 39, 2017, pp. 81-143.

“Saints in *Gilead*: Robinson’s Revisionist Calvinism and John Ames as a Reconciliatory Figure in American Congregationalist History.” *Literature and Belief*, vol. 34, no. 2, 2014, pp. 54-73.

“Of Heroes and Humans: Atticus Finch and Modern Disillusionment.” *Americana*, vol. 7, Winter 2009, pp. 20-29.

Accepted for Publication

“Souls All Unaccompanied: Enacting Levinasian Feminine Alterity in *Housekeeping*.” *Marilynne Robinson: Critical Essays*. Eds. Rachel Sykes, Jennifer Daly, and Anna M. Elliott. Manchester UP. (In Press)

“‘Someday she would tell him what she knew’: the Nature of Belief in Marilynne Robinson’s *Lila*.” *Religion and Literature*.

Other Publications

“Souls All Unaccompanied: Enacting Levinasian Feminine Alterity in *Housekeeping*.” Works of Recognition: Proceedings of the 17th Annual Craft Critique Culture Conference, in *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, no. 17, Spring 2017, pp. 91-98.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“In Praise of Cloistered Virtue: The ‘Orthodox’ Women of *Kaaterskill Falls*.”

Panel on *Layered Identities: Women Writers and Jewish American Identity*.

Sponsored by the American Religion and Literature Society at the 30th

Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

The Westin Copely Place, Boston, MA. May 23-26, 2019.

“‘Belief is the Burden of Seeing’: Momaday’s Memoirs and Reimagining the Native.”

The University of Iowa Craft Critique Culture Conference: “Speaking of Violence....”

Iowa City, IA. April 4-6, 2019.

“Rethinking *Herzog*: Notes Towards an Investigation.”

Panel on *New Approaches to Saul Bellow’s Work*,

Sponsored by the Saul Bellow Society at the 29th

Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

San Francisco, CA. May 24-27, 2018.

Co-presentation with Daniel K. Muhlestein.

“Transcending Modern Justice in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House* and *LaRose*.”

Panel on *Religion in Multi-Ethnic Literature of the U.S.*

32nd **Annual MELUS Conference.**

Hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Las Vegas, NV. May 3-6, 2018.

“From Elimination to a Broken Hallelujah: Rethinking Stevens’ Strategies for Modernist Secularism in light of Fredric Jameson’s theory of Metacommentary.”

(Post)secular: Imagining Faith in Contemporary Cultures.

Warwick University, Warwick, UK. June 8-10, 2017.

Co-presentation with Daniel K. Muhlestein.

“‘Walk a Step Past the Edge’: Re-Mapping the Sacred in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House*.”

Indigenous Resources, Literary Territories.

Sponsored by the Association for Study of American Indian Literatures (ASAIL)

28th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association.

The Westin Copely Place, Boston, MA. May 25-28, 2017.

“‘Souls All Unaccompanied’: Enacting Levinas’s ‘Feminine Alterity’ in Marilynne Robinson’s *Housekeeping*.”

Marilynne Robinson Symposium.

Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, UK. June 10, 2016.

“From Kristeva to Robinson: The Nature of Belief in *Lila*.”

Literature and Belief Symposium: Beauty and Belief.

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT. November 5-6, 2015.

“McCarthy’s Unobservable God: Witness and Imagination in the Ex-Priest’s Tale.”

The University of Iowa Craft Critique Culture Conference: Changes and Exchanges.

Iowa City, IA. April 2015.

“Ordinary Vision: Family Life as Sacred Landscape in Marilynne Robinson’s *Gilead*.”

Southern Methodist University English Department: The Place of Literature.

Dallas, TX. March 2013.

“The Process of Fact and Fiction: Telling the Truth in *In the Time of the Butterflies*.”

University of California-Riverside Hispanic Studies Department, Tales of the Borderland:

Crossing Physical and Textual Borders in the Hispanic World,

Riverside, CA. April 2012

“Reconciliation in *Gilead*: War, Peace, and Shifting Visions.”

Brigham Young University English Symposium: Crossing Genres, Connecting Centuries.
Provo, UT. March 2012.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Huston Diehl Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship

University of Iowa English Department, 2019-2020

Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship

University of Iowa Graduate College, 2019 and 2020

Humanities Without Walls Pre-Doctoral Career Diversity Summer Workshop Fellow

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, 2018

Graduate & Professional Student Government Grant

University of Iowa Graduate College, 2018

Defining and Refining the Scholar of Faith Symposium Fellow

Brigham Young University College of Humanities, 2017

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award

University of Iowa Council on Teaching, 2017

Graduate Student Senate Grant

University of Iowa, 2016

Parley A. and Ruth J. Christensen Memorial Award

Brigham Young University English Department 2009, 2011-2013

Office of Creative Research Grant

Brigham Young University, 2009

ACADEMIC TEACHING EXPERIENCE

COURSES TAUGHT AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

English 384R Author Studies (Marilynne Robinson)

English 303 Writing Literary Criticism

English 293 American Literary History

Writing 150 Writing and Rhetoric

COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

English 3160 Literary Genres and Modes

Literature, Storytelling, and Life Writing

English 1200 Interpretation of Literature

Race, Religion, and American Dreams

Genre Studies in Black and White (Honors Section)

Literary Inheritances of the American Civil War

Contemporary Perspectives on American Puritanism

English 1355 Literatures of Native American Peoples

Restoring the Sacred through the Ethics of Care

Rhetoric 1030 Rhetoric

An Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric

English 2010 Foundations of the English Major (Teaching Assistant)

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Writing Tutor, University of Iowa Accounting Writing Program

Accounting 4200 Accounting for Management Analysis & Control Spring 2018

General Education Literature Program Associate

Colloquium: General Education Literature

Fall 2018

Selected as program assistant to instruct first-time literature teachers on course pedagogy and materials. Responsibilities included weekly consultation meetings with program director, assisting in the creation of orientation for new teachers, consulting on assignment development and course management, completing course observation and evaluation classroom for each member of my group, participating and occasionally presenting in weekly colloquium.

Project Coordinator

Iowa Digital Engagement and Learning (IDEAL)

Spring 2016

Assisted students and faculty in designing innovative assignments and course projects that use digital technologies to create work that endures beyond the semester. (ideal.uiowa.edu)

Professional Development Program Co-Leader

Colloquium: Teaching Rhetoric

Fall 2016

Selected as graduate co-leader to guide first-time Rhetoric teachers on course pedagogy and materials. Responsibilities included creating lesson plans, consulting on assignments and course management, giving short lectures, and participating in weekly colloquium.

COURSES GRADED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

English 3226 Literature & Culture of the Middle Ages

Spring 2015

ONLINE COURSES TAUGHT AT BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY-IDAHO

English 106 Introduction to Writing

Winter 2014 – Spring 2014

SERVICE

Committees, Assignments, and Other Service

Assistant Coordinator, BYU Undergraduate English Symposium, 2022

Senior Editor, *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2018-2019

Graduate Advisory Committee Member, University of Iowa Rhetoric Department, 2015-2017

Graduate Program Peer Mentor, Fall 2019-Spring 2020

Conferences

Moderator: “Reckoning With Mass Violence and Organized Violence: Consumption or Reclamation,” Craft, Critique, Culture Graduate Student Conference, University of Iowa, April 5-6, 2019

Session Chair: “New Perspectives on Saul Bellow’s Work,” Saul Bellow Society, 28th Annual Conference of the American Literature Association. The Westin Copely Place, Boston, MA. May 25-28, 2017

Panel Chair: Craft, Critique, Culture Graduate Student Conference, University of Iowa, April 8-9, 2016

Moderator: Middle Earth and the Inklings: Celebrating the Worlds of J.R.R. Tolkien, A First-Year Seminar Conference, University of Iowa, October 24, 2015

Panel Chair: Craft, Critique, Culture Graduate Student Conference, University of Iowa, April 10-11, 2015

Panel Chair: English Symposium, Brigham Young University, March 15, 2013

Research Assistant

Research Assistant, Garrett Stewart, University of Iowa, 2020-2021

Research Assistant, Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University, 2009-2010, 2012-2013

Assisted in the research and editing process of an introduction of Jews in American history and literature. Published in *Resources for American Literary Study* volume 39.

Research Assistant, Daniel Muhlestein, Brigham Young University, 2008-2009

Assisted in the research and writing process of the article "Transfiguration and Aporia: From *Housekeeping*, to *Gilead*, to *Home*." Published in *Literature and Belief* volume 28, issue 2

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

Western Literature Association (WLA)

Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW)

American Religion and Literature Society (affiliated with the American Literature Association)

Marilynne Robinson Society (affiliated with the American Literature Association)

Association of Mormon Letters (AML)

LANGUAGES

Spanish: Superior Rating, 2016

Certified by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Reading Proficiency Exam