

# S. PEARL BRILMYER

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Assistant Professor, Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2016-present  
Associate Faculty, The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, 2013-present  
Assistant Professor, Department of English, The University of Oregon, 2015-16  
Postdoctoral Fellow, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, 2014-16  
Adjunct Instructor, The Gallatin School for Individualized Study, New York University, 2013-14  
Adjunct Instructor, Department of Social Science & Cultural Studies, Pratt Institute, 2013  
Visiting Scholar, Department of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, Spring 2013  
Visiting Scholar, Department of Comparative Literature, New York University, Fall 2012

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Comparative Literature, The University of Texas at Austin, 2014  
M.A., Comparative Literature, The University of Texas at Austin, 2008  
B.A., *magna cum laude*, English and Philosophy, The University of Scranton, 2006

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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Victorian literature and culture; nineteenth-century German philosophy; the history of science; queer theory; feminist science studies; literary and philosophical realism; new materialism

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Essays

“Durations of Presents Past: Ruskin and the Accretive Quality of Time.” *Victorian Studies*, vol. 59, no. 1, 2016, pp. 94-7.

“Impassioned Objectivity: Nietzsche, Hardy, and the Science of Fiction.” *V21*, special issue of *b2o*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2016.

“Plasticity, Form, and the Matter of Character in *Middlemarch*.” *Representations* vol. 130, no. 1, 2015, pp. 60-83.

Republished in *The Nature of Literary Being*, an online colloquy of *Arcade: Literature, the Humanities, and the World*, November 2015.

“‘The Natural History of My Inward Self’: Sensing Character in George Eliot’s *Impressions of Theophrastus Such*.” *PMLA*, vol. 129, no. 1, 2014, pp. 35-51.

### Book Chapters

- “Queer Rigidity: Necessities of Attraction and Desire.” *Errans*, edited by Christoph F.E. Holzhey and Manuele Gragnolati, Turia + Kant, forthcoming 2018.
- “Schopenhauer and British Literary Feminism.” *The Palgrave Schopenhauer Handbook*, edited by Sandra L. Shapshay, in the Palgrave Handbooks on German Idealism Series, series editor, Matthew Altman, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- “Darwinian Feminism.” *Gender: Matter*, edited by Stacy Alaimo, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, Macmillan Reference USA, 2017, pp. 19-34.

### Translations

- “Philosophy through the Macroscopic.” A digital humanities project initiated by Chris Alen Sula and David Morrow visualizing the history and geography of philosophy using Benjamin Rand’s *Bibliography of Philosophy, Psychology, and Cognate Subjects* (1905). Translation of German and French titles into English. 2013.
- “Schopenhauer’s World.” A semi-permanent exhibition for visitors to the Schopenhauer Archive. Translation from German into English. Frankfurt am Main. 2011.
- “Nietzsche was a DJ.” An audio piece by Avital Ronell. Transcription and translation of German and French into English. *Writing with Sound*, special issue of *Currents in Electronic Literacy*, vol. 15, 2011.

### Reviews

- “The Bonds of Choice.” Review of *The Feeling of Kinship: Queer Liberalism and the Racialization of Intimacy* by David L. Eng. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2011, pp. 199-202.
- Flashback review of *The History of Sexuality* Vols. I-III by Michel Foucault. *E3W Review of Books* vol. 9, 2009.

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

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- Character Density: Late Victorian Realism and the Science of Description*. Book project examining the philosophical implications of the disarticulation of character from plot at the turn of the twentieth century. Focused on series of little-studied, late-career works by George Eliot, Thomas Hardy, Olive Schreiner, and Walter Pater, the project develops a theory of realism as a descriptive science that documents the circumstances, experiences, and practices through which character materializes.
- The Prism I Hold in My Hand*. An experimental edition of Olive Schreiner’s unfinished novel, *From Man to Man; or Perhaps Only* (1926). Design by Minna Sakaria. Under review.
- “The Ontology of the Couple,” a special issue of *GLQ: Gay and Lesbian Quarterly*. Co-edited with Filippo Trentin and Zairong Xiang. Vol. 25. No. 3. Summer 2019. Including essays by Rinaldo Walcott, Lee Edelman, Joseph Litvak, Heather Love, Annamarie Jagose, Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, Bobby Benedicto, and Laura Kipnis.

**AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS**

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Runner-up, Outstanding Dissertation Award, UT Austin, 2015  
 Dina Sherzer Excellence Award, UT Austin, 2013  
 William S. Livingston Graduate Fellowship, UT Austin, 2012-2013  
 Graduate Student Fellow, NEH Summer Seminar "Oscar Wilde and His Circle," 2012  
 Visiting Predoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (II), 2011-2012  
 DAAD Research Grant (to the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science), 2011-2012  
 DAAD Supplemental Language Course Grant (to DID Deutsch Institute Frankfurt), 2011  
 Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, UT Austin, 2011  
 Outstanding English Department Instructor Award, UT Austin, 2011  
 Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship, UT Austin (to the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin), 2010  
 Dickens Project Fellowship, Department of English, UT Austin, 2010  
 Swedish Studies Scholarship, UT Austin (to Folkuniversitetet Stockholm), 2009  
 André Lefevre Prize for best master's thesis in Comparative Literature, UT Austin, 2008  
 Hubertus E. Scheibe Scholarship, DAAD Alumni Association (to IIK Düsseldorf), 2008  
 Liberal Arts Graduate Research Fellowship, UT Austin (to IIK Düsseldorf), 2008  
 Professional Development Award, The Graduate School at UT Austin, 2013, 2011, 2009, 2007  
 Pre-emptive Fellowship, The Graduate School at UT Austin, 2006-2007

**INVITED TALKS**

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"Repetition and Life." 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, July 2017.  
 "Materializing Schopenhauer: The New Woman Novel and the Philosophy of Will." Lecture in the "Material Bodies" Lecture Series. School of Writing, Literature and Film. Oregon State University, May 2017.  
 "Spontaneous Generations of Character from Realism to Modernism." Translation Beyond the Human Symposium, The University of Pennsylvania, February 2017.  
 "Frog Faced: Spontaneity and Character in Eliot and Stein." Lecture given to the Gen/Sex and Res-Vic Working Groups, The University of Pennsylvania, February 2017.  
 "Durations of Presents Past: Ruskin and the Accretive Quality of Time." Plenary roundtable at The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Society Conference, "Natural and Unnatural Histories." Appalachian State University, March 2016.  
 "Impassioned Objectivity: Nietzsche, Hardy and the Science of Fiction." Roundtable on Nietzsche's "On the Use and Abuse of History for Life," V21 Symposium. Chicago, October 2015.

“Queer Resistance,” a response to Heather Love. Weak Resistance Conference. ICI Berlin, May 2015.

“Plasticity, Form, and the Matter of Character in *Middlemarch*.” The Wittgenstein Workshop, Department of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, May 2013.

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & PANEL ORGANIZATION**

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“Inessential Forms: Warburg and Focillon Through Ruskin,” with Filippo Trentin. North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Florence, May 2017.

Response to Alicia Christoff, William Cohen, and Joseph Lavery on the panel “Unconscious Eliot.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, “Social Victorians,” Phoenix, AR, November 2016.

“Frog Faced: Spontaneity and Character in Eliot and Stein.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, “Social Victorians,” Phoenix, AR, November 2016.

“O,” with Zairong Xiang and Filippo Trentin. The Ontology of the Couple Symposium, ICI Berlin, June 2016.

“Habits of Feeling: Queer Theory and the Limits of Flexibility.” 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, “After Biopolitics,” Rice University, November 2015.

“‘Necessities of Attraction and Desire’: Félix Ravaisson and the Affective History of Habit.” Affect Theory Conference, Millersville University, October 2015.

“Queer Rigidity.” Summer Workshop, “Margins of Error,” ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, June 2015.

“The Temporality of Form in Hardy’s *The Well-Beloved*.” International Conference on the philosophy of Alfred North Whitehead, “Seizing an Alternative: Toward an Ecological Civilization,” Center for Process Studies, Claremont, CA, June 2015.

“Olive Schreiner’s Relational Metaphysics: Feminist and Anti-Racist Critique in *From Man to Man, or Perhaps Only*.” Somatechnics International Conference, “Missing Links: The Somatechnics of Decolonization,” University of Linköping, Sweden, June 2013.

“Schopenhauer’s Drive: Sex, Agency, and Victorian Literary Feminism.” Northeast Victorian Studies Association Conference, “1874,” Boston University, April 2013.

“Materializing Schopenhauer: A Feminist-Materialist History of Schopenhauer’s English Reception.” 3rd Annual New Materialism Conference, “Entanglements of New Materialism,” The Posthumanities Hub, University of Linköping, Sweden, May 2012.

“Character Density: George Eliot’s Technologies of Description.” Romanticism and Evolution Conference, The University of Western Ontario, May 2011.

“After the Human: George Eliot’s *Impressions of Theophrastus Such*.” Annual Dickens Universe Conference, Rice University, April 2011.

Co-organizer with Stephanie Rosen, “Vital Arts and Theories,” seminar at the American Comparative Literature Association Conference, “World Literature/Comparative Literature,” Vancouver, BC, April 2011.

- “The Marriage of Limbs in Hardy’s *Return of the Native*.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, “Creoles, Diasporas, Cosmopolitanisms,” New Orleans, April 2010.
- “Trollope and the Semblance of a Queer Politics.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies Conference, “Family/Resemblance,” UT Austin, March 2010.
- “Theoretical Nobodies Like Lou Andreas-Salomé.” Department of English graduate student conference, “New Directions in Queer Studies,” UT Austin, March 2009.
- “Promiscuous Subjectivity and the Antisocial Turn in Queer Theory.” Department of English graduate student conference, “Lesbian Genres,” UT Austin, May 2009.
- “The Nietzschean ‘Impulse’ in Pierre Klossowski.” American Comparative Literature Association Conference, “Global Languages, Local Cultures,” Harvard University, March 2009.
- “Cruel and Usual Realism.” Fourth Annual Graduate Comparative Literature Conference, “(Un)bound: the Humanities in Transition,” UT Austin, October 2007.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **The University of Pennsylvania, Department of English**

- “Scientific Aesthetics,” Fall 2017
- “George Eliot and the Science of Description,” Graduate Seminar, Spring 2017
- “Queer Attachments,” Spring 2017
- “Literature and Science: Norms Forms and Deviations” Fall 2016, Fall 2017

### **The University of Oregon, Department of English**

- “George Eliot and the Science of Description,” Graduate Seminar, Winter 2016
- “Queer Literature,” Winter 2016
- “The English Novel from Scott to Hardy,” Fall 2015
- “What is Nature?” Fall 2015

### **The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research**

- “From Queer Theory to Affect Theory: Reading Eve Sedgwick,” April 2015
- “New Materialisms,” July 2014
- “Queer Becomings: Woolf, Stein, and Modernist Experiments with Time,” November 2013

### **New York University, The Gallatin School of Individualized Study**

- “Animality and the Problem of Description,” Spring 2014
- “Queer Time and Narrative,” Fall 2013

### **Pratt Institute, Department of Social Science & Cultural Studies**

- “Philosophy through Film and Literature,” Fall 2013

### The University of Texas at Austin, Departments of English and Rhetoric

- “Gay & Lesbian Literature and Culture,” Fall 2010, Spring 2011
- “The Rhetoric of Monogamy,” Fall 2009, Spring 2010
- “Rhetoric and Writing,” Fall 2008, Spring 2009
- “Masterworks of British Literature,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2007, Spring 2008

### SERVICE

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#### Conference and Event Organization

- Co-organizer with Zairong Xiang and Filippo Trentin, “The Ontology of the Couple,” a two-day symposium with Lee Edelman, Joseph Litvak, Annamarie Jagose, Laura Kipnis, Eng-Beng Lim, Rinaldo Walcott, Elizabeth Freeman, Michael Cobb, Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman, C. Riley Snorton, Petrus Liu, Peter Coviello, and Bobby Benedicto, and Heather Love. ICI Berlin, June 2016.
- Co-organizer with James Burton, “The Invention of Defect: Disability, Femininity, Technicity,” a two-day symposium with Mara Mills and Emanuela Bianchi. ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, June 2015.
- Co-curator with Stephanie Rosen, “Bug in the Machine,” an international art exhibition exploring the interaction between living things and the things we build. Collaborated with artists from Berlin, Chicago, and Tokyo to display digital art on large-scale and 3-D screens built for scientific visualization; learned Python to program the world’s largest multi-tile display. The Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC), Austin, TX, 2011.
- Co-organizer with Anthony Arroyo, “Intimacy: Technologies of Fantasy and Feeling,” 7th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature with keynote speaker David Eng. UT Austin, October 2010.
- Organizer, “Women on the Academic Job Market,” workshop for the Feminist Solidarity Group, UT Austin, 2009.
- Conference Committee Member, Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA) Conference, 2013-2014.
- Co-founder and co-director with Stephanie Rosen, Vital Arts and Theories Group, 2010-2013  
An interdisciplinary research cluster (bringing together researchers in literature, history, physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science) committed to exploring the productive intersections of art and science in the project of understanding forms of life.

#### Ph.D. Committees

- Katherine McAlvage, “Romanticism’s Moving Bodies: The Material Stakes of Literary Embodiment and Affect,” Ph.D. 2017, The University of Oregon.

**LANGUAGES**

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German (fluent)  
Swedish (advanced)  
French (advanced)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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Modern Language Association  
American Comparative Literature Association  
North American Victorian Studies Association  
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association  
Northeast Victorian Studies Association  
V21 Collective

**REFERENCES**

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Ann Cvetkovich, Ellen C Garwood Centennial Professor of English and Professor of Women's  
and Gender Studies, UT Austin (cvet@austin.utexas.edu)  
Tracie Matysik, Associate Professor of History, UT Austin (matysik@austin.utexas.edu)  
Samuel Baker, Associate Professor of English, UT Austin (sebaker@austin.utexas.edu)  
Joseph Bristow, Professor of English, UCLA (jbristow@humnet.ucla.edu)