

# S. PEARL BRILMYER

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## 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

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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Assistant Professor of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2016-present  
Program in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory (affiliate)  
Program in Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies (affiliate)  
Assistant Professor of English, The University of Oregon, 2014-16  
Program in Comparative Literature (affiliate)

## OTHER ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Visiting Fellow, Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Research (ZfL Berlin), Summer 2019  
Postdoctoral Fellow, ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, 2014-16  
Associate Faculty, The Brooklyn Institute for Social Research, 2013-2015  
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  
Visiting Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG Berlin), 2011-2012

## RESEARCH & TEACHING FIELDS

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Nineteenth-century English literature; history of philosophy & science; feminist & queer theory; critical race studies; comparative realisms; literary theory & method; new materialisms

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

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Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship for Postdoctoral Researchers, 2020  
DAAD Re-Invitation Grant for Former Scholarship Holders (to ZfL Berlin), 2018

Trustees' Council of Penn Women Faculty Research Grant, 2018  
 Wolf Humanities Center Faculty Fellow, The University of Pennsylvania, 2017-2018  
 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  
 DAAD Research Grant (to MPIWG Berlin), 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  
 Pre-emptive Fellowship, The Graduate School at UT Austin, 2006-2007

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Book

*The Science of Character: Human Objecthood and the Ends of Victorian Realism*, forthcoming  
 2021 from The University of Chicago Press.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

- "Toward an Inessential Theory of Form: Ruskin, Warburg, Focillon" with Filippo Trentin.  
*Criticism*, vol. 61, no. 4, 2019.
- "The Ontology of the Couple; or What Queer Theory Knows about Numbers," co-authored with  
 Filippo Trentin and Zairong Xiang. *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, vol. 25,  
 no. 2, 2019, pp. 223-255.
- "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: boundary 2 online*, vol. 1, no. 2, 2016.
- "Plasticity, Form, and the Matter of Character in *Middlemarch*." *Representations* vol. 130, no.  
 1, 2015, pp. 60-83.

Reprinted in “The Nature of Literary Being,” *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

“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, pp. 397-424.

“Darwinian Feminisms.” *Gender: Matter*, edited by Stacy Alaimo, Macmillan Interdisciplinary Handbooks, Macmillan Reference USA, 2016, pp. 19-34.

Translated into Malayalam for publication The Journal of the People's Science Movement of Kerala, *Sastragathy*.

### Editorial Work

*The Ontology of the Couple*, special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, co-edited with Filippo Trentin and Zairong Xiang. Co-author of introduction. vol. 25, no. 2, 2019, pp. 217-221.

*The Prism I Hold in My Hand*. An experimental abridged edition of Olive Schreiner’s unfinished novel, *From Man to Man; or Perhaps Only* (1926), forthcoming from Punctum Books.

### Translations

“Rand’s Bibliography.” Pilot project for Phylo, a digital humanities project visualizing the history and geography of philosophy using Benjamin Rand’s 1905 *Bibliography of Philosophy, Psychology, and Cognate Subjects*. German and French to English. 2013.

“Schopenhauer’s World.” A semi-permanent exhibition for visitors to the Schopenhauer Archive. German to English. Frankfurt am Main. 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.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

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“Queer Rigidity: Necessities of Attraction and Desire,” article interrogating the emphasis on fluidity in queer studies through attention to the work of the nineteenth-century French philosopher and archaeologist, Félix Ravaisson.

## INVITED LECTURES

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- “The Racialization of Surface in Hardy's *The Well-Beloved* and Hereditary Science.”  
Columbia University, Department of English. February 2020.  
Princeton University, Department of English. February 2020.
- “The Science of Character: Feminism and Realism in Fin-de-Siècle England.”  
Leibniz Center for Literary and Cultural Studies June 2019.  
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science. May 2019.
- “Queer (Non)ontology: Thinking with the Zero,” a workshop with Filippo Trentin and Zairong Xiang. Response by Greta La Fleur. ICI Berlin. June 2019.
- “Soul-Making: Gayatri Spivak's ‘Three Women's Texts and a Critique of Imperialism’ and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*,” a conversation with Nikita Dhawan and Catherine Toal. Bard College Berlin. November 2018.
- “Toward a Theory of Inessential Form: Ruskin, Warburg, Focillon,” with Filippo Trentin.  
The University of Pennsylvania, Res-Vic Working Group. October 2019.  
Conjuncture, Inter-University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia. June 2018.
- “On the Use and Abuse of Schopenhauer for Feminist Theory.” La Salle University, Department of English. April 2018.
- “George Eliot and the Body Semiotic.” Villanova University, Department of English. April 2018.
- “On Not Belonging: Eliot's Anti-Social Affect.” Rutgers University, Nineteenth-Century Studies Group. November 2017.
- “Colorless Substances, Contentless Forms: Thomas Hardy and the Ends of the Novel.”  
Conjuncture, Inter-University Center, Dubrovnik, Croatia. June 2017.
- “The Frog in the Machine: Spontaneity and Character from Eliot to Stein.”  
The University of Pennsylvania, History and Sociology of Science. January 2018.  
Oregon State University, “Material Bodies” lecture series. May 2017.  
The University of Pennsylvania, Gen/Sex and Res-Vic Working Groups. 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.
- “Plasticity, Form, and the Matter of Character in *Middlemarch*.” The New School for Social Research, Department of Philosophy. May 2013.

**RECENT PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS** (\*Invited)
 

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- “George Eliot and the Body Semiotic.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, “Media, Genre, the Generic,” Columbus, Ohio. November 2019.\*
- “The Mechanistic and the Lively: The Science of Froggy Characters in Eliot, Lewes, and Stein.” The International Bi-Centenary George Eliot Conference, The University of Leicester. July 2019.
- “Germs, Gemmules, and Other Durational Forms: Hardy and the Color of Heredity.” The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Society Conference, “Measure and Excess,” Rome, Italy. June 2018.
- “Literary Life.” ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry, Berlin, Germany. July 2017.\*
- “Inessential Forms: Warburg and Focillon Through Ruskin,” with Filippo Trentin. North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Florence, Italy. May 2017.
- “Spontaneous Generations of Character between Realism to Modernism.” The University of Pennsylvania, “Translation Beyond the Human” Symposium. February 2017.\*
- Response to Alicia Christoff, William Cohen, and Grace 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 Institute for Cultural Inquiry. 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.
- “Impassioned Objectivity: Nietzsche, Hardy and the Science of Fiction.” Roundtable on Nietzsche’s “On the Use and Abuse of History for Life,” V21 Symposium. The University of Chicago, October 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.
- “Queer Resistance.” Response to Heather Love at the conference “Weak Resistance,” ICI Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry. May 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.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **The University of Pennsylvania, Departments of English and Comparative Literature**

- “What is a Subject?” Graduate Seminar, Spring 2020
- “Literature and Science” Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Spring 2020
- “Introduction to Literary Theory,” Fall 2019
- “History, Literature, Theory,” Graduate Seminar, Fall 2019
- “Victorian Materialisms,” Graduate Seminar, Spring 2018
- “Nineteenth-Century British Literature,” Spring 2018
- “English Honors Thesis Workshop,” Fall 2017
- “George Eliot and the Science of Description,” Graduate Seminar, Spring 2017
- “Queer Attachments,” Spring 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 & EVENT ORGANIZATION**

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Convener, MA Exam, Department of Comparative Literature, The University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2020.

Committee Member, Graduate Executive Committee, Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2019-2020.

Peer reviewer, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, 2018-present.

Peer reviewer, *Victorian Studies*, 2017-present.

Peer reviewer, The American Academy of Berlin, 2018-2019.

Committee Member, Department Chair Selection Committee, Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2018.

Committee Member, Executive Committee, Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2017-2018.

Dissertation Prospectus Workshop Co-director (with Paul Saint-Amour), Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2018.

Committee Member, Undergraduate Executive Committee, Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2016-17.

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 Institute for Cultural Inquiry, 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 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 code to program the world’s largest multi-tile digital 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 scholars in literature, history, physics, chemistry, biology, and computer science) committed to exploring the productive intersections of art and science in the shared project of understanding life.

## **SUPERVISIONS & COMMITTEE WORK**

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### **Dissertation Committees**

- Kerry McAuliffe (Chair), "Imponderable Matter: Environmental Media in Britain, 1831-1926," The University of Pennsylvania, (in progress).
- Scott Thompson, "The Logic of Feeling: Physio-Philosophy and Sensation Fiction," Temple University, (in progress).
- Pritika Pradhan, "'Not Simple Truth, but Complex Beauty': Details in Victorian Literature and Fine Arts," Rutgers University, 2019.
- Ana Klimchynskaya, "Victorian Speculative Fiction: Agency, Time, and Utopia," The University of Pennsylvania, 2019.
- Katherine McAlvage, "Romanticism's Moving Bodies: The Material Stakes of Literary Embodiment and Affect," The University of Oregon, 2017.

### **Exam Committees**

- English Fields Exam, Matilda Hemming, The University of Pennsylvania, 2020.
- Comparative Literature Fields Exam, Hannah Leclair, The University of Pennsylvania, 2020.
- Comparative Literature MA Exam, Anju Parvathy Biju, The University of Pennsylvania, 2020.
- Comparative Literature MA Exam, Akhil P. Veetil, The University of Pennsylvania, 2020.
- English 50-Book Exam, Matilda Hemming, The University of Pennsylvania, 2019.
- English 50-Book Exam, Estevan Aleman, The University of Pennsylvania, 2019.
- English Fields Exam (Chair), Kerry McAuliffe, The University of Pennsylvania, 2018.
- English Fields Exam, Scott Thompson, Temple University, 2018.
- English 50-Book Exam, Melanie Abeygunawardana, The University of Pennsylvania, 2017.
- English 50-Book Exam, Kerry McAuliffe, The University of Pennsylvania, 2017.

### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis**

- Charlotte Bausch, "Telegraphic Sensations," Department of English, The University of Pennsylvania, 2020.



**LANGUAGES**

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German (fluent)  
Swedish (advanced)  
French (advanced)  
Italian (intermediate)

**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, Director of The Pauline Jewett Institute for Women's and Gender Studies,  
Carleton University (anncvetkovich@cunet.carleton.ca)  
Heather K Love, Associate Professor of English, The University of Pennsylvania  
(loveh@english.upenn.edu)  
Samuel Baker, Associate Professor of English, UT Austin (sebaker@austin.utexas.edu)  
Tracie Matysik, Associate Professor of History, UT Austin (matysik@austin.utexas.edu)