

ROBERT D. AGUIRRE  
PROFESSOR AND DEAN  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS  
JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY

I. EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Harvard University, English and American Literature and Language, 1990.
- M.A. Harvard University, English and American Literature and Language, 1985.
- B.A. University of California, Santa Barbara, English, 1983.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

**DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS**, James Madison University (2018-). JMU is a public, student-centered R2 university of 22,000 students that embraces the teacher-scholar model for its faculty. It is a national leader in community and civic engagement and was recently ranked #1 in a survey asking students if they would recommend their university to others. Arts and Letters, the liberal arts core of JMU, offers high-quality programs across the humanities, social sciences, communication, and media. The college employs 273 full-time faculty and 40 full-time staff, enrolls about 3400 majors across the humanities, social sciences, and communication fields, and produces 30% of all undergraduate degrees. Within the College are several centers and institutes: Civic Engagement; Black and Diaspora Studies; Humanities; Furious Flower Black Poetry; Youth Justice; Gandhi; Contemporary Dialogue. Reporting to the dean are ten academic unit heads, four associate deans, directors of the centers and institutes, and the head of the NPR affiliate, WMRA.

**ASSOCIATE DEAN, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES**, Wayne State University (2012-18). Wayne State is a Carnegie Foundation R1 research university in Detroit, with over \$245 million in annual research expenditures and one of the most racially diverse student populations for research intensive universities in the nation. The university combines highest category research with a broad access mission to the city of Detroit, Southeast Michigan, and the region. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences employs over 450 tenure-track faculty across the life and physical sciences, social sciences, and the humanities, and several interdisciplinary research centers and programs. It enrolls 9,000 graduate and undergraduate students in nineteen departments and several inter-departmental programs. The annual budget is about \$80 million, including \$20 million in external funding.

**ASSOCIATE CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**, Wayne State University (2008-12). WSU's largest humanities department, English employs 44 full-time faculty members across literature, creative writing, film, composition, and linguistics. There are approximately 250 undergraduate majors and 90 M.A. and Ph.D. students. As associate chair, I assisted the department chair in budget, policy, and promoting shared governance. I chaired the undergraduate committee, coordinated scheduling, supervised part-time faculty, and oversaw scholarships and awards.

III. PROFESSORIAL APPOINTMENTS

- Professor of English, James Madison University (2018-)
- Professor of English, Wayne State University (2017-18)
- Associate Professor of English, Wayne State University (2004-17)
- Visiting Associate Professor of English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2005-06)

Assistant Professor of English, Wayne State University (1997-2004)  
 Assistant Professor of English, UCLA (1990-97)

#### IV. HONORS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

##### **External**

Huntington Library Short Term Fellowship (2014)  
 Year-long Mellon Senior Fellowship, University of Michigan, Clements Library (AY 2005-06)  
 Year-long Mellon Research Fellowship, Brown University (AY 1999-2000)  
 Phi Beta Kappa (1983)

##### **Internal**

Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award, Wayne State University (2018)  
 Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship, Wayne State University (2016-17 and 2012-13)  
 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Award, Wayne State University (2011)  
 Career Development Award, Wayne State University (2007-08)  
 University Research Grant, Wayne State University (2003 and 1998)  
 Minority Faculty Research Grant, Wayne State University (1998)  
 UC Regents Scholarship (1981-83; earned as community college transfer student)

#### V. RESEARCH

Nineteenth-century British and American literature and culture; Latin American literature and culture; mobilities; media history.

#### VI. PUBLICATIONS

##### **A. Books (peer-reviewed)**

*Mobility and Modernity: Panama in the Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Imagination* (Ohio State University Press, 2017).

[Reviewed in: *The Americas* (2019); *Nineteenth-Century Literature* (2019); *Journal of British Studies* (2018); *Victorian Studies* (2019); *American Literary History* (2019)].

*Informal Empire: Mexico and Central America in Victorian Culture* (University of Minnesota Press, 2005).

[Reviewed in: *Hispanic American Historical Review* (2006); *Dissidences: Hispanic Journal of Theory and Criticism* (2006); *Americas* (2006); *Colorado Review of Hispanic Studies* (2006); *American Literature* (2006); *Studies in English Literature* (2006); *Journal of Trans-Atlantic Studies* (2006); *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History* (2006); *Victorian Studies* (2006); *Journal of British Studies* (2006); *Review of English Studies* (2006); *Material Culture* (2006); *Clio* (2006); *Victorian Literature and Culture* (2015; review of prominent work in the field)].

[Chapter 4 translated in *Yaxkin* 35.1 (2009): 217-270, journal of the Instituto Hondureño de Antropología e Historia, Tegucigalpa, Honduras.]

## B. Peer Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

“Wide Angle: Muybridge, the Americas, and Trans-indigenous Representation,” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 49.1 (2021):1-18.

“Imperial Logistics: Trollope and the Question of Central America,” in *New Essays on Anthony Trollope*, ed. Frederick Van Dam, *et al.* (Oxford University Press, 2018), 288-300.

“Victorian Literature and Latin America,” in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Victorian Literatures*, ed. Dino Franco Felluga *et al.* (2015) Blackwell Reference Online. 25 September 2015.

“‘Affairs of State’: Mobilities, Communication, and Race in Trollope’s *The West Indies and the Spanish Main*,” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 37.1 (2015): 1-20.

“The Work of Archaeology: The Maudslays in Late Nineteenth-century Guatemala,” in *Entangled Knowledges: Scientific Discourses and Cultural Difference*, ed. Klaus Hock and Gesa Mackenthun (Münster: Waxmann, 2012), 229-246.

“Mexico, Independence, and Trans-Atlantic Exchange, 1822-24,” in *BRANCH: Britain, Representation and Nineteenth-Century History*, ed. Dino Franco Felluga, extension of *Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net*. Web. [accessed 9/20/2012].

“William Bullock (1780–1844): British Museum Curator and Showman in Mexico,” in *The Human Tradition in the Atlantic World, 1500-1850*, ed. Karen Racine and Beatriz G. Mamigonian (Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2010): 223-35.

“Behind the Gallery Doors,” *Publications of the Modern Language Association*, 125.1 (2010): 129-133.

“Frederick Catherwood,” *Dictionary of National Biography*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009).

“On Exhibit: Mexico in 1824,” in *Remapping the Humanities*, ed. Heidi Gottfried *et al.* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2008), 161-72.

“Agencies of the Letter: The British Museum, the Foreign Office, and the Ruins of Central America,” *Victorian Studies* 46.2 (2004): 285-96.

“Exhibiting Degeneracy: The Aztec Children and the Ruins of Race,” *Victorian Review* 29.2 (2003): 40-63.

“Annihilating the Distance: Panoramas and the Conquest of Mexico, 1822-1848,” *Genre: Forms of Discourse* 35.1 (2002): 25-54.

“Cold Print: Professing Authorship in Trollope’s *An Autobiography*,” *Biography: An Interdisciplinary Quarterly* 25.4 (2002): 569-593.

### C. Book Chapters and Short Academic Pieces

“Plutarch’s *Lives*,” in *Classical Literature and Its Times*, ed. Joyce Moss (Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2006), 301-12.

“Andrea Camilleri’s *Excursion to Tindari*,” in *World Literature and Its Times 7: Italian Literature and Its Times*, ed. Joyce Moss (Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2005), 151-159.

“Richard Francis Burton and Henry Morton Stanley,” in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of British Literature*,” ed. David Scott Kastan, *et al.*, 5 vols. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005).

“Anthropology and Ethnology,” in *The Encyclopedia of the Victorian Era*, ed. James Eli Adams *et al.*, 4 vols. (Danbury, CT: Grolier Academic Press, 2004).

“Victor Martinez’s *Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida*,” in *Literature and its Times: Supplement*, ed. Joyce Moss, 2 vols. (Farmington Hills: Gale, 2002), 2:367-77.

“Richard Rodriguez’s *Days of Obligation: An Argument with my Mexican Father*,” in *Latin American Literature and its Times*, ed. Joyce Moss (Farmington Hills: Gale, 1999), 85-94.

### D. Reviews (selected)

Rev. of Christina Bueno, *The Pursuit of Ruins: Archaeology, History, and the Making of Modern Mexico*. *Latin American Antiquity* (2017): 1.2.

Rev. of Lauren M.E. Goodlad, *The Victorian Geopolitical Aesthetic*. *Victorian Studies* (2016): 59.1.

Rev. of Nadja Durbach, *Spectacles of Deformity: Freak Shows and Modern British Culture*. *American Historical Review* (2016): 115.5.

Rev. of Patrick Brantlinger, *Victorian Literature and Postcolonial Studies*. *Victorian Studies* (2010): 52.3.

Rev. of Kurt Koneigsberger, *The Novel and the Menagerie*. *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (2008): 41.2/3.

Rev. of Margarita Díaz-Andreu, *A World History of Nineteenth-Century Archaeology*. *Victorian Studies* (2008): 51.1.

Rev. of Ian Graham, *Alfred Maudslay and the Maya: A Biography*. *Victorian Studies* (2005): 47.1.

Rev. of Nancy Stepan, *Picturing Tropical Nature*. *Victorian Studies* (2003): 45.4.

Rev. of Felix Driver, *Geography Militant: Cultures of Exploration and Empire* and D. Graham Burnett, *Masters of All They Surveyed: Exploration, Geography, and a British El Dorado*. *Victorian Studies* (2003): 45.2.

Rev. of Megan Perigoe Stitt, *Metaphors of Change in the Language of Nineteenth-Century Fiction: Scott, Gaskell, and Kingsley*. *The Yearbook of English Studies* (2001): 31.

Rev. of Sonia Hofkosh, *Sexual Politics and the Romantic Author*. *Modern Language Review* (2000): 95.3.

### **E. Current Research**

*Indigenous Mobilities: Nineteenth-century Photography and the Making of Western Americana* (book manuscript in progress)

### **F. Lectures, Addresses, and Presentations**

INVITED LECTURES OR SEMINARS:

Harvard University (2023); Rice University (2018, 2015, and 2012); Dickinson College (2017); UC Riverside (2017); University of Guelph (2016); Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China (2012 and 2013); Bishop's University, QC, Ogden Glass Lectures (2010); Rostock University, Rostock, Germany (2010); Harvard University (2006); Brown University (1999); University of New Mexico (1998).

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED):

"*Worlding the South: Nineteenth-Century Literary Culture and the Southern Settler Colonies*." Discussant. Society for Global Nineteenth-Century Studies. 2022

"Decolonizing the Victorians." Special Session, Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2019.

"Muybridge at the Colonial Limit," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Supernumerary Conference, Rome, Italy, 2018.

"Photography and Serialization," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2018

"Piranesi Among the Victorians: Ruins, the Sublime, and the Construction of Antiquity." North American Victorian Studies Association, Florence, Italy, 2017.

"Muybridge and Mobility," North American Victorian Studies Association, Phoenix, AZ, 2016.

"Trollope and the Spanish Main," Trollope International Bicentenary Conference, Leuven, Belgium, 2015.

"Keywords," Dickens International Conference, Santa Cruz, CA, 2015.

"Beyond Classification: Trollope, the Spanish Main, and Racial Thinking in the Americas," North American Victorian Studies Association, London, ON, 2014.

"Digging for and Through the Past—Archaeological Evidence in H.R. Haggard," North American Victorian Studies Association, Pasadena, CA, 2013.

"Science and Romantic Travel in America's Hemispheric Empire," American Studies Association, Baltimore, 2011.

- “Trans-Oceanic Shortcuts: The Panama Route in the Global Horizon.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Montreal, 2010.
- “Expanding the Victorian World,” North American Victorian Studies Association, New Haven, 2010.
- “Trans-Oceanic Shortcuts.” North American Victorian Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec, 2010.
- “Expanding the Terrain of Victorian Studies,” North American Victorian Studies Association Annual Meeting, Yale University, 2008.
- “Mapping the Lost World: Haggard and Maudslay on Central America,” North American Victorian Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, 2004.
- “Translating Humboldt: William Bullock’s 1824 Exhibition of Aztec Antiquities,” Bi-centennial conference on Alexander von Humboldt,” Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 2004.
- “Victorian Studies in an Inter-Disciplinary Context,” Nineteenth-century Forum, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2004.
- “Agencies of the Letter: The British Museum, the Foreign Office, and the Ruins of Central America,” *Congreso de las Americas* Annual Meeting, Puebla, Mexico, 2003.
- “Agencies of the Letter: The British Museum, the Foreign Office, And the Ruins of Central America,” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Inaugural Meeting, Bloomington, 2003.
- “Travel and Ethnological Curiosity,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, NYC, 2002.
- “Collecting Knowledge: Travel, the British Museum, and Ancient Mexico,” Inter-disciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference Washington, DC, 2002.
- “The Ethnographic Other,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2000.
- “Taking Copán: Maya Ruins in the Victorian Imaginary,” Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, 1999.
- “Cultural Exchange Between England and Mexico in the 1820s,” Latin American Congress of the Popular Culture Association, Puebla, Mexico, 1998.

## VIII. TEACHING

### A. Undergraduate courses (selected)

The Idea of California, JMU Honors College Seminar  
 Introduction to Literary Studies (gateway course for major)  
 Survey of English Literature from 1700 (required major course)  
 Victorian Literature  
 Theorizing Museums  
 Latino/a Literature

### B. Graduate seminars

Race and Victorian Literature  
 New World Encounters

Trans-Atlantic Literary Studies  
 Hemispheric American Studies  
 Victorian Travelers

### C. International Teaching Experience

Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, China. Taught 2-week graduate and faculty seminars on British and post-colonial literature in 2012 and 2013.

### D. Doctoral Supervision

Kemael Johnson (Wayne State University, 2018): *Ambivalent Narratives: John Thelwall, Mary Prince, and John Clare*. Committee member.

Masahiko Seki (WSU, 2016): *Time in American High Modernism: Reading Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Faulkner*. Committee member.

Jessie Reeder, (University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2014): *The Forms of Informal Empire: Narrating British and Latin American Relations, 1810-1900*. Associate Professor, SUNY Binghamton. External reader.

Shashi Thandra (WSU, 2014): *Annihilation and Accumulation: Postcolonial Literatures on Genocide and Capital*. Placement: Financial Analyst, Wells Fargo Bank. Director.

Michael Schmidt (WSU, 2013): *The Materialism of the Encounter: Queer Sociality and Capital in Modern Literature*. Committee member.

Denise Yezbick (WSU, 2012): *Faith and (Un)certainly in the Writing of Hawthorne, Dickinson, and Stowe*. Committee member.

Justin Prystash (WSU, 2010): *Time's Menagerie: Evolutions in Victorian Sex and Subjectivity*. Initial placement: Assistant Professor, Ming Chuan University, Taiwan. Presently Associate Professor at National Taiwan Normal University. Director.

Anne Nichols (WSU, 2010): *Woman's Sphere in the Law of God: Biblical Women and Domesticity in the Writings of Felicia Hemans, Grace Aguilar, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton*. Committee member.

Tamara Emerson (WSU, 2008): *Relating Transcendentally: New England Transcendentalism, U.S. Evangelicalism, and the Antebellum Orientalization of China*. Committee member.

Roxanne Eberle (UCLA, 1994): *Redeemed through Narrative: Representing the Sexualized Heroine in Nineteenth-century British Literature by Women*. Published as *Chastity and Transgression in Women's Writing, 1792-1897: Interrupting the Harlot's Progress* (London: Palgrave, 2002). Committee member.

Rob Sproul (UCLA, 1996): *Modus Operandi: Carnival Poetics in W.S. Gilbert's Savoy Operas*. Committee member.

### E. Master's Supervision

Shashi Rao Thandra, "The *Midnight's Children* of Bangladesh" (M.A., 2012), director.

Virginia DuBarry Owens, "Constructions of Authority: Editing, Richard Hakluyt, and the Hakluyt Society" (M.A., 2012), director.

Nicole Heggelund, "Journeys Inward: American Road Travel Narratives and American Identity" (M.A., 2008), director.

Justin Prystash, "Two-Timers: Carlyle, Dickens, and the Effects of Temporal Dualism" (M.A., 2007), director.

Nancy Slifka, "The Ties that Bind: Adoption and its Effects on Social Status in Jane Austen's Novels" (M.A., 2007), co-director.

Victoria Abboud, "An Eruption of Faith: Lyell's *Principles of Geology* and Victorian Religious Culture" (M.A., 2003), director.

Mike Hill, "Pagan Babies" (M.A., 2003), co-director.

Kerri Schlottman, "She/Persona: Woman Writing a Reading of Woman Writing" (M.A., 2003), co-director.

### F. Undergraduate Thesis Supervision

Lauren Saad, "Hemingway, Masculinity, and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome" (2011).

Frank Bach, "Understanding Auschwitz and William Styron's *Sophie's Choice*" (2004).

Richard Humbach, "The Abusive Kingdom: Incest and Patriarchy in *A Thousand Acres* and *King Lear*" (2004).

Logan Jacobson-Weiss, "Mary Jane Rochester: An Exploration of *Jane Eyre*" (2003).

## IX. DEPARTMENTAL, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

### James Madison University

#### UNIVERSITY

Member, University Enrollment Management Team (2021-)

Member, Provost's working group on national university status (2020-2022)

Member, Council of Deans and Academic Council (2018-)

Member, University Data Resource Working Group (2021-)

Member, Madison Hispanic Caucus (2018-)

Co-chair, Academic Affairs Strategic Planning Committee (2019-21)

Search chair, Dean of the Graduate School (2020-21)

Dean's representative, Compensation Advisory Council (2019-22)



Member, Provost's working group on transfer student success (2019-20)  
 Member, Provost's working group on JMU value proposition (2020)

## **Wayne State University**

### UNIVERSITY

University Council of Undergraduate Administrators (2012-18)  
 University Assessment Council (2014-18)  
 University Strategic Graduation Action Committee (2012-18)  
 Search Committee, Director of Financial Aid (2016)  
 Faculty Advisory Board, Humanities Center (2012-14)  
 University Advising Steering Committee (2012-15)  
 University Diversity and Retention Steering Committee (2014-15)  
 Center for Citizenship Advisory Board (2007-12)

### COLLEGE

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Faculty Council (2012-18); *ex officio*  
 CLAS Advising Committee; *ex officio* (2012-18)  
 Chair, CLAS Academic Staff Tenure and Promotion Committee (2012-18)  
 Chair, Selection Committee, CLAS Teaching Award (2012-18)  
 CLAS Strategic Planning Committee (2015-16)  
 CLAS Chair Training and Development Committee (2015-16)  
 Chair, College Review Committee for Africana Studies (2010-11)  
 Faculty Council; elected member (2006-09)

### DEPARTMENT

Associate Chair, English Department (2008-12)  
 Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee (2008-12)  
 Appointments Committee (2006-07; 2009-10)  
 Tenure and Promotion Committee, English Department (2008-09)  
 Policy Committee, English Department (1997-99; 2008-12)  
 Salary Committee (2004-05, 2006-07, 2008-09)  
 Director, English Department Honors Program (2000-07)  
 Founding member, Technology Committee (1998-99)  
 Graduate Committee (1998-99)

## X. PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### **Tenure, promotion, and program review**

College of Wooster; Denison College; University of Western Ontario

### **Editorial**

Editorial Board, *Global Nineteenth-Century Studies* (2021-)  
 Associate Editor, *Criticism* (2017-18)  
 Advisory Board, *Criticism* (2007-17)

### **Manuscript and fellowship proposal referee**

NSF Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Anthropology and Museum Studies

NEH Fellowships for College Teachers  
 Cambridge University Press  
 Oxford University Press  
 University of Minnesota Press  
 NYU Press  
 Ohio State University Press  
 Longman Press  
*PMLA*  
*Victorian Studies*  
*Journal of Transnational American Studies*  
*Nineteenth-Century Contexts*  
*Nineteenth-Century Studies*  
*Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*  
*Victorian Review*

#### XI. EXTERNAL BOARD SERVICE

Library Board of Virginia, 5-year gubernatorial appointment (2019-). Elected Vice-Chair in 2022.

#### XII. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

AACU Conference Presenter: “Cohort Hiring: Problems and Possibilities” (2022)  
 University of Michigan Center for Social Solutions Academic Leadership Institute (2021)  
 ACE Seminar on Latino/a Student Success (2021)  
 AACU Dean’s Seminar (2020)  
 AACU Conference on General Education (2019)  
 CASE Seminar on Development (2019)  
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Deans’ Seminar (2018)  
 Title IX Training for Administrators, James Madison University (2018)  
 CASE Council on Advancement, Development for Deans (2017)  
 John N. Gardiner Gateway Course Conference and Leadership Seminar (2017-18)  
 Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Deans’ Seminar (2016)  
 CASE Council on Advancement, Conference on Major Gifts (2014)  
 National Association of Academic Advising (NACADA) Technology Seminar (2013)  
 NACADA National Advising Meeting (2012)