

Michelle M. Taylor
134 Cohen Memorial Hall
Vanderbilt University
michelle.m.taylor@vanderbilt.edu
(419) 357-0175

Academic Appointments

Vanderbilt University, 2018-Present
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Digital Cultural Heritage Research Cluster

Education

University of Iowa, Doctor of Philosophy in English May 2018
Specializations: 19th c. British literature; animal studies; bibliography/textual studies; book history; digital humanities
University of Iowa Center for the Book graduate certificate
Dissertation: *From Sentiment to Sagacity to Subjectivity: Dogs and Genre in Nineteenth-Century British Literature* (Director: Teresa Mangum)

University of Virginia, Masters of Arts in English May 2011
Specialization: Victorian literature
MA thesis: "'Even a Dog Feels a Difference': Dogs and Sympathy in Eliot and Dickens"

Miami University, Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, with Honors in English May 2009
Majors: English Literature & Creative Writing
Other specialization: Spanish

Book Project

Mongrel Genres—Victorians, Dogs, and Literature

By the late Victorian period, dogs had become familiar figures—even characters—in novels, poetry, and plays. But why? And from the point of literary form, how? In my book project I focus on dogs, in particular, and their status in three genres/genres clusters: epitaphs and elegies; detective and sensation fiction; and dog autobiographies. In all three cases, canine characters push these genres to their limits, forcing authors to re-evaluate and adapt their genres' anthropocentric conventions to become more suitable for animal subjects. Along the way, the texts I examine reveal key shifts in thought about dogs' mental and emotional capabilities, all of which are tied to the genres in which they appear. Ultimately, I demonstrate how the dog literature of the nineteenth century has influenced present-day literature about animals.

Articles

"The Curious Case of 'Epitaph to a Dog': Byron and *The Scourge*" (*The Byron Journal* 43:1 [June 2015], 43-56)

"'Giving Tongue' to Canine Trauma in Nineteenth-Century Dog Autobiographies," under review

Awards & Honors

University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government Travel Award, 2015

University of Iowa English Department Malone Dissertation Fellowship, 2015
Midwestern Victorian Studies Association (MVSA) William and Mary Burgan Prize for the
Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student, April 2013
Phi Beta Kappa, 2010

Conference Presentations

“Queen Victoria, Lord Melbourne, and the Romance Plot.” Victorians Institute Conference. Asheville, NC, November 2018.

“Hydrophobia, Heroism, and Hermits: Dogs and Class in the Periodical Press.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference. London, Ontario, Canada, November 2014.

“The Curious Case of ‘Epitaph to a Dog’: Byron and *The Scourge*.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference. Bethesda, Maryland, July 2014.

“Vivisection and Victorian Fiction.” Midwestern Victorian Studies Association Conference. Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 2014.

“God Spelled Backwards: Dog as Divinity in Michael Field’s *Whym Chow: Flame Of Love*.” Midwestern Victorian Studies Association Conference. Cleveland, OH, April 2013.

“The Limits of Man’s Best Friend: Autobiographies of Sporting and Show Dogs.” International Nineteenth Century Studies (INCS) Conference, Charlottesville, VA, March 2013.

“Byron’s ‘Attachment to Quadrupeds’: The Satirical Implications of ‘Epitaph to a Dog.’” International Byron Student Conference. Messolonghi, Greece, June 2011.

“Hardy’s Wessex, Then and Now: The Evolution of Hermann Lea’s Guidebooks.” Hardy at Yale II Conference. New Haven, CT, June 2011.

“Hardy’s Wessex, Then and Now: The Evolution of Hermann Lea’s Guidebooks.” Midwestern Victorian Studies Association Conference. Topeka, KS: April 2011.

“Death and Dogs in Dickens.” International Nineteenth Century Studies (INCS) Conference. Claremont, CA, March-April 2011.

“Hagiographical Horror: M. R. James’s ‘A Warning to the Curious.’” University of Virginia English Graduate Student Association Conference. Charlottesville, VA, April 2010.

Teaching, Tutoring, & Advising

2018-19 Certificate for College Teaching, Vanderbilt University

2015-17 Instructor of First-Year Writing at the University of Virginia

2012-2013 Rhetoric instructor at the University of Iowa,

2011-2012 Teaching assistant for Introduction to the English Major course at the University of Iowa

2011-2012 Staff advisor for the Office of Undergraduate Advising in English at the University of Iowa

2010-2011 Tutor for the University of Virginia English Department Writing Center

2010 Assistant academic director and writing instructor for 4 Star Camps at the University of Virginia

Fall 2008 Undergraduate teaching assistant for Professor Laura Mandell’s course on The Later Romantics at Miami University

Digital Humanities Experience

2018-2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Digital Cultural Heritage, Vanderbilt University
Spring 2015 Intermediate XSLT course, Texas A&M Programming for Humanists (online)
March 2014-July 2011 Primary Resource Specialist, Encyclopedia Virginia, Virginia Humanities, www.encyclopediavirginia.org
November 2013 Women Writers Program Seminar, "Taking TEI Further: Transforming and Publishing TEI Data," Brown University
2013 Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), Text Encoding Fundamentals course
2013-2016 Research assistant for the William Morris Online Edition, <http://morrisedition.lib.uiowa.edu/>
Spring 2012 THATCamp (Technology and the Humanities Camp) "unconference," University of Iowa
Spring 2010 Research assistant for Professor Herbert Tucker; "For Better for Verse" online project, <http://prosody.lib.virginia.edu/>

Service & Professional Development

2013 The Dickens Universe (graduate student writing workshop participant)
Fall 2012 Professional Development Program, University of Iowa Rhetoric Department
2009-2011 Virginia Bibliographers Society, founding member and Events Director
2009-2011 University of Virginia English Graduate Student Association (GESA) Conference Planning Committee
2010 Program assistant for Victorians Institute Conference
Fall 2009 Research assistant for Professor Karen Chase

