

Chris Hedlin

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, August 2018
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Fields: American Literature, Secular Theory, Religion and Literature

M.A., English, May 2013
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

B.A., English and Spanish with Honors, May 2011
Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

APPOINTMENTS

American Council of Learned Societies, Leading Edge Fellow
Serving as a public humanities fellow at PublicSource, a nonprofit digital news organization
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, 2021 – present (work is remote)

Lecturer in English and Writing
Azusa Pacific University, California, 2020 – present

Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer in the Humanities, 2018 – 2020
Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana

FELLOWSHIPS

Lilly Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Humanities and the Arts, Valparaiso University, 2018 – 2020.
Graduate College Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2017 – 2018.
Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2016 – 2017.
English Department Graduate Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2016 – 2017.
English Department Graduate Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2015 – 2016.
Network for Neuro-Cultures Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2012 – 2014.
Nina Baym Graduate Fellowship, University of Illinois, 2011 – 2012.

PUBLICATIONS

“Ethiopianist Fiction and the Politics of Theological Hope.” *Past the Horizon: Intersections of Political Theology and Speculative Fiction*, a special issue of *Political Theology*. Published online January 18, 2021. Issue forthcoming.

“Was There Not Reason to Doubt?: *Wieland* and Its Secular Age.” *Journal of American Studies*. 48.3 (2014): 736–56.

WORKS IN PROGRESS (SELECTED)

“*The Minister’s Wooing, Elsie Venner, and the Evolution of American Protestantism.*” (*revise and resubmit status at J19: The Journal for Nineteenth-Century Americanists*).

“Religion.” Co-written with Toni Wall Jaudon for the forthcoming collection, *American Literature in Transition, Volume II, 1820–1860* (Cambridge UP), edited by Justine S. Murison.

“Novel Faiths: How Postbellum Fiction Changed American Protestantism.” (*book-length project*)

This book offers a new literary-religious history of the late-nineteenth-century United States. I argue that, in the aftermath of events like the Civil War or the rise of Darwinian evolution, white and Black Protestant novels rebranded faith as a matter of collective social and political action—a turn that still shapes Protestantism’s role in the US public sphere. Both Black and white Protestant novels urged their readers to see themselves as especially fit to redeem a broken social order. Whereas white Protestant novels fortified white readers’ social privileges, however, reinforcing their sense they should control what is right, moral, or true in society, Black Protestant novels inverted the script and offered their religious readers grounds for redefining society’s center and margins.

TEACHING

AZUSA PACIFIC UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Literature, Fall 2020

Writing 1: The Art and Craft of Writing, Fall 2020

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

Traditions of Giving and Serving, supported by the Learning by Giving foundation, Spring 2020

Writing in the Environmental Humanities (Writing Intensive Course), Spring 2020

Realism and the American Short Story, Fall 2019

The Novel, Spring 2019

The Turn of the Screw (Writing Intensive Course), Spring 2019

Texts and Contexts I (Great Books from Plato to Shakespeare), Fall 2018, Fall 2019

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Rhetoric: Writing and Research, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2017.

American Romanticism, interim instructor, Spring 2017.

Rhetoric Proseminar, orientation leader and weekly mentor, Fall 2015.

TEACHING AREAS

American literature, the novel, the short story, genre theory, academic writing and research, composition, rhetoric, African American literature, MELUS, mind-science and literature, the environmental humanities, the neuronovel, religion and secularity, philosophical traditions

HONORS AND AWARDS

UIUC Nominee, American Council of Learned Societies’ Emerging Voices Fellowship, Summer 2020.

Nominee, Valparaiso University Distinguished Teaching Award. Nominated by students, Spring 2020.

English Department, Peer Dissertation Award, University of Illinois, for best dissertation in the department in 2018. Awarded Spring 2020.

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students, University of Illinois. Award received every term eligible—Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2017.

English Department Essay Contest Prize, University of Illinois, for “Novelizing Ethiopianism: Visions of a Nonsecular African American Modernity,” 2016 – 2017.

IPRH Prize for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, for “Ethiopianism and the Turn-of-the-Century African American Novel,” 2016 – 2017.

English Department Excellence Funds Travel Grant, University of Illinois, Fall 2015.

IPRH Prize for Research in the Humanities, University of Illinois, Honorable Mention for “Was There Not Reason to Doubt?: *Wieland* and Its Secular Age,” 2013 – 2014.

Bright Idea Award, Illinois Reading Council Conference, for “Kinetic Poetics,” a poetry curriculum grounded in theories of embodied cognition. Springfield, IL, March 2011.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Spiritual Materialism of Elizabeth Stuart Phelps,” American Academy of Religion, San Diego, CA, November 2019.

“Ruth G., ‘Our Future,’ *The Christian Recorder*, December 1865,” Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, November 2019.

“Sexual Violence as Sideplot?: Reading Protestant Narratives in *Of One Blood*,” “The Prodigal Love of God: Reencountering Dordt at 400 and Beyond,” Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA, April 2019.

“Read and Unite!: In His Steps and the Politically Galvanizing Power of Religious Fiction,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL, January 2019.

“Empirical Faiths, Religious Fictions: A Study in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Secularity,” American Academy of Religion, Denver, CO, November 2018.

“Scientific Racism and Religion in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s *The Minister’s Wooing*,” American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2018.

“Revolutionizing the Nation: *In His Steps*’s Lessons for Literary History,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2017.

“Evolving Determinisms: Holmes’s *Elsie Venner* and the Eruption of War,” Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, OH, November 2017.

“Spiritualist Cosmologies, Transgressive Histories,” C19: The Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists, “Untimely Erotics” seminar, State College, PA, March 2016.

“Reading between Genres in Phelps’s *Beyond the Gates* and *The Gates Between*,” Society for the Study of American Women Writers, Philadelphia, PA, November 2015.

“Resurrecting the Body in Postbellum Consolation Literature,” American Literature Association, Washington, D.C., May 2014.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Faculty Adviser, Fulbright U.S. Student Program, Valparaiso University, Fall 2019.

Chair, “Material Cultures of the Civil War” Panel, Civil War Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association, Kansas City, MO, November 2018.

Organizer, “American Religious-Scientific Literature” Panel, American Literature Association, San Francisco, CA, May 2018.

Guest contributor to *Reading Matters*, blog from the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, January 2016. <https://iprh.wordpress.com/2016/01/19/special-books-by-christine-hedlin/>

Program Assistant, University of California Los Angeles International Study Program, “Shakespeare in Stratford and London,” Summer 2015.

Communications Coordinator, American Literatures/American Religions Conference, University of Illinois, Fall 2012.

Research Intern, Library of Congress, Washington D.C., July 2010.

Research guide available: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/SciRefGuides/latinos.html>

Manuscript Editor, Professor Jason Mahn, Augustana College, Spring 2010.

Mahn, Jason. *Fortunate Fallibility: Kierkegaard and the Power of Sin*. New York: Oxford UP, 2011.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Books and Coffee Committee, Valparaiso, selecting books for public book reviews, 2018–2020.

Academic Advisory Committee, UIUC, elected representative, 2015 – 2016.

Graduate Admissions Committee, UIUC, elected representative, Spring 2015.

Undergraduate Rhetoric Conference, UIUC, mentor and judge, Fall 2015.

Beckman Community Science Fair, UIUC, Network for Neuro-Cultures representative, March 2013.

American Literary-Religious History Reading Group, UIUC, coordinator, 2012–2014.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY LECTURES

“The Secular, the Spiritual, the Religious—A Look from US Literary History,” Valparaiso University English Department Colloquium, February 2020.

“A Review of Margaret Atwood’s *The Testaments*,” Valparaiso University English Department’s public-facing “Books and Coffee” series, January 2020.

“Called from the Wilderness,” in the Valparaiso faculty series, “Journeys of Faith: Wilderness, Hope, & Promise,” September 2019.

“Talking with Ghosts in the 19th Century,” Christ College Fireside Symposium series, February 2019.

“What is an English major for?” Augustana College English Department, August 2016.

TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS

“C.A.N. I. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training,” Office of Multicultural Programming, Valparaiso University, June 2020.

“Difficult Dialogues in the Classroom,” facilitated by Libby Roderick, author of *Stop Talking: Indigenous Ways of Teaching and Learning and Difficult Dialogues in Higher Education*, August 2018.

“Kognito At-Risk Suicide Prevention Training,” UIUC Counseling Center, December 2014.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Midwest Modern Language Association
American Academy of Religion
C19: Society for Nineteenth-Century Americanists
Society for the Study of American Women Writers
Modern Language Association
Phi Beta Kappa

REFERENCES

JUSTINE MURISON, Associate Professor of English
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
608 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801
Phone: 215.880.0064
Email: jmurison@illinois.edu

SUSAN VANZANTEN, Dean of Christ College
Valparaiso University, Mueller Hall
1300 Chapel Dr.
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: 219.464.5022
Email: susan.vanzanten@valpo.edu