

# Curriculum Vitae

## **Kristen Sipper**

Assistant Professor, Children's Literature  
Department of English  
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## **EDUCATION**

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### **PhD (2001 – 2008): University of Nottingham**

'Children's Didactic Tract Novels of the Late Nineteenth Century'

### **MA (2000 – 2001): University of Nottingham**

English Studies with an emphasis on Victorian novels, poetry, and theatre.

### **BA (1997 – 2000): Cal Poly, Pomona**

English with an emphasis on education

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**2010-**

**present**

### **Azusa Pacific**

I currently work as an assistant professor of children's literature at APU. My typical course load comprises two sections of general education and two of children's literature, one per year of which is through the Center for Adult and Professional Studies.

**2009**

### **Azusa Pacific University / Biola**

For both semesters of 2009, I worked as an adjunct faculty member at APU and Biola, where I have taught both Freshman Writing, Introduction to Literature, and children's lit. My Freshman Writing class focuses on finding effective ways to improve drafts, while my Intro to Literature classes employs a multi-faceted approach to literature meant to engage students from across varying disciplines.

**2002-2008:**

### **University of Nottingham, UK**

For the past six years, I have taught at the University of Nottingham in both the School of English and the School of History. In the School of English (2002-2007), I taught Reading Modern Literature, which is a year-long survey course of literature from Shakespeare to Modernism. The course covers both prose and poetry. For the School of History, I taught a nineteenth-century world history course, focusing on British cultural and social history.

**2001-2002:**

### **Loughborough University, UK**

I taught an Introduction to the Short Story course, which focused on Chekhov, Gordimer, and a range of American authors. I also taught an Introduction to Poetry course, which covered a range of poets, genres of poetry, and poetic techniques.

**1997-2000:**

### **Learning Resource Center at Cal Poly, Pomona**

In individual and small group sessions, I taught basic rhetoric and composition skills to non-native speakers of English and native speakers who were enrolled in sub-100-level courses.

## **SUMMARY OF RESEARCH**

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My current research interests relate to the 'waifs and strays' novels of the late nineteenth century. Specifically, I have been examining the socio-historical context that led to these novels becoming popular, and how a change in attitudes towards children and childhood resulted in these novels falling into obscurity. As part of this, I have also begun to look into marketing and editorial practices employed by religious publishers such as the Religious Tract Society in an attempt to make their books more desirable for children. My future research projects involve an examination of children's school books throughout the nineteenth century as a way of demonstrating changing pedagogical attitudes.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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'Literary Fads and Fashions: Conference Proceedings' in *Working With English*, Guest Editor. Autumn: 2006.

## **PROJECTS**

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In the Spring of 2009, I received a library fellowship from the de Grummond Collection at Southern Mississippi State University. My research explored the transatlantic adaptations of English waifs and strays novels, specifically London Religious Tract Society texts that were republished by the American Tract Society.

I organized a book history study day with the Book History Research Network in May 2008. The event was attended by academics from throughout the country, and was a successful forum for an interdisciplinary sharing of ideas.

In 2004, several post-graduate colleagues and I organized the Literary Fads and Fashions conference, for which we secured £3,000 of funding. The conference hosted delegates from the United States, Canada, Germany, Ireland, as well as several UK universities. The proceedings were published in 2006, edited by those of us who organized the conference.

## **RESEARCH TRIPS**

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My research has allowed me the opportunity to work in archives throughout the UK, including the Religious Tract Society's archive at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London, the Blackwood's archive at the University of Edinburgh, the Lutterworth Press in Cambridge, and the Parker Collection at the Birmingham Central Library. I also travelled to Southern Mississippi State University to work in the de Grummond Collection in Spring 2009. In addition, I continue to research at the Huntington and The Clara Webber Collection of Historic Children's Books at the Pomona Public Library.

## **RECENT CONFERENCE PAPERS**

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CCL: April 2011

'Textual Conditions and The Religious Tract Society'

CCL: March 2010

'Marketing Evangelical Children's Books in 19<sup>th</sup>-c. Britain'

Southwestern Popular Culture Association: February 2009

'Connecting with Audience: Verisimilitude in Victorian "Waifs and Strays" Novels'

Book History Research Network Study Day: May 2008

'Religious Tract Society's Marketing Practices of Children's Books'

Child and the Book: April 2006, Newcastle University

'The Development of the Child Hero in Children's Fiction'

Literary Fads and Fashions: November 2004

'Didactic Tract Novels of the Religious Tract Society'

Child and the Book: April 2004

'Estimating Child Literary at the End of the Nineteenth Century'