RUTGERS

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Murray Hall
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SEAN SILVER
Department of English
510 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Rutgers University, September 2018 – present
Associate Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, April 2015 – September 2018
Assistant Professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, July 2009 – April 2015
Lecturer, University of California, Los Angeles, September 2008 – July 2009

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles – Ph.D. in English Literature, August 2008
Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA – B.A. in Literature, May 1994

MONOGRAPHS AND EDITED COLLECTIONS

The Motley Emblem: Tristram Shandy and the Empire of Color. Manuscript in Progress. Visit www.motleyemblem.org.

The Mind Is a Collection: Case Studies in Eighteenth-Century Thought. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. *MIaC* is the exhibit catalogue of a born-digital museum of eighteenth-century cognitive models, The Mind Is a Collection. Visit at www.mindisacollection.org.

* Recipient of the Kenshur Prize (ASECS, 2016).
* Shortlisted for the BSLS Book Prize (2016).
* Reviewed by Christina Lupton for the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, Jess Keiser for *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Amy Haslanger for *The British Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies*, Paddy Bullard for *Review of English Studies*, Alex Dick for *Modern Language Review*, Marcus Tomalin for *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, Judith Pascoe for *The Journal of British Studies*, Thomas Manganaro for *Configurations*, Collin Jennings for *Eighteenth-Century Life*, Melina Moe for *Restoration*, Ala Alryes for *The Shandean*, Katy Barrett for *West 86th*, Collin Jennings for *ECF*, *Eighteenth-Century Commons*, and Karin Kukkonen for *The Scriblerian*. *MIaC* features in Jenny Davidson's 2016, and George Haggerty's 2017 reviews of scholarship for *Studies in English Literature*. The born-digital museum has been reviewed by Sarah Naramore for *Isis*.

Bruno Latour and the Eighteenth Century. Special issue of *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*. Co-edited with Tina Lupton. (2016).

Please recycle

ARTICLES

"Redness and Power." In progress.
"Realism's Rise: Ian Watt and Thomas Kuhn." Under review.
"Hooke's Cells and Haraway's Tangles: Cells and Tissues in the 'Network Turn.'" Under review at *Configurations*.
"*Emma* and Emergence: Empiricism and the Novel's 'Rise'." Accepted (with provisions) at *Modern Language Quarterly*.
"Sentiment Analysis and the Sentimental Novel: A Literary Approach to Computational Criticism." With Andrew Franta. Forthcoming at *Critical Inquiry* (2023).
"Fielding's Prepositions: Historiography and the Novel." *ELH* (2023).
"Hogarth's Networks and the 18th-century 'Graphic' Novel." *Novel* (2023).
"Gilbert Ryle's Jane Austen: Character, Concept, and Thick Description." *Studies in the Novel* (2022).
"The Emergence of Texture." *Journal of the History of Ideas* 81.2 (2020): 169-94.
"Making Weather: Communication Networks and the Great Storm of 1703." *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 30.4 (2018): 495-518.
"Contingency in Philosophy and History: 1650-1800." *Textual Practice* 32.3 (2018): 419-36.
"Hooke, Latour, and the History of Extended Cognition." *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 57.2 (2016): 197-215.
"John Evelyn & *Numismata*: Material History and Autobiography." *Word & Image* 31.3 (2015): 331-42.
"The Prehistory of Serendipity, from Bacon to Walpole." *Isis* 106.3 (2015).
"*Pale Fire* and Johnson's Cat: The Anecdote in Polite Conversation." *Criticism* 53.2 (2011): 243-66.
"*The Rape of the Lock* & the Origins of Game Theory." *Connotations* 19.1-3 (2010): 203-228.
"Visiting Strawberry Hill: Horace Walpole's Gothic Historiography." *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 21.4 (2009): 535-564.
"Locke's Pineapple and the History of Taste." *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 49.1 (2008): 43-65. Recipient of the James L. Clifford award (ASECS, 2009).
"The Temporality of Allegory: Melville's 'The Lightning-Rod Man.'" *The Arizona Quarterly* 62.1 (2006): 1-34.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND INVITED ESSAYS

"Fielding's Character Systems." Forthcoming wih Keymer and Power, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Henry Fielding* (2024).
"Literature and Philosophy." Eron and Kaul, eds., *The Routledge Companion to Eighteenth-Century Literature*. Routledge (2023).
"Winchester Cross." *Vetusta Monumenta: A Digital Edition* (2021): Plate 1.61.
"Chichester Cross." *Vetusta Monumenta: A Digital Edition* (2021): Plate 1.64.
"How Is a Broom Like an Index? John Locke and John Ruskin on Indexes." *Table of Discontents: A History of the English Book Index*, ed. Dennis Duncan. Stanford: Stanford UP, forthcoming (?).

"What Do We Mean by 'Material'?" Afterword to *Material Fictions*, a special double issue of *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, ed. Eugenia Zuroski-Jenkins and Michael Yonan (2018-19).
"Practice and Production." *The Cultural History of Hair: The Age of Empire*. Edited by Joseph Roach and Margaret Powell. London: Bloomsbury (2019).
"Satirical Objects." *Oxford History of Eighteenth-Century Satire*. Edited by Paddy Bullard. Oxford: Oxford University Press (2019).
"Information and Irony." *Early Modern British Literature in Transition, 1660-1714*. Edited by Elizabeth Sauer. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press (2019).
"The Politics of Gothic Historiography." In *The Gothic World*. Edited by Dale Townshend and Glennis Byron. London: Routledge (2013), 3-14.
"Fairfax, Thomas, Third Baron Fairfax of Cameron." The Milton Encyclopedia. Thomas N. Corns, ed. New Haven: Yale University Press (2005).
"Some Current Publications." Biannual Review. *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture, 1660-1700* (2001): 53-82.

REVIEWS

"*Infinite Variety*, by Wolfram Schmidgen." Review. *Modern Philology* (2022).
"*When Novels Were Books*, by Jordan Alexander Stein." Review. *Modern Language Quarterly* (2022).
"*The Author's Effects: On Writer's House Museums*, by Nicola J. Watson." Review. *Studies in Romanticism* (2021).
"Systems Failure: The Uses of Disorder in English Literature, by Andrew Franta." Review. *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* (2021): 458-60.
"*Reading and the Making of Time in the Eighteenth Century*, by Christina Lupton." Review. *Critical Inquiry* (2019). With Sarah Van Cleve.
"*A World of Disorderly Notions: Quixote and the Logic of Exceptionalism,* by Aaron Hanlon." Review. Digital Defoe (2019).
"*The Curious World of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn*, by Margaret Willes, and *John Evelyn: A Life of Domesticity*, by John Dixon Hunt." Review Essay. *Isis* (2020).
"Discipline and *Distraction*." Review essay. *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* (2018).
"Metaphors of Mind in Eighteenth-Century England." Review. *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* (2017).
"*The Pleasures of Horace Walpole*." Review essay. *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* (2017).
"*The Things Things Say*." Review. *Eighteenth Century Studies* 45.3 (2012): 447-49.

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

The Motley Emblem, a Shandean project of historical recreation: motleyemblem.org
"What is the Genre of *Tacky's Revolt*?" *The Workshop* 6 (2023)
"On Models and Modeling: A Response to Zachary Lipton's 'The Mythos of Model interpretability." *Critical AI* (2022): criticalai.org/2022/05/23/guest-forum-sean-silver-on-models-and-modeling/

"A History of the New Eighteenth Century." *The Rambling* (2020): *the-rambling.com/2020/08/07/issue9-silver/*
"Waiting, Painting: Doing Time." Gallery Review for Vladimir Mitrev, *Time Paintings*, Freiburg (2020). www.vladimirmitrev.com/text/about-time-painting/
"Modest Witnesses." *Los Angeles Review of Books* (2018): *lareviewofbooks.org/article/modest-witnesses/*
"Cognitive Crusoe: Care in the Museum of the Mind," *The Workshop* 4 (2016), 169-71.
The Mind Is a Collection, born-digital museum of C18 cognitive models: mindisacollection.org

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Science History Institute, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, Short-Term Fellow (2024)
Huntington Library, Dibner Research Fellow, History of Science and Technology (2023-24)
Science History Institute, Beckman Center for the History of Chemistry, Short-Term Fellow (2023)
Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, Seminar Fellow (2022-23)
University of Basel, NOMIS Fellow at Eikones, Center for the Theory and History of the Image (2018-19)
University of Minnesota Institute for Advanced Study, Scholar in Residence (2016-17)
ASECS Kenshur Book Prize, for *The Mind Is a Collection* (2016)
BSLS Best Book Prize, shortlist, for *The Mind Is a Collection* (2016)
ASECS Course Innovation Award, for "The Novel and the Museum" (2015)
Charles J. Cole Fellow, Lewis Walpole Library (2012-13)
Michigan TTI Course Development Grant, for "Games and Literature" (2012-13)
University of Michigan Humanities Institute Fellow (2011-12)
ASECS James L. Clifford Award, for "Locke's Pineapple and the History of Taste" (2009)
Evan Frankel Foundation Fellowship (2007-2008)
UCLA Department of English Outstanding Teaching Award (2007)
UCLA MAC Instructor of the Year Award (2006)
Graduate Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division (2005-2006)
Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA (2004)
Departmental Teaching Award, UCLA English (2003)
Graduate Research Assistantship, UCLA Department of English (2002-2003)

CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

"Redness and Power," *ASECS* (2023).
"Reconstructing the Motley Emblem," *MLA* (2023).
"Marbling in London in 1760," *EC/ASECS* (2022).
"Realism's Rise: Ian Watt and Thomas Kuhn," *ASECS* (2022).
"Vincent Brown's *Tacky's Revolt* and Epic Form," *Kenshur Prize Symposuim* (2021).
"Against Cell Theory: Hooke's Pores in Context," *ASECS* (2021).
"The Network Turn in Literary Studies: Jane Austen's *Emma*," University of Iowa (2020).

"The History of the New Eighteenth-Century Studies," *The Future of Eighteenth Century Studies,* MLA (2020).
"Literary Studies and the Complexity Turn," Oxford University C18 Colloquium (2019).
"Is Form a Category Mistake? Thinking Form with Gilbert Ryle," University of Manchester (2019).
"Austen in the Information Age," Rice University (2018).
"Austen in the Information Age," University of Wisconsin (2018).
"How Soft are Networks?" ASECS, Orlando (2018).
"The Genesis of the Information Concept," *Becoming Media*, UCLA (2018).
"Gothic Networks, from Walpole to Ruskin," Yale: Lewis Walpole Library (2017).
"From Fibers to Networks: Complexity in the Eighteenth-Century Art," Princeton (2017).
"John Locke and the Cognitive Index," *The Book Index: A Two-Day Symposium*. Oxford (2017).
"Knowledge without Content," *Ordering Knowledge*, Yale. (2017).
"How and What in Locke," ASECS (2017).
"The History of Texture," Cambridge CRASSH (2017).
"Laboring Alongside Locke (and Others)," The Newberry Eighteenth-Century Seminar (2017).
"Crafts of Enlightenment: from Petty to Polanyi," *SLSA* (2016).
"Information and Irony," *Scientiae*, Oxford (2016).
"Contingency in Richardson and Fielding," Literature and Contingency, Venice (2016).
"Samuel Johnson and Complexity: Richardson and Sterne," JSOCR (2016).
"Horace Walpole's Cellini," University of Michigan ECSG Symposium (2016).
"Cognitive Crusoe," *ASECS* (2016).
"Crafts of Enlightenment: from Petty to Polanyi," *ASECS* (2016).
"Cognitive Crusoe," *Defoe Society Biannual Conference* (2015).
"Time and Habit from Two Points of View," ISECS (2015).
"Complexity in Richardson and Fielding," ISECS (2015).
"Austen in the Information Age," keynote lecture at Ohio-JASNA (2015).
"Cognitive Crusoe," at "Who Cares in the Eighteenth Century?" Indiana 18th-Century Studies Workshop (2015).
"Thinking through Lost Property," Lost Museums Colloquium, Brown University (2015).
"Time Without Metaphor," ASECS (2015).
"The Novel and the Museum," ASECS Course Innovation Prize Panel (2015).
"Lucretian Materialism, New and Old," ASECS Science Caucus Panel (2015).
"Locke's Apple and the Sensation of Property," University of Minnesota, *Intellectual Propert(ies)* (2014).
"Milton's Bed, and Other Imaginary Objects," University of Michigan (2013).
"Evelyn's Objectivity: Thinking History, Materially," Travelling Objects, Rutgers (2013).
"Austen in the Information Age," *Pride and Prejudice*: The Bicentennial at Wright State (2013).
"Conception in Reynolds and Sterne," The Tercentenary Conference: Laurence Sterne (2013).
"Laetitia Pilkington and the Embedded Cognition Thesis," Women in Enlightenment at Chawton House (2013).
"Hooke, Latour, and the Thesis of Extended Cognition," ASECS (2013).

"Early Modern Glass and Other Cognitive Ecologies," Michigan Humanities Institute (2012).
"The Iliad in English, Chapman to Mitchell," Michigan Theme Semester featured lecture (2012).
"Pope's Grotto and the Woodward Machine," Clark Library Symposium (2011).
"A Digression in the Modern Kind: a Note on Method" ASECS panel on the field of Eighteenth-century Studies, MLA (2011).
"7-bit SMS Protocol and the Heroic Couplet," *Historical Aesthetics*, a roundtable (February (2011).
"Hunter, Reynolds, Sterne: Cutting for Knowledge." Johnson Society of the Central Region (2010).
"Paper Anatomy." Eighteenth-Century Studies Group, University of Michigan (2009).
"Evelyn's Eyes, Arundel's Footsteps." Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Dallas, Texas (2009).
"Hunter and Reynolds: The Language of the Heart." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Richmond, Virginia (2009).
"Visiting Strawberry Hill: (The Epistemology of the Closet Drama)." Clark Library Symposium, Spaces of the Self in Early Modern Culture (2008).
"Public Persons, Private Letters." ASECS, Portland, Oregon (2008).
"The Office of Lost Property." UCLA Humanities Athenaeum (2007).
"The Effacements of History: Collecting and Gothic Terror." GEMCS, Chicago, Illinois (2007).
"The Aesthetics of Collecting," UCLA Eighteenth-Century Colloquium (2006).
"Someone Puts a Pineapple Together: the Romance of Novel Fruit." UCLA Friends of English Departmental Salon (2004).
"London Cat Trauma: The Bullet in the Drawing Room." English Department Colloquium, UCLA (2004).
"Reginald Marsh: Representation and Mediacy." Revisiting *U.S.A.*, UCLA (2003).
"*Diamonds Aren't Forever*: Desire after Keynes." Southland Conference, UCLA (2003).

TEACHING

Rutgers University

English 548: "Character from Stage to Page." (Spring 2023) Pivoting on the career of Henry Fielding, who was prompted by the Licencing act of 1736 to shift his career from playwright to novelist, this course traces the way that the character concept works in texts from Restoration drama to the mature British novel. Theoretical readings include Aristotle and Theophrastus's *Characteres*, essays from contemporary authors like Fielding and Congreve, but also 20th and 21st critics including Nancy Armstrong, David Brewer, Rita Felski, Frances Ferguson, Lisa Freeman, John Frow, Catherine Gallagher, Aaron Kunin, Deidre Lynch, Sandra Macpherson, D.A. Miller, Toril Moi, Blakey Vermeule, Alex Woloch, and others.

English 359:315: "Reading with Your Laptop." (Spring 2020; Spring 2021) see below.

English 358:201: "How to Read." (Fall 2020; Spring 2021; Fall 2022) This course explores fundamental concepts and techniques of literary interpretation, with a specific focus on poetry and short prose works. Students learn the modern history of basic methods of literary analysis, including close reading, scansion, and formalisms. The course ends

with a practical introduction to more advanced schools of criticism, including sections on modern approaches to race, gender, and class.

English 358:325: "Eighteenth-Century Drama: Character and Community" (Spring 2020). Focusing on a small number of plays, this course combines readings of dramatic texts with contemporary primary materials—including pamphlets, political texts, criticism, and objects of material culture—to develop a sense of the seismic shifts which together we call "modernity." The course focuses especially on the rise of individualism as the most publicly shared value of all.

English 693: "The Complexity Turn" (Fall 2019). This course combines two goals. The first is to offer a brief, punctuated history of the rise of the novel, told through roughly four canonical books, from Fielding's *Tom Jones* to Dickens's *Bleak House*. The second is to read widely in network- and systems theory, developing and applying related sets of insights which are commonly thought to accompany our modern information age, but which have important precursors paralleling the rise of the novel form.

University of Michigan

English 420: "Reading with Your Laptop." (Winter 2018) This course teaches students in the humanities the rudiments of working in R, a programming environment for statistical analysis; it trains students to apply those techniques to the analysis of literary texts. Students learn to build concordances, design effective visualizations, analyze character networks, and train topic models.

English 360: "Reading with Your Laptop." (Fall 2017) A more focused version of English 361 (Fall 2015), this course teaches students textual analysis techniques in the programming language R. Students learn the techniques and theory of building data frames, constructing and analyzing data visualizations like token frequency charts or word dispersion diagrams, and training topic models—a basic form of machine learning.

English 820: "Big Books: Small Worlds." (Fall 2017) This graduate seminar reads the longest novels of four or five authors (from 1750-1850), focusing on the nature of networks in theory and practice. Theory is drawn from literary criticism, social network analysis, some actor-network theory, systems and network theory, and complex systems.

English 351: "Keywords in Eighteenth-Century Context." (Winter 2016) This large lecture course develops and traces a number of cultural and critical concepts (empire, irony, globalism, imagination); it balances readings drawn from eighteenth-century texts with those drawn from contemporary theory. In assignments throughout the semester, students are asked to apply these concepts to contemporary culture.

English 361: "Digital Tools for Literary Analysis." (Fall 2015) This junior-level seminar teaches students digital approaches to textual analysis, focusing on the techniques and theory of: data-base construction and mining, tools for network analysis, and linguistics in the digital humanities.

English 420: "Games and Literature." (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013) This upper-division course addresses game studies, game theory, and the promise of utopia in literature. The course is itself a game, which students navigate using decks of purpose-made cards. It is supported by a grant from the Teaching with Technology Institute.

English 451: "The Novel and the Museum." British Literature 1660-1800 (Winter 2011, Fall 2013). Crosslisted with Museum Studies. This course reads the long history of the museum in poems, plays, and novels, from Behn's *Oroonoko* (1688) to Shelley's

Frankenstein (1818). Students compose an online museum of literary objects, assembling essays, object records, and other documents for an end-of-term museum.

English 540: "Between Cognition and Literature." (Fall 2014). This graduate course explores the recent turn in cogitive studies, focusing especially on its embodied, extended, and enactive aspects.

English 298: "How to Read." (Winter 2015). This course makes reading a skill of conscious awareness, focusing on four forms of interaction with text: engagement, scansion, distant reading, and immersion. Readings include short works from authors such as Donne, Dickinson, and Calvino, and long works drawn from authors like Dickens, Austen, and Eliot.

English 293: "Englishing the Iliad." (Fall 2012). This lower-division, one-unit mini-course reads the _Iliad_, from beginning to end, in a series of different, chronologically ordered translations, from Chapman (1616) to Mitchell (2011).

English 821: "The Things Things Say." (Fall 2012). This course appropriates the title of Jonathan Lamb's recent book (Dec 2011) to describe the field of thing theory. The first half of the course investigates why and how things have come to matter so much to today's scholars. The second half seeks to identify some of the new directions taken in object-centered approaches to literature and the arts.

English 351: "Persons and Things." British Literature 1660-1840 (Winter 2011). This large lecture course provides a survey of British literature, focusing especially on consumerism and the development of modern subjectivity.

English 451: "Persons and Things." British Literature 1660-1800 (Winter 2009). Honors Seminar. This course pairs readings of eighteenth-century texts, from *Pilgrim's Progress* to *A Sentimental Journey*, with weekly readings of 20th-century "thing theory."

English 298: "Urban Literature: London 1660-2000 (Winter 2009). This course charts the history of literary London—with an eye both to the city in its material reality, and the literature which shapes and was shaped by it.

English 451: "Character's Theater." British Literature 1660-1800 (Fall 2009, 2010). This course examines the performance practices in Restoration and eighteenth-century culture and drama, alongside contemporary medical texts and acting handbooks, and 20th- and 21st-century performance theory.

English 317: "Celebrity Stagecraft: London and Hollywood" (Fall 2009, 2010).

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Rutgers University, New Brunswick

2024-25 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English
MLA Eighteenth-Century British Forum Executive Committee

2023-24 On Leave (Huntington Library, California)
Committee for Bias Awareness and Prevention, English ("transition team")

2022-23 Graduate Career Development Director, Department of English
Digital Humanities Initiative, Member at Large
Committee for Bias Awareness and Prevention, English
Digital Technology Advisory Committee (Rutgers)
Graduate Executive Committee, Department of English
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of English

Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English
2021-22 Digital Humanities Initiative, Member at Large
2020-21 Graduate Career Development Director, Department of English
Digital Humanities Initiative, Member at Large
Graduate Executive Committee, Department of English
2019-20 Graduate Career Placement Director, Department of English
Executive Committee, School of Graduate Studies
Digital Humanities Initiative, Member at Large
Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2018-19 On Leave (Eikones, Universität Basel)
2017-18 Executive Committee, Department of English
Job-Placement Officer, Departments of English and Comparative Literature
2015-16 Director, English Department Honors Program (Interim)
Executive Committee, Department of English
Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
2014-15 Third-term Review Committee
Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
Co-Chair of the Junior Faculty Forum
2013-14 Third-term Review Committee, Department of English
Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
Co-Chair of the Junior Faculty Forum
NELP Advisory Committee
2012-13 Executive Committee, Department of English
Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
Co-Chair of the Junior Faculty Forum
2011-12 Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
Co-Chair of the Junior Faculty Forum
2010-11 President of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, Annual Conference Chair
Chair and Organizer, “Historical Aesthetics,” a roundtable with Paul Hunter
Coordinator and Faculty Sponsor of Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
NELP Advisory Committee
Executive Committee, Department of English
Awards Committee, Department of English
Salary Committee, Department of English
Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English
2010 Honors Committee, Department of English
2009-10 Co-coordinator, Eighteenth-Century Studies Group
Graduate Admissions Committee, Department of English
2009 Third-term Review Committee, Department of English

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Languages Association
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, East Coast Chapter
Scientiae (History of Science Society)
Society of Literature, Sciences, and Arts
Society for the History of Technology
Johnson Society of the Central Region
Serendipity Society