

CURRICULUM VITAE

Paula R. Backscheider
Department of English
Auburn University
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Education and Employment

Ph.D. Purdue University
Rollins College, Assistant Professor
University of Rochester, Assistant Professor to Roswell S. Burrows Professor
Auburn University, Philpott-Stevens Eminent Scholar, 1992-

Selected Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

William Andrews Clark Fellow, UCLA, summer, 1974.
American Philosophical Society Grants, 1975, 1980, and 1986.
Senior Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1983.
American Antiquarian Society Fellowship, 1987.
Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Edinburgh, 1980-
John Simon Guggenheim Fellow, calendar year 1991.
National Endowment for the Humanities, Summer Seminar on "Biography and the Uses of
Biographical Evidence," summer 1992 and summer 1994.
Creative Research Award, Auburn University, 2001, 2010.

Selected Honors

Vice President, International Defoe Society, 2015-2016.
SGA Outstanding Graduate Faculty Member, 2015.
Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award, 2014.
Presidential Award of Excellence, Auburn University, 2007.
James Russell Lowell Prize, MLA, 2006.
British Council Award, Best Book in the Humanities, 1990.
Nominee, College of Liberal Arts Advising Award (nominated by Black Student Union and
African-American Peer Mentors), 2000.
Who's Who Among America's Teachers, 2000-
Outstanding Service Award, Office of Multicultural Affairs, 2001.
Southern Poverty Law Center Wall of Tolerance Honoree, 2001.
Purdue University Millennium Distinguished Alumna Award, 2001.
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Great Teachers, 2001.
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Paula Backscheider Archival Fellowship,
established 2001.
Member, College of Liberal Arts Academy of Teaching and Outstanding Teachers, 2003.
Distinguished Teaching Award, ODK Honorary Society, 2003.
World Women's Literature Center Award, Korea, 2003.

Works in Progress

“Crisis Texts: King Charles II and a Special Book,” submitted to scholarly journal

Crisis Texts: Staging Wartime Women

Critical Books

Elizabeth Singer Rowe and the Development of the English Novel, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

Reflections on Biography, 2nd edition, NY: CreateSpace, 2013.

Eighteenth-Century Women Poets and Their Poetry: Inventing Agency, Inventing Genre, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005. Co-winner of the MLA James Russell Lowell Prize. Paperback, 2007.

Reflections on Biography, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999. Selected by Choice as one of the Outstanding Academic Books for 2000. Paperback, 2001. Textbook, 2004.

Spectacular Politics: Theatrical Power and Mass Culture in Early Modern England, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1993.

Daniel Defoe: His Life, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989. Winner of the 1990 British Council Prize for the Best Book in the Humanities and selected by Choice as one of the ten Outstanding Academic Books for 1990. Paperback, 1990.

Daniel Defoe: Ambition and Innovation, Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky, 1986.

A Being More Intense: The Prose Works of Bunyan, Swift, and Defoe, New York: AMS Press, 1984.

Editorships

The Dictionary of Literary Biography: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Drama, 3 vols. Detroit: Gale, 1989.

The Eighteenth-Century: A Current Bibliography, for English books, co-editor for 1983 and editor for 1984-86.

Eighteenth-Century Drama, 69 vols. New York: Garland Press, completed 1983.

Books and Editions

British Women Poets of the Long Eighteenth-Century: An Anthology, co-edited with Catherine Ingrassia. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2009.

A Companion to The Eighteenth-Century English Novel and Culture, co-edited with Catherine Ingrassia, Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005; paperback, 2009.

Revising Women: Eighteenth-Century "Women's Fiction" and Social Engagement, ed.,
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000 (for November 1999).
Paperback, 2002.

Selected Fiction and Drama of Eliza Haywood, ed., Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Popular Fiction by Women, 1660-1730: An Anthology, with John J. Richetti, Oxford:
Clarendon Press, 1996; second edition, 1998.

The Excursion by Frances Brooke, ed. with Hope D. Cotton, Lexington: The University Press
of Kentucky, 1997.

The Intersections of the Public and Private Spheres in Early Modern England, a special issue
of Prose Studies 18 (1995), with Tim Dykstal. Published separately as a book
(London: Frank Cass, 1996).

A Journal of the Plague Year, New York: Norton Critical Edition, 1992.

The Family Instructor, an edition with introduction, Delmar, New York: Scholars' Facsimiles
and Reprints, 1989.

Moll Flanders: The Making of a Criminal Mind, Boston: G. K. Hall, 1990.

The Plays of Samuel Foote, ed. (with Douglas Howard), 3 vols. New York: Garland
Press, 1983.

The Plays of Elizabeth Inchbald, ed., 2 vols. New York: Garland Press, 1980.

The Plays of Charles Gildon, ed. New York: Garland Press, 1979.

Probability, Time, and Space in Eighteenth-Century Literature, ed. New York: AMS
Press, 1979.

An Annotated Bibliography of Twentieth-Century Studies of Women and Literature, 1660-
1800 (with Felicity Nussbaum and Philip Anderson), New York: Garland
Press, 1977.

Articles (forthcoming)

"Eliza Haywood and the Rise of Modern Popular Culture," forthcoming in Approaches to
Eliza Haywood, MLA.

"Foreword: Dr. Jenkins and Mrs. Inchbald," forthcoming in festschrift for Annibel Jenkins,
ed. Joe Johnson and Daniel Ennis.

Articles (published)

- “Mary Cradock Beale (1633-1699),” A Biographical Encyclopedia of Early Modern Englishwomen: Exemplary Lives and Memorable Acts, 1500-1650, ed. Carole Levin, Anna Riehl Bertolet and Jo Eldridge Carney (New York: Routledge, 2017): 1-3.
- “Katherine Fowler Philips (1632-1664),” A Biographical Encyclopedia of Early Modern Englishwomen: Exemplary Lives and Memorable Acts, 1500-1650, ed. Carole Levin, Anna Riehl Bertolet and Jo Eldridge Carney (New York: Routledge, 2017): 590-591.
- “Frances Brooke: Becoming a Playwright,” festschrift for Janet Todd, ed. Ros Ballaster and Ruth Perry, Women’s Writing 23 (2016): 325-338.
- “Opportunities in Comparative Biography,” special issue of Slavic and East European Journal 60.2 (2016): 272-79.
- “Life-Writing. The Rise of a Powerful New Genre,” Journal of Modern Life-Writing Studies, 5 (2016), Shanghai, China (14 pages).
- “Women and Popular Culture: Exploit or be Exploited” in Cambridge Companion to Women’s Writing in the Eighteenth-Century (1660-1780), ed. Catherine Ingrassia (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2015): 70-85.
- “Pushing the Envelope,” reprinted from Reflections on Biography (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1999) in A Collection of Translated Essays on Modern Life Writing (trans. into Chinese), Center for Life Writing, Shanghai, 2015.
- “The Empty Decade? English Fiction in the 1730s,” Lacy Marschalk, Mallory Porch, and Paula Backscheider, Eighteenth-Century Fiction, 26.3 (2014): 375- 426.
- “From The Emperor of the Moon to the Sultan’s Prison,” Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture 43 (2014): 1-26.
- “Retrieving Inchbald,” in The Oxford Handbook to the Georgian Playhouse, 1737-1832, ed. David F. Taylor (Oxford UP, 2014): 601-618.
- Preface to Essays in Defence of the Female Sex: Custom, Education and Authority in Seventeenth-Century England by Manuela Damore and Michele Lardy. (Cambridge: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013): ix-xvi.
- “Foreword” to Travel Literature in the Eighteenth-Century: The Account of Embassies by Joyce Melissinos (Rochester: Private Press, 2013): v-xiii.
- “Disputed Value: Women and the Trees They Loved” in Invaluable Trees: Cultures of Nature, 1660-1830, ed. Elizabeth Heckendorn Cook, Giulia Pacini, and Laura Auricchio (Oxford: Oxford UP, 2012): 281-99.
- “Politics and Gender in a Tale of Two Plays” in Women, Popular Culture and the Eighteenth-Century, ed. Tiffany Potter (Toronto: U. of Toronto P., 2012):52-69.

- “The Futures of Eighteenth-Century Studies,” Digital Defoe: Studies in Defoe and his Contemporaries 3 (Fall 2011).
- “Elizabeth Singer Rowe: Lifestyle as Legacy” in New Contexts for Eighteenth-Century British Fiction: “Hearts Resolved and Hands Prepared,” ed. Christopher D. Johnson (Newark, DE: U of Delaware P, 2011): 41-66.
- “The Paradigms of Popular Culture” The Eighteenth-Century Novel: Essays in Honor of John Richetti (New York: AMS Press, 2009): 19-59.
- “The Bluestockings” in The Oxford Encyclopedia of Women in World History, ed. Bonnie G. Smith (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008): 235-237.
- “Daniel Defoe, The Man in his Works” in The Cambridge Companion: Daniel Defoe, ed. John J. Richetti (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008): 5-24. Paperback, 2012.
- “Hanging On and Hanging In: Women’s Struggle to Participate in Public Sphere Debate” in Everyday Revolutions: Eighteenth-Century Women Transforming the Public and Private, ed. Diane Boyd and Marta Kvanne (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2008): 30-63.
- “Shadowing Theatrical Change” in Players, Playwrights, Playhouses: Investigating Performance, 1660-1800s, ed. Michael Cordner and Peter Holland (Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007): 78-100.
- “Literary Culture As Immediate Reality” in A Companion to The Eighteenth-Century English Novel and Culture, ed. Paula Backscheider and Catherine Ingrassia (Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2005): 504-538.
- “Crusoe Among the Travelers” in Modern Language Association Approaches to Teaching Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe, ed. Maximillian E. Novak and Carl Fisher (New York: Modern Language Association, 2005): 69-77.
- “Behind City Walls: Restoration Actors in the Drapers’ Company” in Theatre Survey 45 (2004): 75-87.
- “Eighteenth-Century Women Poets” in The Cambridge History of English Literature (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004): 209-34.
- Seven entries in Oxford Dictionary of National Biography: Daniel Defoe, Eliza Haywood, Mary Davys, William Bullock, George Powell, Elizabeth Barry, and Moll King, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004).
- “The Crime Wave and Moll Flanders” in Moll Flanders, ed. Albert Rivero (New York: Norton, 2004): 460-71.
- “Inverting the Image of Swift’s “Triumfeminate,”” Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies 4 (2004): 41-77.

- "Fashioning Novels, Novelizing Fashions," in Eighteenth-Century Genre and Culture Serious Reflections on Occasional Forms: Essays in Honor of J. Paul Hunter, ed. Dennis Todd and Cynthia Wall (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2001): 190-217.
- "Honorary Subscriber: Daniel Defoe," Edupage (published by Educause), 10 January 1999.
- "Looking Backward, Looking Forward: MLA Members Speak." PMLA, Special Millennium Issue. 115 (2000): 2043-44.
- "The Story of Eliza Haywood's Novels: Caveats and Questions," in The Passionate Fictions Of Eliza Haywood, ed. Kirsten Saxton and Rebecca Bocchicchio (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2000): 19-47.
- "Reflections on the Importance of Romantic Drama," Texas Studies in Literature and Language 41 (1999): 311-29.
- "The Shadow of an Author," Eighteenth-Century Fiction 11 (1998): 79-102.
- "Daniel Defoe's Russia," Literaturnoe nasledstvo, Pushkin Institute, Leningrad, 1998.
- "Roxana," Critical Essays on Daniel Defoe, ed. Roger D. Lund, (Boston: G.K. Hall, 1997): 236-265.
- "'Endless Aversion Rooted in the Soul': Divorce in the 1690-1730 Theater," The Eighteenth-Century: Theory and Interpretation 37 (1996): 99-135.
- "Stretching the Form: Catherine Trotter Cockburn and Other Failures," Theatre Journal 47 (1995): 443-58.
- "Daniel Defoe and Early Modern Intelligence," Journal of Intelligence and National Security 11 (1996): 1-21.
- "The Cavalier Woman," Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture 24 (1995): 3-27.
- "Bibliography of Defoe Criticism in the Far East: China and Taiwan, Japan, and Korea," with Hope Cotton, Eighteenth-Century Fiction 8.1 (1995): 89-142.
- "The Woman's Part: Defoe, Richardson, and the Horrors of Marriage," The Past as Prologue, ed. Carla Hay and Syndy Conger (New York: AMS, 1995): 205-231.
- "Sex, Sin, and Ideology: The Drama's Gift to the Genesis of the Novel," in Lumen 12 (1993): 1-15.
- "Stalking the Data," Humanities 14:4 (July/August 1993): 16-19.
- "Reports from an Eye-Witness: Defoe's Letters," Eighteenth-Century Correspondences, ed. Alan T. McKenzie (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1993): 21-47.
- "The Verse Essay, John Locke, and Defoe's Jure Divino," ELH 55 (1988): 99-124.

- "No Defense: Defoe in 1703," PMLA 103 (1988): 274-84.
- "Robert Harley to Daniel Defoe: A New Letter," Modern Language Review 83 (1988): 817-819.
- "Women Writers and the Chains of Identity," Studies in the Novel 19 (1987): 245-62.
- "Defoe and the Clerks of Penicuik," Modern Philology 84 (1987): 372-81.
- "The Genesis of Roxana," The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation 27 (1986): 211-29 (lead article in special issue on gender and genre).
- "Esteem in the Novels by Women," Fetter'd or Free? British Women Novelists, 1670-1815, eds. Schofield and Macheski (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1986): 152-68.
- "Defoe and the Geography of the Mind," The First English Novelists: Essays in Understanding, ed. J. M. Armistead (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1985): 41-65.
- "Defoe as Solitary Reader," Princeton Library Chronicle 46 (1985): 178-91.
- "Jane Barker," A Dictionary of Women Writers, 1660-1800, ed. Janet Todd (Totowa, NJ: Barnes & Noble, 1985): 38-39.
- "Mary Davys," A Dictionary of Women Writers, 1660-1800, ed. Janet Todd (Totowa, NJ: Barnes & Noble, 1985): 98-99.
- "Defoe's Prodigal Sons," Studies in the Literary Imagination 15 (1982): 3-18.
- "John Russell to Daniel Defoe: Fifteen Unpublished Letters from Scotland," Philological Quarterly 61 (1982): 161-77.
- "Swift's Harley and the Nature of Biography," Biography 5 (1982): 284-96.
- "Cross-Purposes: Defoe's History of the Union," CLIO 11 (1982): 165-86.
- "Personality and Biblical Allusion in Defoe's Letters," South Atlantic Review 47 (1982): 1-20.
- "Defoe's Lady Credit," The Huntington Library Quarterly 44 (1981): 89-100.
- "Into All the World," ADE Bulletin 68 (1981): 17-20.
- "Woman's Influence," Studies in the Novel 11 (1979): 3-22.
- "John Home's Douglas and the Theme of the Unfulfilled Life," Studies in Scottish Literature 14 (1978): 90-97.

"She Seeks the Springs of Caesar"--Dryden's All for Love," Enlightenment Essays 8 (1977): 3-21.

"Defoe's Women: Snares and Prey," Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture 5, ed. Ronald C. Rosbottom (Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1976): 103-20.

"Squeak in the Night: Updike's Couples" (with N. Backscheider), (Modern Fiction Studies 20 (1974): 45-52. Reprinted in Contemporary Literary Criticism, eds. C. Riley and P. C. Mendelson (Detroit: Gale Research Co., Inc., 1976): 452.

Review Essays

Of Jennifer L. Airey, The Politics of Rape: Sexual Atrocity, Propaganda Wars, and the Restoration Stage, Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature 32.1 (Spring 2013): 225-227.

Of Daniel P. Watkins, Anna Letitia Barbauld and Eighteenth-Century Visionary Poetics, Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal 42.2 (2013): 209-213.

"Recent Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature," Studies in English Literature (SEL) 49:3 (Summer 2009): 737-801.

Of Dana Y. Rabin, Identity, Crime, and Legal Responsibility in Eighteenth-Century England, The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation 48 (2007): 81-85.

Of P. N. Furbank and W. R. Owens, A Political Biography of Daniel Defoe; John J. Richetti, The Life of Daniel Defoe; and Religious and Didactic Writings of Daniel Defoe (5 vols., multiple editors), Eighteenth-Century Studies 40:1 (Fall 2006): 116-20.

Of Morris Brownell's The Prime Minister of Taste, Kathryn King's Jane Barker, Exile, and Maximillian E. Novak's Daniel Defoe: Master of Fictions, Eighteenth-Century Studies 36.1 (Fall 2002): 119-121.

"Eighteenth-Century Drama," Year's Work in English Studies for 1996 (with Daniel Ennis, Amy Muse, and Nancy Naugle), and for 1997 (with Diane Boyd and Daniel Ennis), Oxford: Blackwell.

"Recent Studies in Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Literature," Studies in English Literature (SEL) 31 (1991): 569-614.

Of P. N. Furbank and W. R. Owens's The Canonisation of Defoe, Novel 24 (1990): 115-118.

Of The Eighteenth Century: A Current Bibliography, n.s. 3 and 4, Modern Language Review 80 (1985): 681-84.

Of Laura Curtis's The Versatile Defoe and John J. Perry's introduction to Defoe's Atalantis Major, The Eighteenth-Century: A Current Bibliography, n.s. 5 (1983): 404-406.

Of Paul Alkon's Defoe and Fictional Time and Peter Earle's The World of Defoe, Georgia Review (Summer 1980): 453-56.

Reviews

Of James Winn, Queen Anne: Patroness of Arts and Cedric Reverand, Queen Anne and the Arts, Digital Defoe: Studies in Defoe & His Contemporaries 8.1 (2016): <http://digitaldefoe.org>.

Of Margaret Ezell, 'My Rare Wit Killing Sin': Poems of a Restoration Courtier, Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal, 10 (Fall 2015): 239-41.

Of Robert M. Maniquis and Carl Fisher, eds., Defoe's Footprints: Essays in Honour of Maximillian E. Novak and Leon Guilhamet, Defoe and the Whig Novel, The Scriblerian 45.2 (Spring 2013): 235-39.

Of Rebecca Bullard, The Politics of Disclosure, 1674-1725: Secret History Narratives, Journal of British Studies 50.2 (2011): 470-71.

Of Jean Marsden, Fatal Desire: Women, Sexuality, and the English Stage, 1660-1720, Modern Philology 107.2 (2009): 244-49.

Of Nancy Armstrong's How Novels Think, Scriblerian 41 (2008): 49-51.

Of Joseph Donohue's introduction to The Cambridge History of British Theatre, 1660 to 1895, Scriblerian 38:2 (Spring 2006): 270-72.

Of Ruth Perry's Novel Relations, Scriblerian 38:2 (Spring 2006): 315-17.

Of Juliette Merritt's Beyond Spectacle, Eighteenth-Century Fiction 18:1 (Fall 2005): 141-43.

Of Christine Gerrard's Aaron Hill: The Muses Projector, 1685-1750, Albion 36 (2004), 704-6.

Of Diana and Michael Preston's A Pirate of Exquisite Mind: The Life of William Dampier: Explorer, Naturalist, and Buccaneer, Washington Post Book World 34 (2-8 May 2004): 4.

Of Catherine Burrough's Women in British Romantic Theatre: Drama, Performance, and Society, Nineteenth Century Theatre and Film 30 (2003): 96-99.

Of George Justice and Nathan Tinker, eds. Women's Writing and the Circulation of Ideas: Manuscript Publication in England, 1550-1800, biography 26 (2003): 734-37.

Of Jaqueline Pearson's, Women's Reading in Britain, 1750-1835, 1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era 8 (2003): 377-81.

- Of Daisuke Takahashi's In Search of Robinson Crusoe and Tim Severin's In Search of Robinson Crusoe, Washington Post Book World (June 30- July 6 2002): 8-9.
- Of Jim Springer Borck, Irving N. Rothman, Manuel Schonhorn and Maximillian E. Novak's (eds.), An Essay Upon Projects, Analytical and Enumerative Bibliography 12 (2001): 139-41.
- Of *Castaway*, in The Chronicle of Higher Education 48, (2 February 2001): B4.
- Of Katherine Armstrong's, Defoe: Writer as Agent, Scriblerian, 33 (2001): 66-7.
- Of Janet Todd's (ed.), Aphra Behn Studies, Modern Philology 96 (1999): 384-87.
- Of Ian Watt's, Myths of Modern Individualism: Faust, Don Quixote, Don Juan, Robinson Crusoe, Studies in the Novel 29 (1997): 262-264.
- Of Richard Burt and John Michael Archer (eds.), Enclosure Acts: Sexuality, Property, and Culture in Early Modern England, Journal of the History of Sexuality 6 (1995): 330-34.
- Of Steven N. Zwicker, Lines of Authority: Politics and English Literary Culture, 1649-1689, Albion 26 (1994): 146-148.
- Of Tom Keymer's Richardson's Clarissa and the Eighteenth-Century Reader, Studies in the Novel 25 (1993): 483-485.
- Of Madeleine Kahn's Narrative Transvestism, in Eighteenth-Century Fiction 5 (1992): 376-378.
- Of Marlies Danziger and Frank Brady's Boswell: The Great Biographer (1789-1795), Journal of English and German Philology 90 (1991): 435-438.
- Of Brian Hill's Robert Harley, Studies in The Age of Johnson 4 (1991): 374-377.
- Of Kristina Straub's Divided Fictions, Modern Philology 87 (1989): 93-95.
- Of N. H. Keeble's The Literary Culture of Nonconformity, Eighteenth-Century Studies 22 (1988-89): 261-64.
- Of Margaret Anne Doody's Frances Burney, ECCB n.s. 14. (1988): 283-84.
- Of Ian Bell's Defoe's Fiction, Modern Language Studies 18 (1988): 201-202.
- Other reviews in Eighteenth-Century Studies; South Atlantic Review; Georgia Review; The Eighteenth Century: A Current Bibliography; Scriblerian; Seventeenth-Century News.

Papers and Speeches (recent, selected)

Interview, National Geographic Program, 27 September 2016.

Colloquy on Daniel Defoe and his Present-Day Reputation, BBC, 8 June 2016.

“Crisis Texts: Wartime Women on Stage,” The Long Eighteenth-Century Seminar, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, 27 February 2015.

“Crisis Texts: Staging Wartime Women,” Alumni Lecture, University of Alabama at Birmingham, 17 September 2014.

“Crisis Texts: Wartime Women as Propaganda,” Georgia Colloquium in Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century British Literature, University of Georgia, November 2014.

“Fashioning War-Time Women in the Age of Revolution, 1775-1815,” Inaugural lecture, Institute of Literature, Languages and Creative Arts, University of Aberystwyth, October 2013.

“From The Emperor of the Moon to the Sultan’s Prison,” plenary, Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, February 2013.

“Casting Women: Popular Performance and the Politics of Gender,” as the Joseph S. Schick Lecturer, Indiana State University and Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 4 November 2011.

“Politics and Gender in a Tale of Two Plays” as the Miriam Leranbaum Lecturer, SUNY Binghamton, September 2011.

“The Empty Decade: Fiction and the 1730s,” Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 5 March 2011.

“Disputed Value: Women and the Trees They Loved,” American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, March 2010.

“The Politics of Archives and Women’s Modern History,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 2009.

“The Human Face of War: Interpreting New Evidence,” South Atlantic Studies, Plenary Lecture, University of Pennsylvania, February 2009.

“Where the Method Leads,” Symposium: Writing Women, 1700-1800: Literary History at the Crossroads, NYU, Plenary lecture, April 2008.

“Another Take on the Pious Mrs. Rowe,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 2008.

“Abducting Meaning: Susannah Cibber and Ann Barry as Seducers,” Midwestern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, October 2006.

- "The Paradigms of Popular Culture," University of Michigan International Symposium, Gender and Popular Culture, 1650-1750, October 2005.
- "Shadowing Theatrical Change," Huntington Symposium, Players, Playwrights, Playhouses, March 2005.
- "The Sounds in the Theatre," Modern Language Association, December 2004.
- "Editing: Opportunity or Exploitation?" American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 2004.
- "Hanging On and Hanging In: Women's Struggle to Participate in Public Sphere Debate," Plenary Address at Daring Women of the Enlightenment Conference, February 2004.
- "Women Poets and Enlightenment Culture," Northeastern American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, October 2002.
- "At Our Mercy: Biographers and Their Readers," The Boston Athenaeum, 26 April, 2001.
- "Daniel Defoe in Scotland," BBC's "Edge of the World," 14 March 2001.
- "Inventing Agency, Inventing Genre," DeBartolo Lecturer, February 2001.
- "Fashioning Novels," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, April 2000.
- "Why We Care About Romantic Drama," Plenary Address, Romantic Drama: A Symposium, University of Texas, April 1998.
- "Doubt Everything? Women Writers and Familiar Answers," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, April 1998.
- "The Shadow of an Author, The Shadow of a Story," Plenary Address, East Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, October 1998.
- "'Her Heart Became a Force of Nature': Naming Aphra Behn," Inauguration of Performance Theory Ph.D. Program, University of California, Davis, February 1996.
- "Endless Aversion Rooted in the Soul," Emory University Women's Institute Series, October 1994.
- "Bangles and Water Rights: The Diversion of the Early Novel," Kirby Lecture and plenary address, South Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 1993.
- "The Cavalier Woman," Presidential Address, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, April 1993.
- "Sex, Sin, and Ideology," plenary address, Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 1991.

"The Self Besieg'd," Yale University Pope Bicentennial Celebration, April 1988.

"Robinson Crusoe," National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," December 1986.

Professional Offices (selected)

Advisor, Edition of Daniel Defoe's Correspondence, ed. Nick Seager and Andreas Mueller.

Consultant, Cambridge University Press edition of The Poems of Anne Finch, ed. Claudia Kairoff and Jennifer Keith.

Advisory Board, Centre for Women's Writing and Literary Culture at Aberystwyth University, 2012-
Cambridge Edition of the Works and Correspondence of Samuel Richardson, 2002-

Advisory Editor, The Eighteenth-Century Novel, 1999-
Studies in the Novel, 1998-
Eighteenth-Century Novels by Women, 1994-
Studies in English Literature, 1993-
Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2002-2010

Representative to the American Council of Learned Societies, 1993-2003.

Modern Language Association:

Executive Committee for the Division, Comparative Studies in Eighteenth-Century Literature, 1974-79
Executive Committee for the Division, Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Literature, 1979-83
Member, Steering Committee, 1980-82; Chair, 1981-82
Member, Delegate Assembly, 1976-77, 1980-82, 1986-89

American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies:

Founding Member, Prize Committee for Editing and Translation Fellowship, 2004-2009; Chair, 2010
Member, Jenkins Biography Prize Committee, 1998-2001
Chair, Jenkins Biography Prize Committee, 1997-98
Past president and Executive Board member, 1993-94
President, 1992-93
Vice-president, 1990-1992
Representative to the Committee on Regional Societies, 1977-81
Member, Nominating Committee, 1978, 2007-2008

Northeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies:

Chair, Founders' Committee
Chair of the Program Committee for inaugural meeting

Administrative Assignments (selected)
At Auburn University

1. University

Member, SURA Distinguished Scientist Award Committee, 2016-
Member, Research Infrastructure Task Force, 2014-
Member, Intramural Grants Assessment Committee, 2013-
Reviewer, Intramural Grants Program, 2014-
Faculty Research Committee, 2013-2016
Member, Walker Teaching Awards Committee, 2013-
Judge, 3-Minute Dissertation Competition, 2013
Administrative Review Committee, 2012-2013
Member, Distinguished University Professor Committee, 1997-2000, 2005-
Member, Selection Committee for Creative Research Awards, 2004-
Administered Distinguished Diversity Researcher awards for the Vice
President of Research, 2008-2010
Member, Research Task Force, 2008-2010
Chair, Planning and Implementation Committee for the Research Institute
for the Study of Diversity, 2007-2009
Member, Search Committee for the Vice President for Research, 2007-2008
Chair, Oversight Committee, Faculty Development and Technology
Consortium, 1993-2007
Member, Strategic Planning Situation Assessment Committee
Faculty Advisor to Study Partners, 2005-2007
Member, Senate Library Committee, 2001-2003
Member, Educational Technology Advisory Council, 2001- 2009
Member, University Housing Committee, 1999-2002
Member, President's Task Force on Student Affairs, 1996-1997
Member, Provost's Committee on Educational Enhancement, 1997-2000
Chair, Retention Committee, 1996-1998
Chair, Search Committee for Director of the Student Success Center
Chair, Search Committee for Coordinator of Academic Support Services
Member, University Priorities Committee

2. College

Chair, CLA Research Group, 2014-
Chair, Selection Committee for NEH Summer Stipend nominees, 2011-
Chair, Program Committee, Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-
Century Studies, 2007-2008
Member, Search Committee for Department Head, 2000-2001, 2008-2009
Member, Humanities Fellowship Committee, 1994-2000

3. Department

Literature Coordinator, 2012-2013
Chair, Screening Committee for Lecturer positions, 2010-2011
Facilitator of Research Assistant Program, 2010
Chair, Research Culture Committee, 2009-2011
Chair, Research Incentive Fund Committee, 2009-2016

Chair for screening committees for positions in British eighteenth-century studies, 2008-2009; African American Literature, 2006-2007; British Romanticism, 2005-2006

Member, Graduate Committee, 1993-1995, 1998-2001, 2004-2005, 2007-2009, 2015-2016

At the University of Rochester

1. University

Vice Provost for Academic Concerns, 1981-82 (calendar years)

Management Studies Certificate Program, pilot design and chair, 1984-86

Search committees for Director of University Libraries, Vice-President for Student Affairs, Director of Career Services and Placement, Director of UR/YMCA, others

Faculty Club Board, 1985-88

Associate, Susan B. Anthony Center for Women's Studies, 1977-1992

2. College (selected)

Secretary of the Faculty and of the Faculty Council, 1978-81

Faculty Council, 1981, 1987-89

Steering Committee, Faculty Council, 1988-89

Dean's Task Force on the Classes of 1990 and 1991, 1987-89

Faculty Advisor, Early Connection Opportunity Program, 1988-89

Admissions Advisory Committee, 1984-86