

CHRISTINA JEN

Curriculum Vitae

Department of Languages and Literature
English & Philosophy Program
Southern University and A&M College
801 Harding Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70807
christina.jen@sus.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Literatures in English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (Jan. 2022).

Dissertation Title: *Reading as Acting: The Novel's Casting Call and Readerly Performance in the British Nineteenth Century*.

Dissertation Committee: Carolyn Williams (director), David Kurnick, Dianne F. Sadoff, and Sharon Aronofsky Weltman.

M.A., Literatures in English, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (Oct. 2014).

B.A., English and Political Science, Montclair State University, Montclair, NJ (May 2011).

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2023 - present ***Assistant Professor of English***, Department of Languages and Literature, Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, LA.
- 2022 - 2023 ***Distinguished Scholar in British and Global Literatures***, Communication Arts, Language & Literature (CALL) Department, Western Colorado University, Gunnison, CO.
- 2015 - 2019 ***Composition Instructor, Teaching Assistant, and Part-Time Lecturer***, Writing Program and English Department, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 2014 - 2015 ***Foreign Expert***, School of Foreign Languages, English Department, Central China Normal University, Wuhan, Hubei, China.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

“Margaret Oliphant’s Experiment of Humour: *Miss Marjoribanks* as the ‘Satirist’s Collection.’”
Humour Across Victoriana. Routledge (forthcoming).

Journal Articles

“‘D’ye hear?’: Listening for Echoes of Empire in Dion Boucicault’s *Jessie Brown; or, the Relief of Lucknow*.” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, vol. 46, no. 1, Jan. 2024, pp. 99-115. <https://doi.org/10.1080/08905495.2024.2299130>.

“‘Drop the Curtain’: Astonishment and the Anxieties of Authorship in Charles Dickens’s *Sketches by Boz*.” *Dickens Studies Annual*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2018, pp. 249-78.

PRESENTATIONS OF WORK

Papers and Talks

- 2025 “‘Madame Bovary, c’est nous’: Cultural Fusion and the Victorian Female Reader.” Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (NCSA) Conference: Fusions of Culture, Time, and Space, New Orleans, Mar. 27-29.
- 2024 “Auditioning for Actress: The Female Reader in Mary E. Braddon’s *The Doctor’s Wife* and George Moore’s *A Mummer’s Wife*.” Special Session E5, “Gender, Politics, and Performance in the Nineteenth Century and Its Afterlives,” South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference, New Orleans, Sep. 19-21.
- 2024 “Playing and Staging the Reader: Charles Dickens and His Public Performances.” Spring 2024 Lecture Series, English and Philosophy Department, College of Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies, Southern University and A&M College, Apr. 4.
- 2023 “The Sound of Empire in Dion Boucicault’s *Jessie Brown; or the Relief of Lucknow*.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS) Conference: Nineteenth-Century Movements, University of Tennessee Knoxville, Apr. 13-16.
- 2023 “Subjects, Sovereigns, and the Dissonance of Imperialism in *Jessie Brown; or, The Relief of Lucknow*.” Midwest Victorian Studies Association (MVSA) Conference: Ruling Visions: Citizens, Subjects, Sovereigns, Washburn University, Mar. 24-26.
- 2022 “Playing Actress: Female Readers and Bodies in the Fiction of Flaubert, Braddon, and Moore.” British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), Baylor University, May 19-21.
- 2019 “From Ink to Drink: The Finishing Act of Female Readers.” Nineteenth-Century Studies Group Spring Workshop, Rutgers University, Apr. 24.
- 2019 “Reading Behind the Curtain: A Close Reading of Jane Austen’s *Emma*.” Guest lecture for “Principles of Literary Study, Prose,” taught by Brad Evans, Rutgers University, Apr. 23.
- 2018 “From Reading to ‘Respectable’ Acting: Charles Dickens and His Public Reading Performances.” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) Conference: Looking Outward, University of Florida, Oct. 11-14.

- 2018 "Reading from City to City: Charles Dickens and the Public Reading Spectacle." Conference: City, Space, and Spectacle in Nineteenth-Century Performance, Venice, Italy, Jun. 8-10.
- 2017 "Reading Behind the Curtain: Jane Austen's Theory of 'Incomplete' Acting." 25th British Women Writers Conference (BWWC), University of North Carolina, Jun. 21-24.
- 2017 "Reading Behind the Curtain: The Austenian Heroine's Stock of Quotations." The Dickens Project Winter Conference, University of Kentucky, Feb. 23-24.
- 2016 "'Drop the Curtain': Astonishment and Anxieties of Authorship in Charles Dickens's *Sketches by Boz*." Active Listening Workshop, Dickens Universe, University of California-Santa Cruz, Jul. 31-Aug. 5.
- 2014 "Interpreting Seriality: Traumatic Images in Nineteenth-Century Stage Melodrama." Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS) Conference: Nineteenth-Century Energies, Rice University, Mar. 27-30.
- 2013 "*Miss Marjoribanks* as 'The Satirist's Collection': Evaluating Oliphant's Humor and Its Revaluative Powers." The Princeton-Rutgers Victorian Symposium on Use/Value, Princeton University, Feb. 15.
- 2012 "Melodramatic Music and the 'Hindoo echo': Seriality in *The Relief of Lucknow*." Seminar on New Approaches to Serial Networks, North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) Conference: Victorian Networks, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Sep. 27-30.
- 2012 "'Drop the Curtain': The Limits of Astonishment and Authorship in *Sketches by Boz*." The Princeton-Rutgers Victorian Symposium on Legacy and Loss, Rutgers University, Feb. 17.
- 2011 "Facing Race in the Academy: An Open Forum," Rutgers University, Dec. 7.

Panels and Conferences Organized

- 2024 "Gender, Politics, and Performance in the Nineteenth Century and Its Afterlives," Special Session E5, South Central Modern Language Association (SCMLA) Conference, New Orleans, Sep. 19-21.
- 2017 "Un/natural Nineteenth Century," Princeton-Rutgers Victorian Symposium, a conference event organized by the Nineteenth-Century Studies Group, Princeton University, Feb. 10.
- 2016 "Feeling, Reading, and Performing in Nineteenth-Century Studies," a panel discussion event organized by the Nineteenth-Century Studies Group, Rutgers University, Nov. 18.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2025 MLA Pathways Step Grant (Co-PI), "Creating a Career Readiness Program for English Majors and Minors at Southern University and A&M College," Mellon Foundation, \$10,000.
- 2023 Professional Activity Fund Award, Center for Teaching Excellence at Western Colorado

- University (for “Conference Presentation of ‘Reading Between the Bars: Race, Nation, and Empire in the Music of *Jessie Brown; or, The Relief of Lucknow*’”), \$1,000.
- 2017 BWWA Travel Grant: Late 18th Century to Early 19th Century, British Women Writers Association (for “Reading Behind the Curtain: Jane Austen’s Theory of ‘Incomplete’ Acting”).
- 2017 Raritan Dissertation Fellowship, Rutgers University.
- 2016 Dickens Universe Fellowship, Rutgers University.
- 2012 Graduate English Symposium Award, Rutgers University (for “‘Drop the Curtain’: The Limits of Astonishment and Authorship in *Sketches by Boz*”).
- 2011 College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Academic Achievement and Service Award, Montclair State University.

COURSES TAUGHT

Southern University and A&M College, Baton Rouge, LA. Current undergraduate courses:

SENL 220 World Literature I (Fall 2024).
SENL 102 Freshman Composition II (Fall 2024).
ENGL 309 English Literature II (Spring 2024).
SENL 102 Freshman Composition II (Spring 2024).
ENGL 308 English Literature I (Fall 2023).
SENL 102 Freshman Composition II (Fall 2023).
SENL 101 Freshman Composition I (Fall 2023).

Western Colorado University, Gunnison, CO. Designed and taught undergraduate courses:

ENG 463 Major British Authors: The Nineteenth-Century Novel (Spring 2023).
ENG 358 Global Literature: Studies in Global Melodrama (Spring 2023).
ENG 302 Technical Writing (Spring 2023).
ENG 151 Borderlands: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality, “Exile, Immigration, and Identity” (Spring 2023).
ENG 372 British Literature: Medieval and Renaissance Texts (Fall 2022).
ENG 370 Myth and Culture, “Classical Mythology and Contemporary Afterlives” (Fall 2022).
ENG 302 Technical Writing (Fall 2022).
ENG 151 Borderlands: Representing Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality, “Imagining Women’s Worlds” (Fall 2022).

Union County College, Cranford, NJ. Designed and taught undergraduate courses:

ENG 101 English Composition I, “Expository Writing” [F2F, online] (Fall 2020).
ENG 102 English Composition II, “Introduction to Literature” [F2F, online] (Spring 2020).
ENG 112 English Composition for Speakers of Other Languages (Fall 2019).
ENG 101 English Composition I, “Expository Writing” (Fall 2019).

Raritan Valley Community College, Branchburg, NJ.

ENGL 111 English Composition I [online] (Fall 2020).

Brookdale Community College, Lincroft, NJ.

ENGL 121 English Composition: The Writing Process (Fall 2019).

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Designed and taught undergraduate courses:

01:359:202 Principles of Literary Study, Prose, “Readers, Narrators, and the Act of Reading” (Summer 2018).

01: 358:336 Nineteenth-Century British Fiction, “Reading and Performing in Nineteenth-Century Britain” (Spring 2017).

01:355:101 Expository Writing (Fall 2018, Fall 2015, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012).

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Led discussion section as teaching assistant:

01:350:220 Principles of Literary Study, Fiction (Spring 2014), taught by Brad Evans.

Central China Normal University, Hubei, China. Designed and taught undergraduate courses:

Visual-Audio-Oral English, “Listening, Speaking, and Viewing,” Part II (Spring 2015).

Visual-Audio-Oral English, “Listening, Speaking, and Viewing,” Part I (Fall 2014).

British Literature: Beginnings to 1900 (Fall 2014).

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Southern University, Department of Languages and Literature, English and Philosophy Program.

MLA Pathways Grant Proposal Project, 2023-present.

Curriculum & New Programs Committee, 2023-present.

Assessment Committee, 2024-present.

Senior Assessment Portfolio Committee, 2024-present.

Student Scholarship, Finance Management, & Grievance Committee, 2024-present.

Hospitality Committee, 2023-2024.

Western Colorado University, CALL Department, English Program.

CALL Department Representative, Academic Policies Committee, 2022-2023.

Faculty Advisor, *Alpha Xi Pi* Chapter, Sigma Tau Delta (International English Honors Society), Spring 2023.

Faculty Chaperone, Sigma Tau Delta 2023 Convention: “Colorful Colorado,” Denver, Colorado, Mar. 29-Apr. 1, 2023.

Faculty Chaperone, Santa Fe Film Festival, Santa Fe, New Mexico, Feb. 18-20, 2023.

Judge, WordHorde Poetry Slam, Gunnison Arts Center, Nov. 11, 2022.

Co-organizer, Undeclared Majors Pizza Party, Taylor Auditorium, Nov. 10, 2022.

Rutgers University, English Department, Graduate English Program.

Co-Director, Nineteenth-Century Studies Group, 2016-2017.

Coursework Representative, Graduate Executive Committee, 2012-2013.

Central China Normal University, School of Foreign Languages, English Department.
Judge, Students' Union Dubbing Contest, Nov. 21, 2014.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Manuscript Reader for Zhang, Junfeng. *Interpersonal Prominence and International Presence: Implicitness Constructed and Translated in Diplomatic Discourse*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

MLA (Modern Language Association).
SCMLA (South Central Modern Language Association).
NAVSA (North American Victorian Studies Association).
19CTC (Nineteenth-Century Theatre Caucus), NAVSA.
INCS (Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies).
NCSA (Nineteenth-Century Studies Association).
BWWA (British Women Writers Association).
MRC (Melodrama Research Consortium).

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS & LANGUAGES

Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), LinguaEdge, 2014.
Mandarin Chinese (full professional working proficiency).
American English (native proficiency).

QUALIFYING EXAMINATION FIELDS

Major Field: 19th-Century British Literature (Carolyn Williams and John Kucich).
Minor Field: Adaptation, Film Theory, and the 19th-Century Novel (Dianne F. Sadoff).
Minor Field: Novel/Narrative Theory (David Kurnick).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

English Focus Group Instructor, Wuhan, Hubei, China, 2015.

English Instructor for Homeschooled Students in the North Jersey Home School Association (NJHSA), Bloomfield, New Jersey. Designed and taught high school courses in Shakespeare: Drama (Spring 2010) and Medieval and Early Renaissance Literature (Fall 2009).

REFERENCES

Carolyn Williams
Distinguished Professor of English
Rutgers University, NJ
(609) 577-7633
williams@english.rutgers.edu

Brad Evans
Professor of English
Rutgers University, NJ 08901
(609) 937-9792
bevans@english.rutgers.edu

Steve Coughlin
Professor of English
Western Colorado University, CO
(970) 943-2025
scoughlin@western.edu

John Kucich
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Rutgers University, NJ
(609) 924-4101
jkucich@english.rutgers.edu

Dianne F. Sadoff
Professor Emerita of English
Rutgers University, NJ
(609) 924-4101
sadoffdf@scarletmail.rutgers.edu