

Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar

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CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor, Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures, Michigan State University — East Lansing, MI (current):
WRA 101: Writing as Inquiry (hybrid sections)

EDUCATION

PhD in English

Western Michigan University (December, 2013)

Dissertation: *Old English Ecologies: Environmental Readings of Anglo-Saxon Texts and Culture*.
An interdisciplinary, environmentally-focused analysis of the place of the human within the natural world as depicted in Anglo-Saxon texts.

Committee members: Dr. Jana Schulman (English, Dissertation Committee Chair),
Dr. Eve Salisbury (English), Dr. Richard Utz (English), Dr. Sarah Hill (outside reader –
Anthropology / Environmental Studies)

Master of Arts in Early Medieval Studies

University of York, England (2004; degree awarded with distinction)

Master's Thesis: *Trees in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Art*.

Directed by Dr. Jane Hawkes (Centre for Medieval Studies; Department of Art History)

Bachelor of Arts in English and History (*magna cum laude*)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Instructor (Part-Time), Department of English, Western Michigan University – Kalamazoo, MI (2019):

English 5300: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: Medieval Literature and the Non-Human (mixed graduate / undergraduate seminar in medieval literature and culture)

Assistant Professor, Center for Integrative Studies in Arts and Humanities, Michigan State University — East Lansing, MI (2018):

IAH 221C: Environmental Imagination in the Anthropocene

Visiting Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University — Allendale, Michigan (2015-2017):

English 203: World Literature (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 204: World Mythology

English 212: Introduction to Shakespeare (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 215: Approaches to the Study of Literature: Genre

English 216: Literary Criticism and Critical Theory

English 313: British Literature: William Shakespeare (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 382: Literature and the Environment (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 386: Literary Responses to Death and Dying

Part-time Lecturer, University of Michigan, Dearborn:

English 311: Early British Literature: *Beowulf* to Milton

Doctoral Candidate, Western Michigan University:

English 3300: Early British Literature: *Beowulf* to Boswell

English 3110: Our Place in Nature, Honors College seminar (team-taught)

English 2070: Mythology and the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien

English 1100: Introduction to Literary Interpretation

English 1050: Thought and Writing

Adjunct Lecturer, University of Maryland, Baltimore County:

English 241: Rings, Cauldrons, and Cattle Raids: The Mythologies of the North

Guest Lectures (at WMU):

English 4800: Methods of Teaching Literature in Secondary Schools; lectured on techniques for teaching *Beowulf* in translation and in cultural context at the secondary level

English 3710: Structure of the English Language; lectured on the grammar of literary texts

English 3770: Language in the Multilingual Classroom; presented on issues for migrant farm-worker families and challenges for migrant education

English 4800: Methods of Teaching Literature in Secondary Schools; lectured on methods of teaching medieval texts in the secondary schools

English 3720: History of the English Language; lectured on languages of Britain (Celtic, Latin, Anglo-Saxon) and early medieval cultures

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**Advisory Boards and Service (selected)**

Advisory Board member for *Medieval Ecocriticisms*, a peer-reviewed journal and book series published by Arc-Humanities Press and Amsterdam University Press (2019–current).

Advisory Board member for Teaching the Middle Ages book series published by Arc-Humanities Press and Amsterdam University Press (2019–current).

Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee (Early Medieval Literature) for WMU English Department (Fall 2019).

Faculty Evaluator, GVSU English Department Student Capstone Conference (Spring 2016)

Publications

Book Chapters

“Bringing Murder to Light: Death, Publishing, and Performance in Icelandic Sagas.” In *Murder Most Foul: Medieval and Early Modern Homicide*, edited by Larissa Tracy. Boydell and Brewer, 2018.

Langan, Kathleen, and **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**. “Deciphering and Moderating Meaningful DH Conversations for Graduate Students in Humanities-based Disciplines.” In *Digital Humanities in the Library: Challenges and Opportunities for Subject Specialists*, edited by Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, et. al. American Library Association, 2015.

Nagle, Christopher, **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**, and Cynthia Klekar. “Virtual Museums: British Literary Works in Historical and Cultural Context.” In *Teaching Literature in Virtual Worlds: Immersive Learning in English Studies*, edited by Allen Webb, pp. 123-136. Routledge, 2011.

Articles

“The Old English *Soul and Body I and IP*” (invited contribution). In *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*, edited by Robert Rouse and Sian Echard. Blackwell, 2017.

Vocke, Karen, Brooks Applegate, Carl Westine, and **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**. “Serving Latino Farmworker Students in Michigan Summer Migrant Programs: Directors’ Perspectives.” *The Journal of Latinos and Education* (2016).

Schweitzer VanDonkelaar, Ilse, and Christina Triezenberg. “Advocating for Mother Earth in the Undergraduate Classroom: Uniting Twenty-First Century Technologies, Local Resources, Art, and Activism to Explore Our Place in Nature.” *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (Winter 2015).

“The *Cruce Gemmata* and Shifting Significances of the Cross in Insular Art.” *Marginalia: The Journal of the Medieval Reading Group at the University of Cambridge* (Summer 2006). Available at <<http://www.marginalia.co.uk/journal/06illumination/schweitzer.php>>.

Book Reviews

Strange Beauty: Ecocritical Readings of Early Medieval Landscapes, by Alfred K. Siewers. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 18.1 (Winter 2011): 236-237.

Looking for Hickories: the Forgotten Wildness of the Rural Midwest, by Thomas Springer. *Third Coast* (Fall 2010): 181-183.

The Plants of Middle-Earth: Botany and Sub-Creation, by Dinah Hazell. In *Medievally Speaking: Medievalism in Review* (website). Available at <<http://medievallyspeaking.blogspot.com/2010/11/schweitzer-on-hazell-plants-of-middle.html>>.

Digital Projects

Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar, lines 1606-1620, *Beowulf by All* (2016). Available at <https://texttechnologies.stanford.edu/publications/beowulf-all>.

Online Old English Paradigm Project

Programmer for “OOEPP,” an educational tool of grammar quizzes for students of Old English, sponsored by Western Michigan University and directed by doctoral student

Gregory Laing. Site available at
<<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~g1laing/ooepp/index.html>>.

Literary Worlds Project

Creator of “Middangeard,” an educational, interactive online environment exploring Anglo-Saxon poetry and culture, for the *Literary Worlds Project*, directed by Dr. Allen Webb and sponsored by Western Michigan University. List of all *Literary Worlds Project* sites available at: <<http://brn227.brown.wmich.edu/literaryworlds/worldlist.htm>>.

Conference Presentations

International

- “Asgardians in the East: Norse Gods in Japanese Popular Culture” — co-presenter with Sarah Kelley Brish, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019
- “Paths Without End: Exile and Movement and Immobility in Anglo-Saxon Poetry” — Leeds International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2017
- “Teaching the *Edda* and Sagas in the Undergraduate Classroom: Strategies and Approaches” (roundtable; presenter and organizer) — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017
- “The Dead Speak: The ‘Soul and Body’ Tradition in Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse Literatures” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2014
- “Waste Not, Want Not: Misuse and Disuse of Land and Labor in Old Norse Law and Literature” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011
- “Elegy, Environment, Ecology: a Green Reading of Exile in Anglo-Saxon Poetry” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009
- “Publish and Perish: Declaring Murder in Icelandic Sagas” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2007
- “The Memory of Trees in Anglo-Saxon Poetry” — University of Leeds International Medieval Congress, Leeds (UK), July 2006
- “‘Still Combatants’ of *Ragnarök* in Anglo-Scandinavian Stone Sculpture” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2006
- “The *Cruix Gemmata* and Shifting Significances of the Cross in Insular Art” — University of Glasgow “Visions and Visionary” Conference Workshop, Glasgow (UK), Spring 2004
- Presider for session “Medieval Ecocriticisms” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018
- Presider for session “Old English Lexis and Alliteration” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2014

Presider for session “The Junius Manuscript and Its Poems”— International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010

National

“American Norse: Frank Norris’s Adaptations of the Icelandic *Grettis Saga*” — Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association, April 2017 (*upcoming*)

“Houses of Earth and Bone: The Homely Grave in Anglo-Saxon Literature”
— Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, October 2014

“Wilderness, waste, *wester*: Into the Wild with Guthlac” — 2013 Anglo-Saxon Studies Graduate Colloquium, New York University, April 2013

“King Arthur the Tyrant and the Scottish Call for Freedom”— National Conference for Undergraduate Research, Salt Lake City (UT), Spring 2003; also presented at UMBC Undergraduate Research Day, Spring 2003

State / Regional

“Natural Places and Digital Spaces: Teaching Environmental Writing with Blogging and Digital Storytelling” — Co-presenter with Christina Triezenberg, Michigan Academy Conference, Hope College (MI), March 2013

“Advocating for Mother Earth: Uniting 21st Century Technologies, Local Resources, Art, and Activism to Explore Our Place in Nature” — Co-presenter with Christina Triezenberg, Michigan Academy Conference, Saginaw Valley State University, March 2011

“Grettir’s Last Stand and the Icelandic Frontier: Frank Norris’s Retelling of the 13th century *Grettis Saga*”— Michigan Academy Conference, Alma College, March 2009

“Theorizing and Responding to Plagiarism in the Writing Center”— Co-presenter with Kim Ballard, Director of WMU Writing Center, Michigan Writing Centers Association Ideas Exchange in Muskegon (MI), October 2007

EDITORIAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA EXPERIENCE

Acquisitions Editor for Medieval Institute Publications (2016–2019)

Acquisitions Editor for Arc-Humanities Press and Amsterdam University Press (2014–2019)

Peer Review and Quality Control Coordinator for Arc-Humanities Press and Medieval Institute Publications (2017–present)

Social Media Specialist and Consultant, Medieval Institute Publications (2015)

Social Media Specialist, WMU Graduate College (2012-2015)

Co-Moderator, Interdisciplinary Work Group in the Digital Humanities, sponsored by the WMU Center for the Humanities (Fall 2013-Spring 2014)

Co-Organizer, Seminar Series in Digital Research and Scholarship, a lecture and workshop series offered by the Graduate College and University Libraries, WMU (Summer 2013)

Co-Organizer, “Advancing Your Research Skills for the Digital Age,” a workshop offered by the Graduate College and University Libraries, WMU (March 2013); schedule available at <<http://www.wmich.edu/grad/events/digital.pdf>>

Assistant Editor for *Medievally Speaking: Medievalism in Review*; available at <<http://medievallyspeaking.blogspot.com/>> (2012–2014)

Pre-Editor / Technical Editor for Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium (2012–2014)

Reviewer for *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (2013)

Associate Editor for *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (2009–2010)

Writing Consultant at WMU Writing Center (2007)

Graduate Writing Consultant for UMBC Writing Center (Spring 2005)

Writing Tutor for UMBC Writing Center (September 2000–May 2003)

OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE SERVICE

Graduate Assistant for WMU English Department Chair Dr. Jonathan Bush (2011-2012)

Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan Migrant Education Project (2009-2011)

Prague Summer Program Graduate Student Assistant (2009)

Secretary of Association of Graduate English Students (AGES) at WMU (2008-2010)

Student Representative for Policy Committee, WMU English Department (2008-2009)

English Department Steward for WMU Teaching Assistants' Union (2007-2009)

Student Representative for Graduate Committee, WMU English Department (2006-2008)

President of Association of Graduate English Students (AGES) at WMU (2006-2007)

Organizing Committee member for WMU Teaching Assistants Union (2005-2006)

AWARDS

Faculty Travel Grant from Grand Valley State University — 2017

Graduate Students' Travel Fund Award from WMU Graduate College — 2013

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, awarded by WMU Graduate College — 2010

Prague Summer Program graduate essay award, selected by Robin Hemley and Richard Katrovas — 2009

WMU Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award (Departmental Recipient) — 2008

Frederick J. Rogers Memorial Shakespeare Essay Prize (graduate level; WMU English Department) — 2007

Graduate Students' Travel Fund Award from WMU Graduate College — 2006

Garmonsway Prize at University of York — 2004

Graduate Students' Scholarship to University of York — 2003

British Marshall Scholarship alternate candidate — 2003

LANGUAGES STUDIED

Anglo-Saxon (at York and WMU), Old Norse (at York and WMU), Latin (at UMBC and York), Scots Gaelic (at Aberdeen), French

REFERENCES

Prof. Jana Schulman
 Director, Medieval Institute
 Western Michigan University
 1903 W. Michigan Avenue
 Kalamazoo, MI 49007
jana.schulman@wmich.edu

Prof. Richard Utz
 Chair, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
 School of Literature, Communication, and Culture
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 North Avenue
 Atlanta, Georgia 30332
richard.utz@lcc.gatech.edu

Prof. Eve Salisbury (emerita)
 Department of English
 Western Michigan University
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Dr. Simon Forde
 Director and Editor-in-Chief
 Arc-Humanities Press
 's-Hertogenbosch, Netherlands, and Leeds, UK
simon.forde@arc-humanities.org