

## Heather McLeer

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 Department of English  
 608 S. Wright Street, MC-718  
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### Education

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#### *Degrees earned*

2017 Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
 2009 M.A., English, Brown University  
 2006 B.A., English Literature and French, Franklin & Marshall College

#### *Dissertation*

“Matters of Verisimilitude: Transitional and Transnational Realisms in Ireland, 1880-1940”

My dissertation establishes an alternative literary history of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Ireland by tracing the emergence of an oppositional, politically committed version of literary realism during and after the Irish Literary Revival as a response to the cultural nationalism promoted by leading figures of the Revival.

Director: Vicki Mahaffey (Kirkpatrick Professor of English and Gender & Women’s Studies)  
 Committee: James Hansen, Andrew Gaedtke, Julia Saville

### Research and Teaching Interests

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Irish literature and culture of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century British literature; British and Irish modernism; Late Victorian literature and culture; Trans-channel and transnational literary networks; Transitional realist and modernist literature

### Publications

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#### *Works in Progress*

“Departures, Dispossession, and Domestic Spaces in Elizabeth Bowen’s *To the North* [Working Title].” Article manuscript in progress.

“Modernist Commitment and Realist Ambivalence in the Irish Periphery: J.M. Synge and the Question of Verisimilitude [Working Title].” Article manuscript in progress.

## Academic Employment

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2017-Present	Lecturer, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2009-2017	Graduate Student, Department of English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Assistant for Vicki Mahaffey: Summer 2016-Spring 2017</li> <li>• Teaching Assistant: Fall 2009-Summer 2017</li> </ul>

## Awards and Honors

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### *Fellowships and Grants*

2015-17	English Department Travel Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2015	Kirkpatrick Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2014-15	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2014	Graduate College Block Grant Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### *Teaching Awards*

2018	Department of English Undergraduate Teaching Award, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2009	Nominee for Department of English Award for Outstanding Teaching, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## Conference Presentations

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- “Exterior Migration and Interior Exile in George Moore’s *The Lake*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2020 National Meeting: Borders and Borderlands. Houston, Texas, April 2020.  
(*Conference canceled due to COVID-19*)
- “Yeats, Martyn, and the Question of Realism in the Irish Literary Theatre.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2019 National Meeting: Declarations of Independence: Treaties, Transitions, and Tearing Away. Boston, Massachusetts, March 2019.
- “Yeats’ Symbolic West: Irishness and Landscape in *The Celtic Twilight*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2018 International Meeting: Environments of Irish Studies. Cork, Ireland, June 2018.
- “New Realism and Cosmopolitan Patriotism in Joyce’s *Exiles*.” 2017 North American James Joyce Symposium: Diasporic Joyce. Toronto, Canada, June 2017.

“Elizabeth Bowen’s Uneasy Cosmopolitanism: Departures, Dispossession, and Domestic Spaces in *To The North*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2017 International Meeting. Kansas City, Missouri, March 2017.

“Impermanent Homes and Imaginary Mother(land)s in Elizabeth Bowen’s *The House in Paris*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2016 International Meeting: The Worlding of Irish Studies. South Bend, Indiana, March 2016.

“Fallen Heroes and Displaced National Memory in Seán O’Casey’s *The Silver Tassie*.” Seminar presentation, “World War I: Reconsidering Rupture.” Modernist Studies Association 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Boston, Massachusetts, November 2015.

“Resisting the Irish Middlebrow in Edward Martyn’s Irish Theatre.” Bad Books: 10<sup>th</sup> Annual British Modernities Group Graduate Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, May 2015.

“George Moore’s Alternative Realisms in *A Drama In Muslin*.” American Conference for Irish Studies 2015 International Meeting: Irish Speculations. Fort Lauderdale, Florida, March 2015.

“Modernist Commitment and Realist Ambivalence in the Irish Periphery: J.M. Synge’s ‘anti-commitment’ and the question of verisimilitude.” Seminar presentation, “The Long 1930s: Rethinking Commitment.” Modernist Studies Association 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 2014.

“Perceiving Percival: Subjective Perception and Residual Reality in *The Waves*.” 24<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf: Writing the World. Loyola University Chicago, June 2014.

“Riotous Realism: Realistic Comedy, Patriotism, and the Reaction against J.M. Synge’s *The Playboy of the Western World*.” Comic Returns: 9<sup>th</sup> Annual British Modernities Group Graduate Symposium. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, April 2014.

“Acts of Contrition? The Auricular Confessional as Site of Fraternal Conflict in *Finnegans Wake*.” 2013 North American James Joyce Symposium. Charleston, South Carolina, June 2013.

### **Invited Presentations**

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“Elizabeth Bowen’s Uneasy Cosmopolitanism.” The New Academy Lecture Series. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 5 April 2019.

## Teaching Experience

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\* University of Illinois List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students

### ***Literature Instruction***

Introduction to Fiction (English 109): Spring 2022\*; Fall 2020 (online); Spring 2016\*; Fall 2015\*; Spring 2013\*; Fall 2012\*; Spring 2011

A literature and composition course for non-English majors focusing on fiction across media and the craft of analytic prose writing.

British Literature 1800 – Present (English 210): Fall 2018

A survey of major British authors and cultural movements, covering Romanticism through contemporary British authors.

The Short Story (English 245): Fall 2014

A humanities core course for non-English majors focused exclusively on the short story and its formal properties across a wide variety of periods and authors.

The British Novel (English 247): Fall 2013

A survey course for English majors focusing on the emergence and development of the British novel as a genre from the eighteenth century to the present.

British Literature from 1798 – Present (English 210): Spring 2012\* (TA for Ted Underwood); Fall 2011\* (TA for Julia Saville)

A survey course for English majors covering major British authors and cultural movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in conversation with their historical contexts.

Introduction to Literary Studies (English 200): Fall 2010

The initial course in the English major sequence, focusing on literary methods and the practice of constructing analytic and critical literary arguments.

### ***Composition Instruction***

Advanced Composition (Rhetoric 233): Spring 2023; Fall 2022

Principles of Research (Rhetoric 102): Spring 2022\*; Spring 2021 (online); Spring 2020

Principles of Writing (Rhetoric 101): Fall 2021\*; Fall 2020\* (online); Fall 2019\*

Writing and Research (Rhetoric 105): Spring 2023; Fall 2022; Spring 2018\*; Fall 2017\*

College Composition I (Rhetoric 103): Fall 2013\*; Fall 2012

College Composition II (Rhetoric 104): Spring 2013; Spring 2012; Spring 2011\*

College Writing I (Rhetoric 101): Fall 2011\*; Fall 2009\*

College Writing II (Rhetoric 102): Spring 2010\*

Rhetoric Tutorial (Rhetoric 100): Spring 2022; Fall 2021; Spring 2021; Fall 2020; Spring 2020; Fall 2019; Fall 2010; Spring 2010; Fall 2009 (*Note: Evaluations not conducted for this course*)

### ***Professional Writing Instruction***

Principles of Business Communication: Summer 2020 (online); Spring 2019; Fall 2018

### ***Tutorial Experience***

Writers Workshop Associate, University of Illinois: Spring 2017; Fall 2016; Spring 2016; Fall 2015

Writing Center Associate, Brown University: Summer 2008; Spring 2008; Fall 2007

## Service

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Peer Mentor, Undergraduate Rhetoric Program. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2022-Present.

Communications Chair (elected), Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2021-Present.

Stewards Council (elected), Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2018-Present.

Chief Steward (elected), Non-Tenure Faculty Coalition, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019-2021.

Committee on Specialized Faculty (elected). Department of English. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2019-2021.

Panel respondent, Stranger Things: The Weird, The Paranormal, and the Problem of Belief, British Modernities Group 2018 Graduate Conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 20-21 April 2018.

Co-organizer, The Great War: Transnational Literary Responses Reading Group. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 2014.

Co-organizer, Modern Brains, British Modernities Group 2012 Graduate Conference. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 9-10 March 2012.

Co-founder and co-organizer, Illinois *Finnegans Wake* Reading Group. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2010-2020.

## Professional Memberships

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American Conference for Irish Studies (ACIS)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Modernist Studies Association (MSA)

## Languages

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French (speaking and reading fluency)

## References

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**Vicki Mahaffey**, Kirkpatrick Professor  
 Department of English and Gender & Women's Studies  
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 608 S. Wright Street, MC-718  
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**James Hansen**, Associate Professor  
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**Julia Saville**, Professor Emerita  
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