Dr. Heather Nelson
heatherleanelson.com

Employment (Selected)

Western Colorado University
Distinguished Scholar in English Literature
2022-2025

Colorado State University-Pueblo
Visiting Assistant Professor of English and Affiliated Faculty of Women's Studies
2017-2018

Antioch College
Visiting Assistant Professor of Literature
2015-2016

Education

Purdue University
Ph.D., English
Concentration: Literary Studies
Major Field: Nineteenth Century
Secondary Area: Women's Literature and Feminist Theory
May 2015

Wake Forest University
M.A., English
May 2005

Yale University
B.A., English
May 2003

Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art
Yale-in-London
British Studies
Spring 2002

Forthcoming Book

I Do?: Women, Consent, and Marriage in Nineteenth-Century England
University of Toronto Press, advance contract, 2028

Published Journal Articles

"Elizabeth Bennet's Proposal Scenes and Nonconsensual Consent"
Persuasions: The Jane Austen Journal, no. 42, 2020, pp. 194-206

"'Nothing That She Could Allege Against Him in Judicious or Judicial Ears': 'Consensual' Marital Abuse in Victorian Literature"
George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies, vol. 69, no. 1, 2017, pp. 89-119

"'She Sins While She Remains Away': Marital Consent, Restitution of Conjugal Rights, and Anthony Trollope's Phineas Novels"
Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature, no. 129, Spring 2016, pp. 98-111

"'When a Daughter Elopes to Gretna, Generally It Is a Wicked Thing': Female Consent, Clandestine Marriage, and Susannah Frances Reynolds's *Gretna Green; Or, All for Love*"
ANQ: A Quarterly Journal of Short Articles, Notes and Reviews, vol. 28, no. 2, April-June 2015, pp. 79-86

"'You Could Be Judas': *Pudd'nhead Wilson*'s Black Slaveowner"
Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South, vol. 22, no. 1, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 16-44

Submitted Journal Article

"'An Engagement Cannot Be Broken Off, Except By Mutual Consent': Jilts, Breach-of-Promise Law, and *Wives and Daughters*"
Law & Literature, 2026

Funding (Selected)

British Women Writers Association
Contingent Faculty Travel Award
Spring 2025

American Association of University Women
American Short-Term Research Publication Grant, alternate
Summer 2024

Western Colorado University
Professional Activity Fund Awards
2023-2024

Colorado State University-Pueblo
College of Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty Development Fund Grant
Fall 2017

Purdue University
Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship
2014-2015
Purdue Research Foundation Research Grant Dissertation Fellowship
2013-2014
Graduate School Summer Research Grant
Summer 2012

Wake Forest University
Summer Research Support Grant
Summer 2004

Yale University
Yale Center for British Art Fellowship
Spring 2002

Conference Presentations

"Designed for Success: Marriage Proposals, Nonconsensual Consent, and *The Beth Book*"
British Women Writers Association
Palm Springs, CA
March 2027

"'Nothing That She Could Allege Against Him in Judicious or Judicial Ears': *Daniel Deronda*, Consent, the Marital Rape Exemption, and Homicidal Ideation"
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies/Nineteenth-Century Studies Association
Washington, D.C.
July 2026

"Writing Literature as Collecting Evidence: George Egerton, Consent, the Marital Rape Exemption, and Homicidal Ideation"
British Women Writers Association
Auburn University
May 2026

"'How Could I Know What Would Come?': Consent, Abuse, and 'Janet's Repentance'"
British Women Writers Association
Sioux Falls, SD
May 2025

"*Pride and Prejudice*'s Reproductions: Marriage Proposals and Nonconsensual Consent"
British Women Writers Association
University of Colorado Boulder
May 2024

"Caroline Helstone's Transgression: Consent, Modesty, and *Shirley*"
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
Cincinnati, OH
March 2024

"'I Should Force Her to Return to My House': Consent, Restitution of Conjugal Rights, and Anthony Trollope"
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
Knoxville, TN
April 2023

"'No Daughter of Mine Should Be Married to Any Man Alive under Such a Settlement': Consent and *The Woman in White*"
Nineteenth-Century Studies Association
Rochester, NY
March 2022

"'It's a Great Shame She Has to Part with Anything': Consent and The Dower Act in Victorian Drama"
Unearned Wealth: A Literary History of Inheritance (1600-2015)
Aarhus University
November 2019

"Recovery from Engagements: Jilting, Actions for Breach of Promise of Marriage, and Elizabeth Gaskell's *Wives and Daughters*"
Victorians Institute
Furman University
October 2017

"'If You Don't Want to Live with Him Any More You Have a Right to Leave Him': Female Consent, the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857, and the Victorian Divorce Novel"
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
Asheville, NC
March 2016

"'When a Daughter Elopes to Gretna, Generally It Is a Wicked Thing': Female Consent, Clandestine Marriage, and Susannah Frances Reynolds's *Gretna Green; Or, All for Love*"
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies
Atlanta, GA
April 2015

"'Keeping Them Ignorant Who I Was': Performativity and Colonialism in *The Female American*"
Society of Early Americanists
Flagler College
May 2010

"'You Could Be Judas': A Black Slaveowner in Mark Twain's *Pudd'nhead Wilson*"
Society for the Study of Southern Literature
New Orleans, LA
April 2010

"'Till This Moment, I Never Knew Myself': Developing Self, Love, and Art in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Emma*"
Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States
Pepperdine University
October 2006

Invited University Presentation

"I Do?: Victorian Women, Consent, and Marriage"
Cool Women, Hot Topics
Colorado State University-Pueblo
March 2018

Workshop Presentations

"'Nothing That She Could Allege Against Him in Judicious or Judicial Ears': Consent, the Marital Rape Exemption, and Homicidal Ideation"
Victorianist Writing Retreat, Dickens Universe
University of California, Santa Cruz
July 2026

"Engagement: 'You Must Give Me Leave to Judge for Myself'"
Nineteenth-Century Seminar, Dickens Universe
University of California, Santa Cruz
July 2025

"The Concept of General Consent: Application to Women and Marriage in Nineteenth-Century England"
Conceptual Innovation, Methods & Law: An Interdisciplinary Legal Residence
King's College London
June-July 2025

"'An Engagement Cannot Be Broken Off, Except By Mutual Consent': Jilts, Actions for Breach of Promise of Marriage, and *Wives and Daughters*"
Nineteenth-Century Seminar, Dickens Universe
University of California, Santa Cruz
July 2024

"'We Made the Compact, and Surely We Can Cancel It': Consent, the Matrimonial Causes Act 1857, and Victorian Divorce Novels"
Works in Progress Webinar in Law and Literature
July 2022

"'Women Made a Fuss about It in Books': A Network of Victorians against the 'Consensual' Marital Rape Exemption"
North American Victorian Studies Association
University of Wisconsin
September 2012

Invited Course Presentations

"Consent, Modesty, and *Sense and Sensibility*"
Women and Literature
Western Colorado University
March 2023

"Consent, Marital Abuse, and Class in Nineteenth-Century England"
Victorian Women Writers and Fictions of Feminism
Miami University
February 2017

Invited Society Presentation (Selected)

"Consent and Restitution in the Phineas Novels"
Winter Lecture
Trollope Society
March 2023

Teaching

Western Colorado University
Academic Writing: American Short Stories
2022-2023
British Literature: Milton through the Romantics
Fall 2023
British Literature: The Victorians to the Present Day
Fall 2024
Critical Approaches to Literature: Feminist Theory
2022-2023
Global Literatures: Marriage
Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Hitchcock's Adaptations
Fall 2022

Literary Theory and Criticism: Shakespeare
Spring 2023
Major British Authors: Jane Austen
Spring 2025
Major British Authors: The Brontës and Gaskell
Spring 2024
Myth and Culture: Greco-Roman Literature
Fall 2023
Senior Seminar I: Jane Austen
Fall 2022
Senior Seminar II: Futures
Spring 2023
Women Writers: Feminist Utopias and Dystopias
Fall 2024
Writing and Rhetoric II
2023-2025

Colorado State University-Pueblo
The Brontës and Gaskell
Spring 2018
Introduction to Literature
2017-2018
Literary Criticism and Theory: Shakespeare
Fall 2017
Literature of England II
Spring 2018
Senior Seminar: Jane Austen
Fall 2017

Miami University
The Brontës
Spring 2017
Composition and Rhetoric: The American Short Story
Fall 2016
Life and Thought in English Literature, 1660-1901
Spring 2017

Antioch College
Introduction to the British Literary Tradition
Spring 2016
Introduction to World Literature
Fall 2015
Jane Austen
Winter 2016
The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century African-American Literary Experience
Fall 2015

Shakespeare and Theory
Winter 2016
The Victorian Novel
Spring 2016

Purdue University
Introduction to Fiction
2012-2013
Introductory Composition: Composing Through Literature—The American Short Story
Fall 2009-Fall 2012
Introductory Composition: Documenting Realities
2008-2009

Duke University
Creative Writing: Express Yourself
Summer 2011
Myths and Legends
Summer 2011

Kansas State University
Expository Writing I
Fall 2007
Freshman Seminar
Fall 2007
Great Books
Spring 2008
The Short Story
2007-2008

Service to the Profession

Dickens Universe
Founder and Host, Victorianist Writing Retreat
2025-2026

Service to the University

Western Colorado University
Co-Host, Contemporary Writer Series
Spring-Fall 2024
Founder and President, Women of Western
Spring 2023-2025
Founder and President, Women of Western's Student Evaluations Task Force
Spring 2023-Summer 2024
Instructor, Women's Basketball Team yoga
Fall 2024

Member, Career Champions Network
Fall 2023-Fall 2024
Member, Faculty Evaluation Task Force
Summer 2024-2025
Member, Faculty Review Committee, Director of Online Professional Studies search
Spring 2025
Member, First-Year Writing Program Committee
Fall 2022-Spring 2024
Member, Graduate Programs Committee
Fall 2022-2025

Yale University
Member, Yale Alumni Schools Committee
Fall 2018-present

Antioch College
Hearings Member, Community Standards Board
Spring 2016
Search Committee Member, Assistant Director for Residence Life and Education
Winter-Spring 2016

Awards (Selected)

Western Colorado University
Men's Basketball Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
Spring 2023
Women's Basketball Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
Spring 2025, Spring 2023
Wrestling Team Faculty and Staff Appreciation Award
Fall 2022

Training (Selected)

Purdue University
Practicum in Teaching Literature
Fall 2012
Teaching First-Year Composition
2008-2009

Kansas State University
Practicum in Teaching University Expository Writing
Fall 2007

Memberships

American Association of University Professors

Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities

British Women Writers Association

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies

Jane Austen Society of North America

Modern Language Association

National Women's Studies Association

Nineteenth Century Studies Association

North American Victorian Studies Association