

Gianina M. Coturri Sorenson

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Education

Ph.D., English, Nineteenth-Century American and British Literature (May 2020)
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

Dissertation: “An Old Acquaintance: Personifying Trees to Overcome the Nature/Culture Binary”

Dissertation Committee: Karen L. Kilcup (chair), Anne Wallace, and Risa Applegarth

M.A., English, Nineteenth-Century American and British Literature (May 2015)
University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC

Theses: “Georgic Rest and Pastoral Labor: John Clare’s Environmentalism” and
“Fled for Shelter to a Heart of Nature?: Gender and the Environment in Mary Wilkins
Freeman’s *Six Trees*”

B.A. (highest honors), English Literature and Literary Theory (June 2012)
University of California, Davis, Davis, CA

Research and Teaching Interests

Nineteenth-Century American and British Literature, Literature and the Environment, Ecocriticism,
Environmental Rhetoric, Ecofeminism, and Genre Fiction

Employment History

Assistant Director, UNCG Writing Center, Greensboro, NC, August 2021-present

Instructor of Record, UNCG English Department, Greensboro, NC, June 2020-July 2021

Graduate Instructor of Record, UNCG English Department, Greensboro, NC, Aug. 2015-May 2020

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Edited Collection Chapters

“Philosophy of Education.” *The Oxford Handbook of American and British Women Philosophers in the Nineteenth Century*, edited by Lydia Moland and Alison Stone, Oxford University Press. Forthcoming.

“Environmental Bending: How *Avatar: The Last Airbender* Introduces Viewers to Environmentalism.” *A Scholarly Companion to the Avatar Franchise: Storytelling, Identity, Trauma, and Fandom* (tentative title), edited by Francis M. Agnoli, Bloomsbury. Forthcoming.

Pedagogy

“Workshopping Our Non-Native-English-Speaking Sessions: Ways to Reduce Guilt and Encourage Flexibility When We Consult.” *Communication Center Journal* 1, no. 3 (Nov. 2017): 160-62.

Co-Written

Senior advisor. With Allison Fulton, Jenna Gersie, and Kacey Stewart. “The Year in Conferences—2019.” *ESQ: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Culture* 66, no. 1 (Spring 2020): 190-213.

Senior advisor. With Brittany Biesiada, Hannah Champion, Jane Fleming, Seth Spencer, and Regina Yoong Yui Jien. “The Year in Conferences—2018.” *ESQ* 65, no. 1 (Spring 2019): 183-211.

Senior advisor with Daniel Clausen. With Kayleigh Setoda, Adam Syvertsen, and Anneke Ellen Schwob. “The Year in Conferences—2017.” *ESQ* 64, no. 1 (Jan. 2018): 133-97.

With Sarah Olivier (senior advisor), Tracey-Lynn Clough, Kathleen Davies, and Jillian Weber. “The Year in Conferences—2015.” *ESQ* 62, no. 1 (Jan. 2016): 201-33.

In-House Publications

“Personalizing Academic Discourse: Balancing Style and Academic Expectations.” In *Navigating Rhetoric*, edited by Carl Schlachte, Daysha Pinto, and Beth Ball, 156-162, Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2020.

“Literary Eras.” In *Lenses*, edited by Beth Miller and Wesley Sexton, 88-89, 92, Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil, 2020.

Works in Progress

“*An Old Acquaintance*”: *Personification of Trees in Nineteenth-Century Historical Fiction*. Monograph to be submitted to the University of Georgia Press.

“Branching into Space: How *Voltron: Legendary Defender* Fosters a Greener Future.” Article manuscript to be submitted to *MOSF Journal of Science Fiction*, Winter 2021.

“‘As the tree...so the woman’: Trees, Spinsters, and Resistance in Mary Wilkins Freeman’s *Six Trees*.” Article manuscript to be submitted to *Studies in the American Short Story*, Summer 2022.

Presentations and Conference Activities

“An Uprooted Tree: Catharine Maria Sedgwick’s Personified Trees and Displaced Native Americans.”
South Atlantic Modern Language Association 91, Atlanta, GA. Nov. 2019.

“A Throne of Turf...Under the Twisted Branches of the Huge Oak’: Sir Walter Scott’s Forested Paradise.” Thirteenth Biennial Conference of the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment, Davis, CA. June 2019.

“As the tree...so the woman’: Trees, Spinsters, and Resistance in Mary Wilkins Freeman’s *Six Trees*.”
Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference, Denver, CO. Nov. 2018.

“Fraternizing While Undercover: Postcolonial Representation in Peer Consultations.”
International Writing Center Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. Nov. 2017.

“Monkeyrusting: How the Humanities Can Encourage Rust in the Machine.”
Twelfth Biennial Conference of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment,
Detroit, MI. June 2017.

Co-organizer, with Kayla Forrest, Marc Keith, and Bryan McMillan,
“Teaching the Environment: How We Can Include Ecocriticism in Introductory Classes.”
Twelfth Biennial Conference of Association for the Study of Literature and Environment,
Detroit, MI. June 2017.

“Sustainability and Me: How the Humanities Can Foster Sustainability.” UNCG Sustainability Breakfast Series, Greensboro, NC. Nov. 2016. (invited talk)

Awards and Grants

Mildred Kates Dissertation Fellowship, UNCG, 2019

Recognition for excellent research; awarded to PhD candidate based on dissertation’s strength; judged on writing quality, originality, rigor of research, and potential contribution to the field

Lyon Fellowship, UNCG, 2018

A university-wide honor based on merit; awarded to a newly admitted or continuing graduate student; each department can nominate only one graduate student

Hephzibah Roskelly Award for Public Scholarship or Pedagogy, UNCG, 2017

A departmental award; given to an instructor who has strengthened the culture of pedagogical innovation in the College Writing Program and supported ongoing professional development

James Evans Award for Graduate Service, UNCG, 2016

A departmental honor; given to a graduate student who fosters a dynamic English graduate student community and to superior integration of this community into the Department

Awards and Grants (cont.)

Barwick/Sink Scholarship, UNCG, 2013

A university-wide scholarship; awarded to a first-year graduate student in the humanities who demonstrates academic merit

Travel Grants

Graduate School Summer Research Assistantship, UNCG, 2019

Elizabeth Rosenthal Travel Grant, UNCG, 2018

LENSES/RACW Travel Grant, UNCG, 2018

Graduate Student Travel Award, Society for the Study of American Women Writers, 2018

Class of 1952 Travel Grant, UNCG, 2017

Teaching Experience

Literature Courses

Major American Authors, Colonial to Romantic: ENG 251 (Writing Intensive) (1 section)

This course surveyed American literature from Anne Bradstreet to Emily Dickinson. I facilitated discussions about canonicity and how authors utilize literary devices, which enabled students to ask questions about what we read and why.

Topics in Global Literature: ENG 208 (Writing Intensive) (1 section, hybrid f2f and online)

This class examined non-western poems, essays, fiction, and films to better understand how the relationship between humans and nonhumans has evolved since the late 1700s and how the natural environment unites even as global politics divide.

Introduction to Narrative: ENG 105 (4 sections, f2f and online)

My “questioning justice” course, which draws from nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first-century short stories, poems, and novels, encourages students to think about who is granted justice, while helping them develop their close reading, critical thinking, and discussion-leadership skills.

Approach to Literature: ENG 104 (Writing Intensive) (4 sections, f2f and online)

My “country versus city” class, which included texts from the nineteenth-, twentieth-, and twenty-first centuries, introduced students to established genres (poetry, drama, short story, and prose) and new ones (comic books and podcasts), helping them advance their close reading and discussion skills.

Teaching Experience (cont.)

Writing Courses

The Art of Writing: ENG 223 (1 section)

This workshop-based class helped students learn how to develop stimulating creative nonfiction. Themed around nature writing, students read various example essays, wrote weekly papers in addition to their final paper, crafted fieldwork projects, and workshopped peers' writing.

College Writing II: ENG 102 (Speaking Intensive) (6 sections, f2f and online)

In this speaking intensive class, students applied their research and argumentative skills to speeches. Through a combination of written and spoken assignments, students practiced appealing to their audience, incorporating research, and adapting their arguments to different genres.

College Writing I: ENG 101 (Writing Intensive) (8 sections, f2f and online)

This class used nature writing to help students develop their ability to revise, appeal to their audience, and establish their ethos. Students completed argumentative essays, nature journals, and multimodal projects so they could practice the skills they need to succeed in any writing situation.

Teaching Internships

Literature and the Environment: ENG 380 (Writing Intensive) (1 section)

I helped Dr. Karen Kilcup organize class discussion, grade, mentored undergraduate students, and taught a three-hour class, leading the writing workshop, integrating the student presentations, and directing class discussion.

Teaching College Writing: ENG 747 (1 section)

I helped Dr. Risa Applegarth organize and run this graduate teaching practicum focused on pedagogy and mentored new teaching assistants.

Administrative Experience

Assistant Director, College Writing Program, April 2018-June 2019

Helped the College Writing Program director plan and lead a three-day orientation for twelve new instructors; organized and documented program-wide meetings; oversaw Teaching Groups; and consulted on all aspects of the writing program, including curriculum revision, professional development, and programmatic research.

Graduate Assistant Director, UNCG Writing Center, Aug. 2016-May 2017

Attended weekly meetings, produced a weekly newsletter, conducted midterm reviews, developed professional development workshops, and helped answer consultant questions

Administrative Experience (cont.)

Coordinator, Advanced Writers' Support Program, UNCG Writing Center, 2014-2015

Matched writers working on long-term projects with consultants, coordinated appointments, and answered emails regarding the program

Service

Professional

VP of Membership and Records, Lydia Maria Child Society, July 2019-2022

Process new memberships and renewals; update and maintain all financial transactions; advise the Executive Board on budget; prepare an annual financial report; and manage the listserv

Editorial Consultant, *ESQ*, edited by Karen L. Kilcup, Aug. 2015-May 2016

Edited and proofread articles, organized mailing lists, and sent emails on behalf of editor

University

Scorer, General Education Assessment Workshop, UNCG, Jan. 2018

Evaluated category-specific student work samples using a three-level proficiency rating scale and made recommendations for the improvement of General Education student learning

Member, University Green Fund Committee, UNCG, 2015-2020 (**co-chair**, 2016-2018)

Attended monthly meetings to discuss and select grant applications for funding

Senator, Graduate Student Association, UNCG, 2015-2016

Debated and voted on issues impacting UNCG graduate students

Guest Lecturer, Introduction to Environmental Studies, Dr. William Markham, UNCG, Nov. 2014

Defined environmental literature, discussed how the humanities connect with environmental studies, and led discussion on three texts

Department

Coordinator, Open Education Resources, UNCG, 2019-2021

Manage department's open-access materials, develop and lead an introductory workshop, offer feedback on course design and assigned readings, support instructors converting to open-source materials, and increase the department's open-access literature resources

Steering Committee Member, Women in English, UNCG, 2018-2019

Coordinated and led meetings that support women faculty, teaching assistants, and students in the English department

Member, English Department Graduate Studies Committee, UNCG, 2018-2019

Offered graduate student perspective on departmental programmatic decisions

Member, College Writing Program Committee, UNCG, 2018-2019

Engaged in program planning and voted on program policy changes.

Service (cont.)

Member, Open Educational Resources Team, UNCG, 2017-2018

Developed the department's OER resources, requested information from writing instructors, and researched OER related to ENG 101's Student Learning Outcomes

Scorer, Final Portfolio Assessment Team, UNCG, May 2016

Scored ENG 101 final portfolios for the Portfolio Assessment Committee to help determine the effectiveness of the capstone project

Co-president, English Graduate Student Association (EGSA), UNCG, 2014-2015

Hosted two workshops, ran the Honor Pantry, and maintained the financial accounts; organized and hosted graduate student conference for 50+ participants

Pedagogy Workshops

Co-presenter, "Assignment Design: The Nature Notebook and Informal Writing in Writing Classes."

Teaching Writing Orientation, Greensboro, NC. Aug. 2021.

Leader, "Open Access, Open Education: Teaching with Digital Materials," English Department, UNCG, Sept. 2019.

Co-organizer, College Writing Program Orientation, UNCG, Aug. 2018.

Leader, "Teacher Ethos, Part II," College Writing Program Orientation, UNCG, Aug. 2017.

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Literature and Environment

Modern Language Association

Society for the Study of American Women Writers

Lydia Maria Child Society

South Atlantic Modern Language Association

Language

Latin (reading proficiency)

Japanese (elementary proficiency)