

Esther Liu Godfrey

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Research and Teaching Interests

British Victorian literature, British Romantic literature, women's and gender studies, critical aging studies, nineteenth-century marriage, critical race studies

Education

Ph.D. 2006 English Literature, University of Tennessee

M.A. 1998 English, Western Carolina University

B.A. 1995 English and Religious Studies, University of Tennessee

Publications

Books

The January-May Marriage in Nineteenth-Century British Literature. Palgrave Macmillan. Feb 2009.

Theorizes the relationship between age, gender and power in nineteenth-century British literature, art, and life. Stresses the importance of age as another factor in the social construction of gender and advocates considering age in social and historical readings of literature in conjunction with other gendering tropes like race and class. Reinterprets texts throughout the century and across genres, including Byron's *Don Juan*, Dickens's *Bleak House*, Braddon's *Lady Audley's Secret*, du Maurier's *Trilby*, and Hardy's *Jude the Obscure*.

Refereed Articles

"A shade or so of tawny?: Negotiating the Complexion of Britons in the Age of Brexit." *Neo-Victorian Studies*. Forthcoming 2024.

"McKrae Game and the Christian Closet." *Carolina Currents*, vol 1 (2024): 133-52.

"Lessons from *The Chair*." *Expanding the Toolbox: Equipping DEI Professionals with DEI-Relevant Academic Insights*. Forthcoming 2023.

"Redeeming Women: Science and Religion in Wilkie Collins's *The New Magdalen*." *Victorians Institute Journal*, vol 47 (2019-20): 64-92.

"Simple Sally: Arrested Development and Child Prostitution in Wilkie Collins's *The Fallen Leaves*." *Wilkie Collins Journal*, vol 15 (2018).

"'Absolutely Miss Fairlie's own': Emasculating Economics in *The Woman in White*." *Economic Women: Desire and Dispossession in Nineteenth-Century British Culture*. Ed. Lana Dalley and Jill Rappoport. Columbus, Ohio UP, 2013. 162-78.

"Victorian Cougar: H. Rider Haggard's *She*, Ageing and Sexual Selection." *Victorian Network*, vol 4, no 2 (Winter 2012.)

"Feminizing Casaubon: Gender and the Aging Husband in *Middlemarch*." *Topic: The Washington and Jefferson College Review*, vol 55 (2007): 55-66.

“*Jane Eyre*, from Governess to Girl-Bride.” *Studies in English Literature: 1500-1900*, vol 45, no 4 (Autumn 2005): 853-71.

“‘To Be Real’: Drag, Minstrelsy and Identity in the New Millennium.” *Genders*, vol 41 (2005).

Recent Papers Presented and Panels Chaired

“Rethinking Marriage in the Poems of 1912-193.” Thomas Hardy International Conference. July 2024. Dorchester, England.

“Chinese Redneck: Navigating an Asian American Identity in the American South.” Southeastern Immigrations Studies Conference. April 2024. Spartanburg, SC.

“Sharing Our Stories: Women of Color Full Professors.” USC Upstate. April 2024. Spartanburg, SC.

“Stop AAPI Hate.” USC Upstate. September 2022. Spartanburg, SC.

“The Grass is Always Greener: Imaginary Marriages and the Other Side.” Victorians Institute Conference. October 2021. Charlotte, NC.

Teaching and Administrative Experience

2008-present Professor of Nineteenth-Century British Literature, University of South Carolina Upstate. Awarded tenure and promoted to Associate in 2013. Promoted to Full in 2020. Promoted to Department Chair in 2024.

Create and teach undergraduate courses in writing, literature, and gender. Advise students and perform professional and community service. Pursue an ongoing scholarly research agenda.

2019-2023 Director of Composition, University of South Carolina Upstate

Served as interim director in spring 2019 before being selected for a three-year appointment beginning fall 2019. Led composition committee, organized and led Preface steering committee, organized Preface events, revised and edited composition textbook *Bridging the Difference* for new publication with Norton, revised assessment procedures, created syllabi and course documents for ENGL 101 and 102, mentored new contingent faculty, proposed new one-credit-hour “lab” classes to improve student retention, designed online placement test for incoming students.

2015 Interim Director of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, University of South Carolina Upstate

Filled director’s duties during the fall semester while Dr. Johnson was on sabbatical. Completed the Black Lives Matter speaker series, which was funded by a grant from the SC Humanities Council and USC Upstate, including speaker travel and introductions, evaluations, grant funding and reporting, advertising and marketing, and other elements of a large co-curricular program. Oversaw contingent and affiliate faculty and coordinated Spring WGS classes and co-curricular events. Coordinated meetings for Women in Academic Leadership and Women’s Faculty Collective.