Sierra Eckert

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Academic Appointments

2020-present   Postdoctoral Research Associate and Perkins Fellow, Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University

Education

2020   Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Dissertation: *The Research Aesthetic: Information and the Form of the Victorian Novel*
Committee: Nicholas Dames (chair), Sharon Marcus, James Eli Adams, Dennis Tenen

2017   M.Phil. in English and Comparative Literature, High Pass, Columbia University

2015   M.A. in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Masters Thesis: "Synoptical Tabulation, Research Quarries, and Realist Fiction: Reading Research in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*"
Sponsor: Nicholas Dames

2014   B.A. in English Literature with Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College
Honors major in English literature, honors minor in interpretation theory

Publications

Manuscripts in Submission

(under review)   "George Eliot's Tabulations," under review at *Representations*

(under review)   "Arresting Clarissa: Realism and Legal Ritual in Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*," under review at *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*

(under review)   "What We Quote: The Atmospheres of Disciplinary History" (co-author)
A study of literary-critical quotations in hundreds of 20th-century JSTOR-held articles on George Eliot's *Middlemarch* (1872), analyzed with the aid of a text-reuse alogrithm. Co-authored with Milan Terlunen (Columbia), under review at *New Literary History*.

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

(in progress) "Marx's Gothic Data."
An essay on Karl Marx's empirical data for *Capital* (1867) that shows how the work's diagrams, tables, and formulae use abstract spatial form to visualize the effects of abstraction itself.

(in progress) "Footnotes in Fiction" (co-author)
A study of thousands of footnotes in 18th-century novels derived from applying machine learning processes to the ECCO corpus. Co-authored and in collaboration with Rachel Buurma (Swarthmore College), Andrew Piper (McGill University) and the McGill txtLab, Nick Allred (Rutgers University), Yumi Shiroma (Rutgers University)

MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

The Research Aesthetic: Information and the Form of the Nineteenth-Century Novel
A literary history that examines how 19th-century novels helped normalize the form of knowledge we now call "data," but in the period was called information.

DIGITAL PROJECTS

2016-present   *Middlemarch* Critical Histories Project, with Jonathan Reeve and Milan Terlunen
2016-2017   Victorian Metadata: Reading the Review Column, 1866-1900
2015-2016   The Shape of Time, with Allison Chaney (Princeton University)

AWARDS, HONORS & GRANTS

2020-2021   Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Council for European Studies *(declined)*
2019-2020   Columbia Core Preceptorship in "Literature Humanities," Columbia University
2019-2020   Kluge Graduate Student Mentor Fellowship, Columbia University *(declined)*
2018-2019   Teaching Scholars Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
2018-2019   Sarah G. Lubin (M.S. '72 Library Service) Fellowship, GSAS, Columbia University
2018   Archival Research Grant, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, Columbia University
2017, 2019   NAVSA Graduate Student Travel Grant, North American Victorian Studies Association
2016-2017   Digital Humanities Center Fellowship, Columbia University
2015, '17, '18   GSAS and Departmental Conference Travel Grants, Columbia University
2015   Miron Cristo-Loveanu Prize for Best M.A. Essay in English (co-recipient), Columbia University
2014-2020   Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship, Columbia University
2014   Lang Award, Swarthmore College, awarded to "a graduating senior in recognition of outstanding academic accomplishment"

Conference Papers & Presentations (Selected)

2022   "Making a 'History of English Literature' in Victorian Scotland." North American Victorian Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, March 22-23 2022 (rescheduled from Nov 2020)

2019   "The Way We Quote Now: Reading *Middlemarch*, 1960-2015." North American Victorian Studies Association. The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH), Oct 17-19, 2019.

2018   "'Veracious Imagining': Archival Reading and the Aesthetics of the Fact in Eliot." North American Victorian Studies Association, University of Florida (St. Petersburg, FL), Oct 11-14, 2018

2018   "Henry James and the Logic of the Donée." Northeast Victorian Studies Association, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), April 13-15, 2018

2017   "Frequently Cited Passages Across Time: New Methods for Studying the Critical Reception of Texts." Written with Jonathan Reeve and Milan Terlunen. Poster Session. DH2017, McGill University (Montreal, Canada), Aug 8-11, 2017

2017   "Marx's Gothic Data." North American Victorian Studies Association/Australasian Victorian Studies Association, NYU/Purdue (Florence, Italy), May 17-20, 2017

2015   "Mining the 'Quarry for Middlemarch': George Eliot's Data-Driven Realism." British Women Writers Conference, CUNY (New York, NY), June 25-27, 2015

2014   "The Interface and the Index: Rewriting Referentiality in the Eighteenth-Century Novel." Written with Nick Allred and Rachel Sagner Buurma. East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Delaware (Newark, DE), Nov 6-8, 2014

Invited Talks

2021   "*Middlemarch* 1960-2021: Scholarly Quotation as Literary Critical History," *Middlemarch* 150th Anniversary Symposium, University of Washington 18th/19th- Century Research Cluster (Seattle, WA; virtual), May 21, 2021

2020   "Trollope's Fictions of Labor," The Trollope Society of New York (New York, NY), March 11, 2020.

Campus Talks

2021   " George Eliot's Research," lecture for "Styles of Literature and Science in 18th- and 19th-Century Europe" course, Department of French (Princeton, NJ) April 8, 2021

2021   "Victorian Studies Now," Victorian Colloquium, Princeton University (Princeton, NJ), March 18, 2021.

2019   "George Eliot's Tabulations," The University Seminar in Material Texts 787, Columbia University (New York, NY), April 22, 2019.

2019   Respondent, "First Books Series: Daniel Wright, *Bad Logic: Reasoning about Desire in the Victorian Novel*," Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (New York, NY), April 18, 2019.

2021	"Structuring Humanities Data," Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Dec 1, 2021 (upcoming)
2021	"Finding Humanities Data," Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Nov 3, 2021
2021	"What is 'Data' in the Humanities?," Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Oct 6, 2021.
2021	"Special Collections as Data: From Book Historical Data to Research Projects," Rare Book Working Group (Princeton, NJ), April 7, 2021.
2021	"Special Collections as Data: Studying Print Culture Using Digital Tools" Rare Book Working Group (Princeton, NJ), April 1, 2021.
2021	"Introduction to Digital Humanities," Indigenous DH Working Group (Princeton, NJ), Feb. 4, 2021.

Teaching

Princeton University

Instructor of Record

2022	English 475/Humanities 475: Data & Literary Study: A Research Lab (undergad & grad)
2021	Humanities 346: Introduction to Digital Humanities (cross-listed as English 256)

Teaching Assistant

2022	Computer Science 398: Independent Work: Digital Humanities

Columbia University

Instructor of Record

2020	Humanities CC1002: Literature Humanities II: Masterpieces of Western Literature & Philosophy
2019	Humanities CC1001: Literature Humanities I: Masterpieces of Western Literature & Philosophy
2019	English UN3254: Bad Research & the Victorian Novel (seminar, self-designed course)
2017	English W3011: Literary Texts, Critical Methods (seminar portion)
2018	English GS1010: University Writing: Readings in Data Sciences (General Studies)
2016-2017	English CC1010: University Writing: Readings in Data Sciences

Teaching Assistant

2016	English W4404: Victorian Poetry
2015	Comparative Literature W4822: The Nineteenth-Century European Novel

Research Experience

2018-2019	Research Assistant for Sharon Marcus, Columbia University
2016	Research Assistant for James Eli Adams, Columbia University

2015-2016 Graduate Archival Intern, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University
2014   Project Manager, Early Novels Database, Kislak Center for Special Collections, University
           of Pennsylvania Libraries

Departmental/University Service

Service for Princeton University

2021-2022   Coordinator, CDH Graduate Fellows Program
2021-2022   Organizer, "Humanities Data Workshop Series," a 6-part workshop series for early-career
               faculty, graduate students, and staff
2021-present   Member, Machine Learning and the Humanities Working Group, Princeton University
2020-present   Member, Committee on CDH Graduate Fellowships
2020-2021   Organizer, "Building Digital Humanities Projects with Rare Books and Special Collections,"
               3-part workshop and lecture series for graduate students, Rare Book Working Group,
               Princeton University
2020-2021   Organizer, Center for Digital Humanities drop-in hours, Princeton University

Service for Columbia University

2019   Co-organizer, "Book Parts: A Conference," Columbia University, The Heyman Center for
           the Humanities, Oct. 11, 2019
2018   Graduate student liaison, British Romanticism Search Committee, Department of English
           and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
2017-2020 Rapporteur, The University Seminar in Material Texts, Columbia University
2017-2019 Co-organizer, The Nineteenth-Century British Colloquium, Columbia University
2016-2018 Data Sciences curricular working group, University Writing Program, Columbia University
2016-2020 Member, Literary Modeling and Visualization Lab, Columbia University
2014-2020 Member, Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities, Columbia University

Languages

French (Graduate proficiency exam, advanced reading skills)
Spanish (Graduate proficiency exam, advanced reading skills)

Programming

Programming and mark-up languages:
      Python, R, CSS, HTML, XML/TEI, LaTeX
Frameworks:
      Jekyll, JQuery, Leaflet, Omeka, ArcGIS/QGIS
Methods:
      Topic modeling, text-reuse detection, Bayesian modeling, NLP (NER), word embeddings,
      sentence and paragraph feature extraction, network analysis

Professional Affiliations

North American Victorian Studies Association
North American Victorian Studies Association - Data Caucus
Northeast Victorian Studies Association
Association for Computers and the Humanities
Modern Language Association

References

Nicholas Dames, Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities, Columbia University, nicholas.dames@columbia.edu
Meredith Martin, Associate Professor of English Literature, Director of the Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University, mm4@princeton.edu
Sharon Marcus, Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, sm2247@columbia.edu
Dennis Tenen, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, dt2406@columbia.edu
James Eli Adams, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, jea2139@columbia.edu