

Program in Comparative Literature  
University of Pennsylvania  
720 Williams Hall  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

## HANNAH LECLAIR

### EDUCATION

- 2024 Ph.D. in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania  
(expected December 2024)
- 2019 M.A. in Comparative Literature & Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania
- 2014 B.A. in Languages & Literature, Bard College

### DISSERTATION

“Ordinary Landscapes: Setting and Description in the Nineteenth-Century Novel”

*Committee Members:* Pearl Brilmyer, Nancy Yousef, Emily Steinlight (chair)

This dissertation contends that picturesque aesthetics have a surprising afterlife in realism’s visual rhetorics. During a period when images of rural landscapes circulated in a new, mass-media ecosystem, I argue, nineteenth-century novelists (such as Hardy, Dickens, and Eliot), in their realist representations of modernity, critique and deploy picturesque conventions and expand their discursive meanings as they grapple with ethical issues around access, property ownership, and dispossession that resonate into the present.

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

19<sup>th</sup>-Century British Literature; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>-Century French Literature; History and Theory of the Novel; Visual Culture; Aesthetics; Environmental Humanities; Romantic Poetry and Poetics; World Literature; Critical Theory; Theories of the Everyday; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Intellectual History

### PUBLICATIONS

#### ARTICLE MANUSCRIPT

“City Limits: The Cockney Aesthetics of Omniscience in Dickens’ *Bleak House*” (under review)

#### OTHER WRITING

Review: Jana Prikryl’s *Midwood* (Norton, 2022) and Kerri Webster’s *Lapis* (Wesleyan, 2022), *Jacket2*, online.

Review: Norah Lange’s *People in the Room* (And Other Stories Press, 2018), *Music & Literature*, online.

Review: Elise Levine’s *Blue Field* (Biblioasis Press, 2017), *Music & Literature*, online.

Interview: “In Conversation with Poet Denis Hirson,” *Asymptote Journal*, online.

### PAPERS PRESENTED

“Alas! Romance can make no head against the riot act’: Civil Unrest and Civic Development in the ‘May Day’ Sketches of Leigh Hunt and Charles Dickens.” NASSR-ICR 2024 Conference, Washington, D.C. (upcoming, August 2024).

“Hardy’s Visualities: Text and Image in *Under the Greenwood Tree*.” ACLA 2024 Conference, Montréal, Canada. (March 2024)

- “Realist Provocations in Hardy’s Early Novels.” Work-in-Progress presented to the Comparative Literature Program, University of Pennsylvania. (December 2023)
- “Weathering the Elements: Realist Provocations in Hardy’s Early Novels.” VISA WUS 2023 Conference, Seattle, WA. (October 2023)
- “‘Marshes and dreams’: Country Landscapes in Dickens’ *Bleak House*.” NeMLA 2023 Conference, Niagara Falls, NY. (March 2023)
- Panel co-chair, “The Everyday Beyond Description.” NeMLA 2023 Conference, Niagara Falls, NY. (March 2023)
- “My find; my piece-work’: Feminist Poetics in Conversation with Dorothy Wordsworth.” ACLA 2023 Conference, Chicago, IL. (March 2023)
- “Material for another kind of study’: Realism’s Belatedness in *Under the Greenwood Tree*.” Princeton-Rutgers Victorian Symposium 2023. Princeton, NJ. (March 2023)
- “Ruined lands in every shire’: Landscape, Property, and the Picturesque in *Bleak House*.” NAVSA 2022 Conference, Bethlehem, PA. (September 2022)
- “Dutch Paintings, Description, and Realist Form: Hardy’s Pictorialism in *Under the Greenwood Tree*.” 25<sup>th</sup> International Thomas Hardy Conference and Festival. Dorchester, UK. (July 2022)
- “Mapping Rural Scenes and Urban Spaces in *Bleak House*.” 2022 Princeton-Rutgers Victorian Symposium. *Online*. (April 2022)
- “Romantic Roots and Realist Experiments in George Eliot’s Early Fiction.” NCSA 2022 Conference, Rochester, NY. (March 2022)
- “Vivid Particulars: George Eliot’s Wordsworthian Ethics of Care.” NeMLA 2022 Conference, Baltimore, MD (March 2022)
- “Urbanized Rusticity in the Mid-Century Novel.” Work-in-Progress presented to the Restoration-Victorian Working Group, University of Pennsylvania. (November 2021)
- “‘What connexion could there be...?’ Rural Scenes and Urban Spaces in *Bleak House*.” SCLA 2021 Conference, Austin, TX. (October 2021) *Declined to participate due to COVID-related travel concerns.*
- “Twentieth-century French Poetry and the Poetics of the Quotidian.” Critical Theory Workshop/Atelier de théorie critique, Paris, France. (July 2019)
- “Spots of Ordinary Time/Ecstatic Interruptions: Dorothy Wordsworth’s Poetics of Notation.” UCLA Southland English Conference, Los Angeles, CA. (May 2019)

#### FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2023-2024     Dissertation Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania  
 Dissertation Research Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania (*Declined*)

- 2022-2023 Dissertation Research Fellowship, School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pennsylvania
- 2021-2022 Charles Bernheimer Prize for Academic Excellence, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania  
Merit Award, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania
- 2018-2019 Andrew W. Mellon Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
- 2011 John Bard Scholar Prize, Bard College

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

CURTIS INSTITUTE OF MUSIC:

Fall 2023 LIT 341: Writing Nature, Writing the Self (Upper-level Liberal Arts Elective)

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Spring 2021 COML 127: Sex and Representation (Introductory Seminar)

AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA:

Fall 2022 HIST 1200-401: Foundations of European Thought (Introductory Seminar)

Fall 2020 HIST 343-401: 19<sup>th</sup> Century European Intellectual History (Intermediate Seminar)

Spring 2020 ENG 38: The Age of Milton (Intermediate Seminar)

Fall 2019 ENG 90: Women Writing, 1660-1760 (Intermediate Seminar)

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

2021 Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania

**SERVICE**

2024 Roundtable chair, "Moments of Vocation." NAVSA EVENT 2024 Conference, online (October 2024).

2023 Panel co-chair, "The Everyday Beyond Description." NeMLA 2023 Conference, Niagara Falls, NY. (March 2023)

2022-2023 Co-convener, Restoration-Victorian Working Group, University of Pennsylvania

2020-2022 Co-coordinator, Intensive Reading Group, University of Pennsylvania

2019-2020 Co-organizer, Theorizing Colloquium Series, University of Pennsylvania

2011-2014 Writing Fellow, Bard College

**LANGUAGES:** French (fluent); German (intermediate proficiency)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:** American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA); Northeast Modern Languages Association (NeMLA); North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA); Nineteenth-Century Studies Association; Thomas Hardy Society