

Courtney Weikle-Mills

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2007.

Dissertation: "The Child Reader and American Literature, 1700-1852."

M.A., English. The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2002.

B.A., English and Journalism, double major. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, 2000,
magna cum laude.

EMPLOYMENT

Director of the English Literature Program, University of Pittsburgh, 2023-present.

Director of the Children's Literature Program, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-2021, 2022-present.

Associate Professor, English, University of Pittsburgh, 2014-present.

Assistant Professor, English, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 2007-2014.

Specializations: Children's Literature and Culture, Transatlantic Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Studies, Early American and Early Caribbean Literature, History of the Book and Reading, Global Children's Literature Circulation

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Books

Sugarcoated Ethics: Children's Literature and Atlantic Enslavement. In production with Johns Hopkins University Press and forthcoming May 2026.

Imaginary Citizens: Child Readers and the Limits of American Independence, 1640-1868. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

Winner of the Children's Literature Association Honor Book Award.

Refereed Journal Articles

"The Obscure Histories of Goosee Shoo-Shoo and Black Cinderella: Seeking Afro-Caribbean Children's Literature in the Nineteenth Century." *Children's Literature* 47 (2019): 57-78.

"'Learn to Love Your Book': The Child Reader and Affectionate Citizenship." *Early American Literature* 43 (2008): 35-61.

"Sentiment and Economic Exchange in Early Nineteenth-Century Children's Fiction." *Journal for the Liberal Arts and Sciences* 8 (2004): 37-42.

Invited Book Chapters

"Challenges, Barriers, and Possibilities" chapter co-edited with Xu Derong and co-written with contributors we solicited: Marilisa Jiménez García, Erica Kanasaka, Ebony Elizabeth

Thomas, Ariel Baker Gibbs, Sreemoyee Dasgupta, Anna Katrina Gutierrez, Chengcheng You, and Shuqin Jiang. *A Practical Companion to Children's Literature Studies: Conducting Research and Building a Career*, edited by M.O. Grenby, Emily Murphy, and Kimberley Reynolds. Bloomsbury Press, 2026.

“Book Publishing and the British Sphere of Influence in the 18th and 19th Centuries.” *Routledge Companion to Children's Literature and Culture*, edited by Claudia Nelson, Lies Wesseling, and Andrea Mei-Ying Wu. Routledge, 2023.

“Free the Children: Jupiter Hammon and the Origin of African American Children's Literature.” In *Who Writes for Black Children?: African American Children's Literature Before 1900*. Edited by Kate Capshaw Smith and Anna Mae Duane. University of Minnesota Press, 2017.

Collection won the 2017 Best Edited Book Award from the Children's Literature Association and was named a Choice Outstanding Academic Title for 2018.

“‘My Book and Heart Shall Never Part’: Reading, Printing, and Circulation in *The New England Primer*.” *The Oxford Handbook of Children's Literature*. Edited by Lynne Vallone and Julia Mickenberg. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Collection won the 2011 Best Edited Book Award from the Children's Literature Association.

Short Essays

“Spotlight: Round the Globe Project.” *An Introduction to Children's Literature and Digital Humanities*, Edited by Rebekah Fitzsimmons and Suzan Alteri. Routledge. Forthcoming.

“An American Revolution in Children's Literature?” *Children's Literature and Culture*, Adam Matthew Digital Archive, Fall 2020.

“Intersections of Childhood/Slavery and the Invention of Global Children's Literature.” *Critical Childhood Studies: A Long 19c Digital Humanities Project* (2020): <https://ccsproject.org/2020/01/07/intersections-of-childhood-slavery-and-the-invention-of-global-childrens-literature/>

“Introduction: Children and Periodicals.” Editor's Introduction, Special Issue of *American Periodicals* on Children's Periodicals. 22.2 (2012).

Editorial Work

Guest Editor, with Xu Derong, Special Issue of *Children's Literature Association Quarterly* on The Citizen-Child: Global Perspectives on Children's Literature and the Making of Modernity. Forthcoming 2027.

Guest Editor, Special Issue of *American Periodicals* on Children's Periodicals. 22.2 (2012).

Digital Project

Round the Globe: Travel Routes of Children's Literature website, with collaborators Sreemoyee Dasgupta and Gabriela Lee. Author of Caribbean content, about page, and maps page, as well as creator of Caribbean maps. Launched Spring 2021.

Exhibit Copy

Doll Literature Exhibit, Archives and Special Collections, University of Pittsburgh. 2024-25.

Reviews

- Review of *Vicious Infants: Dangerous Childhoods in Antebellum U.S. Literature* by Laura Soderberg and *Uncanny Youth: Childhood, the Gothic, and the Literary Americas* by Suzanne Manizza Roszak. *American Literature*. Forthcoming 2026.
- Review of *Caribbean Children's Literature* Volumes 1 and 2, edited by Betsy Nies and Melissa García Vega. *Children's Literature*. Forthcoming 2026.
- Review of *Imperial Educación: Race and Republican Motherhood in the Nineteenth-Century Americas* by Thomas Genova. *American Literary History* 35.1 (2023): 514-516.
- Review of *Laura Jernegan: Girl on a Whaleship*, a website created by Martha's Vineyard Museum. *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 35.2 (2018): 250-251.
- Review of *Story Time: Essays on the Betsy Beinecke Shirley Collection of American Children's Literature*, edited by Timothy Young. *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth* 11.1 (2018): 126-128.
- Review of *Reading Children: Literacy, Property, and the Dilemmas of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century America* by Patricia Crain. *Early American Literature* 52.2 (2017): 511-516.
- Review of *Suffering Childhood in Early America: Violence, Race, and the Making of the Child Victim* by Anna Mae Duane. *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers* 28.2 (2011): 343-346.
- "The Child as (Potential) Citizen," Review of *Serialized Citizenships: Periodicals, Books and American Boys* by Lorinda Cohoon. *Children's Literature* 36 (2008): 214-219.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

External

- Society for the History of Childhood and Youth Outreach Grant, Fall 2019 (\$500).
- Children's Literature Association Research Grant, 2017 (\$1100).
- Honor Book Award for a Book Published in 2013, Children's Literature Association, 2015.
- Reese Fellowship for Research on the History of the Book in America, American Antiquarian Society, 2008. (\$1850)

Internal

- Hewlett International Grant for "Co-Hosting and Presenting at the Sixth International Children's Literature Symposium (ICLS), June 25-26, 2026," University of Pittsburgh, 2026 (\$2578).
- Faculty Grant for Hosting the Sixth International Children's Literature Symposium (ICLS), in Conjunction with the Children's Literature Association (ChLA) Conference, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2025, with Tyler Bickford, Lidong Xiang, Laura Lovett, Bridget Keown, and Clare Withers (\$25,000). (Note: This grant had to be converted into a \$5000 award due to changing circumstances for the conference.)
- Hewlett Major Impact Grant for "International Foundations in Children's Literature Studies," University of Pittsburgh, 2025, with Tyler Bickford and Lidong Xiang (\$15,000).
- Faculty Grant for a Research Consortium Featuring Global Collaboration on Children's Literature and Social Justice, with Tyler Bickford and Lidong Xiang, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh, 2024 (\$6885).
- Global Partnership Award for Global Scholarly Network for Children's Literature and Social Justice, with Tyler Bickford, University of Pittsburgh, 2022-25 (\$40,000).

Year of Engagement Grant for *Mapping the Colonial Routes of Children's Literature in the Digital South: A Global Scholarly Community and Digital Map Project*, with Sreemoyee Dasgupta and Gabriela Lee, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2021 (\$1250).

Hewlett International Grant for "Thinking Internationally About Social Justice in Children's Literature and Culture," University of Pittsburgh, 2020 (\$1500).

Year of Creativity Grant for English Department's Podcast Hosting and Channel Launch, with Jess Fitzpatrick, Kirsten Paine, Rachel Maley, and Katie Waring, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2020 (\$225).

Humanities Center Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2019 (course release).

Provost's Special Initiative for the Humanities, University of Pittsburgh, 2016 (\$4925).

Hewlett International Grant for "Moving Books: Children's Literature in the British Caribbean," University of Pittsburgh, 2016 (\$3500).

Year of Humanities Grant for Children's Lit Programming, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2015 (\$1000).

Richard D. and Mary Jane Edwards Endowed Publication Fund, University of Pittsburgh Arts and Sciences, 2012. (\$2108)

Humanities Center Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh, Spring 2011 (course release).

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

"Engaging Children in Ethical Causes: Transnational Obligations in Antislavery and Pacifist Children's Literature." Lecture at Children's Literature Summer School, University of Antwerp. Scheduled for July 2026.

"Pacifist Ideologies in Transnational Children's Literature." Workshop at Children's Literature Summer School, University of Antwerp. Scheduled for July 2026.

"The First Enduring Children's Bookshop in the US." Center for American Studies, Columbia University. February 2026.

"Children's Literature Circulation in Nineteenth-Century India and the British Caribbean: A Comparative Approach." Keynote Address (Virtual), International Symposium on Comparative Literature and Translation Studies from the Transnational Perspective, Ocean University of China. November 2025.

"A Not So 'Grateful Black': Reconfiguring the Lessons of Slavery in the Bengali *Sandford and Merton*." Keynote Address, International Children's Literature Symposium, Ocean University of China. October 2024.

"Book Publishing and the British Sphere of Influence in the 18th and 19th Centuries." Virtual Book Launch for *Routledge Companion to Children's Literature and Culture*. January 2024.

Invited Roundtable on Critical Childhood Studies and Intersectionality: The State of the Field. Modern Language Association Conference. Seattle, Washington. January 2020.

"Children's Books in Enslaved and Liberated Danish St. Croix." Symposium on Children and Books c. 1750-1850. Aarhus University, Denmark. December 2019.

"English-Danish Caribbean Newspapers and an American Author in Sweden." Workshop on Children and Books, c. 1750-1850: Input and Inspiration for Future Research for Students in History, Comparative Literature and Childhood Studies and Related Disciplines. Aarhus University, Denmark, December 2019.

"The Travels of *The Traveller*: Children's Literature Circulating in the Enslaved and

- Colonized Nineteenth-Century Atlantic.” Books for Children. Transnational Encounters 1750-1850 (Part II) Conference. Cotsen Library, Princeton University. October 2019.
- “Imaginary Citizens Made Real.” Keynote Address, Symposium on Childhood and Citizenship. Texas A&M University Humanities Center. March 2015.

Conference Talks

- “Anansi Stories in Modernizing Jamaica: Children’s Tales from the Joseph J. Williams, SJ Ethnological Collection.” International Children’s Literature Symposium. University of Antwerp. Scheduled for June 2026.
- “Children’s Literature Scholarship as a Global Neighborhood? Reflections on Translation and Transnational Collaboration.” Roundtable, Children’s Literature Association Conference. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Scheduled for May 2026. (Panel organizer.)
- “Augusta Baker and the International Dimensions of Early Children’s Librarianship.” International Children’s Literature Symposium, Newcastle University. July 2023. (Panel organizer.)
- “No Sugar-Plums Dancing Here: Traces of Black Child Activism in the Anti-Slavery Archives.” American Studies Association Conference. Virtual. October 2021.
- “Global Versus Local: What Maps Tell Us About Early Caribbean Children’s Book Circulation.” Society for the History of Childhood and Youth Conference. Virtual. June 2021. (Panel organizer.)
- “A Faithful Escape: The Empathetic Adventures of a Black Caribbean Dollhouse Doll.” Children’s Literature Association Conference. Indianapolis, Indiana. June 2019. (Panel organizer.)
- “A Choice Assortment of Children’s Books per Schooner: Children’s Literature in the Early British Caribbean.” Children’s Literature Association Conference. Columbus, Ohio. June 2016. (Panel organizer.)
- “Caribbean Stepsisters: *Cinderella*, Circulation, and the Intimate Negotiation of Race Within Transatlantic Families.” Society for the History of Childhood and Youth Conference. Vancouver, Canada. June 2015. (Panel organizer.)
- “Little Creoles: Imagining the Caribbean Child and Reimagining England.” Children’s Literature Association Conference. Columbia, South Carolina. June 2014.
- “Literary Street Criers, the Storied Image, and the Labor of Childhood.” Society of Early Americanists Conference. Savannah, Georgia. March 2013.
- “From Ripe Cherries to Cherry Ripe: The Economics of Childhood in Nineteenth-Century Literary and Material Culture.” C19 Conference. Berkeley, California. April 2012.
- “Birth or Allegiance?: Nineteenth-Century American Children’s Literature and the Question of Children’s Citizenship.” Children’s Literature Association Conference. Roanoke, Virginia. June 2011.
- “From Subjecthood to Citizenship: Children as Citizens (and Citizens as Children) in *The New England Primer*.” American Studies Association Conference. Washington, D.C. November 2009.
- “‘How Art Thou Affected, Poor Child, in the Reading of this Book?’: Cotton Mather’s Children’s Books and the Making of Closet Readers.” Visual and Textual Worlds of Childhood Conference. Cotsen Children’s Library. Princeton, New Jersey. February 2009.

- “Literacy, Citizenship, and the Bonds of the Imagination: Reading the Faithful Slave Motif in Children’s Periodical Stories.” American Literature Association Conference. San Francisco, California. May 2008.
- “The American Novel and the Bad Child Reader: Childish Citizenship in Tabitha Gilman Tenney’s *Female Quixotism*.” South Central Modern Language Association Conference. Dallas, Texas. October 2006.
- “‘Sin is a Thing that Writes Itself across a Man’s Face’: The Seduction Plot and the Sympathetic Gaze in Oscar Wilde’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Conference. Tucson, Arizona. October 2006.
- “Learning ‘the Power to Do Good’: Sentiment and Economic Exchange in Early Nineteenth-Century Children’s Fiction.” Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois. November 2003.

Pittsburgh Talks

- “Using Perusall for a Collaborative Close Reading Assignment.” Perusall Workshop, DSAS Writing Institute. April 2026.
- The Archive I’m In: Celebrating Award-Winning Author Sharon G. Flake. Archives & Special Collections Panel Presentation. March 2026.
- “Dolls, Childhood, and Play.” Archives & Special Collections Exhibit Panel Presentation. November 2024.
- “How is Children’s Literature Taught at Pitt?” Research Symposium, Global Children’s Literature Network. August 2024.
- “4 Reasons I Use Primary Materials from Archives.” First Approaches to Research Panel, Office of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. September 2022.
- “Tracing the Caribbean Children’s Book Trade.” *Round the Globe: Travel Routes of Children’s Literature* Website Launch. May 2021.
- “Don’t be a Gentleman Hog: Local Relationships with International Consequences in Nineteenth-Century Protest Books for Children.” Pitt-Newcastle Conference on The Role of Universities in Sustainable, Just, and Inclusive Cities. January 2021.
- “Sidestepping the Lobster’s Claw: Early British Children’s Literature and Atlantic Capitalism.” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh. October 2019.
- “From Ripe Cherries to Cherry Ripe: Innocent Consumption in Transatlantic Children’s Culture.” Works-In-Progress Colloquium. University of Pittsburgh. March 2013.
- “*Modern Chivalry*, Humor, and the Politics of Representation.” Reading Hugh Henry Brackenridge (1748-1816): A Panel and Discussion of Modern Chivalry. Pitt 225th Anniversary. University of Pittsburgh. September 2012.
- “From Subjects to Citizens: The Politics of Childhood and Children’s Literature.” Humanities Center, University of Pittsburgh. March 2011.

Interview

Book Conversation about *Sugarcoated Ethics: Children’s Literature and Atlantic Enslavement* on New Books Network, with Amisah Bakuri, Scheduled for May 2026.

Responses

Respondent, Author Reading and Q&A for J.A. Dauber, *Press 1 for Invasion*. Riverstone Books. November 2025.

Respondent, Author Reading and Q&A for Hebah Uddin, *Sabrena Swept Away*. Archives & Special Collections. November 2025.

“Children and Citizenship.” Response to Lara Putnam, “Outsiders: Citizenship and its Others.” Cultural Studies Open House. University of Pittsburgh. October 2014.

CONFERENCES, SERIES, SEMINARS, AND SYMPOSIA ORGANIZED

“The Citizen-Child: Global Perspectives on Children’s Literature and the Making of Modernity.” International Children’s Literature Symposium, co-organized with Xu Derong, Vanessa Joosen, and Elly McCausland. University of Antwerp, Scheduled for June 2026.

“Imagined Spaces, Real Divides: Neighbors and Neighborhoods in Children’s Literature, Media, and Culture.” Children’s Literature Association Conference, co-organized with Rebekah Fitzsimmons, Cris Rhodes, and committee. Pittsburgh, Scheduled for May 2026.

“‘Oh You Beautiful Doll’: Childhood, Gender, Play, and Culture.” GSWS Conference, co-organized with Laura Lovett, Clare Withers, Frayda Cohen, Bridget Keown, Lidong Xiang, Heather Reel, and Alonna Carter-Donaldson, University of Pittsburgh, March 2025.

Graduate Pedagogy Workshop Series, University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2024-present.

Research Symposium, Global Children’s Literature Network, University of Pittsburgh, August 2024.

Global Children’s Literature Virtual Series, co-organized with Emily Murphy and Tyler Bickford, University of Pittsburgh and Newcastle University, 2022-2024.

“Multiple Childhoods: The History and Significance of Global Folktales for Youth.” Round the Globe Project, July 2022.

Round the Globe Website Launch, co-organized with Sreemoyee Dasgupta and Gabriela Lee, May 2021.

“Playing with Childhood in the 21st Century.” GSWS Conference, co-organized with Jules Gill-Peterson, Todd Reeser, Frayda Cohen, Tyler Bickford, Mary Gryctko, and Julie Beaulieu, University of Pittsburgh, 2018.

“Gender and the Child: A Roundtable on Queer Method” featuring Tey Meadow, co-organized with Jules Gill-Peterson, University of Pittsburgh, 2016.

Children’s Literature Speaker Series, University of Pittsburgh, 2015-present.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

University of Pittsburgh, 2007-present.

Graduate Courses

Englit 2004: Interdisciplinary Methods in Literary Studies. Spring 2021.

Englit 2209: Imagining U.S. Citizenship. Spring 2009.

Englit 2287: Transatlantic Literature. Fall 2012.

Englit 2800: Children’s Literature. Fall 2015, Spring 2023.

Englit 2811: Minor Subjects: Childhood, Literacy, and Marginality, Scheduled for Fall 2026.

Englit 2861: Intersectionality in the Archives. Spring 2019.

Graduate Mentoring

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

David Riser, PhD Prospectus in Progress. (Chair.)

Hebah Uddin, "From the Oppositional Gaze to the Survival Stare: Seeking Black Girls' Liberation in Horror." Dissertation in Progress. (Chair.)

Francis Quina, "Pay to Play: Exploring the Collectible Card Game Genre." Dissertation in Progress.

Shelbi Ferguson, "Discipline, Desire, and National Character: Pain as Cultural Practice in Victorian Literature and Pornography." Dissertation in Progress.

Gabriela Lee, "Tracing Genre Transformations in 20th Century Philippine Children's Literature." Dissertation Defended April 2026.

Christine Case, "Composite Bodies: Race, Gender, and Dis/ability in Fairy Tale Performance." Dissertation Defended May 2023. Placement: Visiting Assistant Professor of English, University of Central Arkansas (formerly Narrative Strategy Specialist with the Children's Defense Fund, ACLS Leading Edge Fellowship).

Amanda Awanjo, "'What Becomes of the Colored Girl?': Intersections of the Black Futurity, the Black Maternal, and Black Girlhood." Dissertation Defended July 2022. (Co-Chair, with Imani Owens.) Placement: Project Manager, the Black Bibliography Project, Yale African American Studies (formerly Assistant Manager of Interpretation and Engagement, The Frick Pittsburgh).

Sreemoyee Dasgupta, "Nationalism, Genre and Childhood in Colonial Indian Children's Literature." Dissertation Defended August 2021. (Chair.) Placement: Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut.

Rachel Maley, "Adapting the Cultural Economy for Little Readers: Print Transformations for Children in Nineteenth-Century America." Dissertation Defended July 2021. (Chair.) Placement: Teaching Assistant Professor of Archives, Print Culture, and Interactive Literature, Pitt.

Shawna McDermott, "Visual Culture and the Modern Child: Race and Imperialism in Children's Magazines 1873-1939." Dissertation Defended April 2020. (Chair.) Placement: Lecturer in American Literature at St. Andrews University in Scotland (temporary position).

Kirsten Paine, "'Not According to the Regulation of War': Intimate Civil War Writing by Female Nurses, Soldiers, and Spies." Dissertation Defended July 2019. (Chair.) Placement: Museum Education and Historic Interpretation Manager, Rivers of Steel. (formerly Site Management Coordinator and Interpretive Specialist, Rivers of Steel).

Kathleen Davies, "Write to Privacy: Literature, Letters, Law, and the Citizen/Self in America's Long Nineteenth Century." Dissertation Defended January 2016. Placement: Legal Writer at Fragomen.

Jessica Isaac, "Compliant Circulation: Children's Writing, American Periodicals, and Public Culture, 1870-1920." Dissertation Defended June 2015. Placement: Program and Curriculum Director, Books@Work.

Loring Pfeiffer, "Bodies and Selves: Women Playwrights and Subjectivity on the Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Stage."

Dissertation Defended May 2015. Placement: Associate Teaching Professor, Santa Clara University.

Schuyler Chapman, "The Complete Citizen: Mariners and Citizenship in Antebellum U.S. Literary Culture." Dissertation Defended February 2014. (Chair.) Placement: Associate Professor and Director of Honors College, Glenville State College (formerly Assistant Professor, Glenville State College).

Ph.D. Project Committees

David Riser, "The Question of Trans Recognition in 90's Horror Literature." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2026 (Chair.)

Hebah Uddin, "Defining a Black Women's Horror Aesthetic in Children's Literature." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2025. (Chair.)

Francis Quina, "Locating Narratives in and around Collectible Card Games." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2025.

Gabriela Lee, "Transformations of Children's Fantasy Literature in the Philippines." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2024.

Christine Case, "A Theory of Faerie and Its Queer Affordances, and The Fairy Musical: A Genre Study." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2021.

Amanda Awanjo, "What Becomes of the Colored Girl?" Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2019.

Shawna McDermott, "Reading Race: Visual Literacy in Nineteenth Century Children's Periodicals." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2016. (Chair.)

Rachel Maley, "Transforming Girls: Girlhood Studies and Literature in the Nineteenth Century." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2016. (Chair.)

Sreemoyee Dasgupta, "Colonial and Postcolonial Children's Literature." Ph.D Project Exams Passed in 2016.

Kirsten Paine, "'Something to Do': Fighting and Writing Women of the Civil War." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2015. (Chair.)

Elizabeth Oliphant, "Children and the American West." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2013.

Jessica Isaac, "In and Out of the Mouths of Babes: A History of the Child's Voice." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2012.

Kathleen Davies, "Tracing the Right to Privacy in the Long Nineteenth Century." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2011.

Schuyler Chapman, "Literary Citizenships in the Long Nineteenth Century." Ph.D. Project Exams Passed in 2010. (Chair.)

MFA Committee

Katie Waring, MFA Thesis Passed in 2019.

MA Thesis Directorship

Bethany Biesinger, "Miniature Passengers: The Cultural Discussions and Implications of the Child in Limbo." MA Thesis Completed in 2015.

Awards Won by Graduate Students

Shawna McDermott, Dissertation Won Honorable Mention for the Justin Schiller Prize for Bibliographical Work on Pre-20th-Century Children's Books, 2021.

Sreemoyee Dasgupta, Won the Judith Plotz Emerging Scholar Award, 2020, for "Child Labour in India: Literary Representations along the Trajectory of Nation" in *International Research in Children's Literature*.

Jessica Isaac, Won runner-up for the Research Society for American Periodicals' 2011 Article Prize for "Youthful Enterprises: Amateur Newspapers and the Pre-History of Adolescence, 1867-1883" in the *American Periodicals* Special Issue on Children's Periodicals.

Undergraduate Courses

Englit 560: Children and Culture. Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Scheduled for Fall 2026.

Englit 562: Childhood's Books. Spring 2008, Spring 2015, Spring 2022.

Englit 570: American Literary Traditions. Spring 2008, Fall 2008.

Englit 715: Austen and Brontë. Spring 2024.

Englit 717: Fairy Tradition, Spring 2025.

Englit 1150: Enlightenment to Revolution. Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2025.

Englit 1200: American Literature to 1860. Spring 2013, Spring 2018.

Englit 1220: Emergence of Modern America, Spring 2012, Spring 2015.

Englit 1635: Children in Pittsburgh, Spring 2017.

Englit 1645: Critical Approaches to Children's Literature. Fall 2007, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021.

Englit 1900: Junior Seminar: The Transatlantic Novel and Fictions of National Identity. Fall 2009.

Undergraduate Mentoring

Research Mentoring

Alison Hnatow, "Anne Girls." BPhil. 2020-2021. (Director.)

Kate Eldridge, "Queer and Trans Youth and Healthcare: Interviews as a Platform for Advocacy and Healing." BPhil. 2018-2019.

Dana Cornacchio, "Comparative Analysis of Anti-Princess Stories in American and Spanish Children's Literature." Student Undergraduate Research Award, Summer 2018. (Director.)

Miranda Aristone, "Drawing Conclusions from Illustrations of 'The Water-Babies': Artistic Selection Meets Natural Selection." BPhil. 2017-2018.

Renata Mitchell, "Using Adaptations to Diversify Children's Literature." Brackenridge Fellowship. Summer 2017. (Director.)

Corina Andriescu, "The Depiction of Black Characters in Children's Literature

During Civil Rights.” Archival Scholars Award. Spring 2016.
Stephanie Liang, “Children’s Voices in 19th-Century Periodicals for Youth.”
Archival Scholars Award. Spring 2016.
Lauren Schmeer, “Learning Gender in Adolescence: Gender
Performativity in Contemporary Young Adult Best-Sellers.” Senior
Thesis. 2012-2013. (Co-Director.)
Sara Cole, “Graphic Representations: A Comparative Look at Graphic
Novel Translations of the Literary Canon.” Honor’s College
Brackenridge Fellow, Summer 2009. (Director.)

Teaching Mentoring

Mentor to Undergraduate Teaching Assistants in Englit 560: Children and
Culture, 2008-2013, 2022-2023, and 2025-2026, Englit 1635, 2017, and
Englit 1645, 2011.

Awards Won by Undergraduate Students

Jill Stebelton, University of Pittsburgh senior, “The Persistence of Love and
Domination in Eighteenth-Century England: An Analysis of Elizabeth
Inchbald’s *A Simple Story*.” Won the 2023 University of Pittsburgh’s
Carol Kay Award for best undergraduate essay on British Literature 1500-
1900.
Lauren Clark, University of Pittsburgh junior, “Welcome to Mr. Kraus’s
Neighborhood: Understanding Elements of Horror as Subversive Tools
For Children in the Daniel Kraus Archive.” Won the
Children’s Literature Association’s 2022 Carol Gay Award, a
national award given annually for the best undergraduate paper on
children’s literature. The essay also won University of Pittsburgh’s 2021
competition for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children’s Literature.
Ella Marston, University of Pittsburgh senior, “Dread Nation’s Efforts to
Bridge the Gap in Children’s Literature: The Proper Representation of a
Minority Heroine and Implementation of Intergenerational Trauma.” Won
first place in the University of Pittsburgh’s 2020 competition for the Best
Undergraduate Essay in Children’s Literature.
Kate Eldridge, University of Pittsburgh senior, ““Creating the White- and
Euro-Centric Children’s Literary Canon: A Case Study of Clifton
Fadiman’s Reception to The Black Arts Movement in Children’s
Literature.” Won first place in the University of Pittsburgh’s 2019
competition for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children’s Literature.
Madeleine Shelley, University of Pittsburgh senior, “Sesame Street: The
Gentrification and Destruction of Urban Childhood.” Won first place in
the University of Pittsburgh’s 2018 competition for the Best
Undergraduate Essay in Children’s Literature.
Taylor Saghy, University of Pittsburgh junior, “Simulacra in Paper Towns.”
Won first place in the University of Pittsburgh’s 2016 competition for
the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children’s Literature.
Alex Cathcart, University of Pittsburgh senior, “A Racialized Menagerie:

Unpacking Race in Marc Brown's *Arthur* Series." Won the Children's Literature Association's 2015 Carol Gay Award, a national award given annually for the best undergraduate paper on children's literature. The essay also won the University of Pittsburgh's 2015 competition for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children's Literature.

Paige Carlson, University of Pittsburgh junior, "Harry Panoptic: The Boy Who Saw." Won the Children's Literature Association's 2008 Carol Gay Award. The essay also won first place for critical writing in the University of Pittsburgh's 2008 Ossip Award competition and second place in the 2008 competition for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children's Literature.

Mariko Turk, University of Pittsburgh senior, "Imposition, Resistance, and Transformation: Postcolonial Theory and 17 Things I'm Not Allowed to Do Anymore." Won first place in the University of Pittsburgh's 2008 competition for the Best Undergraduate Essay in Children's Literature.

SERVICE

Profession

Appointed Member, Conference Advisory Committee, Children's Literature Association, 2025-present.

Elected Member, Book Award Committee, Children's Literature Association, 2020-present.

Editorial Board, Adam Matthew Digital *Children's Literature and Culture*, 2020-present.

Advisory Board, The Frances Jenkins Olcott Award for Excellence in Children's Literature, 2020-present.

Advisory Editor, *American Periodicals*, 2012-present.

Judge, Francelia Butler Conference, 2022.

Member, Fass-Sandin Article Prize Committee, Society for the History of Childhood and Youth, 2021-2022.

English Judge, *The Global Undergraduate Awards*, 2021.

Manuscript Reviewer, *Children's Literature*, *International Research in Children's Literature*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*, *Keywords for Early American Studies*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, *Journal of the History of Childhood and Youth*, *Journal of British Studies*, *ESQ*, *American Periodicals*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Bank Street Occasional Papers Series*, *Reading Research Quarterly*.

Elected Member, Edited Book Award Committee, Children's Literature Association, 2010-2011.

University

Director, Children's Literature Program, 2015-2021, 2022-present.

Member, Humanities Council, 2015-present.

Co-Founder, Faculty-Graduate Student Reading Group in Childhood Studies, 2007-present.

Member, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Steering Committee, 2016-2018, 2023-2025.

Member, Cultural Studies Executive Committee, 2015-2016, 2022-2023.

Member, Senate Library Committee, 2018-2020.

Member, Senate Council, 2017-2018.

Humanities Representative, Faculty Assembly, 2016-2019.
Acting Director, Children's Literature Program, 2009-2010.

Department

Director, English Literature Program, 2023-present.
Member, Graduate Procedures Committee, 2008-2009, 2012-2013, 2024-present.
Member, Appointment Stream Mentoring Committee, 2023-present.
Chair, Literature Curriculum Committee, 2024-2025.
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2011-2012, 2015-2016, 2019-2020, 2021-2022, 2022-2023.
Chair, Graduate Careers Committee, 2020-2021.
Non-Tenure Stream Ombudsman, 2018-2019.
Member, Literature Curriculum Committee, 2007-2013, 2016.
Chair, Committee on Pedagogy, 2013-2014.
Member, Committee on Pedagogy, 2012-2013.
Co-Organizer, Works-in-Progress Colloquium, 2009-2010.
Member, Graduate Placement and Professional Development Committee, 2007-2008.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Children's Literature Association
International Research Society for Children's Literature
Society of Early Americanists
American Periodical Research Society
C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists
Society for the History of Childhood and Youth
Early Caribbean Society

LANGUAGES

English, Spanish (reading), Irish (basic), Welsh (basic)

LAST UPDATED

April 24, 2026.