

ANNA L. NEILL
Curriculum Vitae

Education

Ph.D., English, 1995
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

M.A., English, 1992
Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

M.A., English, 1989
Auckland University, Auckland, New Zealand

B.A., English, 1986
Auckland University, Auckland, New Zealand

Employment History

University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Professor, Department of English, August 2014 - Present
Associate Professor, Department of English, 2002 - August 2014
Assistant Professor, Department of English, 1996 - 2002

Administrative Assignments

University of Kansas
Director, Liberal Arts and Sciences Degree Program, 2025 —
Interim Chair, Film and Media Studies Department, 2022-2025
Director of First- and Second-Year English, 2020-21
Chair, English Department, 2012 – 2017
Associate Chair, English Department, 2010 - 2011
Undergraduate Director, English Department, 2006 - 2009

Research

Publications

Books

Human Evolution and Fantastic Victorian Fiction. Routledge, 2021

Primitive Minds: Evolution and Spiritual Experience in the Victorian Novel. Ohio State University Press, 2013.

British Discovery Literature and the Rise of Global Commerce. Basingstoke, Hampshire: Palgrave Publishers, 2002.

Manuscript: "The Obstinate Refuser" (Novel)

Articles

"'The Lifted Veil,' 'Brother Jacob,' and Short Form." *The Oxford Handbook of George Eliot*. Eds. Juliette Atkinson and Elisha Cohn. Oxford University Press, 2025. 418-433.

"Epigenetic Emergence: Reading for Growth in *Jane Eyre*." *Textual Practice* 33.7 (2019), 1071-1086.

"The Made Man and the Minor Novel: *Erewhon*, ANT, and Empire." *Victorian Studies* 60.1 (Autumn 2017), 53-73.

"Marvelous Plasticity and the Fortunes of Species in *The Water Babies*." *Philosophy and Literature* 38.1 (2014): 162-77.

"The Machinate Literary Animal: Butlerian Science for the 21st Century." *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* 22.1 (Winter 2014): 57-77.

"'Developmental Nonsense in the *Alice Tales*'." *Style* 47.3 (Fall 2013): 382-98.

"Sympathy, Superstition, and Narrative Form; Or, Why is *Silas Marner* so Short? A Response to John Mazaheri." *Connotations: A Journal of Critical Debate* 21.1 (2012): 20-27. 2011/2012

"Evolution and Epilepsy in *Bleak House*." *SEL (Studies in English Literature)* 51.4 (Fall 2011).

"Mercantilism and Criminal Transportation in *The Farther Adventures of Robinson Crusoe*." *Robinson Crusoe's Economic Man*. Ed. Ulla Graphard and Gillian Hewitson. New York: Routledge, 2011. 202-214.

"The Savage Genius of Sherlock Holmes." *Victorian Literature and Culture* 37 (2009): 611-626.

"The Primitive Mind of *Silas Marner*." *English Literary History (ELH)* 75 (2008): 939-962.

"Criticism, Ethics, and the Problem of Rehabilitation." *Law, Culture and the Humanities* 2 (2006): 284-300.

"New Museology and the Nation." *On Display: Essays in Cultural Tourism*. Eds. Anna Smith and Lydia Wevers. Wellington, New Zealand: Victoria University Press, 2004.

"Pacific Trade and the Character of Captains: James Cook and William Bligh." *The Global Eighteenth-Century*. Ed. Felicity Nussbaum. Baltimore, MD: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.

- Neill, Anna, and Jonathan Gil Harris. "Hollywood's Pacific Junk: The Wreckage of Colonial History in *Six Days and Seven Nights* and *Rapa Nui*." *The UTS Review* 7.2 (2001): 68-85.
- "Civilization and the Rights of Woman: Liberty and Captivity in the Work of Mary Wollstonecraft." *Women's Writing* 8.1 (2001): 99-117.
- "A Land Without a Past: Dreamtime and Nation in *The Piano*." *Piano Lessons*. Ed. Felicity Coombs and Suzanne Gemmell. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 2000.
- "Buccaneer Ethnography: Nature, Culture and Nation in the Journals of William Dampier." *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 33.2 (Winter 2000): 165-180.
- "Global Intimacies in the Cultural Studies Classroom." *The Journal of Contemporary Thought* 8 (1998): 1-21.
- "Crusoe's Farther Adventures: Discovery, Trade, and the Law of Nations." *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 38.3 (Fall 1997): 213-230.
- "The Sentimental Novel and the Republican Imaginary: Slavery in *Paul and Virginia*." *Diacritics* 23.3 (Fall 1993): 36-47.

Book Reviews

- Rev. of *World Pacific*, Peter Mann, Harper, 2025. *Historical Novels Review* 113 (August 2025)
- Rev. of *Cultivating Belief: Victorian Anthropology, Liberal Aesthetics, and the Secular Imagination*, Sebastian Lecourt, Oxford University Press, 2018. *Victorian Studies* 61.4 (Summer 2019).
- "Imperial Cacophony." Rev. of *Eighteenth-Century British Literature and Postcolonial Theory*, Suvir Kaul, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010. *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 54.2013, Supplement (Aug. 2013).
<<http://ecti.english.illinois.edu/reviews/54/Neill-Kaul.html>>.
- "Soul-Shaking Science." Rev. of *Why Do We Care About Literary Characters*, Blakey Vermeule. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. *The Evolutionary Review* 2 (Fall 2010).
- Rev. of *Tracing the Connected Narrative: Arctic Exploration in British Print Culture, 1818-1860*, Janice Cavell. Buffalo, N.Y.: University of Toronto Press, 2008. *American Historical Review* 114 (Dec. 2009): 1531-1532.
- Rev. of *Englishness Identified: Manners and Character 1650-1850*, John Langford. Oxford University Press, 2000. *The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 1.1 (Spring-Summer 2001): 147-150.
- Rev. of *Tropicopolitans: Colonialism and Agency, 1688-1804*, Srinivas Aravamudan. Durham: Duke University Press, 1999. *Asecs Book Review Online* (5 May 2000).
<<http://back.csulb.edu:8080/asecs/FMPro?-d...ted&-sortorder=descend&-recid=20&-findall>>
- Rev. of *Explosions on the Sun*, Marilyn Duckworth. Hodder and Stoughton, 1989. *Landfall* 173 (Mar. 1990): 118-120.
- Rev. of *The Grandiflora Tree*, Shonagh Koea. Penguin, 1989. *Landfall* 173 (Mar. 1990): 118-120.
- Rev. of *100 Traditional Smiles*, Anne Kennedy. Victoria University Press, 1988. *Landfall* 172 (Dec. 1989): 516-518.
- Rev. of *Angst*, Helen Cixous. John Calder, 1985. *Landfall* 168 (Dec. 1988): 458-459. (Invited)

Public Writing

“Whither the Human: Notes for Neandertal.” *Us and Them*. A hand-crafted and hand-printed collection of essays by Tu Neill and Kentaro Yamada. Exhibition forthcoming, 2024.

“Does it Matter if Artificially Intelligent Beings Think Like Humans?: What a Victorian author can tell us about the conflict at Google over sentient AI.” *Public Seminar*. August 19, 2022.

“Decolonizing Daniel Defoe: How Black Lives Matter in *A Journal of the Plague Year*.” *Public Seminar*. February 9, 2022.

“William Morris, Utopian Socialism, and the Value of Art over Numbers.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*. August 19, 2021.

“How Lewis Carroll Challenged White Supremacy.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*. April 29, 2021.

Conference Proceedings

Neill, Anna, and Leslie Tuttle (Eds.). "Consciousness in Interdisciplinary Perspective." *Discussions from the Humanities Fall Faculty Colloquium 2011*. KU ScholarWorks, June 2012.

"Evolution, Brain, and Imaginative Literature." *Consciousness in Interdisciplinary Perspective: Discussions from the Humanities Fall Faculty Colloquium 2011*. KU ScholarWorks, June 2012.

Newsletter Articles

"James Morrison's Tahiti." *The Center and Clark Newsletter* Spring 2000: 5-6. (Invited)
UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-century Studies and the William Andrews Clark
Memorial Library

Invited Presentations/Lectures

“Neurodiversity in George Eliot’s Shorter Fiction.” Humanities Seminar. University of Strathclyde. (October 27, 2021).

“*Alice*, Child Development, and the Nonsense Mind.” Symposium. “Headspace: Science, Fiction, and the Boundaries of Mind in the 19th Century.” Birkbeck Centre for Nineteenth-Century Studies, University of London (June 10, 2021).

Panel Presenter for “Research on the Leading Edge,” Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, March 2019.

"Victorian Science and Spiritualism," Midwestern Society for Victorian Studies, Iowa City, IA. (May 2015).

Invited by MSVA to lead one of three special seminar sessions at this conference.

"Artificial Evolution and the Lettered Beast: *The Island of Doctor Moreau*" CUNY Graduate Center, New York. (March 6, 2014).

"Evolution and Spiritualism: The Strange Case of Sherlock Holmes," University of Otago, New Zealand. (May 2012).

"Developing Nonsense in the *Alice* Tales," English Department Staff Seminar Series, University of Auckland, New Zealand. (April 2012).

"Evolution and the Dreamy Mind," 24th Annual James E. Seaver Lecture, University of Kansas. (November 2011).

"Mental Dissolution in the Nineteenth-century Novel," Keynote paper presented at Madness and Creativity, Santa Fe, NM. (February 2006). (Peer-reviewed)

"Evolution and Epilepsy in *Bleak House*," Graduate Association, University College, London (May 4, 2005).

Neill, Anna, Eighteenth-Century Islands, The William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles, CA. (April 2000).

Presentations/Lectures

"George Eliot and the Limits of Sympathy," Northeastern MLA, Baltimore (March 2021)

"The Time of Climate Fiction," Northeastern Modern Language Association, Philadelphia (March 2021).

"Time out of Mind: Deep Time and Victorian Socialist Utopias," Society for the Study of Literature, Arts, and Science, Toronto (November 2018).

"Ascending Dimensions and Eugenicist Dreams in *Flatland*," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies, San Francisco. (March 2018)

Neill, Anna and Paul Outka, "Epigenetic Emergence," MLA, Philadelphia, PA. (January 2017). Also co-organizer (with Paul Outka) of panel, "The New New Materialisms."

"Reading for Growth: Epigenetic Emergence in *Jane Eyre*," North American Victorian Studies Association, Phoenix, AZ. (November 2016).

Neill, Anna, and Paul Outka, "Epigenetics: Materialism and Agency," Society for the Study of Literature, Arts, and Science, Houston, TX. (November 2015).

, "Artificial Evolution and the Lettered Beast: *The Island of Doctor Moreau*," Conference on "Animal Suffering," Southwestern College, Winfield, KS (October 2015).

"Fiction and the Machine: Actor Network Theory, Technogenesis, and Humanity in the Lesser Novel," Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Riverside, CA. (November 2014).

"Conversations with Animals: Orality and Evolution in the *Just So Stories*," Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Dallas, TX. (October 11, 2014).

"Science and Spiritualism in the Novel," North American Victorian Studies Association, Pasadena, CA. (October 25, 2013).

""What Connexion?": Spirits, Nerves, and the Social Worlds of *Bleak House* and *Our Mutual Friend*," North American Victorian Studies Association, Madison, WI. (September 2012).

"Evolution and Ethics in *The Water Babies*," Pacific Ancient and Modern Languages Association, Claremont, CA. (November 2011).

"Thomas Hardy's Moderns," Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities, Honolulu, HI. (January 2011).

Neill, Anna, Caminero-Santangelo, Marta, Scott, Bill, and Elliott, Dorice W, "Documenting Student Learning: Assessment Initiatives in English," CTE Teaching Summit, Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (August 2010).

Lester, Cheryl B., Neill, Anna, and Bruni, John, "Human Social Evolution, the Role of Culture, and the Practice of Literary Criticism: A Roundtable Discussion," Mid-America American Studies Association, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (March 2010).

"Suspended Animation and Second Sight in *Daniel Deronda* and *The Lifted Veil*," British Women Writers Conference, Iowa City, IA. (April 2009).

"Evolution and Atavism in *The Moonstone* and *The Hound of the Baskervilles*," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Conference, Kansas City, MO. (April 2007).

"Alternative Sentencing and the Future of English Studies," Association for Law, Culture, and the Humanities, Hartford, CT. (March 2004).

"Re-defining Literacy in a Jail Classroom," Conference on College Composition and Communications, Chicago, IL. (March 2002).

Neill, Anna, Daldorph, Brian, and Caron, Michael, "Douglas County Jail and the Community Education Program," Annual Conference on Composition and Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (October 2001).

"Global Commerce and Homelessness," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, New Orleans, LA. (April 2001).

"*Roderick Random* and the Currents of Fancy," Early Modern Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (September 2000).

"Pacific Trade and the Character of Captains," Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies,

- Las Vegas, NV. (February 2000).
- "Culture and Citizenship in the Journals of William Dampier," 10th International Congress of the Enlightenment, Dublin, Ireland. (July 1999).
- "Distressed Geography and Merchant Capital in *Gulliver's Travels*," 1999 International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Fort Lauderdale, FL. (March 1999).
- "Learning From Our Students," Panelist at the 46th Annual Conference on Composition and Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (October 1998).
- "'Just Conquest' and State Building in the New World: A Roundtable Discussion," Co-organizer of panel at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN. (April 1998).
- "Globalization and Radical Racism in *Gulliver's Travels*," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN. (April 1998).
- "The Law of Nations and the Origins of Empire," Co-organizer of panel at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Notre Dame University, Notre Dame, IN. (April 1998).
- "The Law of Nations and the Origins of Empire," Co-organizer of panel, South Central Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, San Antonio, TX. (February 1998).
- "Gender and Sovereignty," Feministas Unidas Roundtable on "Teaching Women, Building Nations," Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada. (December 1997).
- "Intersections of Desire: The Sites of Gender in Film," Panelist at the Annual Conference on Composition and Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (October 1997).
- Neill, Anna, Lyden, Anne, and Ellory, Michelle, "Who Owns the Sea? Property and Identity in the Pacific," Organizer of panel at the 6th Annual Cultural Studies Symposium, Kansas State University, Lawrence, KS. (March 1997).
- "Going Native and Nationless: Buccaneering in the South Seas," 6th Annual Cultural Studies Symposium, Kansas State University, Lawrence, KS. (March 1997).
- "Crusoe's Farther Adventures: Discovery, Trade and the Law of Nations," Western Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Berkeley, CA. (February 1997).
- "Mary Wollstonecraft," Training session for GTAs in the Humanities and Western Civilization Program, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (February 1997).
- "Civilization and the Rights of Woman: Mary Wollstonecraft's Liberal Feminism," The British Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (October 1996).
- Neill, Anna, Preston, Catherine Lee, Evans, Stephen F., "Darkness Visible: The Creative Invention of Film," Roundtable discussion at the Annual Conference on Composition and Literature, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS. (October 1996).

"The Ends of Nature," Roundtable discussion at the 5th Annual Cultural Studies Symposium, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. (March 1996).

A Land Without a Past: Dreamtime and Nation in *The Piano*," Presented at the English Department Graduate Student Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. (May 1994).

Honors/Awards

Frances L. Stiefel Teaching Professor, 2018-2020

Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Kansas. (2011)

Conger-Gabel Teaching Professorship, University of Kansas. (2010-2013)

Keeler Family Intra-University Professorship. University of Kansas (Fall 2009).

Hall Center award to prepare an NEH seminar application (2007).

Fall Faculty Colloquium. Hall Center for the Humanities (Fall 2001).
Co-director

"Newberry Library Travel Grant." University of Kansas (August 2001).

"Hall Center Research Travel Grant." University of Kansas (June 2001)

"Humanities Research Fellowship." Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas (Fall 2000).

"Ahmanson Getty Postdoctoral Fellowship." UCLA (Spring 2000).

"Short-term Fellowship." Newberry Library (July 1998).