

Adam Potkay

Curriculum Vitae

Last Updated: July 7, 2025

Permanent Office Address: Dept. of English, William & Mary
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Permanent Home Address: 710 Hamilton Street, Williamsburg,
Virginia 23185-4503

Education

Ph.D. Rutgers University, English 1990
M.A. The Johns Hopkins University, English 1986
B.A. Cornell University 1982

Academic Positions

The College of William & Mary:

Chair of the English Department, 2013- 2016
William R. Kenan, Jr. Professor of Humanities, 2009-
Professor 2001-
Associate Professor 1996-2001
Assistant Professor 1990-1996

Princeton University:

Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor of Distinguished Teaching,
University Center for Human Values, 2018-19

Washington University, St. Louis:

Hurst Distinguished Visiting Professor, October 2017

Charles University, Prague:

Director of the W&M Summer Program, May-June 2015; May-June 2017

Columbia University: Visiting Professor, Fall 2001

The University of Aberdeen, UK: Visiting Professor, Fall 1997

Rutgers University: Lecturer, 1986-88

Johns Hopkins University: Teaching Assistant, 1984-85

Honors and Awards

Hope: A Literary History short-listed by the Wordsworth-Coleridge Association for the 2022 Marilyn Gaull Book Award

ASECS (American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies)
Chair of the 2020-2021 Gottschalk Prize Committee
(selects best book in multidisciplinary eighteenth-century studies)

Election to MLA Delegate Assembly, Middle Atlantic Delegate, December 2019

Appointment as Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Professor of Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University, 2018-9

Finalist for Editorship of *PMLA*, October 2015

Invited to serve on the American Comparative Literature Association René Wellek Prize Committee, 9/2013 (declined)

College of William & Mary, Arts & Sciences Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence, 2012-3

Harry Levin Prize of the American Comparative Literature Association, for the Best Book in Literary History and Literary Criticism, 2006-8 (for The Story of Joy, 2007)

William R. Kenan, Jr. Professorship of Humanities, 2009-

College of William & Mary, Plumeri Award for Faculty Excellence, 2009-11

PMLA Editorial Board, 2008-2010

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, 2006-07

Appointment to write *SEL* Summer 2008 omnibus review essay, "Recent Studies in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century"

Margaret L. Hamilton Term Professorship in English, 2005-8

Phi Beta Kappa Award for the Advancement of Scholarship, Alpha of Virginia, 1997

College of William & Mary Alumni Fellowship Award for Excellence in Teaching, 1996

Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools Dissertation Award, 1993
(Awarded to the best dissertation in the Humanities, 1988-93)

Rutgers University: Graduate Excellence Fellowship, 1985-89;
Louis Bevier Fellowship, 1989-90
PBK, Cornell University, 1981

Languages: Reading ability in Greek, Latin, French; limited Italian, Czech.

Scholarship

Books Written

7. *Freedom and Determinism in Philosophy and Literature*
(in contract negotiation)

6. *Hope: A Literary History* (Cambridge University Press, 2022). 285 pp.

*short-listed by the Wordsworth-Coleridge Association for the 2022
Marilyn Gaull Book Award*

5. *Wordsworth's Ethics*
(The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012). 254 pp.
Paperback, 2015.

4. *The Story of Joy from the Bible to Late Romanticism*
(Cambridge University Press, 2007). 304 pp.
Paperback, 2009.

*Co-Winner of the Harry Levin Prize of the American Comparative Literature
Association, for the Best Book in Literary History and
Literary Criticism, 2006-8*

Translations:

- *A história da Alegria da Bíblia ao Romantismo tardio*, trans. into Portuguese by Eduardo Henrik Aubert (São Paulo: Editora Globa, 2010). 422 pp.
- *Istoria Bucuriei de la Biblie până la Romantismul Târziu*, trans. into Romanian by Dana Bădulescu and Oana Petrovici (Bucharest: Tipo Moldova, 2010). 391 pp.

3. *The Passion for Happiness: Samuel Johnson and David Hume* (Cornell University Press, 2000). 241 pp.
2. *An Education on the Delaware: St. Mary's Hall and Doane Academy, 1837-1999* (Burlington, NJ: Burlington County Historical Society, 2000). 107 pp.
1. *The Fate of Eloquence in the Age of Hume* (Cornell University Press, 1994). 253 pp.

Edited Volumes

6. Ed., with Dietmar Till (University of Tübingen),
In *The Cambridge History of Rhetoric*, 5 volumes,
Volume 3, *Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries (1650-1900)*,
300,000 words/45 essays, contracted 7/2018, forthcoming
2025-26.
5. Ed., with D.J. Moores, James Engell, Emma Mason, James Pawelski, and
Susan Wolfson. *On Human Flourishing: A Poetry Anthology* (McFarland
& Co., 2015). 308 pp.
4. Ed., Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* (Longman Cultural Edition, 2007 [dated
2008]). 366 pp.
3. Ed., with Sandra Burr. *Black Atlantic Writers of the Eighteenth Century:
Living the New Exodus in England and the Americas.*
(New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995). 268 pp.
2. Ed., *The Interdisciplinary Approach: Essays in Honor of Robert Maccubbin.*
A special issue of *Eighteenth-Century Life*
(Duke University Press Journals, 2001). 273 pp.
1. Ed., with Robert Maccubbin. *Manners of Reading:
Essays in Honor of Thomas R. Edwards.*
A special issue of *Eighteenth-Century Life*
(Johns Hopkins University Press Journals, 1992). 271 pp.

Audiobooks/Recorded Lectures:

Heaven in a Wild Flower: A Guide to British Romantic Poetry. 14-lecture series.
7 cds with 55 pp. booklet/ Audio download.
Frederick, Md: Recorded Books, 2010.

The Great Good Book: The Bible and Western Literature. 14-lecture series, co-written with Monica Brzezinski Potkay. 7 cds/cassettes with 108 pp. booklet/ Audio download. Frederick, Md.: Recorded Books/New York: Barnes & Noble, 2003.

Articles (and *article reprints): 61 articles plus reprints and translations.

“World Johnson,” forthcoming in *The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual*, 26 (2026).

“*Concordia Discors* at World’s End: Pope, Voltaire, Wordsworth,” forthcoming in *Modern Philology* 123:1 (August 2025): 1-20.

“Poetry and Rhetoric,” forthcoming in *The Cambridge History of Rhetoric* volume 3, ed. Potkay and Till, CUP 2025.

“Rhetoric and Philosophy from Cicero to Adam Smith: Tropes, Dialogue, Self-Division,” forthcoming in *The Cambridge History of Rhetoric*, volume 3, ed. Potkay and Till, CUP 2025.

“Hope in Books,” in *Hope for Life on Our Planet*, ed. Osvald Bjelland (New York: Manhattan Book Group, 2025), 346-49.

“‘How like he was to Rousseau’: Johnson on Social Evils and Future Happiness,” *The Johnson News Letter* 76:1 (March 2025), 30-41; <https://johnsoniannewsletter.org/archive/>

“Wonder, Intuition, Romanticism: Wojtyła, Scheler, Wordsworth,” *Ethos* no. 149 [38:1] (2025): 93-107.

“Virtue or Vice? A Short Literary History of Hope,” in *The Virtue of Hope*, ed. Nancy Snow (Oxford University Press, 2024), 47-71.

“Enlightenment and Sensibility: The Problem of Evil,” *The Eighteenth-Century Intelligencer* 38:1 (2024): 20-32.

“Hope,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Samuel Johnson*, Ed. Jack Lynch (Oxford University Press, 2022), 582-98.

“*Frankenstein* in the History of Happiness: From Ancient Ethics to Richard Wright,” *The Keats-Shelley Review* 34:1 (2020): 35-45.

- “Lucretius, Englishman: Meter, Mortalism, and Love in Dryden’s Translations from *De Rerum Natura*,” *Eighteenth-Century Life* (September 2019):1-22.
- “Wordsworth’s Hope,” *The Wordsworth Circle* (Summer 2019): 265-89.
- “Hume’s ‘Of Suicide’ and its French Reception: Necessity and Native Liberty,” in *When in the Course of Human Events: 1776 at Home and Abroad*, ed. Will Jordan (Mercer University Press, 2018), 76-92.
- “Something Evermore about to Be: The Transformation of Hope in the Romantic Era”/ Polish translation (Dorota Chabrajska), “O CZYMŚ, „CO WIECZNIE JUŻ-JUŻ MA SIĘ ZIŚCIC”: Przemiany nadziei w epoce romantyzmu,” *Ethos* no. 119 (2017): 153-87.
- “Rhetoric and Philosophy in the Eighteenth Century,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Rhetorical Studies*, ed. Michael MacDonald (Oxford University Press, 2017), 535-46.
- “Pity, Gratitude, and the Poor in Rousseau and Adam Smith,” in *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* vol. 46, 2017, 163-82.
- “Contested Emotions: Pity and Gratitude from the Stoics to Swift and Wordsworth,” *PMLA* 130:5 (October 2015):1332-46.
- “*Joseph Andrews* and the European Novel,” in *Approaches to Teaching the Novels of Henry Fielding*, ed. Elizabeth Kraft and Jennifer Wilson (New York: MLA, 2015), 77-82.
- “The Fascination of What’s Difficult,” in *The Pocket Instructor: Literature*, ed. Diana Fuss and Bill Gleeson (Princeton University Press, 2015), 260-62.
- “The Humanities in the American University: A Belle Époque?”/ *Humanistyka na Uniwersytecie Amerykańskim. La Belle Époque* (Polish trans., Dorota Chabrajska), *Ethos* no. 109 (2015): 169-87.
- “Wordsworth’s Ethical Thinking,” in *The Oxford Handbook of William Wordsworth*, ed. Richard Gravil and Daniel Robinson (Oxford University Press, 2015), 679-92.

- “The Virgilian Way from Milton to Wordsworth,” in
A Companion to British Literature, vol. 3, *Long Eighteenth-Century Literature, 1660-1837*, ed. Robert DeMaria, Heesok Chang, and Samantha Zacker (Blackwell, 2014), 62-77.
- “Teaching Dryden’s Latin Translations: Lucretius, Virgil, and the Honeybee,”
 in *Approaches to Teaching the Works of John Dryden*,
 ed. Jayne Lewis and Lisa Zunshine (New York: MLA, 2013), 158-63.
- “Discursive and Philosophic Prose” [The Transformation of the Ancient Schools
 in Eighteenth-Century Philosophical Prose], in
The Oxford History of Classical Reception in English Literature, vol. 3,
1660-1790, ed. David Hopkins and Charles Martindale
 (Oxford University Press, 2012). Pp. 593-613.
- “Foreword” (new) and **“The Career of Joy in the Twentieth Century”*
 (*reprinted from *The Story of Joy* pp. 220-36),
 in *The Eudaimonic Turn: Well-Being in Literary Studies*,
 ed. James O. Pawelski and Donald J. Moores
 (Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 2012). Pp. xi-xiv; 247-64.
- “The British Romantic Sublime,”
 in *The Sublime: From Antiquity to the Present*, ed. Timothy Costelloe
 (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Pp. 203-216.
- “SŁOWO I WIEŻ: O etycznym wymiarze poezji topograficznej
 na podstawie utworów Jamesa Thomsona i Williama Wordswortha” [The
 Word and Attachment: On the ethical dimensions of loco-descriptive
 poetry in poems by James Thomson and William Wordsworth], Polish
 translation by Dorota Chabrajska, *Ethos* no. 93-94 [vol. 25:1-2] (2012):
 193-215.
- “Romantic Transformations of the King James Bible: Wordsworth, Shelley,
 Blake.” In *The King James Bible after Four Hundred Years:
 Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Influences*, ed. Hannibal Hamlin and
 Norman Jones (Cambridge University Press, 2011). Pp. 219-33.
- “Eye and Ear: Counteracting Senses in Locodescriptive Poetry.” In
The Blackwell Companion to Romantic Poetry, ed. Charles Mahoney
 (Blackwell, 2010). Pp. 176-94.

“Narrative Possibilities of Happiness, Unhappiness, and Joy,”
in *Social Research: An International Quarterly of the Political and Social Sciences*, special issue on “Happiness,” 77:2 (Summer 2010): 523-44.

*revised and augmented as “Narrative Possibilities of Happiness, Joy, and Unhappiness,” *Nineteenth-Century Contexts* 33:2 (May 2011): 111-125.

*Polish translation by Dorota Chabrajska, “*Radość uzdrowienia i powrotu. O narracyjnych możliwościach wyrazu szczęśliwości, jej braku oraz radości*,” *Ethos* no. 89-90 [vol. 24:1-2] (2011): 181-200.

“Determination and Agency in Fielding’s *Amelia*,” in
The Eighteenth-Century Novel vols. 6-7 (New York: AMS Press, 2009),
pp. 335-58.

“Music vs. Conscience in Wordsworth’s Poetry,” in
Theory and Practice in the Eighteenth Century: Writing Between Philosophy and Literature, ed. Alex Dick and Christina Lupton
(London: Pickering & Chatto, 2008), pp. 225-38, 279-83.

“Wordsworth and the Ethics of Things,” *PMLA* 123:2 (March 2008): 390-404.
*reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism*, vol. 336, ed.
Lawrence Trudeau (Gale Cengage, 2017), pp. 304-15.

“Captivation and Liberty in Wordsworth’s Poems on Music,” in
Romantic Circles Praxis Series (2008), special issue, “‘Soundings of Things Done’: The Poetry and Poetics of Sound in the Romantic Ear and Era,” ed. Susan Wolfson. www.rc.umd.edu/praxis/sound/ns/potkay.html
*reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism*, vol. 336, ed.
Lawrence Trudeau (Gale Cengage, 2017), pp. 316-21.

“Spenser, Donne, and the Theology of Joy,” *SEL* 46 (Winter 2006): 43-66.

“Happiness and Joy in the Novel,”
in *A Companion to the Eighteenth-Century Novel and Culture*,
ed. Paula Backscheider and Catherine Ingrassia (Blackwell, 2005),
pp. 321-40.

“Joy in *American Beauty*,” *Raritan Quarterly* (Summer 2005): 69-86.

- “Wordsworth, Henry Reed, and Bishop Doane: High-Church Romanticism on the Delaware,” in *Wordsworth in American Literary Culture*, ed. Joel Pace and Matthew Scott (Palgrave, 2005), pp. 101-20.
- “Coleridge’s Joy,” *The Wordsworth Circle* (Summer 2004): 107-113.
- “Samuel Johnson,” in *British Writers: Retrospective Supplement*, ed. Jay Parini (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 2002), pp. 137-50.
- “Hume’s ‘Supplement to *Gulliver*’: The Medieval Volumes of *The History of England*,” *Eighteenth-Century Life* (Summer 2001): 32-46.
- “History, Oratory and God in Equiano’s *Interesting Narrative*,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 34 (Summer 2001): 601-14.
*Reprinted in *Teaching Equiano’s Narrative: Pedagogical Strategies and New Perspectives*, ed. Eric D. Larmore (University of Tennessee, 2012), pp. 1-23.
- “A Response to My Critics,” in *Hume Studies* (April 2001): 173-79.
- “Religious Eloquence: Hume on the Passions that Unite Us” (from Chapter 4, *The Fate of Eloquence in the Age of Hume*), *reprinted in *Literature Criticism from 1400 to 1800*, vol. 56 (Gale Group, 2000), pp. 201-15.
- “The Structure of His Sentences is French’: Johnson and Hume in the History of English,” *Language Sciences* 22:3 (July 2000); Special Issue: *Rhetoric, Language and Literature: New Perspectives on English in the Eighteenth Century*, ed. Susan Fitzmaurice. Pp. 285-94.
- “David Hume: Moral Painter,” *Studies in Early Modern Philosophy* 5, ed. Stanley Tweyman (Ann Arbor: Caravan Books, 2000), pp. 85-95.
- “Whatever Happened to Happiness?,” *Philosophy Now* 27 (June/July 2000), pp. 24-27.
- “Leaving Box Hill: Austen’s *Emma* and Theatricality,” on-line publication in *Romantic Circles Praxis Series: Re-Reading Box Hill* (Feb. 2000), ed. William Galperin. <<http://www.rc.umd.edu/praxis/boxhill>>

- "Theorizing Civic Eloquence in the Early Republic:
The Road from David Hume to John Quincy Adams,"
Early American Literature (Spring 1999): 147-70.
- "Happiness in Johnson and Hume,"
The Age of Johnson: A Scholarly Annual 9 (1998): 165-86.
- "Response to Professor Mark Box," *Hume Studies* 21:2 (November 1995):
340-343.
- "A Satire on Myself: Wordsworth and the Infant Prodigy,"
Nineteenth-Century Literature (September 1994): 149-66.
- "Olaudah Equiano and the Art of Spiritual Autobiography,"
Eighteenth-Century Studies, (Summer 1994): 677-92.

*Reprinted in *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano*, Norton
Critical Edition, ed. Werner Sollors (Norton, 2001), pp. 382-92.
- "Beckford's Heaven of Boys," *Raritan Quarterly* (Summer 1993): 73-86.

*Reprinted in *Three Oriental Tales: New Riverside Edition*, ed. Alan
Richardson (Houghton Mifflin, 2002), pp. 296-305.
*Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism* vol. 214 (Gale
Cengage, 2009).
- "The Spirit of Ending in Johnson and Hume," *Eighteenth-Century Life*
(November 1992): 153-66.

*Reprinted in *British Literature 1640-1789: A Critical Reader*,
ed. Robert DeMaria (Oxford: Blackwell, 1999), pp. 204-17.
- "Virtue and Manners in Macpherson's Poems of Ossian," *PMLA* (January 1992):
120-30.
- "Classical Eloquence and Polite Style in the Age of Hume,"
Eighteenth-Century Studies (Fall 1991): 31-56.

"The Problem of Identity and the Grounds for Judgment in *The Ring and the Book*," *Victorian Poetry* (Summer 1987): 143-57.
*Reprinted in *Nineteenth-Century Literary Criticism*, vol. 79, ed. Suzanne Dewbury (Gale Group, 2000), pp. 116-24.

"Johnson and the Terms of Succession," *SEL* (Summer 1986): 497-510.

Encyclopedia Articles

"The Couplet," in *The Encyclopedia of British Literature: 1660-1789*, general editors Gary Day and Jack Lynch, 3 vols. (Blackwell 2015), 1:314-7.

"Happiness," "Biography," and "Passion,"
Encyclopedia of the Enlightenment, editor-in-chief Alan Charles Kors, 4 vols. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003): 1:153-56, 2:181-83, 3:252-56.

"Hume and Rhetorical Theory,"
in *Eighteenth-Century British and American Rhetoric and Rhetoricians*, ed. Michael Moran (Westport, Ct.: Greenwood Press, 1994), pp. 123-31.

Review Essays

"Recent Studies in the Restoration and Eighteenth Century," omnibus review of c. 90 books, in *SEL, Studies in English Literature* (Summer 2008): 693-739.

"Hume in America (II)," *Eighteenth-Century Life* 31:1 (Winter 2007): 81-87.

"The Rhetoric of Empiricism Revisited," *The Eighteenth-Century: Theory and Interpretation* Vol. 45, 2004 supplement (on-line resource).

"Hume in America, or How Long was there a Scottish Enlightenment on the Atlantic?," a review of *Hume's Reception in Early America*, 2 vols, ed. Mark Spencer, in *William & Mary Quarterly* (October 2003): 882-88.

"History After Virtue," a review of J.G.A. Pocock, *Barbarism and Religion* Vols. I & II, *William & Mary Quarterly* (October 2001): 997-1006.

"Writing About Experience: Recent Books on Locke and Classical Empiricism," in *Eighteenth-Century Life* (May, 1995):103-110.

Reviews

Dozens of single book reviews published in *Modern Philology*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *SEL (Studies in English Literature)*, *The Wordsworth Circle*, *Romantic Circles Reviews (online)*, *Studies in Romanticism*, *The Age of Johnson*, *The Johnsonian Newsletter*, *Hume Studies*, *Early American Literature*, *The Scriblerian*, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, *Rhetorica*, *Journal of British Studies*, *BARS Review (British Association for the Study of Romanticism)* and elsewhere.

Editorial Positions on Scholarly Journals

Eighteenth-Century Life: Advisory Editor, 1990-Spring 1995; Fall 1996-2001
Interim Editor, Fall 1995- Summer 1996
 Associate Editor, 2001-04
 Editorial Board member, 2006-
 **Book Review Editor*, 2007-2016

Editorial Board, *The Johnsonian Newsletter*, 2024-

Editorial Board, *Ethos* (Poland), 2014-

Editorial Board, *PMLA*, 2008- 2010

Advisory Editor, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 1999-2002

Editorial Board, *British Ideas and Issues 1660-1820*, pamphlet reprint series
 (New York: AMS Press), early 1990s

Editorial Board, *The Friend: Comment on Romanticism*, 1991-1995

Referee for many other journals, including *PMLA*, *SEL*,
Studies in Romanticism, *European Romantic Review*,
Eighteenth-Century Fiction, *William & Mary Quarterly*,
Modern Philology, *Modern Language Quarterly*,
Hume Studies,
Restoration: Studies in Literature and Culture,
Rhetorica,
Political Theory, *European Journal of Political Theory*,
Review of Politics,
British Journal for the History of Philosophy,
Journal of the History of Philosophy.

Editorial Service to University Presses including Bucknell, Cambridge, Columbia, Cornell, Edinburgh, Harvard, Kentucky, Liverpool, Ohio State, Oxford,

Princeton, Stanford, Virginia, Yale; commercial academic presses including W. W. Norton & Co., Routledge (UK), and Versita (Poland).

In popular media: “Why We’re Obsessed with Happiness,” CNN.com, April 16, 2015.

Invited Scholarly Papers and Talks

“*Concordia Discors*: Pope, Voltaire, Wordsworth,” University of St. Andrews, UK, April 3, 2025.

“Wonder, Intuition, Romanticism: Wojtyła, Scheler, Wordsworth,” keynote lecture for John Paul II memorial conference, KUL (Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), April 1, 2025

“Freedom and Determinism,” The Karol Wojtyła Memorial Lectures (10 lectures, 25 hours), KUL (Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), March 24-29, 2025.

“Hume and the Stoics on Suicide,” APA (American Philosophical Association) Eastern Division Meeting, Special session, New York City, January 10, 2025.

“‘How Like he was to Jean-Jacques Rousseau’: Johnson on Social Evils and Future Happiness,” invited talk at The Johnsonians annual dinner, The Yale Club, New York City, September 13, 2024.

“*Concordia Discors* at World’s End,” invited talk at Dept of English, Haifa University, Israel, June 25, 2024 (zoom session).

“Joy, Happiness, Cheerfulness,” invited talk at inter-disciplinary conference on Joy, director Joanna Cook (Anthropology), University College London, June 5, 2024 (zoom participation due to my schedule).

“Galperin’s Wordsworth,” invited talk at MLA, Philadelphia, January 2024, special session, “William Galperin’s Romanticism.”

“*Frankenstein* in the History of Happiness: From Ancient Ethics to Richard Wright,” invited talk at Department of English, Princeton University, March, 2019; also given as the keynote lecture at King’s College, Cambridge University, “Happiness from the Enlightenment to the Present” Conference, October 2019.

“Rhetoric and Philosophy II,” invited plenary lecture at “Persuasion After Rhetoric” Conference, University of Notre Dame, March 2019.

- “Wordsworth: Hope over Experience,” invited plenary lecture,
Wordsworth Summer Conference, Grasmere, UK, August 2018.
- “Rhetoric and Philosophy from Cicero to Adam Smith: Tropes, Dialogue,
Self-Division,”
Keynote lecture at The Registers of Philosophy III conference,
Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Philosophy, Budapest,
May 2017.
- “Something Evermore about to Be: The Transformation of Hope in the
Nineteenth Century,”
talk delivered in succession at Washington University, Saint Louis;
The Armstrong Browning Library, Baylor University, Texas;
and The Centre for the History of Emotions,
University of Melbourne, Australia, October-November 2106.
- “Wordsworth and Virgil,” invited talk, Symposium on the Romantics and
Classics, Virginia Wesleyan University, November 2016.
- “How to Publish in PMLA,” invited talk, MLA, Austin, Texas, January 2016.
- “Pity, Gratitude, and the Poor in Rousseau and Adam Smith,”
Eighteenth/Nineteenth Century Reading Group, Rutgers University,
October 2015.
- Roundtable discussion of *The Story of Joy from the Bible to Late Romanticism*,
Eastern Virginia Presbyterian Minister Study Group, May 14, 2015,
Williamsburg, Virginia.
- “Pity and Gratitude in Philosophy and Literature,”
Tack Endowed Lectures Series of the College of William & Mary,
Kimball Theater, Williamsburg, October 28, 2014;
Revised version given as invited lecture in the English Department,
The University of Virginia, February 19, 2015.
- “Contested Emotions: The Stoic Philosophy of Pity and Gratitude from Swift
to Wordsworth,” Keynote lecture for “Queen Anne to Queen Victoria”
Conference on British Literature,
University of Warsaw, Poland, September 2013.
- “Wordsworth’s Ethical Thinking,” English Department,
Virginia Commonwealth University, November 2012;
plenary lecture for the Wordsworth Summer Conference, Grasmere,
England, August 2013.

- “Imagining Harmony: Loss, Literature, and Human Flourishing,”
public lecture, Monmouth University (NJ), March 2013,
and symposium lecture, The Positive Psychology Center,
University of Pennsylvania, March 2013.
- “Hume, Smith, and the Dialogues of Antiquity,” Humanities Center,
University of Toronto, May 2012.
- “What is Happiness?” Kean University/Ocean County Campus, March 2012.
- “Rhetoric as Philosophy: Hume’s ‘Four Philosophers’,”
Plenary lecture, International David Hume Society Annual Conference,
Edinburgh University, July 2011.
- “The Romantic Poets and the King James Bible,”
Plenary lecture, Conference on The King James Bible at 400,
Columbus, Ohio, May 2011.
- “A Very Short History of Joy,” Lecture and Seminar,
The Catholic University of Lublin, Poland, April 2011.
- “Folk Culture, the Ballad Tradition, and Robert Burns.” Invited Talk (and Toast),
The St. Andrews Society of Eastern Virginia/Burns Night Supper,
January 2011.
- “The Moral Sublime,” Inaugural Lecture in the Hanauer Endowment Series,
Humanities Center, University of Washington, Seattle, November 2010.
- “Rethinking the Romantic Sublime,” delivered at the University of Aberdeen and
at St. Andrews University, UK, March 2010; at Harvard University
(Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Reading Group), April 2010.
- “The Transformation of the Ancient Schools in 18th-century Philosophical Prose:
Hume’s ‘Four Philosophers’ in Context,” University of Bristol, UK, June
2009; IASH at Edinburgh University, March 2010.
- “Narratives of Happiness, Unhappiness, and Joy,” Plenary Lecture, INCS
(Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference), Saratoga
Springs, NY, April, 2009.
- “Attending to Music in Loco-Descriptive Verse,” Distinguished Alumni
Lecture, Rutgers University, November 2008.
- “Music vs. Conscience in Wordsworth’s Poetry,” versions given at Princeton
University (October 2007) and University of Michigan (March 2008).

“Transformations in Eighteenth-Century Studies: The Case of Austen,”
University of Pennsylvania (symposium in honor of John Richetti),
September 2007.

“Liberty and Necessity in Fielding’s *Amelia*,” Peter Wall Institute for
Advanced Studies, University of British Columbia, May 2007.

“The History of Joy: An Overview,” Glasgow University, April 2005.

“Coleridge and the Troubadours,” George Whalley Memorial Lecture
in Romanticism, Queens University, Ontario, October 2004

Invited participant in “Literary Celebrity in the Short Eighteenth-Century,”
ASECS April 2005.

“Joy and Justice in *Joseph Andrews*,” versions given at
Columbia University (October 2001), University of Maryland (January
2002), Texas A&M (March 2005).

Invited participant in "Teaching Eighteenth-Century America,"
Society of Early Americanists, Annual Conference, Norfolk, VA,
March 2001.

"Happiness, Pleasure, and Joy in the Age of Johnson,"
Philosophy Dept. of Evansville University/Johnson Society of Evansville,
March 2001.

"History, Oratory and God in Equiano's *Interesting Narrative*,"
American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Annual Conference,
Special Session, Philadelphia, PA, April 2000.

"Hume, John Quincy Adams, and the Theory of Eloquence in America,"
Hume and Eighteenth-Century America Conference,
Williamsburg, April 1995.

"Olaudah Equiano and the Art of Black Autobiography," Rutgers University,
March 4, 1993.

Contributed Scholarly Papers and round-table participation at regional and national meetings of the MLA, the American and British Societies for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS); Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society; the International Hume Society; and the North-American Society for the Study of Romanticism (NASSR).

Some papers and presentations from past ten years:

Participant in round-table on “Samuel Johnson: Past, Present and Future” panel, EC-ASECS, Lancaster PA, November 1, 2024;

Respondent in two 2 panels devoted to my *Hope: A History* book (at EC-ASECS, William & Mary, October 13, 2023, and at NASSR, Sam Huston University, Huntsville TX, April 1, 2023);

“Earl Wasserman and *Concordia Discors*” (ASECS, St. Louis, March 2023);

“On Hope: Cowley and Crashaw” (digital ASECS, April 2021); “Lucretius, Englishman” (ASECS, Orlando, March 2018); “Pity and Gratitude in Rousseau and Adam Smith” (ASECS, International Rousseau Association panel, Los Angeles, March 2015); “Wordsworth among the Philosophers: Stoics, Godwin, Kant” (NASSR, Bethesda, July 2014); “Pity and Gratitude in Swift and Wordsworth” (ASECS, Williamsburg, March 2014).

Conference Sessions Chaired

“Rhetoric Revisited II,” digital ASECS, April 2021.

“Romantic Ethics,” NASSR, Bethesda MD, July 2014.

“Christianity and Secularism,” ASECS, San Antonio, March 2012.

“The Classical Tradition in the Eighteenth Century,” ASECS, Richmond, VA, March 2009.

“Henry Fielding: The Comic Novel in Context,” ASECS, Atlanta, March 2007.

“Rhetoric Revisited,” ASECS, Las Vegas, March 2005.

“Scottish Writings on the Passions,” ASECS, New Orleans, April 2001.

“Scenes from the Black Atlantic, 1770-1870,” Monuments of the Black Atlantic: History, Memory and Politics, Williamsburg, VA, May 2000.

“Class Constructions,” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Williamsburg, VA, April 1994.

“The Psychology of Scapegoating,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Providence, March 1987.

Courses Taught

Undergraduate courses:

British Literature, 1660-1744
British Literature, 1744-1798
Enlightenment and Sensibility
Romanticism and Revolution
The English Novel to 1832
The World Novel after 1832
Central European Modernism: Kafka to Kundera
Fantastic Modernism: Apuleius to Guillermo Del Toro
Satire and the Novel (University of Aberdeen)
Brit. Lit. Survey I, Chaucer to Milton
Brit. Lit. Survey II, 18th and 19th centuries

Citizenship and Community (W & M College Honors Program
in Education-Based Community Service)

The Bible and Western Literature
The Problem of Evil
World Masterpieces: *Gilgamesh* to *King Lear*
Interpreting Literature

Hope: A History (Center for Human Values, Princeton University, Spring 2019)

Senior and Honors Seminars:

The Art of Dying (*Phaedo* to *Beyond the Pleasure Principle*)
Writing about Literature
Ancient Philosophy and Modern Poetry
Theodicy and the Poetic Imagination
Happiness and Joy: Literature and Ethics from the Troubadours to Yeats (W&M,
Columbia University)

The Celebrity Artist: Byron to Warhol
Wordsworth and Coleridge
Wordsworth and the Ethics of Poetry
Henry Fielding: The Comic Novel in Context
The Sublime: From Antiquity to the Present

Graduate seminars:

Romantic Poetry in Context
Topics in Eighteenth-Century Literature: Dialogues concerning Religion
Samuel Johnson and David Hume

M.A. Theses Directed (with Dates Completed):

Fall 1994: Dominic Taylor on Hume's aesthetics

Spring 1995: Paul Brown on Blake and the Enlightenment
Summer 1996: Sarah Thumm on Jonathan Swift and Epicureanism
Summer 1996: Grace Moore on Paine and Blake
Spring 2002 (Columbia University): Scott Korb on Defoe

**Recent Undergraduate Independent Study of Note: “English Meter” with Augustin Kalytiak-Davis, Fall 2022; resulted in his published article, “Prosodic Inheritance and Innovation in *Lyrical Ballads*,” *The Wordsworth Circle* 55:2 (2024): 231-56.*

Service on Ph.D. dissertation committees:

Spring 1996: Ph.D. examining committee (Phyllis Hunter),
American Studies, William & Mary
Fall 1998: Ph.D. examining committee (Stephen Ahearn),
English, McGill University
Fall 2001: Ph.D. examining committee (Amanpal Garcha),
English, Columbia University
Spring 2003: Ph.D. committee (Scott Campbell),
English, Rutgers University
Spring 2005: Ph.D. committee (Sandra Burr),
English, William & Mary
2004-06: Ph.D. committee (Brian Michael Norton),
Comparative Literature, New York University
2007: Ph.D. examining committee (Richard Squibbs), English, Rutgers University

Spring 2022: Ph.D. examining committee (Alexander Hobday), Cambridge
University; dissertation title: “Alienation and Dwelling: The Pursuit
of Happiness in Eighteenth-Century Autobiographical Literature”

2019-2022: Ph.D. committee, co-director (Jessica Terekhov), English, Princeton
University (defended 5/2022); dissertation title: “On Wit in Relation
to Self-Division” (Shaftesbury, Meredith, T. S. Eliot)

Professional Service

Departmental and College Committee Service

Chair, English Department, 7/2013- 6/2016

English Dept. Personnel Committee, 1992-93, Spring 1996, 2002-5, 2021-24;
Chair of Personnel Committee, 2002-03; 2008-9; 2021-22

Chair, English Department Prizes Committee, 2016-18
Chair, English Department Speakers/Cloud Committee, 2007-8, 2011-3
Director of Honors in English, 1995-2001
English Department Honors Committee, 1990-2003, 2005-7, 2009-13, 2019-23

English Department Budget Committee, 2008-2010
English Department Undergraduate Program Committee, 1994-96, 98-2001
English Department Director of Concentration and Advising, 1994-96
English Department Recorder, 1990-1994
English Department Committee on the Evaluation and Improvement of Teaching,
2005-6 (Chair), 2011-2
College Honors Program (Charles Center): Committee to Design an
Education-Based Community Service Program, 1993-94
College Self-Study Committee on Externally Funded Grants
and Contracts, 1993-94.
College Publications Council, 1995-96, 1998
Freshman Advisor, 1991-2012; 2021-
College Admissions Officer, 1995-96
GER 7 Assessment Committee, 1999-2000
Procedural Review Committee, 2000-03
Personnel Policy Committee, 2000-03
Library Policy Committee, 2004- ; Chair, 2005-6
Judicial Council, 2005-6
Faculty Assembly, 2007-2010
Academic Affairs Committee, 2007-8; Chair, 2008-2010
Faculty Affairs Committee, 2007-8
Executive and Liaison Committee, 2008-2010
Chair, Search Committee for Dean of Educational Policy, Fall 2016
A & S Faculty Research Committee, 2022-

Other Activities

Dozens of tenure and promotion reviews for universities including Baylor, Brown, Columbia, CUNY, Furman, Harvard, New York University, Northwestern, Ohio State, University of Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rutgers, Utah, University of Washington.

For the College of William & Mary:

Wrote *English Major's Handbook* (a guide to critical writing, preparation for graduate and professional schools, etc.); adopted for use by the William & Mary English Department, 1995- ; revised and updated, 6/2016:
<http://www.wm.edu/as/english/forstudents/majorshandbook/index.php>

Reviewed post-doctoral fellowship applications for the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, 2011-13

External review of W&M Classics Department, March 2016.

Department Reviews at other Universities: Stetson University, March 2017.

For the American Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies:

Service on the Clifford Prize Committee

(selects best article of year in 18th-century studies), 1998

Nominating Committee, 2002

Organizing Committee for March 2009 Annual Convention, Richmond, VA

Chair, Organizing Committee for March 2014 Convention, Williamsburg, VA

Gottschalk Prize Committee (selects best book of year), 2019-2020;

Chair, Gottschalk Prize Committee, 2020-2021

For the International David Hume Society:

Co-organizer of the 27th Annual Conference, July 24-29, 2000,

Williamsburg, VA

For the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society:

Co-organizer of the 20th Annual Conference, April 27-30, 2006,

Williamsburg, VA

For the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism:

Organizing Committee for July 2014 Annual Conference, Washington DC

For the Princeton University Center for Human Values:

Organizer of the "Hope" colloquium (April 5-6, 2019),

14 invited participants/pre-circulated papers drawn from Princeton, US, UK, and Eastern Europe, representing disciplines of philosophy, political theory, political science, literature, and religion.

Trustee, Doane Academy (K-12 preparatory school), Burlington, NJ, 2019- ;

Chair, Committee on Trustees, 2023-