

MATTHEW T. LEVAY

Idaho State University
Department of English and Philosophy
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EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Idaho State University, Department of English and Philosophy, 2019-present
Director of Graduate Studies in English, 2018-present
Instructor, Harvard Summer School, 2017-present
Assistant Professor, Idaho State University, Department of English and Philosophy, 2014-2019
Head Preceptor, Harvard University, Harvard College Writing Program, 2013-2014
Preceptor, Harvard University, Harvard College Writing Program, 2009-2013

EDUCATION

University of Washington

Ph.D., English, June 2009

Dissertation: "Modernism's Crimes: Violence, Degeneracy, and Detection" (awarded departmental honors)

M.A., English, June 2004

Thesis: "Lucky Falls: Samuel Beckett, Buster Keaton, and Slapstick's Pliable Bodies"

Vanderbilt University

B.A., English, May 2002

Magna cum laude and departmental honors in English

Vanderbilt-in-England, University of Leeds, Spring 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Violent Minds: Modernism and the Criminal (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019).

Reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement* (April 2019), *Critical Analysis of Law* (subject of a Book Forum, Fall 2020), and *Modern Language Quarterly* (forthcoming).

Edited Journal Issue

Editor, "Seriality," a special issue of the *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 9.1 (2018).

Articles

"Modernism's Opposite: John Galsworthy and the Novel Series." *Modernism/modernity* 26.3 (September 2019): 543-562.

- “On the Uses of Seriality for Modern Periodical Studies: An Introduction.” *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 9.1 (2018): v-xix.
- “Repetition, Recapitulation, Routine: *Dick Tracy* and the Temporality of Daily Newspaper Comics.” *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 9.1 (2018): 101-122.
- “Remaining a Mystery: Gertrude Stein, Crime Fiction and Popular Modernism.” *Journal of Modern Literature* 36.4 (Summer 2013): 1-22.
- “The Entertainments of Late Modernism: Graham Greene and the Career Criminal.” *Modernist Cultures* 5.2 (October 2010): 315-339.

Book Chapters

- “Crime Fiction and Criminology.” *The Routledge Companion to Crime Fiction*. Ed. Janice M. Allan, Jesper Gulddal, Stewart King, and Andrew Pepper (London: Routledge, 2020), 273-281.
- “Preservation and Promotion: Ellery Queen, Magazine Publishing, and the Marketing of Detective Fiction.” *The Centrality of Crime Fiction in American Literary Culture*. Ed. Alfred Bendixen and Olivia Carr Edenfield (New York: Routledge, 2017), 101-122.

Reviews and Review Essays

- Review essay on *We Told You So: Comics as Art*, by Tom Spurgeon with Michael Dean, *The Greatest Comic Book of All Time: Symbolic Capital and the Field of American Comic Books*, by Bart Beaty and Benjamin Woo, and *Arresting Development: Comics at the Boundaries of Literature*, by Christopher Pizzino. *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 10.1-2 (2019): 189-196.
- Review essay on Bloomsbury’s “New Modernisms” book series, edited by Sean Latham and Gayle Rogers. *Modernism/modernity* Print Plus (14 August 2018).
<https://modernismmodernity.org/forums/posts/bloomsbury's-new-modernisms>
- Review of Jared Gardner, *Projections: Comics and the History of Twenty-First-Century Storytelling*, and Bart Beaty, *Comics Versus Art*. *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies* 4.1 (2013): 111-118.
- Review of Fiona Peters, *Anxiety and Evil in the Writings of Patricia Highsmith*. *Modernism/modernity* 19.2 (April 2012): 402-404.
- “Modernism, Periodically.” Review essay on *The Oxford Critical and Cultural History of Modernist Magazines: Volume I, Britain and Ireland 1880-1955*, edited by Peter Brooker and Andrew Thacker, and *Modernism in the Magazines: An Introduction*, by Robert Scholes and Clifford Wulfman. *Modern Language Quarterly* 72.4 (December 2011): 521-535.
- “Criminal, Political, Surreal.” Review essay on *Surrealism and the Art of Crime*, by Jonathan P. Eburne. *Twentieth-Century Literature* 56.1 (Spring 2010): 99-106.

Other Publications

- “Can Crime Fiction Be Modernist?” *Cambridge Core Blog: Cambridge University Press* (1 April 2019).
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2019/04/01/can-crime-fiction-be-modernist/>
- Omnibus essay on “Modern Literature.” *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 98 (2019): 858-868.
<https://academic.oup.com/ywes/article/98/1/858/5549576>
- Omnibus essay on “Modern Literature.” *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 97 (2018): 889-902.
<https://academic.oup.com/ywes/article/97/1/889/5146379>
- Omnibus essay on “Modern Literature.” *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 96 (2017): 916-928.
<https://academic.oup.com/ywes/article/doi/10.1093/ywes/max016/3831322/Modern-Literature>
- Omnibus essay on “Modern Literature.” *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 95 (2016): 949-958.
<https://academic.oup.com/ywes/article/95/1/949/2224457/XV-Modern-Literature>

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Looking Old: Anachronism in Contemporary Comics. Book manuscript.

Time and Again: Modernism and the Form of the Series. Book manuscript.

“Modernism in Comics.” Edited essay cluster for *Modernism/modernity PrintPlus*.

“Christie’s Popular Modernism.” Book chapter for the *Bloomsbury Handbook to Agatha Christie*, ed. Mary Anna Evans and J.C. Bernthal.

“*Little Tommy Lost* and the Aesthetics of Anachronism.” Book chapter for *Comics and Modernism*, ed. Jon Najarian.

“Vintage Seth.” Essay for *Modernism/modernity PrintPlus* cluster on “Modernism in Comics.”

Review of Robert L. Caserio, *The Cambridge Introduction to British Fiction, 1900-1950*. Book review for *Modern Language Quarterly*.

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Research

Modernist Studies Association Research Travel Grant, Winter 2019

Faculty Development Travel Grant, Idaho State University, College of Arts and Letters, Fall 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Spring 2015

Faculty Course Release for Scholarly Advancement, Idaho State University, College of Arts and Letters, Fall 2018, Spring 2016

Idaho Humanities Council Research Fellowship, Spring 2016

Faculty Travel Grant, Idaho State University, Office of Research, Spring 2016, Fall 2015

Fuerbringer Summer Faculty Grant, Harvard University, Summer 2013, Summer 2012, Summer 2011, Summer 2010

Harry Ransom Center Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin, Summer 2011

Awarded through the Erle Stanley Gardner Endowment for Mystery Studies

Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, Society of Scholars Fellowship, University of Washington, 2008-2009

Graduate School Fund for Excellence and Innovation Travel Grants, University of Washington, 2008, 2006, 2005

Modernist Studies Association Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2007

Joseph Conrad Society of America Young Scholar Travel Award, 2007

Graduate Student Recruitment Fellowship, University of Washington, Department of English, 2002

Teaching

Faculty Course Release for Pedagogical Development, Idaho State University, College of Arts and Letters, Spring 2019

Harvard University Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Spring 2012, Fall 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010

Joan Webber Prize for Distinguished 200-level Teaching, University of Washington, Department of English, 2007

CONFERENCES

Conference Presentations

- Roundtable speaker for “Thinking Forward: The Future of 20/21 Studies.” Modern Language Association. Toronto, ON. January 2021.
- “A Series of Tangents: Knausgaard, Modernism, Plot.” Modernist Studies Association. Toronto, ON. October 2019.
- “Horrorific Anachronism: Al Columbia and the Violence of Early Animation.” Modernist Studies Association. Columbus, OH. November 2018.
- Workshop presenter for “Advancing the Field: Connecting Humanities Graduate Education and Community College Teaching.” Modern Language Association. New York, NY. January 2018. (Paper read in absentia)
- “The Anachronistic Aesthetic: Seth and the Contemporary Forms of the Past.” International Comic Arts Forum. University of Washington. Seattle, WA. November 2017.
- “Highsmith’s Advice.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. January 2017. (Paper read in absentia)
- “Highsmith’s Advice.” Modernist Studies Association. Pasadena, CA. November 2016.
- “Never-Ending Stories: Modernism, Serial Form, and *The Human Age*.” American Comparative Literature Association. Harvard University. Cambridge, MA. March 2016.
- “The Endless Parade: Ford Madox Ford and the Novel Series.” Modernist Studies Association. Boston, MA. November 2015.
- “The Books That Never Were: Seth and the Comics Canon.” American Comparative Literature Association. Seattle, WA. March 2015.
- “Making a Reputation: *The Forsyte Saga* and the Reading Public.” Modernist Studies Association. Pittsburgh, PA. November 2014.
- “Accumulating Modernism: Seriality and *Parade’s End*.” International Society for the Study of Narrative. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. March 2014.
- “Endless Plot: Modernism’s Sequel Problem.” Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. January 2014.
- “The Opposite of Modernism: John Galsworthy’s Repeated Success.” Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. January 2014.
- “Pulp Boston.” Modern Language Association. Boston, MA. January 2013.
- “Wyndham Lewis and the Modernist Potboiler.” Modernist Studies Association. Las Vegas, NV. October 2012.
- “‘Rather a Turn for Corpses’: Dorothy L. Sayers, Detective Fiction, and the Evidence of Death.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. January 2012.
- “Capital Destruction: Art and the Crowd in James’s *The Princess Casamassima*.” Modern Language Association. Seattle, WA. January 2012.
- “Marketing Respect: Ellery Queen, American Publishing, and the Business of Detective Fiction.” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 2011.
- “Personville: Dashiell Hammett and the General American City.” Modernist Studies Association. Victoria, BC. November 2010.
- “The Business of Respectability: Marketing Ellery Queen.” For peer seminar “Modernism and Administration.” Modernist Studies Association. Victoria, BC. November 2010.
- “Remaining a Mystery: Gertrude Stein and the Ambiguous Crime.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.
- “The Detective’s House.” Modern Language Association. Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.
- *Abstract published in *The Edgar Allan Poe Review* 10.2 (Fall 2009): 156.

- “Anarchists Everywhere: G.K. Chesterton and Conspiracy.” Modernist Studies Association. Nashville, TN. November 2008.
- “Bad in a Good World: Graham Greene’s Criminal Landscape.” Modernist Studies Association. Long Beach, CA. November 2007.
- “Modernizing the Detective Novel: Dorothy L. Sayers and the Whimsical Crime.” For peer seminar “Modernisms and Cultures of Entertainment.” Modernist Studies Association. Long Beach, CA. November 2007.
- “Accidental Terrorism: Criminality and Chance in Conrad’s *The Secret Agent*.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. February 2007.
- “Jack the Writer.” Midwest Modern Language Association. Chicago, IL. November 2006.
- “Crime without Reason: Gertrude Stein and the Irrational Detective Novel.” For peer seminar “Collaborations and Collisions: Modernism and the Intersections of Genre.” Modernist Studies Association. Chicago, IL. November 2005.

Public and Community Lectures

- Presentation on *Violent Minds: Modernism and the Criminal*, College of Arts and Letters Dean’s Advisory Board, Idaho State University. April 2019.
- Presentation on preparing to write a dissertation, English Graduate Student Writing Group, Idaho State University. May 2018.
- Presentation on managing time as a graduate student, English Graduate Student Association, Idaho State University. April 2018.
- Public presentation on academic publishing as a graduate student, Intermountain Graduate Conference, Idaho State University. April 2017.
- “CV Writing 101.” Graduate Research Symposium, Idaho State University. April 2017.
- “Never-Ending Stories: Modernism and the Aesthetics of Serial Form.” Department of English and Philosophy, Idaho State University. October 2016.
- “W.G. Sebald and the Pain of Things,” Holocaust Memorial Project, Idaho State University, April 2016.
- Public presentation on applying for research grants, College of Arts and Letters, Idaho State University. March 2015.

Conference Panels Organized and Chaired

- Panel organizer, “Seriality Now and Then: Modernism and the Contemporary Novel Series.” Modernist Studies Association. Toronto, ON. October 2019.
- Panel organizer, “Modernist Aesthetics in Contemporary Visual Media: Photography, Comics, Film.” Modernist Studies Association. Columbus, OH. November 2018.
- Panel chair, “Modernism in/and Newspaper Comics: McCay, Futurism, Herriman.” Modernist Studies Association. Columbus, OH. November 2018.
- Panel chair, “‘A Revelation of Some Order’: Chaos and Control in Modern Fiction.” Modernist Studies Association. Pasadena, CA. November 2016.
- Panel organizer, “Modernist Series and Serials.” Modernist Studies Association. Boston, MA. November 2015.
- Panel chair, “Quiet Innovations in the Modernist Novel.” Modernist Studies Association. Boston, MA. November 2015.
- Panel organizer, “Modernism’s Boundaries: Genre, Reception, Reputation, and the Popular.” Modernist Studies Association. Pittsburgh, PA. November 2014.
- Panel chair, “Theorizing Modernism.” International Society for the Study of Narrative. Massachusetts

Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. March 2014.
Panel chair, “Narrative in the Comics.” International Society for the Study of Narrative. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. March 2014.
Peer seminar co-organizer, with Jonathan P. Eburne, “Modernism and Seriality.” Modernist Studies Association. Buffalo, NY. October 2011.
Panel organizer, “Modernist Crime Scenes.” Modernist Studies Association. Victoria, BC. November 2010.
Panel organizer, “Modernist Violence: Aesthetics, Politics, Agency.” Modernist Studies Association. Nashville, TN. November 2008.
Panel chair, “Auto-Ethnography, Evolution, and Estrangement at Modernism’s Peripheries.” Modernist Studies Association. Nashville, TN. November 2008.
Panel organizer, “Modernism and Crime.” Modernist Studies Association. Long Beach, CA. November 2007.
Panel chair, “Fin de Siècle.” The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900. University of Louisville. Louisville, KY. February 2007.

COURSES TAUGHT

Idaho State University

Studies in a Literary Period: “British Modernism: Audiences and Institutions” (graduate)
Spring 2015

Seminar in Teaching Literature: “Teaching Difficult Literature” (graduate)
Spring 2017

Careers in English (graduate)
Spring 2019, Fall 2018

Introduction to Graduate Studies in English (graduate)
Fall 2020, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

Studies in Contemporary Literature: “The Twenty-First-Century British Novel” (graduate/undergraduate)
Fall 2018, Fall 2014

Studies in Early Twentieth-Century Literature: “British Modernism” (graduate/undergraduate)
Spring 2019

Special Topics in Genre: “Comics”
Spring 2018

Genre Studies in Fiction: “The Functions of the Novel”
Fall 2017

Literary Criticism and Theory
Fall 2017, Spring 2017

Survey of British Literature II: The Eighteenth Century to the Present
Spring 2018, Spring 2016

Introduction to Literary Analysis
Fall 2020, Fall 2019, Fall 2016, Fall 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014

Honors Humanities II: The Nineteenth Century to the Present
Spring 2017

Honors Humanities I: The Classical Age to the Enlightenment
Fall 2019

Writing and Rhetoric II
Spring 2018, Fall 2017, Fall 2016, Fall 2015

Harvard University

Intro to Graduate Research Methods & Scholarly Writing in the Humanities: “Modernist Periodical Studies”

Spring 2014, Spring 2013; Harvard Extension School

“Being Modern: The British Novel since 1900”

Fall 2013; Harvard Extension School (offered in person and online)

Expository Writing: “Obsession”

Spring 2014, Fall 2013, Spring 2013, Fall 2012, Spring 2012, Fall 2011

Summer 2020; Summer 2019; Summer 2018, Summer 2017; Harvard Summer School (online)

Expository Writing: “The Art of Crime”

Spring 2011, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2009

Expository Writing: “Fundamentals of Academic Writing”

Summer 2020; Harvard Summer School (online)

Writing about Literature: “From Hard-Boiled to Noir: The Aesthetics of Crime in Fiction and Film”

Summer 2013; Harvard Summer School

The Essay

Summer 2014, Summer 2013, Summer 2012, Summer 2011, Summer 2010; Harvard Summer School

Undergraduate Reading and Research (Film Studies)

Fall 2010; Harvard Extension School

University of Washington

Reading Fiction: “Crime and Criminality in Modern Fiction”

Spring 2007

Reading Fiction: “The Modern Novel”

Spring 2006

Modern and Postmodern Literature: “Early Modernism”

Winter 2007

Modern and Postmodern Literature: “Introduction to Modernism and Postmodernism”

Fall 2006

Reading Literature: “Modern Minds: Private Life in 19th- and 20th-Century Literature”

Winter 2006, Fall 2005

Interdisciplinary Writing: Humanities: “Writing Art History”

Fall 2007, Winter 2008, Spring 2008

Composition: Exposition: “Writing for the Humanities”

Summer 2006

Composition: Exposition: “Art and Expectations”

Fall 2003, Winter 2004, Spring 2004

Composition: Literature: “Alienation and Connection in Modern Literature”

Fall 2004, Winter 2005, Spring 2005

Visiting Instructor, Educational Outreach Program, Online Learning Courses

Spring 2007

Reading Literature

The English Novel – Early and Middle Nineteenth Century.

SERVICE

Professional

Contributor, *The Year's Work in English Studies*, Modern Literature section, 2016-2019.

Responsible for an annual omnibus essay on significant monographs in modernist studies.

Book proposal referee: Palgrave Macmillan, Bloomsbury, Routledge.

Manuscript referee: *Modernism/modernity*, *Journal of Modern Literature*, *Religion & Literature*, *African American Review*, *ImageText*, Open Library of Humanities, *Journal of Modern Periodical Studies*.

Contributor, Routledge Annotated Bibliography of English Studies (ABES), 2011-2012.

Idaho State University

University

Graduate Teaching Assistantship Project Charter Committee, 2019-present.

Search Committee, Dean of the Graduate School, 2019.

Graduate Council, 2017-2019.

War, Conflict, and Veterans Studies Committee, 2015-2019.

Department of English and Philosophy

Graduate Education Committee, Fall 2015-present (Chair, Fall 2018-present).

Review Committee for Promotion (Chair), Fall 2020.

Teaching Literature Book Award Selection Committee, 2016-2018.

Review Committee for Tenure and Promotion, Fall 2017.

General Education Task Force, Spring 2015.

Professional Development and Publicity Committee, 2014-2015.

Review Committee for Promotion, Fall 2014.

Graduate Student Supervision (PhD)

Rachel Balko, PhD dissertation director, in progress.

Ryan Randall, PhD dissertation director, in progress.

Paul Williams, PhD dissertation director, in progress.

Sarah Garelik, PhD committee member, in progress.

Daniel Gillespie, PhD committee member, in progress.

Nicole Wardell, PhD committee member, in progress.

Catherine Becker, PhD committee member, Summer 2020.

Noran Amin, PhD dissertation director, Spring 2020.

Corinna Barrett Percy, PhD committee member, Spring 2019.

Kelly Ricken, PhD dissertation director, 2014-2018.

Graduate Student Supervision (MA)

Heather Summers, MA thesis second reader, Summer 2019.

Katherine Merrill, MA thesis director, Summer 2018.

Rebecca Raden, MA paper second reader, Summer 2018.

Ann Marie Potter, MA thesis director, Spring 2018.

Caprice DeSpain, MA thesis second reader, Summer 2017.

Laura Joy Griffith, MA paper second reader, Spring 2017.

Elise Anderson, MA thesis director, Spring 2016.

Marc Keith, MA thesis second reader, Summer 2015.
Patricia Miller Schmidt, MA thesis second reader, Spring 2015.

Undergraduate Student Supervision

Carter Denham, TRIO McNair Scholars research mentor, Summer 2019.

Harvard University

Faculty Mentor, Harvard College Writing Program, 2013-2014.
Co-editor, *Exposé*, the Harvard College Writing Program's magazine of distinguished student writing, 2013-2014. Associate editor, 2010-2013.
Instructional Support Services Team, Harvard College Program in General Education, 2011-2014.
Faculty Associate, Harvard Writing Project, 2009-2014.
Curriculum Development Committee for Expository Writing 30, 2011-2013.
Evaluator and developer, Harvard Freshman Writing Test, 2011-2012.

University of Washington

Co-founder/coordinator, The Modernist Studies Group, University of Washington, 2002-2008.
Crossdisciplinary Research Cluster of the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities. 2005-2008.
Representative, Undergraduate Education Committee, University of Washington, Department of English, 2006-2008.
English Instructor and Lead Teacher, University of Washington State GEAR UP Honors Academy, Summer 2007.
Lead Writing Instructor, Fall Bridge Program for incoming student-athletes, Summer 2005. Writing Instructor, Summer 2004.

Community

Pocatello Community Charter School, Speech Festival judge. Pocatello, ID. February 2020.
Morningside Montessori School, Fundraising Committee. Pocatello, ID. 2016-2018.
On the Boards: Behnke Center for Contemporary Performance. Seattle, WA. September 2007.
Invited lecturer and book club leader for F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, in conjunction with the Elevator Repair Service's production of *Gatz*.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Modernism; British literature from the late nineteenth century to the present; late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century American literature; history and theory of the novel; popular print culture; periodical studies; genre fiction; comics and graphic narrative.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Comics Studies Society
Modernist Studies Association
Modern Language Association
Society for Novel Studies

REFERENCES

Available upon request