

# Rebecca Nicholson-Weir

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## EDUCATION

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### PURDUE UNIVERSITY

#### *Ph.D. in Literary Studies*

*May 2012*

Primary Area: Modernism

Secondary Areas: Film and Visual Theory; Critical Theory

Dissertation: "Representing Consciousness in Modernist Women's Fiction"

Committee: Maren T. Linett (Chair); John N. Duvall; Sandor Goodhart;  
Donald R. Wehrs (Auburn University)

This dissertation argues for the reappraisal in modernist studies of the relationship between the life writing and modernist women's fiction. This project uses existential phenomenology to examine how four writers embrace, struggle against, and reinvent life writing to construct solutions to the problem of representing consciousness.

### TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

#### *M.A. English Literature*

*August 2004*

Thesis: "Modernist Masculinities in the works of D.H. Lawrence, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and James Joyce"

#### *B.A. Anthropology and English*

*August 2001*

Cum Laude in Honors Studies

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE (AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD)

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### ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY

(August 2012-present)

English 2653 *British Literature Since 1800*

This course is the second half of a British survey. Students were responsible for several short assignments including critical analysis and close reading as well as a group project.

Works included Romantic poets, *Frankenstein*, *Never Let Me Go*, *V for Vendetta*, *Sherlock*, and others.

English 1213 *Freshman Composition II*

(7 sections)

Instructed students in intermediate composition and research writing in a collaborative classroom using peer review, discussion, and multimedia technologies. Planned three units: life writing (reading excerpts from several memoirs and writing one); textual analysis (writing critical analysis of a novel and a recent documentary); and the creation of a research portfolio. Portfolios contained a proposal, abstract, annotated bibliography, and a five-minute research film geared toward students' peers. Class culminated in a "film festival" in which we screened each project.

## GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

(August 2005-June 2012)

### English 230 *Great Narrative Works: Repetition, Adaptation & Innovation*

The course considered works from a variety of cultures and time periods in order to develop an understanding of their structures and styles. Course guided beginning English majors and non-majors in literary analysis and interpretation through critical writing and analysis, group assignments, and ongoing web-based dialogue ([www.greatnarrativesadapt.blogspot.com](http://www.greatnarrativesadapt.blogspot.com)). Selected and facilitated critical analysis of works including *The Odyssey*, *Hamlet*, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *Jane Eyre*, and *Dracula* alongside stage and film retellings and adaptations.

### English 238Y *Introduction to Fiction: Distance Learning*

(2 Sections)

Introduced online students to the joys and rigors of reading fiction carefully with close attention to the way the story is told, rather than just what happens in the story. Students used Blackboard message boards to submit essays and discuss fiction in terms of theme and plot but also in terms of its techniques by analyzing the implications of the word choices, images, metaphors, tone, and pace of those passages. Studied authors Kazuo Ishiguro, Zora Neale Hurston, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons (*Watchmen*), and others.

### English 106 *First Year Writing: Rereading, Rewriting, Redefining Texts*

(2 sections)

Instructed students in a 4 credit intensive composition and research writing course. Using peer review, discussion, and multimedia technologies. Course emphasized audience awareness, rhetorical situations, planning, and multiple drafts.

### English 286 *Introduction to Film: "The Movies"*

(2 sections)

Section leader of an introductory film course that acquainted students with film history, cinematography, and film theory. Guided students to critically analyze films and the related readings through writing, discussion, and small group work. Created a mixture of short writing assignments and longer analytical papers with the goal of helping students refine their communication and critical thinking.

### English 106 *First Year Writing: Writing and Research through Ethnography*

(2 sections)

Instructed students in composition and research writing using ethnographic focus. Course goals included refining and professionalizing communication skills and writing for specific audiences. Students chose a local field site and subculture to conduct an ethnographic field study that utilized a technology classroom and multimedia projects, resulting in a final digital portfolio containing interviews, portraits, and a research ethnography representative of the studied subculture.

## GRADUATE PART TIME INSTRUCTOR, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

(December 2002 – May 2004)

### English 1301 *Freshman Composition*

Instructed students in the fundamentals of writing through peer review and multiple drafts. Graded essays online using TOPIC system. Introduced rhetorical concepts in a collaborative environment that used peer review and multiple drafts to facilitate student learning. Shorter papers focused on elements of writing process, such as thesis statements, grammatical concerns and organization, building into a longer final paper constructing a Toulmin based argument.

### English 1302 *Advanced College Rhetoric*

In the second course of this year-long sequence, students learned how to research and write academic arguments using a rhetoric and argumentation model. Developed and implemented an in-class peer review process for vetting drafts. Graded essays online using TOPIC system. Utilized assignments such as annotated bibliographies, and research papers for students to engage in and respond to academic discourse in a collaborative environment.

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

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- Purdue Department of English Excellence in Teaching Award, Fall 2010
- Robert Liddell Lowe Dissertation Fellowship, Purdue English Department, Spring 2010
- Purdue Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, April 2010
- Purdue Graduate Incentive Grant, Fall 2009
- Purdue Jewish Studies Travel Grant, August 2008, April 2007
- Purdue Research Foundation Grant, Summer 2008
- Graduate Travel Grant *Mosaic* Conference, October 2006
- Purdue Ross Graduate Fellowship, 2005-2006

## PUBLICATIONS

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“There are things that can’t be said’: Levinas and the Ethics of Representation in Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room*.” *Levinas and Twentieth Century Literature*. Ed. Donald Wehrs. University of Delaware Press, 2013.

Review of *Modernist Short Fiction by Women* by Claire Drewery, *Modern Fiction Studies*. (Forthcoming)

“Kate Millett” and “Naomi Wolf” in *Encyclopedia of the Culture Wars* Ed. Roger Chapman. New York: E. Sparpe Press, 2009.

“‘Useless Suffering’ in Jean Cocteau’s *Le Sang d’un Poete*, or: How Jean Cocteau avoids being caught up in his own film.” *Comparative Cinema*. Ed. Beate Allert. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 2008.

“Special Issue: “Levinas and Jewish Thought: Translating Hebrew into Greek.” Guest Editor, with Introduction. Co-edited with Dara Hill and Sandor Goodhart. *Shofar* 26.4 (Summer 2008).

“Joseph Conrad; A Checklist of Recent Criticism.” Co-authored with Donald W. Rude. *Joseph Conrad Today: Publication of the Joseph Conrad Society of America* 28.2 (2003 Fall): 8-13.

## **WORKS UNDER CONSIDERATION**

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“Beyond Solipsism: Narrative and Consciousness in Dorothy Richardson’s *Deadlock*.” Manuscript under review at *Studies in the Novel*.

“‘To add is to undermine’: Cynthia Ozick’s Midrashic Imagination in *Heir to the Glimmering World*.” Manuscript under review at *Contemporary Literature*.

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

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### **PRODUCTION MANAGER, *MODERN FICTION STUDIES***

June 2009-June 2012

Assist Drs. John Duvall and Robert Marzec in the offices of *Modern Fiction Studies*. Manage day to day operations and records of the journal. Initiate and maintain correspondence with contributors, outside readers, reviewers, guest editors, and Johns Hopkins University Press. Solicit books for review. Update *MFS* webpages. Develop, implement, and maintain online submission process for book reviews and general submissions.

### **EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *MODERN FICTION STUDIES***

June 2006-July 2008; February-June 2009

Assisted Dr. John Duvall in the offices of *Modern Fiction Studies*. Copyedited essay submissions for publication. Prepared and formatted the journal for publication, kept track of publishing and copyright agreements. Maintained correspondence with contributors and Johns Hopkins University Press.

### **EDITORIAL ASSISTANT, *RELIGION***

February 2007-January 2008

Assisted Dr. Thomas Ryba with the day to day running of *Religion*. Copyedited accepted essays, processed submissions, corresponded with reviewers, contributors, and with Elsevier Press. Assisted with implementation of online submission and review system.

### **RESEARCH ASSISTANT, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY**

July-December 2002

Assisted Dr. Donald Rude in the English department with various projects. Job duties included extensive library research, proofreading, copy-editing, typing, and filing. Projects included the development of a bibliography on Joseph Conrad and copyediting articles the journal *Conradiana*.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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“Narrative and Consciousness: Levinasian Phenomenology and Modernist Life Writing.” North American Levinas Society Conference: *Totality and Infinity* at 50. Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas. (May 1-3, 2011).

“‘A Freewheeling Jumble’: The Multiple Uses and Connected Networks of African American Modernist Salons.” MSA 12: Modernist Studies Association. University of Victoria. Victoria, B.C., Canada. (November 11-14, 2010)

“Levinas, Merleau-Ponty, and Modernist Interiority.” North American Levinas Society Conference: Philosophy and its Others. University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. (June 28-30, 2009)

“‘Useless Suffering’ in Jean Cocteau’s *Le Sang d’un Poete*.” North American Levinas Society Conference: Levinas and the Sacred. Seattle University. Seattle, Washington. (August 31-Sept 1, 2008)

- “‘There are things that can’t be said’: Levinas and the Ethics of Representation in Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room*.” North American Levinas Society Annual Meeting: Levinas and Community. Purdue University. West Lafayette, Indiana. (June 10-12, 2007)
- “Midrashic Writing: The Bear Boy and Bad Midrash in Cynthia Ozick’s *Heir to the Glimmering World*.” American Literature Association 2007 Jewish American & Holocaust Literature Symposium. Boca Raton, Florida. (April 18-21, 2007)
- “‘In a manner impossible for the stage’: Reading as Spectatorship in Luigi Pirandello’s *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.” MSA 8: Modernist Studies Association. University of Tulsa. Tulsa, Oklahoma. (October 19-22, 2006)
- “Jacques Derrida ‘On Forgiveness’: Repentance, Coercion, and Reconciliation in Public Apology.” Mosaic Following Derrida: Legacies Conference. University of Manitoba. Manitoba, Canada. (October 4-7, 2006)
- “Reading a Levinasian Critique of Representation in Cynthia Ozick’s *Heir to the Glimmering World*.” North American Levinas Society Inaugural Meeting: Levinas and the Political. Purdue University. West Lafayette, Indiana. (May 13-15, 2006)
- “I’d like to buy the world a Coke: The Politics of Pop and Globalization in Arundhati Roy’s *The God of Small Things*.” 2004 Joint Conference of the National Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association. San Antonio Marriott Rivercenter. (April 7-10, 2004)
- “‘Experience the Experience’: The Intersection of Artwork and Poetic Tradition in Eavan Boland’s *Outside History*.” Thirty-Fifth Annual CEA Conference: Is There, Should There Be, a New Aestheticism? Richmond, Virginia. (April 1-3, 2004)
- “The City as Repressive State: Ideological and Repressive State Apparatuses in *Manhattan Transfer*.” Building Bridges, Making Connections: Texas Tech University Graduate English Society Conference 2004. (February 20-21, 2004)
- “‘You that way – we this way’: Portrayals of French, Spanish, and Russian Types in Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost*.” Building Bridges, Making Connections: Texas Tech University Graduate English Society Conference 2004. (February 20-21, 2004)
- “‘Art thou real, my ideal?’ The Personal Mythology of Gerty Macdowell in *Ulysses*.” Miami Joyce Conference: Traditions and Innovations. University of Miami. (January 29-31, 2004)

#### INVITED LECTURES

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- Guest Lecture in Humanities 2413 “Modernist Paris: Pablo Picasso and Gertrude Stein.” Horace Mann 332 (March 14, 2013).
- Invited Lecture at Oklahoma Literary Arts Festival. “The Dark Tower: An African American Literary Salon.” Horace Mann 349, East Central University. (November 8, 2012)
- Invited Discussant at “The Grad Talk” Academic Engagement Center. East Central University (November 7, 2012)
- Guest Lecture in English 301 “Ways of Reading: *Hamlet* Unit.” Heavilon Hall 128. (October 25 to November 19, 2010).
- Guest Lecture in English 238 “Zora Neale Hurston, Ethnography, and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” Heavilon Hall 102. (February 19, 2010)
- Invited Discussant at “See it in Print.” mod/con (Purdue modernist/contemporary student organization) and Graduate Student English Association. Stewart Center, Purdue University. (February 18, 2010)
- Invited Discussant at “An Insider’s Perspective on Getting Published.” mod/con (Purdue modernist/contemporary student organization). Stewart Center, Purdue University. (April 10, 2008)

Jewish Studies Noon Lecture Series “Dangerous Illusions: Moses and the Wandering Jew in Paul Wegener’s *Der Golem*.” Stewart Center, Purdue University. (March 19, 2008)  
Invited Discussant on Emmanuel Levinas’s “Useless Suffering.” 25th Annual Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Conference: “Never Again? Genocide around the World.” Purdue University. (March 26, 2006)

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE AND COMMITTEES

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### East Central University

- Academic Committee (2012-2013)
- Scheduling and Composition Committee (2012-2013)

### Purdue University

- Job Placement Committee, English Graduate Student Representative (2008-2009)
- Theory and Cultural Studies Committee, English Graduate Student Representative (2007-2008)
- Theory and Cultural Studies Graduate Student Colloquium “Ethics and Popular Culture.” Organizer & Facilitator. (March 24, 2008)

## MEMBERSHIPS AND ASSOCIATIONS

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- North American Emmanuel Levinas Society  
*Treasurer 2006-present, member of executive board 2006-present*
- Purdue Levinas Reading Group  
*Founding member, Treasurer 2006-2007, President 2007-2008*
- Popular Culture Association
- College English Association
- Modern Language Association
- Modernist Studies Association

## PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

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Maren T. Linett  
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Purdue University  
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