

KATE NESBIT

Department of English | Central College
812 University Street | Pella, IA
nesbitk@central.edu | (612) 867-1433
www.katenesbit.com

EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. English, University of Iowa
2016 M.A. English, University of Iowa
2012 B.A. English, Middle East Studies, Saint Olaf College
Phi Beta Kappa, *summa cum laude*

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2019-Present Assistant Professor of English, Central College, Pella, IA

BOOK PROJECT (*In Progress*)

Listening Lessons: Reading Aloud and the Politics of Attention, 1800-1932

My current book project considers that most popular of Victorian evening entertainments, reading aloud, from the perspective of listeners--especially the rowdy and intractable ones. Proponents of mass literacy recommended reading aloud as a safe mode of encountering text for the century's so-called "new readers": women, children, and workers. Yet I find that the literature of the period does not portray reading aloud as "safe" at all. *Listening Lessons* surveys fiction's unruly listeners: tired laborers who zone out while listening to the Bible, women who fall asleep to their husbands' Shakespeare delivery, and children who eavesdrop on their parents reading the newspaper's sex scandals. I study how novelists deploy these listeners as part of a larger campaign to articulate the novel's cultural function--and its capacity to shape our habits and hierarchies of attention. In considering the book as sounded and heard, this project also calls for greater communication between histories of reading and sound studies. In this history of the audiobook *before* sound recording, I contemplate the book-read-aloud as one of the century's most influential sonic media--a "talking book" that left impressions not on wax cylinders, but on the novel and its history.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Submission

"The Book Cure: Sickroom Read-Alouds and the Myth of Sociopolitical Healing," Under review at *Victorian Studies*.

Refereed Journal Articles

- 2020 "Improving Ears: Elizabeth Gaskell's Charitable Listener and the Social-Problem Novel." *English Literary History*, vol. 87, no. 1, Spring 2020, pp. 149-178.
- 2019 "Revising Respiration: Mesmerism, Spiritualism, and the Shared Breath of Poetic Voice in Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Aurora Leigh*." *Victorian Poetry*, vol. 56, no. 3, Winter 2019, pp. 213-232

- 2016 “Melodrama’s Wordless Elocution: The Vestigial Voice in the Orchestration and Pantomime of Thomas Holcroft’s *A Tale of Mystery*.” *European Romantic Review*, vol. 27, no. 5, Fall 2016, pp. 583-600.
- 2015 “‘Taste in noises’: Registering, Evaluating, and Creating Sound and Story in Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*.” *Studies in the Novel*, vol. 47, no. 4, Winter 2015, pp. 451-468.

Book Chapters

- 2022 “Towards the Learning to Teach Statement.” *Writing the Classroom: Pedagogical Documents as Rhetorical Genres*. Edited by Stephen Neaderhiser, Utah State University Press, 2022. Co-authored with Megan Knight.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of Martin Hewitt’s *Making Social Knowledge in the Victorian City: The Visiting Mode in Manchester, 1832-1914*. *The Gaskell Journal*, vol 35, 2021, pp. 80-82.

Conference Proceedings

- 2018 “Reading Characters: Pedagogy of the Person and Victorian Shakespeare in Charlotte Brontë’s *Shirley*.” *Works of Recognition: Proceedings of the 18th Annual Craft Critique Culture Conference*, in *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, no. 18, Spring 2018, pp. 81-88.

SELECTED AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships and Grants

- 2020 The Katharine Pantzer Junior Fellowship in the British Book Trades, The Bibliographic Society of America
- 2018 Andrew W. Mellon Short-Term Award, Huntington Library
- 2018 Dissertation Writing Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, University of Iowa
- 2017 Post-Comprehensive Research Award, Graduate College, University of Iowa
- 2016 Newberry Renaissance Consortium Grant, Center for Renaissance Studies

Teaching Awards

- 2017 W.R. Irwin Award for Teaching Excellence, English Department, University of Iowa
- 2016 Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa
- 2016 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Council on Teaching, University of Iowa
- 2016 Honorarium, “Hawkeye Shakespeare”: Teaching Shakespeare in Iowa

Prizes

- 2019 Walter L. Arnstein Prize for Dissertation Research in Victorian Studies—Honorable Mention, Midwest Victorian Studies Association
- 2019 Dietz Poetry Essay Prize, English Department, University of Iowa
- 2018 William and Mary Burgan Prize for the Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student, Midwest Victorian Studies Association
- 2018 Best Essay Prize, English Department, University of Iowa

2017 First Prize Paper in the Humanities, Jakobsen Conference, University of Iowa

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Not Just Victorianists: NAVSA, Teaching-Intensive Institutions, and the ‘State of the Field.’” Roundtable at North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Bethlehem, PA, September 2022.
- 2022 “Sound Waves and Sea Politics: Maritime Fiction and the Imperial Ear.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, Virtual Vancouver, March 2022.
- 2019 “Sense, Sensitivity, and Censorship: The Delicate Listener as Redactor and Romantic Heroine.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus, OH, October 2019.
- 2018 “Sound Escapes: News Leaks, Sneaky Listeners, and Thomas Hardy’s Case for Candid Fiction.” North American Victorian Studies Association, St. Petersburg, FL, October 2018.
- 2018 “Rest and the Resistant Listener: Reading Husbands and Snoring Wives in Fin de Siècle Literature.” Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, St. Louis, MO, April 2018.
- 2017 “Feasting on Morality: Teaching Sympathy and Constructing Class through the ‘banquet of Shakespeare.’” Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Oberlin, OH, April 2017.
- 2017 “Teaching Character: Pedagogy of the Person and Victorian Shakespeare in Charlotte Brontë’s *Shirley*.” Craft Critique Culture Conference, Iowa City, IA, April 2017.
- 2017 “The Phonograph Trick: Sound Forms and Transformations in Conan Doyle’s Detective Fiction.” Jakobsen Memorial Conference, Iowa City, IA, March 2017.
- 2017 “Sound Detection: Fugitive Sounds, Vocalic Bodies, and Conan Doyle’s ‘phonograph tricks.’” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA, March 2017.
- 2016 “Remembering the Body: Incorporating Kinesthetic Learning into Writing Center Peer Consulting.” Midwest Writing Centers Conference. Cedar Rapids, IA. March 2016.
- 2015 “Graduate Killjoys: A Roundtable on Contestation, Containment, and Resistance amidst the Precarity of Graduate Life.” National Women’s Studies Association. Milwaukee, WI, November 2015.
- 2015 “Somatic Changes in Poetic Exchanges: Recitation, Memorization, and the Body in L.M. Montgomery’s *Anne of Green Gables*.” Craft Critique Culture Conference, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, April 2015.
- 2014 “‘I cannot unself myself for ever and ever’: Poetic Attempts to Transcend the Self in Christina Rossetti’s *A Pageant and Other Poems*.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Houston, TX, March 2014.

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “Teaching Writing at a Liberal Arts College.” Association of American Universities PhD Careers in English Speaker Series, University of Iowa, October 2021.
- 2021 “Sense and Censorship: The Delicate Listener in *Mansfield Park*.” Jane Austen and the Senses, Lancaster University, July 2021.

- 2019 “Listening to Reading Aloud and the Nineteenth-Century English Novel.” British Studies Colloquium, Yale University, February 2019.
- 2017 “Serious Fun: Teaching with Play.” Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, March 2017.
- 2017 “Writing for the Sciences.” Video Presentation, College of Public Health, University of Iowa, March 2017.
- 2016 “Sounding Shakespeare: Recitation, the Dramatic Passions, and Teaching *Hamlet*.” Hawkeye Shakespeare: Teaching Shakespeare in Iowa, University of Iowa, September 2016.
- 2016 “Digital Teaching Portfolios.” Rhetoric Department, University of Iowa, December 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Central College, Pella, IA

Intermediate Studies in World Literature

- “*Weltliteratur* and the Politics of Reading” (Fall 2020)
- “Unsettling Empire: Decolonization and Caribbean Literature” (Spring 2020)
- “Literature and Film of the Modern Middle East” (Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

Advanced & Intermediate Studies in British Literature

- “The Haunted House of British Literature, 1795-Present” (Spring 2021)
- “Brontëmania!: Senior Seminar in Literary Studies” (Fall 2020)
- “Lit Out Loud: Speaking and Hearing Literature, 1800-1900” (Fall 2019)

Advanced & Intermediate Writing

- “Writing for STEM and Health Careers” (Spring 2021)
- “Writing for Non-Profits: Service and Service-Learning in Context” (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Topics in Literary Studies

- “Advanced Literary Topics: Social Media Fictions” (Fall 2022)
- “Illness and Health in Literature” (Spring 2022)
- “The Literary Imagination: Mysteries” (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022)

First-Year Seminars

- “Intersections: Storytelling and Change” (Fall 2022)
- “Intersections: Myths and Fairy Tales” (Fall 2021)

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

The Interpretation of Literature, English Department

- “Voice and the Storyteller: Service-Learning Section” (Spring 2018)
- “Tech Knowledge: Literature, Media, and Information” (Spring 2017)
- “Reading Bodies: Literature and the Senses” (Fall 2016)

Rhetoric, Rhetoric Department

- “All Sides of the Story: Argument and Narrative” (Fall 2015, Spring 2016)
- “Persuade Me: Identity and Identification” (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL POSITIONS

2014-2018	Writing and Speaking Tutor, Frank Business Communications Center, University of Iowa
2016-2019	Writing Tutor and Online Writing Consultant, The Writing Center, University of Iowa
2016-2017	Writing Tutor, Gerdin Athletics Support Center, University of Iowa
2015	Assistant Instructor, Professional Development Program, Rhetoric Department, University of Iowa
2013-2014	AmeriCorps College Prep Coach, College Possible, Minneapolis, MN
2011-2012	Peer Writing Tutor, The Writer's Place, Saint Olaf College

SERVICE

Professional & Institutional Service

Member, Ad Hoc Committee for Developing the Engaged Citizen Core, Central College, October 2021-Present

Manuscript Reviewer, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, Fall 2020-Present

Member, Curriculum Approval Committee, Central College, Fall 2020-Present

Member, Graduate College External Advisory Board, University of Iowa, Fall 2020-Present

Member, Building a Culture of Inclusion—Curriculum Committee, Central College, Spring 2020-Present

Senior Honors Thesis Reader, First reader for Marin Harrington's honors thesis, titled "The Goodbye State of Mind: Essays on Embodiment," Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Member, Working Group on Fall COVID-19 Planning, Central College, Summer 2020

Co-Founder, Writing Initiative for Neuroscience, University of Iowa, 2017-2018

Co-Founder and Facilitator, Placement and Professional Development Collaborative, University of Iowa, 2018

General Education Literature Textbook Committee, 2017-2018

Panel Moderator, Craft Critique Culture Conference, 2018

Invited Panelist, "Dissertation Writing" Roundtable, 2018

Graduate Teaching Fellow, Center for Teaching, University of Iowa, 2016-2017

President, Association of Graduate Students in English, University of Iowa, 2016-2017

"Papers of Recognition" Selection Committee, *Iowa Journal of Cultural Studies*, 2016

Conference Organizer, Craft Critique Culture Conference, University of Iowa, 2016

Invited Panelist, "Introduction to Graduate Study" Roundtable, 2016

Paper Acceptance and Panel Compilation Committee, Craft Culture Critique Conference, 2015

Community Engagement

Volunteer, TRIO Campus Visits, Pella, IA, Fall 2019 - Present

Instructor, Reading Buddies Partnership, Grant Wood Elementary, Iowa City, IA, 2018

Volunteer, Four Oaks Foster and Adoptive Family Connections, Iowa City, IA, 2014-2016

College Prep Coach (AmeriCorps Volunteer), College Possible, St. Paul, MN, 2012- 2013

Volunteer, HOPE Sexual and Domestic Violence Center, Faribault, MN, 2011

OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS

Inclusive Teaching Seminar, Central College, Fall 2021 - Present

“Making Use of COVE and Branch for Teaching and Research,” COVE Collective, July 2020

Podcasting and Radio Storytelling Workshop, led by David Barasoain and facilitated by Josh Dolezal and Brian Campbell, Central College, June 2020

Eighteenth-Century Shakespeare Workshop, Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies, 2016

Hawkeye Shakespeare: Teaching Shakespeare in Iowa, 2016

Technology and Collaborative Learning Strategies (TILE Training), University of Iowa, 2014

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French: advanced reading and listening comprehension, intermediate written and conversational fluency

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association

North American Victorian Studies Association

College Composition and Communication
