

Muriel Bernardi

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor

University of St. Thomas, Houston, TX

August 2026 – Present

Lecturer

University of Houston, Houston, TX

August 2024 – May 2026

Graduate Student Instructor

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

August 2019 – December 2021

EDUCATION

PhD, English Literature

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

August 2018 – August 2024

Master of Arts, English Literature

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

August 2018 – August 2020

Bachelor of Arts, English Language and Literature

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

September 2014 – June 2017

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

18th- and 19th-century Literature – History of the Novel – History of Science – History of Religion – Film and Media Studies

PUBLICATIONS

“Monstrous Forms: The Gothic George Eliot”

(forthcoming)

Essay in *The Routledge Companion to George Eliot*

“Feverish Migrations: Catholic Embodiment and Political Sensations in *Villette*”

(in progress)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Introduction to Literary Studies (ENGL 3301)

Lecturer

Introduction to Literary Analysis, Major Requirement

University of Houston

Spring 2025 and 2026

Introduction to Fiction (ENGL 2305)

Fall 2025

Lecturer

Introduction to Literature, Core Requirement

University of Houston**First Year Writing I & II (ENGL 1301 & 1302)**

Fall 2024 and Spring 2025

Lecturer

Introduction to Writing and Rhetoric, Core Requirement

University of Houston**Seminar on *David Copperfield* and *Iola Leroy***

Summer 2022

Graduate Instructor, Dickens Universe

Community-facing seminar

UC Santa Cruz**Vampires Since the Victorians (ENGL 200)**

Fall 2021

Instructor of Record

Research methods seminar, Major Requirement

University of Pennsylvania**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Nina Auerbach Graduate Fellowship

2023

*Department of English*University of Pennsylvania**Phi Beta Kappa Membership**

2017

*Beta of Illinois Chapter*University of Chicago**Undergraduate Thesis with Special Honors**

2017

*Department of English Language and Literature*University of Chicago**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“George Eliot and Zombies”

NAVSA 2025 Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. (co-organized)

Panel: Genres and their Afterlives

“Charles Darwin, George Eliot, and the Natural History of Types”

HSS 2024 Annual Meeting, Merida

Panel: Deep Time and Theories of Migration“Feverish Migrations: Catholic Materialism and Embodied Belonging in *Villette*”

NAVSA 2023 Annual Meeting, Bloomington (co-organized)

Panel: Mobility, Dislocation, Legibility

“The Ritual of Novel Form and the Catholicity of Capitalist Fiction: Defoe’s *Roxana*”

ASECS 2023 Annual Meeting, St. Louis

Panel: Thinking Past the Secularization Thesis in Eighteenth-Century Studies

“Group Forms: Rethinking What We Know about Darwin and his Novelists”

NACBS 2022 Annual Meeting, Chicago (co-organized)

Roundtable: The Interdisciplinary George Eliot: New Directions in Nineteenth Century Studies

“Putting Character in the Confessional: Rethinking Interiority in Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette*”

INCS 2022 Annual Meeting, Salt Lake City

Panel: Consciousness, Selfhood, and Self-Fashioning

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Co-organizer, *Genres and their Afterlives at NAVSA 2025* November 2025

Co-organizer, *Mobility, Dislocation, Legibility at NAVSA 2023* November 2023

Co-organizer, *George Eliot Roundtable at NACBS 2022* November 2022

Coordinator, *Restoration-Victorian Studies Reading Group* August 2019 – June 2021
University of Pennsylvania

Research Assistant, *Prof. S. Pearl Brilmyer* January 2021
Proofed *The Science of Character: Human Objecthood and the Ends of Victorian Realism*
(Chicago, 2022)