

SHALYN CLAGGETT

Assistant Professor of English, Mississippi State University
P.O. Box E, Mississippi State, MS 39762
Office: (662) 325-2328
Email: src173@msstate.edu

Education: 2005: Ph.D. in English, Vanderbilt University, Major fields: British Romantic and Victorian Literature. Minor field: British Nineteenth-century Science.
2002: School of Criticism and Theory, Cornell University
2001: The Dickens Project, University of California at Santa Cruz
2001: M.A. in English, Vanderbilt University
2000: B.A., *summa cum laude* and valedictorian, Truman State University, Major: English and American Literature; Minor: Philosophy and Religion.

Employment: 2006-present: Assistant Professor of English, Mississippi State University
2005-2006: Lecturer, Department of English, Vanderbilt University
2001-2004: Teaching Fellow, Vanderbilt University

Book Project: *The Science of Character in Victorian Literature and Culture*

In the Victorian period, character became increasingly aligned with a view of subjectivity rooted in the brain and its properties. This examination of popular scientific cultural artifacts with works by George Combe, Harriet Martineau, Mary Elizabeth Braddon, and George Eliot, demonstrates that cultural understandings of the brain guided an ideological shift away from the importance formerly attributed to environmental forces in forming personality and toward a model that emphasized pre-social physiological programming.

Publications:

“Victorian Popular Science: Positing the Physiological Basis of Character” (under consideration at *Narrative*, 28 pp. manuscript).

“Harriet Martineau’s Material Rebirth.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 38.1 (2010) (forthcoming, 38 pp. manuscript).

“George Eliot’s Interrogation of Physiological Future Knowledge.” *Studies in English Literature* (forthcoming, 21 pp. manuscript).

“The Author of ‘Beltraffio.’” *The Critical Companion to Henry James*. Eds. Eric Haralson and Kendall Johnson. New York: Clearmark Books, FactsOnFile, 2009.

“Narcissism and the Conditions of Self-Knowledge in ‘The Jolly Corner.’” *The Henry James Review* 26.2 (2005): 189-200.

“‘One shape of many names’: Thomas Hardy’s Epigraph to *The Well-Beloved*.” *The Thomas Hardy Yearbook* 29 (2000): 47-50.

Selected Professional Presentations:

“Phrenological Felicity: Victorian Self-Knowledge and Success.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association. Skidmore College. April, 2009.

“The Science of Character in Victorian Word and Image.” Society for the Study of Narrative Literature Conference. University of Texas at Austin, May, 2008.

“Victorian Popular Science Illustrated.” Victorian Period Division Panel: Mid-Victorian Self-Assessments I: Images of the Age. Modern Language Association Conference, Chicago. December, 2007.

“The Science of Character in the Phrenological Works of George Combe.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association. University of Missouri at Kansas City. April, 2007.

“The Science of Character in Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s Fiction.” Society for the Study of Narrative Literature Conference. Georgetown University, March, 2007.

Invited Speaker, “George Eliot’s Critique of Phrenology” Truman State University. April, 2005.

“Physiognomic Hermeneutics in Charlotte Brontë’s *The Professor*.” Society for the Study of Narrative Literature Conference. University of Vermont. April, 2004.

“Sex and Antisepsis: Lister, Ovariectomy and Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Association. University of Southern California at Santa Cruz. March, 2003.

“George Eliot, Phrenology, and Social Reform.” Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science Conference. Duke University. February, 2003.

Teaching Experience:

Mississippi State University:

Selected Authors: Jane Austen (EN 3533). Spring 2009.

Critical Theory from Plato-Present (EN 4/6423). Fall 2008.

Nineteenth-century British Novel (EN 4/6653). Spring 2008.

Studies in English Literature, 1832-1900 (EN 8543, Graduate Seminar). Fall 2007, 2009.

Advanced Composition (EN 3414). Fall 2007, Fall 2006.

English Literature II, 1800-present (EN 2223). Spring 2007, 2008, 2009.

Victorian Prose and Poetry (EN 6/4883). Fall 2006, 2008.

Vanderbilt University:

Victorian Poetry and Poetic Theory (EN 225). Fall 2005.
 Basic Composition (EN 100W). Fall 2005, Spring 2004, Fall 2003.
 Introduction to Drama (EN 105W). Fall 2004.
 Introduction to Prose Fiction, "Science and the Body in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Fiction" (EN 104W). Fall 2002.
 Introduction to Prose Fiction, "Science and Technology in Nineteenth-Century British Literature" (EN 104W). Spring 2002, Fall 2001.

University Service:**Mississippi State University:**

English Department Curriculum Committee, 2009
 President's Commission for the Status of Women, Gender Studies Representative, 2009
 Women's Studies Advisory Committee, 2009
 Faculty Advisor, Mortar Board, 2008-present
 Faculty Advisor, Feminists Engaging Modern Society (F.E.M.S.), 2008-present
 Eighteenth-century Job Search Committee, 2008
 M.A. Exam Committee, 2007-2008.
 Early Americanist Job Search and Interview Committee, 2007.
 Faculty Mentor to new departmental hire Dr. Katherine Pierce, 2007.
 Linda Brasher/Mary Ann Dazey Award Committee, 2006-2007.
 Peyton Williams Excellence in Undergraduate Writing Award Committee, 2006.

Vanderbilt University:

Center for Teaching Assistant Director Search Committee, 2004.
 Research Assistant, assisted Professor Carolyn Dever with research for *Skeptical Feminism: Activist Theory, Activist Practice* (2004), 2003.
 Women's Studies Certificate Committee, 2002.
 Research Assistant, assisted Professor Jay Clayton with research for *Charles Dickens in Cyberspace* (2003), 2001.
 Research Assistant, assisted Professor Carolyn Dever with research for *The Literary Channel* (2002, co-edited with Margaret Cohen), 2001.

References:

Sander Gilman	Distinguished Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Medicine, Emory University. Email: Sander34@aol.com
Jay Clayton	William R. Kenan Professor and Chair, Department of English, Vanderbilt University. Email: jay.clayton@vanderbilt.edu
Carolyn Dever	Professor of English and Associate Dean of the Graduate School, Vanderbilt University. Email: carolyn.dever@vanderbilt.edu