

Sarah Bertekap, A.B.D.

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EDUCATION

2024 (expected) Ph.D., English, University of Connecticut, Storrs
2019 M.A., English, University of Connecticut, Storrs
2017 B.A. *magna cum laude*, English, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
Thesis title: “Misrepresentation in 20th Century Irish Nationalism: Lady Gregory’s Critique of the Irish Literary Revival.”
Minor: Medieval Studies

RESEARCH

Dissertation title: “Unsettling Adaptations: Migration, Ireland, and LGBTQ+ Literature”
Committee: Mary Burke (chair), Margaret Breen, Victoria Ford Smith, Gregory Colón Semenza

“Unsettling Adaptations” analyzes processes of representing the silences of Irish gay and lesbian literature when those texts are adapted into other visual and written forms. Drawing on Elliott and Demory, I organize my chapters around what each adaptation in its specific context(s) offers to the question of what constitutes “queer adaptation.” I argue that these Irish adaptations cannot be ignored in answering this question due to Ireland’s own adaptation into one of the first nations to campaign for and win the popular vote for marriage equality via young migrants in the 2015 #HomeToVote movement. The adaptations I analyze are generally comprised of at least two texts (hypotext and hypertext). As a result, my project engages with a variety of texts and contexts, considering multiple moments of LGBTQ+ history and Ireland’s own British Empire, Free State, European Union, and late-capitalist histories. To analyze the adaptations undertaken when these texts move across temporal and physical borders—frequently “feeling backward” into a Wildean tradition—I bring the fields of Irish Studies, queer theory (especially that of queer temporality), and adaptation studies into dialogic, non-hierarchical exchange.

Research Interests: Irish Studies; late-nineteenth and twentieth-century LGBTQ+ Irish and British literature, film, and television; adaptation studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; theories of queer temporality; the Irish language; writing center studies; studio pedagogy.

ARTICLES

Peer-Reviewed Publication

“‘Pink-tinted glasses:’ Looking and Affirmation in *Gentleman Jack*.” *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, vol. 26, no. 4, 2022, co-authored with Dr. Nicole Lyn Lawrence.

Articles in Preparation

“The *Collage* Writing Center: A Multi-Versal Practice.” Preparing for submission to a writing center studies journal.

“Accommodating Lesbian Re-Visions in Emma Donoghue’s *The Sealed Letter*.” Preparing for submission to an Irish Studies journal.

“Reproductive Hauntings in Doireann Ní Ghríofa’s *A Ghost in the Throat*.” Preparing for submission to collection, *Tramp Press: Ireland’s Maverick Publisher*, edited by Mary Burke and Tara Harney-Mahajan (under review at a university press).

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023 Francelia Butler Graduate Award for Teaching Innovation
- 2023 Aetna Graduate Research and Travel Award
- 2023 International Writing Centers Association Travel Grant Award
- 2023 Summer Fellowship Award, The Graduate School at UConn
- 2022 International Writing Centers Association Travel Grant Award
- 2022 Conference Participation Award, The Graduate School at UConn
- 2022 Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School at UConn
- 2020 Timothy F. Moriarty Award in Irish Literature
- 2019 Wood/Raith Gender Identity Living Trust Summer Fellowship
Project title: “Staging the Unspeakable and the Queer in *The Importance of Being Oscar*”
- 2018 UConn English Department Travel Grant
- 2015 NEWMAC Academic All-Conference Team (Swimming)
- 2014 Robert P. Sibley Prize for first-year students showing promise in English composition

TEACHING EXPERIENCE – Instructor of Record at the University of Connecticut

- 2024 ENGL 1007 Seminar and Studio in Writing and Multimodal Composition, taught as a part of the Center for Access & Postsecondary Success 5-week Summer Bridge Program: “What Makes a Rebel?” (section for first-generation college students)
- 2023 GRAD 5900 Special Topics in Graduate Education: “Graduate Seminar in Academic Writing” (predominantly multilingual students)
- 2023 ENGL 1007 Seminar and Studio in Writing and Multimodal Composition, taught as a part of the Center for Access & Postsecondary Success 5-week Summer Bridge Program: “What Makes a Rebel?” (section for first-generation college students)
- 2022 ENGL 1007 Seminar and Studio in Writing and Multimodal Composition: “What Makes a Rebel?” (section for first-generation college students)
- 2021 ENGL/WGSS 3613 Intro to LGBTQ Literature: “Queer Adaptation”
- 2021 ENGL 3120 Irish Literature until 1939: “Adapting the Nation”
- 2021 ENGL 3122 Irish Literature since 1939 (online asynchronous course)
- 2021 ENGL 1007 Seminar and Studio in Writing and Multimodal Composition: “What Does an Education Do?” (online asynchronous course)
- 2020 ENGL 1011 Seminar in Writing Through Literature: “The Rhetoric of Rebellion”

- 2019 ENGL 1011 Seminar in Writing Through Literature: “Nationalism and Rebellion in Irish Film and Literature”
- 2018 ENGL 1010 Seminar in Academic Writing: “Visions of American Motherhood and Mothering”

ADMINISTRATIVE & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Spring 2024 Coordinator for Graduate Writing Support, University of Connecticut Writing Center
- 2022-2023 Assistant Director, University of Connecticut Writing Center
- 2023-present Proofreader, Office of Undergraduate Admissions Publicity & Marketing
- 2023 Writing Tutor, Center for Access & Postsecondary Success McNair Scholar/Research Summer Program, University of Connecticut
- 2023 Co-facilitator, Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning/Writing Center workshop: “Effective peer review in writing-intensive courses”
- 2021 Program and Curriculum Development Team Member, UConn’s First-Year Writing Program
- 2019-present Writing Tutor, University of Connecticut Writing Center
- 2019-2023 Reader, Advance Placement Literature & Research Exams, Salt Lake City
- 2018 & 2022 Facilitator, First Year Writing Orientation Week, University of Connecticut
- 2014-2017 Speaking, Arguing, and Writing (SAW) Mentor, Mount Holyoke College SAW Center

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Papers

- 2024 Collaborative Poster Presentation: “Tutor Perspectives on First-Year Writing Prompts.” The 19th Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing (Storrs, CT).
- 2023 “The *Collage* Writing Center: Crafting Invitations into Your Tutoring Space.” Co-presenter with our Center’s undergraduate receptionist, Chelcy Htoo. 2023 Secondary School Conference, “Making Space” (Storrs, CT)
- 2023 (*accepted*) “*Talk of Angels*: Queerly Failing to Adapt *Mary Lavelle*.” New England/Mid-Atlantic Regional American Conference for Irish Studies (Boston, MA).

- 2023 “The *Collage* Writing Center: A Multi-Versal Practice.” International Writing Centers Association Annual Conference (Baltimore, MD)
- 2023 Collaborative Poster Presentation: “Tutor Perspectives from Working with First-Year Writers.” The 18th Annual Conference on the Teaching of Writing (Storrs, CT)
- 2023 “Accommodating Lesbian Re-Visions in Emma Donoghue’s *The Sealed Letter*.” The Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Niagara Falls, NY)
- 2022 Collaborative workshop: “‘Centering Writing’: Staff Development through Creative Writing and a Tutors-as-Writers Mindset.” International Writing Centers Association Annual Conference (Vancouver, BC)
- 2022 (*cancelled due to pandemic*) “Adaptation and Lesbian Re-Vision in Emma Donoghue’s Historical Fiction.” “Recovering (from) Catholicism?” Conference (Boston College, Dublin)
- 2021 “Wilde on Screen: MacLiammóir’s Body and Televisibility.” The New England American Conference for Irish Studies (Fairfield, CT)
- 2021 Respondent to Claire Bracken’s talk on contemporary Irish women’s writing as a part of the 2021 Irish Women’s Writing Festival (Storrs, CT)
- 2020 (*cancelled due to pandemic*) “Staging the Unspeakable in *The Importance of Being Oscar*.” “Glorious Outsiders”: Queer Pasts and Futures in Irish Performance Conference (NUI Galway, Ireland)
- 2020 “‘Fixity within continuity’: Queer Inheritance in John Banville’s *Birchwood*.” The Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention (Boston, MA)
- 2019 “‘Pal o’ me heart’: Class and Chaos in *At Swim, Two Boys*.” The New England American Conference for Irish Studies (Chicopee, MA)
- 2019 “The Revival’s Vampiric Consumption in Dorothy Macardle’s ‘The Portrait of Roisin Dhu.’” The American Conference for Irish Studies (Boston, MA)
- 2018 “Shame and Irish Girlhood in Clare Boylan’s *Holy Pictures*.” The American Conference for Irish Studies (Cork, Ireland)
- 2018 “Love Triangles and Grania’s Fate: The *Tóraigheacht Dhiarmaid agus Ghráinne*, in Lady Gregory’s Drama.” Ulidia VI Fíanaigeacht III (Isle of Skye, Scotland)
- 2018 Feminism-Focused Roundtable Participant. Living Irishness, Comfhios Boston College: An Irish Studies Conference (Boston, MA)

Panel Chairing

- 2024 Panel organizer & chair, “Adaptation and Queer Excesses.” Northeast Modern Languages Association (Boston, MA)
- 2018 Panel chair, “Innovation and Limitation: ‘Making Do’ on Regional Campuses.” New Media, New Messages: Conference on the Teaching of Writing (Hartford, CT)

Conference Co-Organizing

- 2022 Conference Planning Committee Member, Conference on the Teaching of Writing: “Linguistic Justice in Pandemic Writing Classrooms” (virtual)
- 2019 Conference Planning Committee Member, Conference on the Teaching of Writing: “Active and Accessible: Engaging Writing Pedagogy in the 21st Century” (Hartford, CT)
- 2018 Co-Organizer & Keynote Roundtable Chair, “Emerging Voices in Irish Studies Graduate Student Conference” (Hartford, CT)

Invited Talks

- 2021 Guest lecture on Clare Boylan’s *Holy Pictures* in graduate seminar, “Coming of Age in Ireland,” University of Connecticut
- 2019 Guest lecture, “The Failures and Successes of *Birchwood’s* Queer Heir,” in undergraduate seminar, “Irish literature since 1939,” University of Connecticut

INSTITUTE PARTICIPATION

- 2022 Participant, International Writing Centers Association Summer Institute
- 2021 Participant, Irish Seminar, University of Notre Dame
- 2019 Co-organizer & Facilitator, Writing Across Technology Institute, University of Connecticut

DEPARTMENT & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023-present Northeast Writing Centers Association: General Sitting Member
- 2020-2021 English Graduate Student Association: Vice President
- 2019-2020 English Graduate Student Association: Treasurer
- 2019-2023 *An Cumann Gaelach* (Irish language society): Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary

2017-2022 Irish Studies Alliance: Vice President & Treasurer

2018 *Ciorcal cómhra* (conversation circle for the Irish language): Weekly organizer

LANGUAGES

Irish: intermediate reading comprehension and beginner speaking ability.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association; Northeast Modern Language Association; Northeast Writing Centers Association; American Conference for Irish Studies; International Writing Centers Association.

REFERENCES

Mary Burke (major advisor)
Irish Concentration Coordinator
Professor of English
University of Connecticut
Email: mary.burke@uconn.edu
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Victoria Ford Smith
Associate Professor of English
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