

## DAGNI BREDESEN

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Department of English  
Eastern Illinois University  
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### POSITIONS:

Associate Professor, Eastern Illinois University (2006 to present)  
Assistant Professor, Eastern Illinois University (2001 to 2006)  
Member of Graduate Faculty and Women's Studies Faculty  
Acting Instructor, University of Washington (April 1999-June 2001)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. English Literature, University of Washington, Seattle (1999)  
M.A. Literature, University of California, San Diego (1993)  
B.A. School of Human and Social Development (with distinction), University of  
Victoria, British Columbia (1980)

### RECENT FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, and HONORS

Council for Faculty Research Summer Grant, Eastern Illinois University (2002, 2004, 2008)  
Achievement and Contribution Award: Service (2007)  
College of Arts and Humanities Travel Award (2003-08)  
Achievement and Contribution Award: Teaching (2005)  
William G. Kirk International Leadership Award (2005)  
Faculty Development Grant, Eastern Illinois University (2004, 2005, 2006, 2008)  
English Department Travel Grant, Eastern Illinois University (2003-07)  
Centre for African Studies Visiting-Associate Fellowship, University of Cape Town (2003, 2005)  
Graduate Dean's Award of Excellence in Research, Eastern Illinois University (2002)  
International Programs Initiative Award, Eastern Illinois University (2001, 2006)

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"Investigating the Female Detective in Victorian and Edwardian Fiction" Review of *Sherlock's Sisters: The British Female Detective 1864-1913* by Joseph A. Kestner. *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*. 3.1 Spring 2007. <http://www.ncgsjournal.com/issue31/issue31.htm>

"The Widdy's Empire: Queen Victoria as Widow in Kipling's Soldier Stories and the *Barrack-Room Ballads*." Reprinted in *Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism*, Gale Books, 2006

"Conformist Subversion: The Ambivalent Agency in *Revelations of a Lady Detective*." Special Issue on Victorian Detection, *CLUES: A Journal of Detection*. Fall 2006.

"What's a Woman to Do?": Managing Money and Manipulating Fictions in Trollope's *Can You Forgive Her?* and *The Eustace Diamonds*" *Victorian Review: Special Issue on Literature and Money*. 31:2, 2005

"'An Emblem of All the Rest': Caps and Conventions of Victorian Widowhood." *Abito e Identita* [Clothing and Identity]. Ed. Cristina Giorcelli. Roma: Edizioni Associate (2002).

## **FORTHCOMING**

“An Emblem of All the Rest’: Caps and Conventions of Victorian Widowhood.” *Habits of Being*. Ed. Paula Rabinowitz and Cristina Giorcelli. University of Minnesota Press.

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS**

*The First Female Detectives in British Fiction*: a new edition of *The Female Detective* by Andrew Forrester, Jr. (1864) and *Revelations of a Lady Detective* by W.S. Hayward (1864) edited and introduced by Dagni Bredezen for Scholars’ Facsimiles and Reprints. .

Book Project in Progress: *Over His Dead Body: Widows in Victorian Fiction and Culture*.

## **UPCOMING CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

“Substantiating the First Female Detectives in Victorian Popular Print Culture.” Accepted for the panel “Ephemeral Arts” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA) Conference 2008, Yale University, New Haven, CT. November 14-16, 2008.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and PARTICIPATION**

Moderator, Panel: “Sensation Fiction and Materiality.” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference. Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. October 10-13<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

“Widows and the False Binaries of Victorian Fiction”. Conference “The Merry Widow: Rethinking Widowhood in History, Culture and Society.” Centre for Research into Gender and Society. University of Swansea, Swansea, Wales, UK. July 7-9, 2007.

Moderator, Panel “Postcolonial Widows” Conference “The Merry Widow: Rethinking Widowhood in History, Culture and Society.” Centre for Research into Gender and Society. University of Swansea, Swansea, Wales, UK. July 7-9, 2007.

“Woman on the Scaffold: Gender, Law and Literature.” Panel: Enacting our Feminist Pedagogy: Interdisciplinarity. Womens’ Caucus, Midwest Modern Language Association Conference. Chicago, IL November 9-12, 2006.

Moderator, Panel: “Assessing the Diversity of Reconciliation’s Practice.”: “Coming to Terms’ with Reconciliation: Critical Perspectives on the Practice, Politics, and Ethics of Transitional Justice An Interdisciplinary Symposium. University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, November 10-11, 2006.

“Gendering the Detective in Victorian Yellowback Fiction.” Midwest Conference on British Studies, Indianapolis University-Purdue University, Indianapolis, IN, October 27-29, 2006

“ ‘Much Dreaded But Little Known’: Investigating the First Professional Female Detectives in Literature.” Panel: Professionalizing the Literary. North American Victorian Studies Association Conference. Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN. August 31-September 3, 2006.

Panel Chair: “Photographs as Sources for Historical Reconstruction.” Images of African Peoples: Photography, History and Culture in Africa and the African Diaspora. 2006 African and African Diaspora Conference. Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL. March 31-April 2, 2006.

“The Weight of Motherhood: Post-Apartheid Fiction and the Figuration of the Maternal.” Panel: Post-colonial Women in Literature. Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA. November 11-13, 2005.

“My Hideous Progeny: *Frankenstein* and the Failure of Enlightenment and Romantic Ideals.” Panel: *Frankenstein: An Introduction to the Booth Library’s program accompanying the Traveling Exhibition Frankenstein: Penetrating the Secrets of Nature*. October 25, 2005.

Workshop Co-Presenter: A Post-Colonial Prometheus: Issues of Race and Gender in Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (with Dr. Ashley Tellis). Sixteenth Annual Literature Conference for Teachers and Lovers of Good Books, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, IL. October 20-21, 2005.

“The First Female Detectives in British (Pulp) Fiction.” Midwest Popular Culture Association. St. Louis, MO. October 14-16, 2005.

“The First Female Detectives in British Fiction.” Panel: Rewriting Women Authors and Reading Formations. Midwest Conference on British Studies. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN September 23-25, 2005.

“‘Her Mourning is All Make-Believe’: Performing Widowhood in Victorian Fiction.” Women’s Studies Panel: Passing Zones. Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO. November 4-7, 2004.

“Beyond the Conventional Classroom: Study Abroad and On-Site Learning.” Panel: “The Work We Do.” Midwest Modern Language Association, St. Louis, MO. November 4-7, 2004.

“Sons of the Widder/ Soldiers of the Quane”: Idiom and the Royal Family Romance in Kipling’s *Barrack-Room Ballads* and *Soldiers Three*. Panel: British Empire: Imperial Dimensions of British Identities.” Midwest Conference on British Studies. Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI. October 22-24, 2004.

“‘Coloured’ Identity in Post-Apartheid South Africa,” African Studies Brown Bag Seminar, University of Washington, Seattle, WA. May 2004.

Panel Organizer and Presenter, “‘I wash my hands of this story’: (E)Racing History in Zoë Wicomb’s *David’s Story* and its Intertexts.” Panel: Interrogating “Mixed-Race” in Colonial and Post-Colonial Narratives. British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, Savannah, GA. February 27-28, 2004.

Panel Organizer and Moderator, “Postcolonial Caribbean Women Writers,” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Scripps College, Claremont, CA. November 7-9, 2003.

## **TEACHING AREAS AND RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Victorian Literature and Nineteenth-Century Cultural Studies; Women Studies; The Novel; Colonial Discourses and Post-Colonial Theories; South African Literature; Law and Literature; Travel Writing; Narrative Theory; British survey 1780-the twentieth-century; Poetry; Composition.

## **SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Associate Professor, English Department, Eastern Illinois University (2006-present)

Engl 5000	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Literature and Composition
Engl 4850	Third World Literature: “Africa is Woman?”
Engl 4300	Senior Seminar: “Investigating the Literary Detective”
Engl 3807	Victorian Literature: “Victorian Fault Lines”
Engl 3903	Women, Literature, Language: Women’s Bodies & the Nation (So. Africa)
Engl 2850	Post-Colonial Literature
Engl 2099	Literature and Human Values: Race, Age, Gender (Honors)
Engl 1001	First-year Composition

Assistant Professor, English Department, Eastern Illinois University (2001 to 2006)

Engl 5005	19 <sup>th</sup> century literature
Engl 3903	Women, Language, and Literature
Engl 3807	Victorian Literature: "Little England, Big Empire" Victorian Literature: "The Woman Question"
Engl 3806	Romanticism
Engl 3805	Eighteenth-Century Literature
Engl 3010	General Education: Literary Masterworks
Engl 3001	Advanced Composition
Engl 2850	Postcolonial Literature
Engl 2602	World Literature since the Renaissance
Engl 2099	Gen Ed: Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress (honors)
Engl 2009	Gen Ed: Literature and Human Values: Faith, Survival, Progress
Engl 1091	Honors Composition
Engl 1092	Honors Composition: Writing about Literature
Engl 1002	First-year Composition
Engl 1001	First-year Composition

## GRADUATE INSTRUCTION

### COURSES

Engl 5005	Graduate Seminar in 19 <sup>th</sup> c. Literature: "Victorian Secrets"
Engl 5000	Introduction to Graduate Studies in Literature and Composition

### THESES DIRECTOR

Simpson, Lavada. *Classy Ladies: Female Social Climbers in the Victorian Novel*. (in progress)

Rodems, Kathleen. *Home Invasions: Victorian Domestic Space and the Figure of the Intruder*. (2007).

Fuhler, Jennifer. *Her Violated Body: Sexual Violence and the Limits of Political Allegory in Post-Apartheid South African Fiction*. (2006)

Heicher, Rachel. *Bringing Her Fist Down on that Wholeness: Rewriting Gendered Narratives in Zoë Wicomb's Fiction*. (2005).

### THESES READER

Clark, Jennifer. *The Alley as Imagined Community in the novels of Naguib Mahfouz*. Director: Bonnie Irwin

O'Malley, Brigid. *The Representation of 'Otherness' in Contemporary Literature and the Limits of Foucauldian Theory*. Director: David Carpenter.

Woollen-Danner, D. Levi. *Boundary-crossers : observation, chance, and change in the fiction of Thomas Hardy*. (2006). Director: Richard Sylvia.

Pope, Peggy *Facade of a Romantic: Benjamin Disraeli and Coningsby, Sybil, and Tancred*. (2003). Director: Richard Sylvia.

### MENTORING

Faculty Graduate Student mentor, (Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2008)

### RECENT STUDY ABROAD

Director/Instructor, Eastern Illinois University's Study Abroad Program, "Building a Non-Racial Society in the New South Africa," Cape Town, South Africa (2003, 2005, 2007)

Instructor, On-Site Orientation for Eastern Illinois University's Family and Consumer Sciences' Semester Study Abroad Program in Cape Town South Africa (2006, 2008).

Director/Instructor, Eastern Illinois University's Study Abroad Program, "Literary Landscapes."  
Harlaxton College, Grantham, England (June 2006).

## **RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SERVICE**

### Eastern Illinois University

#### *English Department*

Chair, Visiting Speaker Committee (2005-present)  
Chair, Social Committee (2002-2005)  
Member, Graduate Studies Committee (2003-2007)  
Member, Graduate Studies Subcommittee on First Choice Status Application (2006-2007)  
Organizer/Presenter, Graduate Workshop on Writing the Prospectus (Fall 2006)  
Member, Visiting Speaker Committee (2004-2005)  
Organized visiting speaker Lauren Goodlad (Spring 2004)  
Presentation for Daiva Markelis' class Engl 3903, Women, Literature, Language (Fall 2006)  
Presentation for Daiva Markelis' class English 3009, Myth and Culture (Fall 2003)  
Presentation for Richard Sylvia's Graduate Seminar on the Victorian Novel (Fall 2003)  
Organized Visiting speaker Joycelyn Moody (Fall 2003)

#### *University Service*

Chair, International Program Advisory Committee (2005-present)  
Women's Studies Representative on the Inter-disciplinary Center for Global Diversity (ICGD)  
Hiring committee (2008)  
CAH Representative on International Program Advisory Committee (2003-present)  
Chair, IPAC Subcommittee on Special Projects: Blair Hall International Courtyard (2004-present)  
Member, IPAC Subcommittee on Study Abroad (2005-present)  
Faculty, Women's Studies Minor (2002-present)  
Member, Women's History and Awareness Month (WHAM) Programming Committee (2008)  
Member, WHAM Essay Contest Committee (2006-2008)  
Co-Convenor, Annual Conference for Teachers (2002-2005)  
Member, Search Advisory Committee for Director of International Admissions (2004)  
International Forum Presentation on South Africa Study Abroad Program (October 2003)  
English Competency Examination Scoring (2001 to 2004)

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Modern Language Association  
North American Victorian Studies Association  
Midwest Modern Language Association  
American Friends of the Institute of Historical Research  
Illinois Philological Association  
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association  
Midwest Conference on British Studies

## **REFERENCES**

Professor Kathleen Blake, English, University of Washington  
Professor Lauren Goodlad, English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Professor John O. Jordan, The Dickens Project, University of California, Santa Cruz  
Professor Ranjana Khanna, English, Duke University