

Sierra Eckert

Center for Digital Humanities
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ 08544
email: sceckert@princeton.edu
URL: sceckert.github.io

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2020-present Postdoctoral Research Associate and Perkins Fellow, Center for Digital Humanities,
Princeton University

EDUCATION

2020 PH.D. in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Dissertation: *The Research Aesthetic: Information and the Form of the Victorian Novel*
Committee: Nicholas Dames (chair), Sharon Marcus, James Eli Adams, Dennis Tenen

2017 M.PHIL. in English and Comparative Literature, High Pass, Columbia University

2015 M.A. in English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
Masters Thesis: "Synoptical Tabulation, Research Quarries, and Realist Fiction: Reading
Research in George Eliot's *Middlemarch*"
Sponsor: Nicholas Dames

2014 B.A. in English Literature with Highest Honors, Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College
Honors major in English literature, honors minor in interpretation theory

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK REVIEWS

(forthcoming) *Notework: Victorian Literature and Nonlinear Style*. By Simon Reader. *Modern Language Quarterly* (forthcoming in *MLQ* 84.1)

MANUSCRIPTS IN SUBMISSION

(under review) "George Eliot's Tabulations," under review at *Representations*

(under review) "Arresting Clarissa: Realism and Legal Ritual in Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*," under review at *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*

(under review) "What We Quote: The Atmospheres of Disciplinary History" (co-author)

(under review) How Scholars Quote from Source Texts: a Case for Corpus-Adapted Text-Reuse Detection

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

(in progress) “Marx’s Gothic Data.”
An essay on Karl Marx’s empirical data for *Capital* (1867) that shows how the work’s diagrams, tables, and formulae use abstract spatial form to visualize the effects of abstraction itself.

(in progress) “Footnotes in Fiction” (co-author)
A study of thousands of footnotes in 18th-century novels derived from applying machine learning processes to the ECCO corpus. Co-authored and in collaboration with Rachel Buurma (Swarthmore College), Andrew Piper (McGill University) and the McGill txtLab, Nick Allred (Rutgers University), Yumi Shiroma (Rutgers University)

MANUSCRIPT IN PROGRESS

The Research Aesthetic: Information and the Form of the Nineteenth-Century Novel

A literary history that examines how 19th-century novels helped normalize the form of knowledge we now call “data,” but in the period was called information.

DIGITAL PROJECTS

2016-present [Middlemarch Critical Histories Project](#), with Jonathan Reeve and Milan Terlunen
2016-2017 Victorian Metadata: Reading the Review Column, 1866-1900
2015-2016 [The Shape of Time](#), with Allison Chaney (Princeton University)

AWARDS, HONORS & GRANTS

2020-2021 Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Council for European Studies (*declined*)
2019-2020 Columbia Core Preceptorship in “Literature Humanities,” Columbia University
2019-2020 Kluge Graduate Student Mentor Fellowship, Columbia University (*declined*)
2018-2019 Teaching Scholars Award, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Columbia University
2018-2019 Sarah G. Lubin (M.S. ’72 Library Service) Fellowship, GSAS, Columbia University
2018 Archival Research Grant, Dept. of English & Comparative Literature, Columbia University
2017, 2019 NAVSA Graduate Student Travel Grant, North American Victorian Studies Association
2016-2017 Digital Humanities Center Fellowship, Columbia University
2015, ’17, ’18 GSAS and Departmental Conference Travel Grants, Columbia University
2015 Miron Cristo-Loveanu Prize for Best M.A. Essay in English (co-recipient), Columbia University
2014-2020 Marjorie Hope Nicolson Fellowship, Columbia University
2014 Lang Award, Swarthmore College, awarded to “a graduating senior in recognition of outstanding academic accomplishment”

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

- 2022 “Theorizing the (British, Victorian) Novel with Colonial Data.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Lehigh University, (Bethlehem, PA), Sep 29-Oct 3
- 2022 “Making a ‘History of English Literature’ in Victorian Scotland.” North American Victorian Studies Association, Vancouver, Canada, March 3-6 2022 (rescheduled from Nov 2020)
- 2019 “The Way We Quote Now: Reading *Middlemarch*, 1960-2015.” North American Victorian Studies Association. The Ohio State University (Columbus, OH), Oct 17-19, 2019.
- 2018 “‘Veracious Imagining’: Archival Reading and the Aesthetics of the Fact in Eliot.” North American Victorian Studies Association, University of Florida (St. Petersburg, FL), Oct 11-14, 2018
- 2018 “Henry James and the Logic of the Donée.” Northeast Victorian Studies Association, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA), April 13-15, 2018
- 2017 “Frequently Cited Passages Across Time: New Methods for Studying the Critical Reception of Texts.” Written with Jonathan Reeve and Milan Terlunen. Poster Session. DH2017, McGill University (Montreal, Canada), Aug 8-11, 2017
- 2017 “Marx’s Gothic Data.” North American Victorian Studies Association/Australasian Victorian Studies Association, NYU/Purdue (Florence, Italy), May 17-20, 2017
- 2015 “Mining the ‘Quarry for Middlemarch’: George Eliot’s Data-Driven Realism.” British Women Writers Conference, CUNY (New York, NY), June 25-27, 2015
- 2014 “The Interface and the Index: Rewriting Referentiality in the Eighteenth-Century Novel.” Written with Nick Allred and Rachel Sagner Buurma. East-Central American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, University of Delaware (Newark, DE), Nov 6-8, 2014

INVITED TALKS

- 2021 “*Middlemarch* 1960-2021: Scholarly Quotation as Literary Critical History,” *Middlemarch* 150th Anniversary Symposium, University of Washington 18th/19th-Century Research Cluster (Seattle, WA; virtual), May 21, 2021
- 2020 “Trollope’s Fictions of Labor,” The Trollope Society of New York (New York, NY), March 11, 2020.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2021 “George Eliot’s Research,” lecture for “Styles of Literature and Science in 18th- and 19th-Century Europe” course, Department of French (Princeton, NJ) April 8, 2021
- 2021 “Victorian Studies Now,” Victorian Colloquium, Princeton University (Princeton, NJ), March 18, 2021.
- 2019 “George Eliot’s Tabulations,” The University Seminar in Material Texts 787, Columbia University (New York, NY), April 22, 2019.
- 2019 Respondent, “First Books Series: Daniel Wright, *Bad Logic: Reasoning about Desire in the Victorian Novel*,” Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University (New York, NY), April 18, 2019.

WORKSHOPS

- 2021 “Structuring Humanities Data,” Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Dec 1, 2021
- 2021 “Finding Humanities Data,” Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Nov 3, 2021
- 2021 “What is ‘Data’ in the Humanities?” Humanities Data Workshop Series (Princeton, NJ), Oct 6, 2021.
- 2021 “Special Collections as Data: From Book Historical Data to Research Projects,” Rare Book Working Group (Princeton, NJ), April 7, 2021.
- 2021 “Special Collections as Data: Studying Print Culture Using Digital Tools” Rare Book Working Group (Princeton, NJ), April 1, 2021.
- 2021 “Introduction to Digital Humanities,” Indigenous DH Working Group (Princeton, NJ), Feb. 4, 2021.

ORGANIZED PANELS

- 2022 “Just Data: Working with Datasets in Victorian Studies.” Co-organized with Troy Bassett. Panel at North American Victorian Studies Association, Lehigh University, (Bethlehem, PA), Sep 29-Oct 3

TEACHING

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Instructor of Record

- 2022 English 475/Humanities 475: Data & Literary Study: A Research Lab (undergrad & grad)
- 2021 & 2022 Humanities 346: Introduction to Digital Humanities (cross-listed as English 256)

Teaching Assistant

- 2022 Computer Science 398: Independent Work: Digital Humanities

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Instructor of Record

- 2020 Humanities CC1002: Literature Humanities II: Masterpieces of Western Literature & Philosophy
- 2019 Humanities CC1001: Literature Humanities I: Masterpieces of Western Literature & Philosophy
- 2019 English UN3254: Bad Research & the Victorian Novel (seminar, self-designed course)
- 2017 English W3011: Literary Texts, Critical Methods (seminar portion)
- 2018 English GS1010: University Writing: Readings in Data Sciences (General Studies)
- 2016-2017 English CC1010: University Writing: Readings in Data Sciences

Teaching Assistant

- 2016 English W4404: Victorian Poetry
- 2015 Comparative Literature W4822: The Nineteenth-Century European Novel

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2018-2019 Research Assistant for Sharon Marcus, Columbia University
 2016 Research Assistant for James Eli Adams, Columbia University
- 2015-2016 Graduate Archival Intern, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University
 2014 Project Manager, Early Novels Database, Kislak Center for Special Collections, University of Pennsylvania Libraries

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

SERVICE FOR PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

- 2021-2022 Coordinator, CDH Graduate Fellows Program
 2021-2022 Organizer, "Humanities Data Workshop Series," a 6-part workshop series for early-career faculty, graduate students, and staff
 2021-present Member, Machine Learning and the Humanities Working Group, Princeton University
 2020-present Member, Committee on CDH Graduate Fellowships
 2020-2021 Organizer, "Building Digital Humanities Projects with Rare Books and Special Collections," 3-part workshop and lecture series for graduate students, Rare Book Working Group, Princeton University
 2020-2021 Organizer, Center for Digital Humanities drop-in hours, Princeton University

SERVICE FOR COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

- 2019 Co-organizer, "Book Parts: A Conference," Columbia University, The Heyman Center for the Humanities, Oct. 11, 2019
 2018 Graduate student liaison, British Romanticism Search Committee, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University
 2017-2020 Rapporteur, The University Seminar in Material Texts, Columbia University
 2017-2019 Co-organizer, The Nineteenth-Century British Colloquium, Columbia University
 2016-2018 Data Sciences curricular working group, University Writing Program, Columbia University
 2016-2020 Member, Literary Modeling and Visualization Lab, Columbia University
 2014-2020 Member, Group for Experimental Methods in the Humanities, Columbia University

LANGUAGES

French (Graduate proficiency exam, advanced reading skills)
 Spanish (Graduate proficiency exam, advanced reading skills)

PROGRAMMING

Programming and mark-up languages:
 Python, R, CSS, HTML, XML/TEI, LaTeX

Frameworks:

Jekyll, Leaflet, Omeka, ArcGIS/QGIS

Methods:

Topic modeling, text-reuse detection, Bayesian modeling, NLP (NER), word embeddings, sentence and paragraph feature extraction, network analysis

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

North American Victorian Studies Association

North American Victorian Studies Association - Data Caucus

Northeast Victorian Studies Association

Association for Computers and the Humanities

Modern Language Association

REFERENCES

Nicholas Dames, Theodore Kahan Professor of Humanities, Columbia University,
nicholas.dames@columbia.edu

Meredith Martin, Associate Professor of English Literature, Director of the Center for
Digital Humanities, Princeton University, mm4@princeton.edu

Sharon Marcus, Orlando Harriman Professor of English and Comparative Literature,
Columbia University, sm2247@columbia.edu

Dennis Tenen, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University,
dt2406@columbia.edu

James Eli Adams, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University,
jea2139@columbia.edu