

JESSICA DeSPAIN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, May 2008, University of Iowa
British and American literature from 1820 – 1920

Graduate Certificate, Center for the Book, May 2008, University of Iowa
Coursework in book history, bookbinding, printing, and papermaking

B.A., 2001, Mount St. Clare College, Clinton, IA
Liberal arts, concentration in language arts, secondary education endorsement

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Professor, July 2019 – Present

Associate Professor, July 2014 – June 2019

Assistant Professor, August 2008 – June 2014

University of Iowa

English Department Instructor, August 2007 – August 2008

General Education Literature Instructor, August 2004 – May 2007

Rhetoric Instructor, August 2002 – May 2004

Research Assistant, August 2001 – August 2002

ADMINISTRATION

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars (CODES), Director, 2021 – present

CODES is an alternative general education pathway for students who are Black, Latinx, Pell-eligible, or among the first generation in their family to attend college. CODE Scholars collaborate with community organizations in research teams to study and address the world's most pressing problems and share their outcomes using digital humanities methods. Responsibilities include:

- Student support
- Network building
- Curriculum development
- Daily operations
- Event planning
- Assessment
- Liaising with support offices
- Recruitment
- Scheduling
- Budget planning
- Grant writing
- Faculty Development

IRIS Center Co-Director and Founder, 2010 – present

With a mission to support faculty and student research in the digital humanities, IRIS helps document the people, places, and histories of the St. Louis region and beyond. The center is a fully equipped collaboration space, with two co-directors, a research assistant professor, and a team of student workers. It supports seventeen affiliated faculty and serves an average of 100 students yearly.

Responsibilities include:

- Managing budget and assets
- Supervising staff and students

- Seeking funding and grant writing
- Managing multiple projects
- Supporting faculty research
- Designing DH training and lectures
- Facilitating strategic planning

- Leading community outreach efforts
- Directing interdisciplinary minor
- Networking with community partners
- Strategizing publicity efforts
- Implementing social media plan

TEACHING

Courses Taught

- CODE 121: Transdisciplinary Communication
- CODE221: Research Team III
- English 101: English Composition I
- English102: English Composition II
- English 200: Intro to Literary Studies
- English 209: British Modern Lit
- English 211: American Literature Survey, Pre-Civil War
- English 212: American Literature Survey, Post-Civil War
- English 301: Intro to Literary Theory
- English 309: Popular Literature
- English 315: Literature & Sustainability
- IS 399: Food & the Literary Landscape
- English 445: Young Adult Literature
- English 465: Literature and Animals
- HUM234L: DHSS Lab
- English 475: Teaching Secondary English
- English 479: Whitman & Dickinson
- English 480: Dickens Meets Steampunk
- English 482: Tech & Literature
- English 496: Scholarly Editing
- English 497A: Senior Assmt., Book History
- English 497A: Senior Assmt., Literature and the Body
- English 497a: Senior Assmt., Textual and Visual Adaptation
- English 501: Literary Theory
- English 502: The Body in Literature
- English 518: Whitman & Dickinson
- English 521: Transatlantic Literary Culture
- Honors 120: Monsters
- Honors 250: Young & Old

Thesis and Exit Project Direction

- Emma Webster, May 2021
- Allison Barrows, August 2018
- Jacob Carlson, August 2018
- Brian Wallace, May 2017
- Meagan Gunn, April 2017
- Keith Mocabee, December 2016
- Rachel Weininger, May 2016
- Megan Pearson, May 2014
- Christy Ferguson, May 2014
- Consuella Kelly, December 2012
- Valerie Schroll, December 2011
- Kevin Eagan, April 2010

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Mentorship

- Sarah Burt, 2018 – 2019
- Gabrielle Borders, 2017 – 2018
- Jennifer Robers 2014 – 2015
- *The Wide, Wide World Digital Edition* student editors, 20 from 2010 – 2019

RESEARCH

Books

Creating a Sense of Place with Digital Community Engagement, (In Process).

Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Reprinting and the Embodied Book. Routledge, 2014.
ISBN: 9781409432005

Edited Collections and Special Issues

Jessica DeSpain, edited with introduction, Forum on Digital Recovery, *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, 2024.

Jennifer Travis and Jessica DeSpain, edited with introduction, *Teaching with Digital Humanities: Tools and Methods for Nineteenth-Century American Literature*. U of Illinois P, 2018. ISBN: 9780252042232

Jessica DeSpain and Kristine Hildebrandt, edited with introduction, *Informatics Scholarship, special issue of Polymath: An Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Journal*, vol. 3, no. 3, 2013.

Digital and Public Humanities Projects

Director, Realizing Inclusive Student Engagement in the Digital Humanities (RISE-DH), 2022 – 2023.

Director, [Recovery Hub for American Women Writers](#), 2020 – present.

Director, [Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars](#) (CODES), 2018 – present.

Director, [Conversation Toward a Brighter Future 2.0](#), 2018 – 2020.

Digital Humanities Clubs for Middle School, Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities, 2017 – 2018.

Curriculum Director, Digital East St. Louis, 2015 – 2018.

Lead Editor, [The Wide, Wide World Digital Edition](#), 2005 – present.

Scholarly Articles

Jessica DeSpain and Jennifer Stertzer, "Digital Humanities Ecosystems that Balance Accessibility and Sustainability," submitted to *Scholarly Editions*, October 2023.

Karin Dalziel, Jessica DeSpain, Jina DuVernay, Melissa Homestead, Kristen Lillvis, Kezia Miller, Emily Rau, and Margaret Smith, "The Recovery Hub for American Women Writers: Supporting Feminist Recovery Projects in the Digital Age." *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*, vol. 40, no. 1, 2024, pp. 203–2014.

"Transatlantic Book Distribution." *Walt Whitman in Context*, edited by Joanna Levin and Edward Whitley, Cambridge, 2018, pp. 177–186. ISBN: 9781108418959

Lora Smallman and Jessica DeSpain. "Informal Learning Teams and the Digital Humanities: A Case Study of Faculty/Librarian Collaboration." *Undergraduate Research and the Academic Librarian: Case Studies & Best Practices*, edited by Stephanie Davis-Kahl and Merinda Kaye Hensley, American Library Association, 2017, pp. 183–194. ISBN: 9780838989081

"Women's Roles in Antislavery and Civil War Literature." *Teaching the Literatures of the American Civil War*, edited by Colleen Glenney Boggs, Modern Language Association of America, 2016, pp. 165–173. ISBN: 9781603292764

"A Feminist DH Pedagogy Beyond the Classroom." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, vol. 26, no. 1, 2016, pp. 64-73.

<https://doi.org/10.5325/trajincschped.26.1.0065>.

"Personal Interface and Feminist Pedagogy at *The Wide, Wide World Digital Edition*, or What Jane Manages Before Afternoon Tea." *Polymath: An Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences Journal*, vol. 3, no. 3, 2013, pp. 27–34.

"Ellen's English Dress: Women's Religious Practice in America and the British Reprints of Susan Warner's *The Wide, Wide World*." *Symbiosis: a Journal of Anglo-American Literature Relations*, vol. 16, no.1, 2012, pp. 113–134.

"On Building Things: Student-Designed Print and Digital Exhibits in the Book History Classroom." *Transformations: The Journal of Inclusive Scholarship and Pedagogy*, vol. 23, no.1, 2011, pp. 25-36. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/trajincschped.22.1.0025>.

"A Book Arts Pilgrimage: Arts and Crafts Socialism and the Kelmscott Chaucer." *The Journal of William Morris Studies*, vol. 15, no. 4, 2004, pp. 75-90.

<https://morrissociety.org/wp-content/uploads/15.4.DeSpain.pdf>.

Reviews

Rev. of *The Transatlantic Materials of American Literature: Publishing US Writing in Britain, 1830-1860*, by Katie McGettigan. *Resources for American Literary Studies*, forthcoming Spring 2024.

Rev. of *Shape of History: Reimagining Elizabeth Palmer Peabody's Historical Visualization Work*. Dir. Lauren Klein. Georgia Tech University. *Commonplace*, vol. 18, no. 1, 2018.

Rev. of *Cultural Narratives*, edited by Sandra Gustafson. *SHARP News*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2013, p. 8.

Rev. of Nineteenth-Century Serials Edition, edited by Laurel Brake et al. *SHARP News*, vol. 19, no. 4, 2010, p. 5.

Rev. of Material Cultures Conference, 2010. Edinburgh, Scotland. *SHARP News*, vol. 19, no. 4, 2010, p. 8.

“Working Through Whitman's Contradictions.” Rev. of Walt Whitman's *Multitudes: Labor Reform and Persona in Whitman's Journalism and the First Leaves of Grass, 1840-1855*, by Jason Stacy. *Papers on Language and Literature*, vol. 45, no. 3, 2009, pp. 325-329.

Awards

Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Award (IDEA), Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference, 2023.

SIUE College of Arts and Sciences, Going Endowed Professorship, 2018.

Kimmel Leadership Center Faculty/Staff Volunteer of the Year, 2018.

Phenomenal Woman Award, SIUE Office of Diversity and Inclusion, 2018.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Activities Mentor of the Semester, Fall 2016.

U.S. Professor of the Year Award Nomination, 2014.

SIUE Distinguished Teaching Award, 2012.

Awarded External Grants and Contracts

National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, “Recovery Hub for American Women Writers,” PI with Karin Dalziel, Melissa Homestead, Kristen Lillvis, Emily Rau, and Margaret Smith, \$150,000, 2023.

Social Science Research Council/National Endowment for the Humanities, Sustaining Humanities Infrastructure Program, “RISE-DH,” PI with Kristine Hildebrandt, Howard Rambsy, and Margaret Smith, \$100,000, 2022.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Connections Grant, “Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars,” PI with Connie Frey-Spurlock, \$100,000, 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Advancement Grant, “Society for the Study of American Women Writers Digital Recovery Hub,” PI with Emily Rau and Melissa Homestead, \$50,000, 2020.

Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities, "STEM Meets Humanities Initiative," Co-I with Sharon Locke and Greg Budzban, contract for \$217,000, 2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Connections Grant, "Digital Community Engagement Pathway," PI with Kristine Hildebrandt, Howard Rambsy, and Connie Frey-Spurlock, \$35,000, 2018.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Access Grant, "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future 2.0," PI with Jill Anderson, Kristine Hildebrandt, and Katie Knowles, \$100,000 from NEH, with \$100,000 match from Mannie Jackson Center, 2017.

Mannie Jackson Center for the Humanities, "Conversation Toward a Brighter Future Planning," PI with Kristine Hildebrandt and Katie Knowles, \$7,400 contract, 2017.

National Science Foundation, ITEST Grant, Digital East St. Louis, Co-I with Sharon Locke, Howard Rambsy, and Liza Cummings, \$846,000, 2014.

University of Virginia, Harrison Institute for American History Fellowship, \$1,800, 2011.

External Grants and Contracts Not Awarded

Illinois Innovation Network, "Investing in Place to Address Violent Crime Rates in Alton, Illinois," PI, \$30,000, 2023.

American Council of Learned Societies, Digital Justice Grant, "Recovery Hub for American Women Writers," PI with Karin Dalziel, Melissa Homestead, Kristen Lillvis, Emily Rau, and Margaret Smith, \$100,000, 2022.

American Council of Learned Societies, Sustaining Public Engagement Grant, "Digital Storytelling for Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation," PI with Jill Anderson, Connie Frey Spurlock, and Margaret Smith, \$220,000, 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Humanities Advancement Grant, "Recovery Hub for American Women Writers," PI with Karin Dalziel, Melissa Homestead, Kristen Lillvis, Emily Rau, and Margaret Smith, \$100,000, 2021.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Humanities Connections Grant, "Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars," PI with Connie Frey-Spurlock, \$100,000, 2019.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Public Humanities Projects, "Life Courses," PI with Howard Rambsy and Katie Knowles, \$400,000, 2017.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Digital Implementation Grant, "Technical and Social Infrastructures for Sustainability and Diversity," Co-I with Elizabeth Lorang, 2015, \$26,296, 2015.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Scholarly Editions Grant, PI with Jennifer Brady, Melissa White, and Jill Anderson, \$300,000, submitted four times from 2011-2014.

NEH Digital Humanities Start-up Grant, PI, \$25,000, 2009.

Internal Grants

Excellence in Undergraduate Education, PI, "Digital Community Engagement Pathway," awarded, \$15,000, 2019.

Meridian Award, "Goshen Market on Wheels," PI, awarded, \$5,000, 2018.

Excellence in Undergraduate Education, Co-I with Connie Frey-Spurlock, "Sustainability Food Consortium," awarded, \$15,000, 2018.

SIUE College of Arts and Sciences, Targeted Funding Initiative, primary investigator, awarded \$5344, 2017.

Competitive Application Resubmission Incentive Grant, PI, "*The Wide, Wide World* Resubmission," awarded, \$5,861, 2012.

Seed Grants for Transitional and Exploratory Projects, "Building the IRIS Center," Co-I with Kristine Hildebrandt, awarded, \$15,458, 2012.

Excellence in Undergraduate Education, "Creating a Digital Humanities Minor," Co-I with Kristine Hildebrandt and Matthew Johnson, awarded, \$10,360, 2012.

New Directions, "The Wide, Wide World Data Collection," awarded, \$13,883, 2011.

Seed Grants for Transitional and Exploratory Projects, "The Wide, Wide World Digital Archive," awarded, \$6,717, 2010.

Excellence in Undergraduate Education, "Creating a Book History Senior Assignment," PI, awarded, \$4,141, 2009.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

"Recovery Hub for American Women Writers," Modern Language Association Convention (MLA), 2024.

"Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars," MLA, 2023.

"Experimenting with Digital Pedagogies," co-authored with Meg Smith, Focus on Teaching and Technology Conference," University of Missouri-St. Louis, 2022.

"Community-Oriented Digital Engagement Scholars," Digital Humanities Summer Institute Open/Social/Digital Humanities Pedagogy, Training, and Mentorship Conference, 2022.

"Planning and Piloting the Recovery Hub for American Women Writers," Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW), 2021.

"Creating a Digital Recovery Hub," SSAWW, 2018.

"Digital Community Engagement at a Regional University," co-authored with Jill Anderson, Kristine Hildebrandt, and Katie Knowles, Digital Frontiers, University of Kansas, 2018.

Panel Respondent, *Digital Pedagogy and Nineteenth Century American Literature*, MLA, 2017.

Panel Respondent, *Unsettling Pedagogy: Digital Humanities and C19*, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, 2016.

"Digital East St. Louis," HASTAC, 2016.

"The Wide, Wide World Digital Edition: A Digital Humanities Feminist Collective," co-Authored with Jill Anderson, SSAWW, 2015.

"Transatlantic Reprinting Networks, " *New Media in American Literary History*, Northeastern University, 2013.

"The Wide, Wide World on the World Wide Web," SSAWW, 2012.

"Remixing the Transatlantic in *The Wide, Wide World Digital Edition*," C19, 2012.

"Southern Illinois University Edwardsville's Interdisciplinary Research and Informatics Scholarship (IRIS) Center," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Conference (SHARP), 2011.

"A Not So Virtual Materiality: Using Student-Created Digital Projects to Teach Book History," SHARP, 2011.

"Rare Books Reloaded," Material Cultures Conference, University of Iowa, 2010.

"Capitola the British Sensation: The British Serialization of E.D.E.N. Southworth's *The Hidden Hand, or Capitola the Madcap*," SSAWW, 2009.

"From Plantation to Pamphlet: Victoria Press's Sociological Revision of Fanny Kemble's *Journal of a Residence on a Georgian Plantation*," British Women Writers Conference, 2009.

"Hype and the Hyper-Archived Nineteenth-Century Book," College Book Arts Association, 2009.

"'Here goes Boz—only a shilling!' American Publication and Distribution of Dickens's *American Notes for General Circulation*," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing Conference, 2007.

Competitive Institutes

American Association of Colleges & Universities, ePortfolios Institute, virtual, 2022.

National Endowment for the Humanities Data Curation Institute, University of Illinois, 2013.

Networked Infrastructure for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship (NINES), Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) Training. Dublin, Ireland, 2009.

Dickens Universe, Santa Cruz, CA, 2006.

Rare Book School Scholarship, Grolier Club, New York, NY, 2006.

Selected Invited Presentations and Workshop Leadership

"Setting Expectations for AI Usage With Your Students," co-authored by Nicole Klein and Margaret Smith, SIUE Faculty Development Workshop, 2023.

"Increasing Student Retention and Success with High Impact Practices," co-authored by John Cabbage, Miriam Rocchia, and Tammy Taylor, SIUE Continuous Improvement Conference, 2023.

"ePortfolio Pedagogy," co-authored by Sarah Laux, Zachary Riebeling, and Margaret Smith, SIUE Faculty Development Workshop, 2023.

"Teaching with WordPress," IRIS Morning Bytes Lecture Series, 2021.

"The Alchemy of Storytelling," keynote address, Community Big Read of Madeline Miller's *Circe*, Edwardsville Public Library, 2021.

"Virtual Programming and Audience Engagement," invited workshop, Illinois Humanities, 2020.

"The Digital Community Engagement Pathway and the Humanities Connections Grant," invited lecture, Association of American State Colleges and Universities, 2020.

"Distant Reading Frederick Douglass," invited workshop, Frederick Douglass and the Literary Crossroads NEH Institute for High School Educators, SIUE, 2019.

"Digital Humanities Pedagogy: Tools and Methods," IRIS Brown Bag Series, 2017.

"Digital Humanities Pedagogy in Theory and Practice," keynote address, Digital Humanities Seminar, University of Kansas, 2016.

"Omeka Basics," SIUE THATCamp, 2016.

"The IRIS Center: Pedagogically-Informed Digital Scholarship Beyond the Research University," co-authored with Kristine Hildebrandt, invited lecture, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2016.

"The IRIS Center and the Apprentice Model," Hands-On Technology in Teaching and Research Symposium, SIUE, 2010.

"Writing Grants for Digital Humanities Projects," Midwest Modern Language Association (MMLA), 2009.

SERVICE

Departmental Service

Search Committee for Tenure-Track Literature Professor in Latinx Studies, 2018 – 2019

Search Committee for Tenure-Track Composition Professor, 2017 – 2018

Graduate Program Director, July 2013 – July 2018

Committee to Revise Annual Review Procedure, December 2012

MA Curriculum Revisions, Literature Sub-Committee, Committee Chair, 2010 – 2013

Search Committee for Tenure-Track Composition Professor, 2010

Department Curriculum Committee, 2011 – present

Undergraduate Mentor, 2010 – present

Graduate Student Advisor, 2011 – 2014, 2020 – present

English Department Undergraduate Assessment, 2009 – 2010

Dan Havens Student Award Selection Committee and Committee Chair, 2008 – 2014

Fellowship of English Education Students and Teachers Sponsor, 2008 – 2009

Student Teacher Screening Committee, 2008 – 2009

Literature Committee, 2008 – present

Ad-Hoc Committee for Revision of Student Evaluations, 2008

College of Arts and Sciences Service

Election Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Congress, 2019 – 2021

CAS Promotion and Tenure Committee Substitute for Kristine Hildebrandt, Fall 2017

Sustainability Pedagogy Roundtable, 2011 – 2013

Research and Projects Committee, 2009 – 2011, Humanities Chair 2009 – 2010

University Service

Lovejoy Library Space Planning Committee, 2022 – present.

Committee Evaluating Centers and Institutes for University Carnegie Classification, 2021

Chair, Committee for Southern Illinois University System Strategic Research & Creative Activities Goal, 2021

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee, 2020.

Climate and Sustainability Action Group, February 2018 – 2022

Edwardsville- SIUE Destination Committee, 2018 – 2019

Illinois Education Research Council Program Review Committee, March – May 2017

Centers and Institutes Program Review Committee, Spring 2017 – Spring 2020

Natural Connections Advisor, 2013 – 2015

E-Textbook Taskforce, 2011 – 2015

Humanities Librarian Search Committee, 2012 – 2013

Professional Service

MLA, Teaching of Literature Executive Forum Representative to the Delegate Assembly, 2024 – present

MLA, Teaching of Literature Forum Executive Committee 2020 – present, Chair 2023 – 2024

Manuscript Review, Oxford University Press, October 2023

Article Review, *Scholarly Editing*, October 2023

National Endowment for the Humanities Review Panel, August 2023

Article Review, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, July 2023

Article Review, *Journal of Electronic Publishing*, May 2023

National Endowment for the Humanities Review Panel, January 2021

Article Review, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*, March 2020

National Endowment for the Humanities Review Panel, December 2018

National Endowment for the Humanities Review Panel, August 2018

Article Review, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, November 2017

Article Review, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, June 2017

Article Review, Open Library for the Humanities, February 2015

Manuscript Review, Ashgate, 2015

Community Service

Edwardsville Public Library, Trustee, 2021 – present

Goshen Market Foundation, Co-Founder and President, 2016 – 2021

Land of Goshen Community Farmer's Market Committee Member, 2010 – 2021