

James Diedrick
Professor of English Emeritus, Agnes Scott College

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EDUCATION

Ph. D., English, University of Washington, 1978; M.A., English, University of Washington, 1974; B.A. Western Washington University, 1973.

POSITIONS HELD

- Professor of English, Agnes Scott College, September 2013-June 2020.
- President, Decatur Book Festival Board, 2017-20; board member, 2012-20.
- Associate Dean of the College and Associate Vice President for Special Programs, Professor of English, Agnes Scott College, January 2005-August 2013.
- Associate Dean of the Faculty, Albion College, May 2003-December 2004.
- Director, Professor, Newberry Library Seminar in the Humanities, Chicago, 2000-2001.
- Co-Director, Professor, Newberry Library Seminar in the Humanities, Chicago, 1993-94.
- Professor, 1995-2004, Associate Professor, 1986-1994, Assistant Professor 1980-86 (tenured 1984), Albion College.
- Assistant Professor, 1978-80, Chapman University, Orange California.
- Teaching Fellow, University of Washington, 1973-78.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS AND AWARDS

- *Mathilde Blind: Late-Victorian Culture and the Woman of Letters* awarded [The South Atlantic Modern Language Association award for best monograph of 2017](#).
- Awarded Agnes Scott College Professional Development grants for research and conference presentations in U.S. and Europe, 2005-19.
- Appointed President of the Decatur Book Festival Board of Directors, 2016-2020.
- Named to a two-year term as Editorial Board member of the [South Atlantic Review](#), 2008-2010.
- Wrote and received three institutional grants for Agnes Scott College: Jesse Ball DuPont grant for development of campus Center for Teaching and Learning (\$110,000); 2006 Teagle Foundation grant [to assess and improve integrative student learning programs](#), in collaboration with Wofford College, Converse College, and the University of North Carolina-Asheville (\$300,000); 2011 Teagle Foundation grant [to improve learning outcomes for underrepresented students](#) in collaboration with Davidson College (\$200,000).
- Awarded British Academy Fellowship for research in London, 2001-2002.
- Appointed Visiting Scholar, Georgia State University, 2001-2002.
- Appointed Newberry Library Fellow, 2000-2001.
- Appointed Howard L. McGregor Professor of the Humanities, Albion College, 1999-2004.
- Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend, 1997.

- Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "Biography and Social History," Newberry Library, Summer 1997.
- Awarded Helm Fellowship, Lilly Library, Summer 1996.
- Appointed Newberry Library Fellow, 1993-94.
- Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "The Romance of History and the Fate of Walter Scott," University of Chicago, Summer, 1990.
- Awarded Short-Term Research Fellowship, Newberry Library, April 1987.
- Awarded Exxon Summer Research Grant, "Creativity and Liberal Learning," Summer 1985.
- Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "The Origins of Romantic Literary Theory," University of Washington, Summer 1983.
- Awarded National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar: "George Eliot and Victorian Novels," Emory University, Summer 1980.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Professor, 2005-20, Agnes Scott College; Professor, 1995-2004 Associate Professor, 1986-1994, Assistant Professor 1980-86 (tenured 1984) Albion College; Assistant Professor, 1978-80, Chapman University; Teaching Fellow, University of Washington, 1973-78.

Courses Taught:

Literature: Introduction to Literature; British Literature Before 1700; British Literature After 1700; The Age of Satire; British Fiction Before 1850; British Fiction After 1850; Dickens and London; Victorian Poetry; Victorian Sexualities; Studies in Modernism; Fiction Into Film; Graphic Memoirs.

Writing: The Craft of Writing; Introduction to Nonfiction Writing; News and Feature Writing.

Interdisciplinary: Leadership and First-Year Seminars, Agnes Scott College; Newberry Library Seminars, Chicago, 1993 and 2000; First-Year Seminars, Albion College, 1998, 1999, 2004.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Books

Mathilde Blind: Selected Fin-de-Siècle Poetry and Prose, Modern Humanities Research Association, 2021.

Mathilde Blind: Late-Victorian Culture and the Woman of Letters, University of Virginia Press (2017).

Understanding Martin Amis, University of South Carolina Press (first edition, 1995; revised and expanded edition, 2004).

Edited or co-edited volumes

Depth of Field: Stanley Kubrick and the Uses of History, ed. Geoffrey Cocks, James Diedrick, and Glenn Perusek, University of Wisconsin Press, 2006.

Articles

Diedrick, James. "Mathilde Blind." *Oxford Bibliographies in "Victorian Literature."* Ed. Lisa Rodensky New York: Oxford University Press, 2022-06-27.

"Mathilde Blind's (Proto-) New Women." *The Latchkey: Journal of New Woman Studies* 9 (Winter 2017/18). <http://www.thelatchkey.org/Latchkey9/essay/Diedrick.htm>.

- “Mathilde Blind.” *The Yellow Nineties Online*, https://beta.1890s.ca/blind_bio/ (posted January 2019).
- “‘The Hectic Beauty of Decay’: Positivist Decadence in Mathilde Blind’s Late Poetry,” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 34 (2006): 631-648.
- “‘My Love is a Force That Will Force You to Care’: Subversive Sexuality in Mathilde Blind’s Dramatic Monologues,” *Victorian Poetry* 40.4 (2002) 359-386.
- “A Pioneering Female Aesthete: Mathilde Blind in the *Dark Blue*,” *The Victorian Periodicals Review* 36.6 (2003): 210-241.
- “The Grotesque Body: Physiology in *The Mill on the Floss*,” *Mosaic, A Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature* 21 (1988): 27-43.
- “The Sublimation of Carnival in Ruskin’s Theory of the Grotesque,” *The Victorian Newsletter* 74 (1988): 11-16.
- “George Eliot’s Experiments in Fiction: *Brother Jacob* and the German Novelle,” *Studies in Short Fiction* 22 (1985): 461-68.
- “Eliot’s Debt to Keller: *Silas Marner* and *Die drei gerechten Kammacher*,” *Comparative Literature Studies* 20 (1983): 376-87.
- “Dickens’s Alter-Ego in *Bleak House*: The Importance of Lawrence Boythorn,” *Dickens Quarterly* 9 (1978): 37-40.

Chapters and entries in books

- “Rough Crossings: The Transatlantic Fate of Pennell’s Life of Mary Wollstonecraft,” in [*Elizabeth Robins Pennell: Critical Essays*](#), ed. Dave Buchanan and Kimberly Morse Jones University of Edinburgh Press, 2021, pp. 33-63.
- “Mathilde Blind,” “Dark Blue.” *Dictionary of Nineteenth-Century Journalism In Great Britain and Ireland*. CD-ROM. Vers. 1.0. London: Academia Press and The British Library, 2009.
- “J. G. Ballard’s ‘Inner Space’ and the Early Fiction of Martin Amis,” in *Martin Amis: Postmodernism and Beyond*, ed. Gavin Keulks, Palgrave, 2006, pp. 180-196.
- “Nonfiction by Martin Amis, 1971-2005,” an annotated bibliography (with M. Hunter Hayes), in *Martin Amis: Postmodernism and Beyond*, ed. Gavin Keulks, Palgrave, 2006, pp. 211-234.
- “Introduction: Deep Focus,” in [*Depth of Field: Stanley Kubrick and the Uses of History*](#), ed. Geoffrey Cocks, James Diedrick, and Glenn Peruses, University of Wisconsin Press, 2006, pp. 3-27.
- “Martin Amis,” “Henry Ashbee,” in *Encyclopedia of Erotic Literature 1*, ed. Gaëtan Brulotte and John Phillips, Routledge, 2006, pp. 23-26, 87-91.
- “The Fiction of Martin Amis: Patriarchy and Its Discontents,” in *Contemporary British Fiction*, ed. J. Lane, Rod Mengham and Philip Tew, Blackwell, 2003, pp. 239-255.
- “[*The Jungle*](#),” in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (University of Chicago Press, 2004), p. 442.
- “[*Ring Lardner and Chicago Sports Reporting*](#),” in *The Encyclopedia of Chicago History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004), p. 214.
- “Mathilde Blind,” in *Nineteenth-Century British Women Writers*, ed. Abigail Burnham Bloom (Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2000), pp. 41-44.
- “Mathilde Blind,” in *Victorian Women Poets: The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. William B. Thesing (Detroit: Gale Research Press, 1998), pp. 28-39.
- “Edith Simcox,” in *British Reform Writers: The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. Gary Kelly and Ed Applegate (Detroit: Gale Research Press, 1998), pp. 289-97.
- “*Jane Eyre* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*,” in [*Approaches to Teaching Jane Eyre*](#), ed. Diane

Long Hoeveler and Beth Lau (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 1993), pp. 22-28.

“Dialogical History in Ivanhoe,” in *Scott in Carnival*, ed. J.H. Alexander and David Hewitt (Aberdeen: Association for Scottish Literary Studies, 1993), pp. 280-293.

“The Polyphonic Novel,” “Heteroglossia.” *The Encyclopedia of Contemporary Literary Theory*, ed. Irena R. Makaryk (Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1993), pp. 551-552, 609-610.

“Charles Dickens,” in *Victorian Prose Writers Before 1867*, vol. 55 of *The Dictionary of Literary Biography*, ed. William B. Thesing (Detroit: Gale Research Press, 1987), pp. 80-90.

Invited Blog Entries

“[You Are in Good Company](#),” May 29 2014. Essay on Mathilde Blind and Michael Field as central figures in London’s community of avant-garde women writers for The Michael Field Centenary Conference: New Directions in Fin de Siècle Studies, Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of London, July 2014..

Reviews

Review of *Blasphemy in Modern Britain: 1789 to the Present*, by David Nash, in *Albion, A Journal of British Studies* 32 (2000): 148-150.

Review of *Original Bliss*, by A.L. Kennedy. *The Richmond Review*, December 1999.

Review of *Lie in the Dark*, by Dan Fesperman. *The Richmond Review*, November 1999.

Review of *Heavy Water and Other Stories*, by Martin Amis. *The Richmond Review*, March 1999.

"Bookered, Innit?" Review of *Amsterdam*, by Ian McEwan, in *Authors Review of Books*, no. 9, January 1999.

"Martin Amis Dresses in Drag." Review of *Night Train*, by Martin Amis, in *Authors Review of Books*, no. 2, November 1998.

Review of *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain: A History from the 1730's to the 1980's*, by D.W. Bebbington, in *Albion, A Journal of British Studies* 23 (1991): 338-340.

Review of *Middlemarch: A Novel of Reform*, by Bert Hornback, in *Michigan Academician* 22 (1989): 87-90.

Review of *Progress and Pessimism: Religion, Politics, and History in Late Nineteenth Century England*, by Jeffrey Paul von Arx, in *Albion, A Journal of British Studies* 19 (1987): 109-11.

Review of *Victorian Noon: English Literature in 1850*, by Carl Dawson, in *Modern Language Quarterly* 40 (1979): 317-19.

Review of *The Victorian Critic and the Idea of History*, by Peter Dale, in *CLIO* 8 (1979): 94-96.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

“Gladstone’s New Women,” North American Victorian Studies Association, March 3 2022.

“Rough Crossings: The Transatlantic Fate of Elizabeth Robins Pennell’s Life of Mary Wollstonecraft.” Victorian Interdisciplinary Association of the Western United States, Seattle, Nov. 9, 2019.

“Exquisite Cruelty: Natural Selection, Literary Decadence, and Mathilde Blind’s ‘The Ascent of Man,’” North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus OH, October 18 2019.

“Gladstone’s Decadent Archive,” British Association for Decadent Studies, Goldsmiths, University of London, July 18, 2019.

“Expatriate Against Empire: Mathilde Blind, Heather on Fire, and ‘A Carnival Episode,’” read at the North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, October 12, 2018.

“‘A dangerous curiosity for an undiscovered world’: Mathilde Blind’s Radical Cosmopolitanism,” British Women Writers Conference, University of North Carolina, Chapel

Hill, June 23, 2017.

“Proto-Modernism in the Poetry of Mathilde Blind and Michael Field,” read at The Michael Field Centenary Conference: New Directions in Fin de Siècle Studies, July 12, 2014, Institute of English Studies, Senate House, University of London.

Famous Amis: Fame and Ego in the Career of Martin Amis," read at the Midwest Modern Language Association Convention, Minneapolis, November 16, 2008.

“‘The Hectic Beauty of Decay’: Positivist Decadence in Mathilde Blind's Late Poetry,” read at the Victorians Institute Conference, University of North Carolina Greenville, April 1, 2005.

“Mathilde Blind’s *Dramas in Miniature* and the Dramatic Monologue at the Fin de Siècle,” read at the Women’s Poetry and the Fin de Siècle Conference, Birkbeck College, June 14, 2002.

“A Pioneering Female Aesthete: Mathilde Blind in *The Dark Blue*,” read at the British Women Writers Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 14, 2002.

“‘The font of being, undefiled’: R/evolutionary feminism in Mathilde Blind's “The Ascent of Man,” read at the British Women Writers Conference, University of Kansas, March 16, 2001.

“Subject to History: The Decentered Self in Martin Amis’s Fiction,” read at the Contemporary British Fiction Symposium, British Library Conference Center, June 2, 1999.

“Vampirism and the Sexual Economy of *Jane Eyre*,” read at the Newberry Library Fellow's Seminar, March 8, 1994.

“Dialogism in *Ivanhoe*,” read at the Fourth International Walter Scott Conference, the University of Edinburgh, August 14, 1991.

“George Eliot and the Salon of Fraulein von Solmar,” read at the Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, D.C., December 29, 1984.

VIDEO APPEARANCE

The Love Chronicles: Love in the Victorian Age. Writer/producer Richard Hall. Videorecording. Arts & Entertainment Network productions, 1999.

REFERENCES

Available on request

--August 2022