

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, 2005-21, Professor Emeritus, 2021-present, 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

"Mary Gladstone: Late-Victorian Hostess, Salonnière—and New Woman." *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature*, 143 (Summer 2023): 1-21.

"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

“Henry George, Olive Schreiner and Mary Gladstone’s turn to Socialism,” Victorians Institute, 8 October 2023.

“Late-Century Freethought: Philosophical Naturalism in Friedrich Nietzsche and Mathilde Blind,” Freethought in the Long Nineteenth Century: New Perspectives, Queen Mary University of London, 9 September 2023.

“Gladstone’s New Women,” North American Victorian Studies Association online conference, 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

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