

MAURA JOSEPHINE SMYTH

Liberal Arts Department, Massachusetts College of Art & Design
621 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02115
msmyth@massart.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of English Literature, Liberal Arts Department, Massachusetts College of Art & Design, Boston, Massachusetts, 2014-Present.

Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2011-2014.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, English Department, Loyola College of Chicago, Chicago, IL, Spring 2011.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, English Department, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL, Spring 2011.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, December 2010 (English).

Committee: Linda Charnes (director), Dana Anderson, Penelope Anderson, Ellen Mackay, Richard Nash

M.A. Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, December 2007 (English).

B.A. University of Maryland, Baltimore County; Baltimore, Maryland, May 2003 (English).

magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Honors in English.

Junior Year Abroad, St. Hilda's College, Oxford University, Oxford, England, 2001-2002.

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Women Writing Fancy: Authorship and Autonomy from 1611 to 1812, 315pp. (Palgrave MacMillan Press, 2017).

Women Writing Fancy tracks the development of Fancy as a singular and routinely feminized form of creativity across the works of William Shakespeare, Francis Bacon, Thomas Hobbes, John Milton, Margaret Cavendish, Aphra Behn, Delarivier Manley, Eliza Haywood, and Anna Barbauld. Refusing the typical scholarly and popular conflation of Fancy and Imagination, I return to the original usage of Fancy in the seventeenth century, when it is first figured as a free-wheeling creative faculty inextricably linked with women (often depicted *as* a woman). Fancy's seeming inconsequentiality (due in no small part to its female associations) is strategic. I demonstrate the implicit danger in faculties that can be trivialized by analyzing how Fancy—when taken seriously—constitutes an alternate genealogy of authorship across the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries (periods usually understood as distinct), and even into the nineteenth and twentieth. I argue that, in the process of carving out unreal, fanciful spaces within the larger, more stolid frame of patriarchal culture, women writers planted Fancy—and, with it, female authorial invention—at the cornerstone of Enlightenment empirical endeavor. Thus Fancy became one of the foundations of the major institutions of modernity: the new science, the modern state, and the early novel.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- “Narrating Originality in *Paradise Lost*.” *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900* 53.1, Winter 2013.
- Review of “Civility as Rhetorical Enactment: The John Ashcroft ‘Debates’ and Burke’s Theory of Form,” by Christopher R. Darr. *KB Journal* 4.2 (2008). www.kbjournal.org.
- “Outer Spaces and Extralinguistic Places: The Poetry of Edwin Morgan.” *UMBC Review*, vol. 5. Eds. Rachel D. Lucke and Keith Lin. (2004): 34-57.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

TEACHING AWARDS FROM INDIANA UNIVERSITY

- Selected as a departmental Teaching Fellow from a competitive pool to teach literature (rather than exclusively composition) courses, Fall 2010.
- Winner: Culbertson Outstanding Teaching Award for an Associate Instructor in her final year, Department of English, Indiana University, March 2009. (Prize honors a single instructor in English out of a pool of about twenty.)
- Winner: Culbertson Outstanding Teaching Award for second-, third, and fourth-year Associate Instructors, Department of English, Indiana University, April 2007. (Prize honors a single instructor out of a pool of about sixty)

COMPETITIVE RESEARCH & WRITING AWARDS

- Milton Fund Award, Harvard University Medical School, December 2013.
- Finalist, Boston Public Library’s Children Writer-in-Residence, August 2013.
- Folger Institute Faculty-Graduate Seminar, “Thinking the Revolution: American Political Thought, 1763-1789,” Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C., Late Spring 2012.
- Junior Fellow, Harvard Society of Fellows, 2011-2014.
- College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Research Fellowship, Indiana University, 2009-2010.
- Travel Grant, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University, May 2010.
- Aphra Behn Society Graduate Student Essay Prize for “Margaret Cavendish’s Worlds of Fancy,” revised from a paper given at the *Aphra Behn and Women in the Arts Conference*, January 2010.
- Travel Grant, Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University, March 2009.
- Parker Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, English Department, Indiana University, April 2007.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

- “Countering the Slow Spread of the Apocalypse in *Parable of the Sower*,” “Transforming Contagion” Symposium, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ. October 23, 2015.
- “Anna Barbauld’s Fanciful Historiography and the Romanticist Imagination,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism Conference, Boston, Massachusetts. August 8-11, 2013.
- “A World of One’s Own: Margaret Cavendish’s Theory of Fancy,” Invited Speaker by Renaissance Colloquium, English Department, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. March 6, 2013.
- “Anna Barbauld’s Bubbly Histories,” Babel Conference: “Cruising in the Ruins: The Question of Disciplinarity in the Post/Medieval University,” Boston, Massachusetts. September 22, 2012.

- “A Collaboration: F*** That,” with Melissa Jones, Babel Conference: “Cruising in the Ruins: The Question of Disciplinarity in the Post/Medieval University,” Boston, Massachusetts. September 21, 2012.
- “Retrieving Ariadne’s Thread in *The New Atalantis* and *Fantomina*,” Early English Literature & Culture at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. November 12, 2010
- “Terror Inverted: The ‘Secret Authors’ of *The Winter’s Tale*,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, Illinois. November 7, 2010.
- “Original Accidents: Narrative and Gender in *Paradise Lost*,” Invited Speaker by the English Department, Adelphi University, Garden City, New York. February 18, 2010.
- “Fancy Underground: Aphra Behn and the Foundation of the Modern Novel,” Invited Speaker by College of Arts Humanities Institute and Renaissance Studies at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. December 11, 2009.
- “‘Recreating the Mind’ and Female Authority: Margaret Cavendish, Daughter of Fancy,” Aphra Beh and Women in the Arts Conference, Lebanon, Tennessee. November 5-7, 2009.
- “‘Her Self Being All She Seeks’: Fancy and Female Authorship in *Paradise Lost*,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Dallas, Texas. October 22-25, 2009.
- “‘Recreating the Mind’: Finding Fancy in Hobbes, Milton and Cavendish,” Early English Literature & Culture at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. December 5, 2008.
- “Desiring Story and Storying Desire in *Paradise Lost*,” Life in the Story Conference at Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio. March 31, 2007.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF LIBERAL ARTS, MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN, BOSTON, MA.

Man Versus Wild and Other Stories We Tell About Nature (Advanced “Summative Elective” Seminar), Spring 2017

Graphic Novels, Spring 2017

Utopian Worlds (Freshman Seminar), Fall 2016

Literary Traditions, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016

Imagining the Imagination (Freshman Seminar), Fall 2014

The End is Near!: Envisioning the Apocalypse and Beyond, Spring 2015

The End is Near!: Envisioning Climate Change through the Apocalypse, Spring 2016

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, LOYOLA COLLEGE OF CHICAGO, CHICAGO, IL.

Imagining The Imagination Through Literary History, Spring 2011.

ADJUNCT ASST. PROFESSOR, ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, LAKE FOREST COLLEGE, LAKE FOREST, IL.

College Writing, Spring 2011.

TEACHING FELLOW, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN.

Shakespeare’s Late Plays, Fall 2010.

ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTOR FOR LARGE LECTURE CLASSES, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN.

Genius, Professor Judith Brown, Fall 2008

Writing Trauma, Professor Susan Gubar, Spring 2008

Generational Stories, Professor Ray Hedin, Fall 2006

INVITED GUEST LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN.

Literary Interpretation, Professor Penelope Anderson, Spring 2009

English Poetry of the Seventeenth Century, Professor Penelope Anderson, Fall 2008

Literatures in English, 1600-1800, Professor Linda Charnes, Spring 2008

INDEPENDENT INSTRUCTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON, IN.

Elementary Composition, Fall 2004, Spring 2005

Elementary Composition for Basic Writers, Fall 2005, Spring 2006

Introduction to College Composition, Summer 2005 & 2007

Professional Writing, Summer 2006, Fall 2007, Spring 2007 & 2009

TEACHING INTERESTS

Comics and Graphic Narratives, Utopias and Dystopias, Apocalyptic Literature and Film, Climate Fiction, Nature Writing, History of Science and Literature, Women's Writing, British and Transatlantic Literature and Culture of the Early Modern Period to the Twentieth Century (especially Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries); Milton and Shakespeare Studies.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, MASSACHUSETTS COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Co-Chair, Liberal Arts Liaison Initiative (or LALI), Spring 2016-Present

Chair, Liberal Arts Vision Committee, Summer 2015-Present

Member, Liberal Arts Curriculum Committee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

Member, Liberal Arts Lila Chaplin Award Committee, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017

Volunteer, *MassArt Writes!*, Spring 2015

COLLEGE-WIDE SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, *Center of Vision* (MassArt's news magazine), Spring 2015-Present

Secretary, Massachusetts College of Art & Design chapter of the Massachusetts State College Association, Fall 2015-Present

President's Inauguration Planning Committee, Spring 2017-Present

Board Member, Sustainability Incubator Advisory Board, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEES

Civic Engagement Committee, Fall 2015-Present

Student Affairs Committee, Fall 2014-Spring 2015