

# RACHEL ALISON GEVLIN

Department of English, Virginia Commonwealth University  
Hibbs Hall  
900 Park Ave.  
Box 842005  
Richmond, VA 23284  
gevlinra@vcu.edu

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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- 2023-Present Term Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Virginia  
Affiliate Faculty, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University (2024-present)
- 2021-2023 Assistant Professor, Birmingham-Southern College, Birmingham, Alabama\*  
\*On leave in AY 2023-2024; permanently left position upon the closure of the college in 2024
- 2020-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor, Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois

## EDUCATION

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- 2020 **Ph.D., English, Duke University**  
Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies  
Graduate Certificate in College Teaching  
Dissertation: *Divorcing the Rake: Male Chastity and the Rise of the Novel, 1753-1857*  
Committee: Charlotte Sussman (director); Nancy Armstrong; Kathy Psomiades;  
James Thompson (UNC Chapel Hill)
- 2018 **M.A., English, Duke University**
- 2010 **B.A., Interdisciplinary, Bennington College**  
Focus in Literature, Mathematics, and Italian

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Under Review "The First Divorced Husband," *Persuasions*
- 2024 "Jane Austen: Protofeminist, Postfeminist, Bad Feminist," *Persuasions* 45 (April 2024)
- 2024 "Eighteenth-Century Proud Boys; Or, Why Sir Charles Grandison is (a) No Wanker," included in a special issue on "Refusing Eighteenth-Century Fictions," *ECF* 36.2 (April 2024)
- 2020 "Adulterous Austen: Educating the Rake in *Sense and Sensibility* and *Mansfield Park*," *ELH* 87.4 (Winter 2020)

### Book Reviews

- Forthcoming *Sacred Engagements: Interfaith Marriage, Religious Toleration, and the British Novel, 1750-1820*, by Alison Conway, reviewed in *Studies in the Novel*

Forthcoming *Masculinity and Danger on the Eighteenth-Century Grand Tour*, by Sarah Goldsmith, reviewed in *Eighteenth-Century Life*

2019 *Why They Can't Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities* (Johns Hopkins UP, 2018) and *The Writer's Practice* (Penguin, 2019), by John Warner, *Carolina Quarterly* ([link](#))

### Public Scholarship

2022 "What Novels Can Tell Us About Gendered Responses to Adultery," *The Academic Minute*, WAMC, August 3, 2022 ([link](#))

2022 "People couldn't look away from the Johnny Depp and Amber Heard trial – the appeal of a relationship drama held true in the 1700s, too," *The Conversation*, June 17, 2022 ([link](#))

### Monograph in Progress

*Divorcing the Rake: Male Restraint and the Development of the Novel*, manuscript under preparation for submission

### Articles in Progress

"Taking Her Last Name: Coverture and Inheritance in *Cecilia* and *The Woman of Colour*," article under preparation for submission to *Eighteenth-Century Studies*

"Four Women: Bad Marriages in the Era of No Divorce," article under preparation for submission to *Nineteenth Century Studies*

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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### Research Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

- 2024-2025 Faculty Council Research and Professional Development Grant, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Summer 2024 Huntington Library Travel Grant, Parliamentary Archives, London
- Summer 2023 Jane Austen Scholar-in-Residence, Goucher College
- Summer 2022 Mayers Fellow, Huntington Library
- 2020-2021 Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Duke University (declined)
- 2020 Catherine Macaulay Prize, Women's Caucus, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies  
*Awarded for best graduate student paper on a feminist or gender studies subject*
- 2019-2020 Kenan Institute for Ethics Fellow  
*Awarded for outstanding research engaging in significant normative issues*
- 2019 Ernestine Friedl Research Award, Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, Duke University
- 2018-2020 PhD Lab in Digital Knowledge Fellowship, Franklin Humanities Institute
- 2017 Grant-in-Aid, Folger Institute, to attend "Conjugality and Early Modern Political Thought," taught by Professor Sharon Achinstein

### Teaching Awards and Fellowships

- 2024 Lift Award, Virginia Commonwealth University  
*Awarded in support of "Teaching the Eighteenth Century with AI"*
- 2020 Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Fellowship, Duke Graduate School  
*Awarded for a teaching assistantship with Gender, Sexuality, & Feminist Studies*
- 2019 Data Expeditions Award (canceled due to COVID-19)  
*Awarded in support of a digital humanities instructorship for the spring of 2020*
- 2019-2020 Preparing Future Faculty (PFF) Fellow  
*Faculty mentor: Dr. Kevin Bourque, Elon University*
- 2018 Anne T. and Robert M. Bass Instructional Fellowship, Duke Graduate School  
*Awarded for excellence in syllabus and course design*

**Service Fellowships and Grants**

- 2020 Reimagining Doctoral Education Fellowship (declined)
- 2019 Duke Graduate School Professional Development Grant  
*Awarded on behalf of the English Department*

**INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, AND MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED)**

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**Invited Talks**

- May 2025 Invited participant for "Vicky Fem: The Ongoing Work of Feminist Knowledge Production," seminar at the Society for Novel Studies Conference, Durham, NC
- Oct. 2024 "The First Divorced Husband," Invited Breakout Speaker at the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Cleveland
- Jan. 2024 "Pride and Prejudice and Feminism," JASNA, Washington DC Metropolitan Region Chapter (Zoom)
- Nov. 2023 "Jane Austen: Protofeminist, Postfeminist, Bad Feminist," Invited Breakout Speaker at the JASNA AGM in Denver
- May 2021 "Adultery in Jane Austen's World," JASNA, Washington DC Metropolitan Region Chapter (Zoom)
- Feb. 2021 "Why Invest in the Humanities?," Frontline Fundraisers, Duke Graduate School

**Conference Presentations and Panels Chaired**

- Mar./Apr. 2025 Co-Chair (with Bridget Donnelly) of "Teaching the Eighteenth Century with AI." Panel at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), Online Conference
- Apr. 2024 "Trials for Adultery; or, the History of the Where, When, How of Sex." Paper presented at ASECS, Toronto, CA
- Apr. 2024 "The Chronotope of Boredom." Roundtable participant for "The Boring Eighteenth Century?" at ASECS, Toronto, CA
- Mar. 2023 "The Eighteenth-Century Bigamy Plot." Paper presented at ASECS, St. Louis, MO
- Apr. 2022 "Taking Her Last Name: Coverture and Inheritance in *Cecilia* and *The Woman of Colour*." Seminar participant for "Women and the Law," ASECS, Baltimore, MD
- Apr. 2022 Chair of "Unusual Contracts." Panel at ASECS, Baltimore, MD

- Mar. 2020/2021 (Postponed) Chair of “The Sexless Eighteenth Century,” with respondent Jacob Sider Jost. Panel at ASECS, Online Conference
- Mar. 2020/2021 (Postponed) “Horrorifying Sex: Paranoia and Male Chastity in *The Mysteries of Udolpho*.” Paper presented at ASECS, Online Conference
- Mar. 2019 “Voluntary Celibates; or Why Sir Charles Grandison is (a) No Wanker.” Paper presented at ASECS, Denver, CO
- Mar. 2019 “Returning to *Grandison*: Idealized Masculinity After #MeToo.” Roundtable participant at ASECS, Denver, CO
- Mar. 2018 Chair of “Non-monogamy in the Eighteenth Century.” Panel at ASECS, Orlando, FL
- Mar. 2017 “*Love in Excess*, Deviousness in Abundance: Legal Autonomy of Haywood’s Scheming Women.” Paper presented at ASECS, Minneapolis, MN
- Jan. 2016 “Vagrancy and the Idyll in *Joseph Andrews*.” Paper presented at the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (BSECS), St. Hugh’s College, Oxford, UK

### Media Contributions

- Aug. 2022 “Johnny Depp fans flooded social media to discredit Amber Heard. Now they’re doing the same to take down Marilyn Manson’s accuser Evan Rachel Wood,” by Sirena Bergman, *Insider*, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 ([link](#))
- Feb. 2021 “When Nick Cave’s Truth Was Told in Kinderhook, New York,” by Laura van Straaten, *Hyperallergic*, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 ([link](#))

## TEACHING

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### (Last Taught) Instructor of Record – Virginia Commonwealth University (Graduate)

- Spring 2024 ENGL 606: Literary Criticism  
*A graduate-level comparative study of critical approaches to literature*

### Instructor of Record – Virginia Commonwealth University (Undergraduate)

- Fall 2024 ENGL 412: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Studies: Bad Romances  
*Advanced course on marital breakdown, separation, and divorce in eighteenth-century fiction*
- Fall 2024 ENGL 335: British Literature of the Romantic Era  
*A survey of representative literature from the Romantic Era*
- Fall 2024 ENGL 204: British Literature II  
*Historical survey of British Literature from Romanticism to the present*
- Spring 2024 ENGL 480: Jane Austen  
*Advanced single author course focusing on gender and adaptation*
- Spring 2024 ENGL 331: Restoration and 18<sup>th</sup>-Century British Literature  
*A survey of representative literature from the long 18th century*
- Spring 2024 ENGL 311: Introduction to Literary Theory  
*An introduction to literary criticism and theoretical methods*
- Fall 2023 ENGL 332: 18<sup>th</sup>-Century British Novels and Narratives  
*Advanced course on the history and reception of the early novel*
- Fall 2023 ENGL 236/GSWS 236: Women in Literature

*A brief history of feminism through the lens of short fiction and poetry*

- Fall 2023 ENGL 215: Reading Literature: The Literature of Memory (2 sections)  
*Introductory course emphasizing critical thinking and close reading*

**Research Supervision – Virginia Commonwealth University**

- 2025 Moira Neve, *Desire Paths to Utopia: Literary studies and Queer futurity in Urania*, Third Reader

**Instructor of Record – Birmingham-Southern College**

- Spring 2023 EH 330: Jane Austen: Gender and Adaptation  
*Advanced single author course focusing on gender and adaptation*
- Spring 2023 GWS 200: Introduction to Gender and Women Studies  
*Introductory course in theories of the social construction of gender*
- Spring 2023 EH 102: Seminar in Critical Thinking and Writing (4 sections)  
*First-year composition course themed around “social isolation”*
- Winter 2023 EH E299: Representing Pandemics  
*A study of literary, artistic, journalistic, and scientific representations of three historical pandemics*
- Fall 2022 EH 410: Studies in the Novel (2 sections)  
*Advanced genre studies course on the history and theory of the novel*
- Fall 2022 EH 200: Introduction to Literature (2 sections)  
*Introductory course in critical approaches to poetry, prose, and drama*
- Spring 2022 EH 232: Eighteenth-Century Black Lives  
*Study of Black abolitionist writing in Britain and the US from 1688-1865*
- Spring 2022 EH 277: The Womanizer in Literature: from Don Juan to Don Draper  
*Special topics survey course cross-listed with Gender and Women Studies*
- Spring 2022 EH C397: R3 Pre-Professional Internship I  
*Guided magazine internship with a focus on race and gender in media*

**Instructor of Record – Monmouth College**

- Spring 2021 ENGL 221: British Survey II  
*Historical survey of British literature from the eighteenth century to modernism*
- Spring 2021 ENGL 110: Reading and Writing the Pandemic (4 sections)  
*First-year composition and argument course*
- Fall 2020 ENGL 337: The Origins of the Novel  
*Advanced genre studies course*

**Instructor of Record – Duke University**

- Spring 2019 WRITING 101: Community & Isolation  
*First-year composition course, Thompson Writing Program*
- Fall 2018 ENG 246: Jane Austen  
*Advanced single-author course*
- Spring 2018 ENG 90S: The Womanizer in Literature: From Don Juan to Don Draper  
*Cross-listed (Gender, Sexuality, & Feminist Studies) survey seminar*

**Teaching Assistant – Duke University**

- Fall 2017 ENG 377: The Contemporary Novel in a Global Context, Prof. Aarthi Vadde  
Spring 2017 ENG 246: Jane Austen, Prof. Charlotte Sussman  
Spring 2016 ENG 346: Victorian Poetry, Prof. Kathy Psomiades  
Spring 2015 ENG 277: The Novel, Live!, Prof. Michael Moses

### **Selected Pedagogical Training**

- 2024 Institute for Inclusive Teaching, Virginia Commonwealth University  
2018-2019 Thompson Writing Program Pedagogy Training, Duke University  
Spring 2019 Digital Pedagogy (Seminar)  
Fall 2018 Teaching Race, Teaching Gender (Seminar)  
Summer 2011 United States Peace Corps Pedagogy Training, Burkina Faso

## **DEPARTMENTAL, UNIVERSITY, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### **American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies**

- 2021-2024 Catherine Macaulay Prize Committee (Chair, 2023-24)

### **Ongoing Journal Manuscript Reviewer**

*Studies in English Literature* (2024), *Women's Writing* (2023), *Midwest Journal of Undergraduate Research* (2021)

### **Virginia Commonwealth University**

- 2023-2024 Member, English Department Awards Committee

### **Birmingham-Southern College**

- 2022-2023 Student Advising  
2022-2023 Member, Student Life Committee  
2022-2023 Coordinator and BSC Representative, BACHE Visiting Writer Series  
2021-2022 Search Committee Member, Contemporary International Literature position

### **Monmouth College**

- 2021 Faculty Judge, Effing Thompson Essay Contest  
2021 Faculty Interviewer, Wallace Founders Scholarship  
2020-2021 Member, Admissions and Academic Status Committee (AASC)

### **Duke University**

- 2020-2023 Young Alumni Representative, Graduate School Board of Visitors, Duke University  
2017-2019 Duke University Departmental Representative, Graduate English Association, Duke University  
2019 Co-organizer, English Department's Alt-Ac Professionalization Panel, Duke University  
2017-2018 Co-organizer, English Department's Works in Progress Panel, Duke University

- 2018 Co-organizer, English Department's TT Professionalization Panel, Duke University  
2018, 2019 Co-organizer, English Department Graduate Recruitment

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL, RESEARCH, AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

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- 2020-2021 ESL Volunteer Instructor, World Relief Services, Moline, Illinois  
2016, 2019 Copy Editor, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*  
2017-2018 Writing Consultant, Pratt Master's Communication Center, Duke University  
Fall 2016 Writing Consultant, Thompson Writing Program, Duke University  
2011-2013 Peace Corps Volunteer, United States Peace Corps, Burkina Faso  
*Middle school math teacher; facilitator of sex education clubs and camps*

### **LANGUAGES**

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French: Advanced proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking  
Italian: Basic proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)  
East-Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (EC/ASECS)  
Modern Language Association (MLA)  
Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA)

### **REFERENCES**

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**Charlotte Sussman** (dissertation director)  
Professor of English, Duke University  
Campus Box 90017, Durham, NC 27708  
charlotte.sussman@duke.edu  
(919) 684-2741

**Tynes Cowan** (former department chair)  
Professor of English, Birmingham-Southern College (see note under "Professional Appointments")  
cowantynes85@gmail.com

**Marlo Belschner** (former department chair)  
Professor of English, Monmouth College  
Mellinger 204, 700 E Broadway, Monmouth, IL 61462  
mmb@monmouthcollege.edu  
(309) 457-2377

**Melissa Ganz**  
Associate Professor of English, Marquette University  
Marquette Hall, 115, 1217 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233  
melissa.ganz@marquette.edu  
(414) 288-7179

**Mary Mintz**

President, Jane Austen Society of North America  
Associate Librarian, American University  
Bender Library 134, 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC 20016  
mmintz@american.edu  
(202) 885-3243

**Kathy Psomiades**

Associate Professor of English, Duke University  
Campus Box 90017, Durham, NC 27708  
kathy.psomiades@duke.edu  
(919) 684-5444

**Nancy Armstrong**

Gilbert, Louis, and Edward Lehrman Professor of English, Duke University  
Campus Box 90017, Durham, NC 27708  
n.b.armstrong@duke.edu  
(919) 668-0314