

Margaret Sönser Breen
Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
University of Connecticut, Storrs

Date of First appointment: Sept. 1996

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1993 Rutgers University, English
A.B. 1984 Princeton University, German, *cum laude*

DISSERTATION

“The Heroine’s Progress: Configurations of Female *Bildung* from John Bunyan to Jane Rule.”

EXPERIENCE

Fall 2015	Acting Associate Head, English
Spr 2015	Acting Co-Director, WGSS
2012-2013	Acting Department Head, English
2011-	Professor, University of Connecticut
2010-2012	Associate Department Head, English, University of Connecticut
2004-2016	Joint Appointment in English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
2002-2011	Associate Professor, University of Connecticut
1996-2002	Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut
1995-1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Hartwick College
1994-1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Connecticut
1990	Lecturer, University of Perugia (“La Sapienza”), Italy

RESEARCH INTERESTS

LGBTQ Literature, Feminist and Queer Theory, the Novel.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Editor, *Critical Insights: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality*. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2014. 320 pages.

Editor, *Critical Insights: Good and Evil*. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012. 312 pages.

Narratives of Queer Desire: Deserts of the Heart. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. 208 pages.

Editor (with Fiona Peters), *Genealogies of Identity: Interdisciplinary Readings on Sex and Sexuality*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005. 266 pages.

Editor, *Minding Evil: Explorations of Human Iniquity*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005. 281 pages.

Editor (with Warren J. Blumenfeld), *Butler Matters: Judith Butler's Impact on Feminist and Queer Studies*. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005. 236 pages.

[Reprint of most of "Butler Matters: Judith Butler's Impact on Feminist and Queer Studies Since Gender Trouble," eds. Margaret Sönser Breen and Warren J. Blumenfeld. *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* (Special double issue), 6:1-3 (January and April 2001). The volume also includes two new essays and a new interview with Butler.]

Editor (with Richard Paul Hamilton), *This Thing of Darkness: Perspectives on Evil and Human Wickedness*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2004. 159 pages.

Editor, *Truth, Reconciliation, and Evil*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2004. 259 pages.

Editor, *Understanding Evil: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2003. 222 pages.

Edited Journal Issues

With Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou. "The Politics of Location': Feminist and Queer Spaces within Global Contexts" (Special issue). *Gamma/Γράμμα: Journal of Theory and Criticism* 25 (2018). <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/gramma/>.

"Strange Bedfellows: Queer Negotiations with Homophobia in the Arts, Politics, and Religion" (Special issue). *The International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 6:4 (October 2001).

With Warren J. Blumenfeld. "Butler Matters: Judith Butler's Impact on Feminist and Queer Studies since Gender Trouble" (Special double issue). *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 6:1-3 (January and April 2001).

Articles and Book Chapters

With Katerina Kitsi-Mitakou. "An Introduction to 'The Politics of Location': Feminist and Queer Spaces within Global Contexts." *Gramma/Γράμμα: Journal of Theory and Criticism* 25 (2018): 2-8. <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/gramma/>.

"The Locations of Politics: Highsmith's *The Price of Salt*, Haynes' *Carol*, and American Post-War and Contemporary Cultural Landscapes." *Gramma/Γράμμα: Journal of Theory and Criticism* 25 (2018): 9-29. <https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/gramma/>.

"Race, Dissent, and Literary Imagination in John Bunyan and James Baldwin." *Bunyan Studies* 21 (2017): 8-31.

"Coming of Age within the Secret Annex: Dislocations and 'Frankness' in Anne Frank's *Diary of a Young Girl*." *Critical Insights: The Diary of a Young Girl*, eds. Ruth Amir and Pnina Rosenberg, 40-59. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2017.

"Translation Failure in James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*." *Queer in Translation*, eds. B. J. Epstein and Robert Gillett, 64-76. London: Routledge, 2017.

"LGBTQ Literature: 1890-1969" and "LGBT Literature: 1969 to the Present." *Critical Insights: LGBTQ Literature*, ed. Robert C. Evans, 3-18; 19-34. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2015.

"Sexual Orientation: Lost and Found—Storytelling, Mentorship, and Ethical Responsibility." *How to Build a Life in the Humanities: Meditations on the Academic Work-Life Balance*, eds. Greg Colón Semenza and Garrett A. Sullivan, Jr., 193-200. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

"The Pilgrim's Art of Failure and Belonging." *Bunyan Studies* 18 (2014): 61-77.

"About this Volume" and "On Gender, Sex, and Sexuality: Reading Gender, Sex, and Sexuality through Memoirs of Trauma." *Critical Insights: Gender, Sex, and Sexuality*, ed. Margaret Sönser Breen, vii-xiv; xv-xxxii. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2014.

"The Presence of Adrienne Rich in Feminist and Queer Theory." *Queer Sexualities: Staking Out New Territories in Queer Studies*, ed. Anne Worthington, 3-26. Oxford, UK: Inter-Disciplinary Press, 2013.

"About this Volume" and "On Good and Evil: 'The Thing Needed': Storytelling as Transformative Touch." *Critical Insights: Good and Evil*, ed. Margaret Sönser Breen, vii-

xiv; 1-22. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2012.

“Homosexual Identity, Translation, and Prime-Stevenson’s *Imre* and *The Intersexes*.” *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture* 14.1 (March 2012): 1-9.
<http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol14/iss1/5>.

[Reprinted as “Sexual Identity and Translation in Prime-Stevenson’s Work.” *Companion to Comparative Literature, World Literatures, and Comparative Cultural Studies*, 434-446. Steven Tötösy de Zepetnek and Tutun Mukherjee, eds. New Delhi: Cambridge UP India, 2013.]

“Gender and Translation: Writing as Resistance in Primo Levi’s *Se questo è un uomo*.” *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms*. 16:2 (March 2011): 147-165.

“The Evils of [Same] Sex: The U.S. Gay Marriage Debate.” *Minding Evil: Explorations of Human Iniquity*, ed. Margaret Sönsler Breen, 171-185. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2005.

“Unintelligible Genders in *The Metamorphosis* and *The Well of Loneliness*.” *Butler Matters: Judith Butler’s Impact on Feminist and Queer Studies*, eds. Margaret Sönsler Breen and Warren Blumenfeld, 147-160. Aldershot: Ashgate, 2005.

“Heroes and Monsters: The Politics of Survival in *Spider-man* and ‘A Long Line of Vendidas.’” *Truth, Reconciliation, and Evil*, ed. Margaret Sönsler Breen, 181-196. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2004.

“Reading for Constructions of the Unspeakable in Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*.” *Understanding Evil: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, ed. Margaret Sönsler Breen, 39-49. Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2003.

[Reprinted as “Reading for Constructions of the Unspeakable in Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*.” *Critical Insights: The Metamorphosis*, 119-132. James Whitlark, ed. Ipswich, MA: Salem Press, 2011.]

“Radclyffe Hall, E. Lynn Harris, and Franz Kafka: Christianity, Queerness, and the Politics of Normalcy.” In “Strange Bedfellows: Queer Negotiations with Homophobia in the Arts, Politics, and Religion” (Special issue), ed. Margaret Sönsler Breen. *The International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 6:4 (October 2001): 231-234 (issue introduction); 293-304.

With Warren J. Blumenfeld, “Introduction” and, with Warren J. Blumenfeld and others, “Interview.” In “Butler Matters: Judith Butler’s Impact on Feminist and Queer Studies since Gender Trouble” (Special double issue), eds. Margaret Sönsler Breen and Warren J. Blumenfeld. *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 6:1-3 (January and April 2001): 1-5; 7-23.

“*Desert of the Heart: Jane Rule’s Puritan Outing.*” *The Puritan Origins of American Sex*, eds. Tracy Fessenden, Nicholas Radel, and Magdalena Zaborowska, 235-252. New York: Routledge, 2000.

“Mobility and Privilege within Queer Studies and University.” *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 5:1 (January 2000): 59-69.

“Professor Petcock, or How the Academy Turns on Queer Studies.” *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity*, 4:3 (July 1999): 257-264.

“‘Falling Into a Place’: Reading for Renewal as Queer Pedagogy.” *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity* 3:3 (July 1998): 233-244.

“Christiana’s Rudeness: Spiritual Authority in *The Pilgrim’s Progress.*” *Bunyan Studies* 7 (1997): 96-111.

“Narrative Inversion: The Biblical Heritage of *The Well of Loneliness* and *Desert of the Heart.*” *Journal of Homosexuality* 33:3-4: 187-206.

[Simultaneously printed in *Reclaiming the Sacred: The Bible in Gay and Lesbian Culture*, ed. Raymond-Jean Frontain, 187-206. New York and London: Harrington Park Press, 1997.]

[Modified version printed in *Reclaiming the Sacred: The Bible in Gay and Lesbian Culture*, ed. Raymond-Jean Frontain, 187-208. Second Edition. New York and London: Harrington Park Press, 2003.]

“‘Who Are You, Lucy Snowe?’ Disoriented *Bildung* in *Villette.*” *Dickens Studies Annual: Essays on Victorian Fiction* 24 (1995): 241-257.

“Silas Marner—George Eliot’s Male Heroine.” *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies* 28-29 (September 1995): 1-15.

“The Sexed Pilgrim’s Progress.” *SEL* 32:3 (Summer 1992): 443-460.

“The Feminine Position of Auditor in Yeats’s *Purgatory.*” *Colby Library Quarterly* 25:1 (March 1989): 42-54.

Reports and Reviews

Review of *Pandora’s Senses: The Feminine Character of the Ancient Text* by Vered Lev Kanaan. *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms. Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 19.6 (Sept 2014): 787.

Report on “John Bunyan: Conscience, History and Justice.” The Seventh

Triennial Conference of the International John Bunyan Society, Princeton University, 12–16 August 2013. *Bunyan Studies* 17 (2013): 152-155.

Review of *Franz Kafka: The Office Writings*, edited by Stanley Corngold, Jack Greenberg, and Benno Wagner. *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms. Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 18:5 (Aug 2013): 651-652.

Review of *The Apologetics of Evil: The Case of Iago* by Richard Raatzsch. *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms. Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 17:1 (February 2012): 108-109.

Review of *American Hungers* by Gavin Jones. *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms. Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 16:4 (July 2011): 541-542.

Review of *Coping with Evil in Religion and Culture*, edited by Nelly van Doorn-Harder and Lourens Minnema. *The European Legacy: Toward New Paradigms. Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 15:6 (October 2010): 786.

Review of *The Key in the Mirror: Marginal Notes in Bunyan's Narratives*, by Maxine Hancock. *The Recorder: Publication of the International John Bunyan Society* 8 (March 2003): 13-14.

Review of *Awakening Words: John Bunyan and the Language of Community*, by David Gay, James Randall, and Arlette Zinck, eds. *The Recorder: Publication of the International John Bunyan Society* 7 (March 2001): 17-19.

Review of *Passionate Communities: Reading Lesbian Resistance in Jane Rule's Fiction*, by Marilyn R. Schuster. *Journal of Homosexuality*, 40:2: 127-131.

Review of *Queer Theory in Education*, William F. Pinar, ed. *The International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies* 5:4 (October 2000): 355-357.

Review of *Dawn of the Dance*, by Marianne K. Martin and *Silver Threads*, by Lyn Denison. *Journal of Lesbian Studies* Summer 2000: 140-143.

Review of *Lesbian Panic: Homoeroticism in Modern British Women's Fiction*, by Patricia Juliana Smith. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity* 3:4 (October 1998): 355-59.

Review of *The Apparitional Lesbian*, by Terry Castle; *Lesbian Erotics*, by Karla Jay, ed.; *Heterosexual Plots and Lesbian Narratives*, by Marilyn Farwell; and *Following Djuna: Women Lovers and the Erotics of Loss*, by Carolyn Allen. *Journal of Homosexuality* 36:1 (1998): 108-113.

Review of *Poisoned Ivy: Lesbian and Gay Academics Confronting Homophobia*, by Toni

McNaron. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Identity* 3:2 (1998): 175-178.

Review of *Heterosexual Plots & Lesbian Narratives*, by Marilyn Farwell. *Journal of Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Identity* 2:2 (April 1997): 167-171.

Review of *The Power of Lies: Transgression in Victorian Fiction*, by John Kucich. *George Eliot-George Henry Lewes Studies* 30-31 (April 1996): 87-90.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Narratives of Queer Desire.” GLBTQ: An Encyclopedia of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Culture. <http://www.glbtq.com/sfeatures/breenpov.html>. August 1, 2010. 4672 words.

“Lesbian Autobiography.” Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*. Revised Edition, ed. Claude Summers, New York: Routledge, 2002.

“Sarah Waters.” Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*. Revised Edition.

“Jane Rule.” Entry in *The Cambridge Guide to Women’s Writing*. Cambridge UP, 1999.

“Jane Rule.” Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Biography*. St. James Press, 1996.

“Isabel Miller.” Co-authored with Elsa A. Bruguier. Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*, ed. Claude Summers. New York: Henry Holt, 1995.

“Jane Rule.” Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*.

“Ann Shockley.” Co-authored with Elsa A. Bruguier. Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*.

“Edith Somerville.” Entry in *Gay and Lesbian Literary Heritage*.

Selected Conferences, Lectures, Talks:

“The Locations of Politics: Highsmith’s *The Price of Salt*, Todd Haynes’ Film *Carol*, and American Post-War and Contemporary Cultural Landscapes,” AAAS, Salzburg, November 2017.

“Race, Dissent, and Literary Imagination from Bunyan to Baldwin and Morrison to Black Lives Matter,” International John Bunyan Conference, Aix-en-Provence, July 2016.

“James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room* and Translation,” James Baldwin Conference, American University of Paris, Paris, May 2016.

“‘A classic is something with a basic human situation’—The Queer Cultural Resonance of *The Price of Salt* and *Carol*,” Highsmith Queer and Now: A Symposium, University of Cincinnati. Cincinnati, April 2016.

“Translation Failure in James Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*,” Queering Translation/ Translating the Queer Conference, University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria, March 2015.

“The Pilgrim’s Art of Failure and Belonging—Dialogues between Bunyan and Queer Studies,” International John Bunyan Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, August, 2013.

“Stories of Healing and Haunting: Trauma and the Turn toward Memoir,” Conference on Storytelling, Prague, May, 2013.

“Queer Translation: Prime-Stevenson’s *Imre* (1906),” Conference on Queer Sexualities, Learning Solutions, Warsaw, Poland, May 2011.

“Queer Translation: Prime-Stevenson’s *Imre* (1906) and *The Intersexes* (1908) and Emergence of Homosexual Identity,” Invited Talk, Symposium on the German Discovery of Sex, Clark University, April 2011.

“Gender and Translation: Writing as Resistance in Primo Levi’s *Se questo è un uomo*,” Lessons and Legacies XI Conference, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, November 2010.

“Not at Home: Representations of Lesbian Domesticity in North American Literature, 1950-2000,” Invited Lecture, Karl-Franzens Universität, Graz, Austria, October 2009.

“The Marriage Equality Movement,” Invited Lecture, University of Brno, Czech Republic, October 2009.

“Queer Nations: The Figure of Translation in Almodóvar,” MLA, San Francisco, December 2008.

“Reading Lesbian Novels alongside Bunyan,” International John Bunyan Society, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, August 2007.

Panel Organizer and Moderator, “Queerness and Race: Praxes, Strategies, Theories,” MLA, Philadelphia, December 2006.

Conference Organizer and Presenter, “Trussed/Trust/Dressed in Translation,” International Conference on Sex and Sexuality, Learning Solutions, Krakow, November-December 2006.

“Remaking Gendered Systems of Story in *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *The Way the Crow*

Flies,” Conference on Evil and Wickedness, Salzburg, March 2006.

Conference Organizer and Keynote Speaker, Second International Conference on Sex and Sexuality, Learning Solutions, Vienna, November-December 2005.

Conference Organizer, International Conference on Sex and Sexuality, Learning Solutions, Salzburg, October 2004.

“The Evils of [Same] Sex: The U.S. Gay Marriage Debate,” Conference on Evil and Wickedness, Learning Solutions, CERGE-EI, Prague, March 2003.

“Unintelligible Genders in *Die Verwandlung* and *The Well of Loneliness*,” ACLA, UC-San Marcos, San Marcos, CA, April 2003.

“Heroes and Monsters: The Politics of Survival in *Spider-man* and “A Long Line of *Vendidas*,” Conference on Evil and Wickedness, Learning Solutions, Anglo-American College, Prague, March 2003.

“Reading for Constructions of the Unspeakable: Teaching Kafka’s *Metamorphosis*,” Conference on Evil and Wickedness, Learning Solutions, Anglo-American College, Prague, March 2002.

“Strange Bedfellows,” Panel Organizer, SCMLA, San Antonio, Texas, November 2000.

“When ‘Coming Out’ Means ‘Staying In’: Queerness, Christianity, and the Politics of Normalcy,” Silence and Expression Conference, Texas A & M, March 2000.

“Gay and Lesbian Literature and Censorship,” Queer Youth Conference, SUNY-Binghamton, May 1999.

“Professor Petcock, Or How The Academy Turns On Queer Studies,” SCMLA, New Orleans, November 1998.

“Jane Rule’s Puritan Outing,” International John Bunyan Society Conference, University of Sterling, Scotland, September 1998.

Interview

“*The Pilgrim’s Progress* and Lesbian Novels.” What’s the Word, MLA Radio Program. Interview with Sally Placksin, recorded April 2007.

Service, Selected Assignments

Advisory Board Member, Rainbow Center: Office on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Student Issues, 1997-2016

Provost's Centers and Institutes Committee, 2013-2016
Dean's Advisory Council (PTR), 2010-2012
Department of English, Regional Campus Change Advisor, 2008-2010
Department of English, Regional Campus Liaison, 2013-present
Department of English, Curriculum Committee, 2005-2006, 2010-2013
Department of English, Executive Committee, 1999-2001; 2004-2005; 2010-2012; 2015
Department of English Merit Committee, 1998-2000; 2005-2007
Department of English Promotion, Tenure, and Reappointment Committee, 2003-2005, 2006-2008 (Chair 06-07), 2013-15; 2017-2019
Senate, English Department Representative, 2002-2005, 2008-2009, 2010-11
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (formerly Women's Studies), Co-Director, Spr 2015
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Executive Committee, 1999-2016.
CLAS Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award Committee, 2015
CLAS Courses and Curricula Committee, Representative for either English or Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or both, 2006-08, 2010-2016.

Professional Associations with Positions Held

North American Treasurer, International John Bunyan Society, 2016-present
Member, MLA
Officer (Secretary, Vice President, President), GL/Q Caucus of the Modern Languages, 2003-2006
Project Leader, Conference on Sex and Sexuality, Learning Solutions, Oxford, UK, 2004-2006
Steering Committee Member, Conference on Evil and Wickedness, Interdisciplinary.Net, Oxford, UK, 2003-2006
Series Editor, *At the Interface/Probing the Boundaries*, Rodopi, 2005-2007
Associate Editor, *International Journal of Sexuality and Gender Studies*, 2000-2002

AWARDS

CLAS Excellence in Teaching Award, 2010
Rainbow Center Research Excellence Award, 2008
AAUP Award for Teaching Promise, 2001
Rainbow Center Community Service Award, 2000

LANGUAGES

German and Italian; French (reading knowledge)