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EDUCATION

In Progress Ph.D. English, University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT
2008 M.A. Literary Studies, Trinity College, Hartford, CT
2003 Teacher Certification, Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT
2001 B.A. English, *summa cum laude*, Fordham University, Bronx, NY

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

2018- Assistant Professor, Department of English, Central Connecticut State University,
New Britain, CT
2015-2018 Writing Center Administrator, Center for Academic Excellence, University of
Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT
2009-2018 Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Central Connecticut State University,
New Britain, CT
2010-2015 Academic Success Coordinator, Center for Academic Excellence, University of
Saint Joseph, West Hartford, CT
2010-2011 University Supervisor, Department of Education, University of Saint Joseph,
West Hartford, CT
2003-2010 English Teacher, Avon High School, Avon, CT

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Forthcoming “Remodeling Home in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*.” *The Lion and the Unicorn*.

- 2017 “Jessie Willcox Smith’s Critique of Teleological Girlhood in *The Seven Ages of Childhood*: ‘Sans Everything.’” *Jeunesse: Young People, Texts, Cultures*, vol. 9, no. 1, 2017, pp. 102-128.
- 2017 “Jesse Jackson’s *Call Me Charley*: Protesting Segregated Recreation in Cold War America.” *Children’s Literature*, vol. 45, 2017, pp. 92-113.
- 2017 “Rhetorical Reading Guides, Readerly Experiences, and WID in the Writing Center.” *Reading in the Writing Center*, special issue of *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*, vol. 41, no. 7-8, March/April 2017, pp. 9-16.
- 2010 “‘The Language of Pictures’: Modes of Visual Representation and Spectatorship in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*.” *The Young Adult Novel*, special issue of *Studies in the Novel*, vol. 42, no. 1/2, 2010, pp. 99-120.
- 2010 “Flouting the Angelic Ideal: Alice and Irene as Agents of Change.” *The Carrollian*, vol. 25, 2010, pp. 3-28.
- 2006 “From Hades to Heaven: Greek Mythological Influences in C. S. Lewis’ *The Silver Chair*.” *Mythlore*, vol. 24, no. 3/4, 2006, pp. 71-93. [Published under surname Niedbala.]

Book Chapters

- 2015 “Doing Justice to the Graphic Novel.” *Class, Please Open Your Comics: Essays on Teaching with Graphic Narratives*, edited by Matthew Miller, McFarland, 2015, pp. 217-230.
- 2014 “The Problem with Mrs. Coulter: Vetting the Female Villain-Hero in Philip Pullman’s *His Dark Materials*.” *A Quest of Her Own: The Female Hero in Modern Fantasy*, edited by Lori Campbell, McFarland, 2014, pp. 225-247.

Reviews

- 2017 Review of *Children’s Fantasy Literature: An Introduction*, by Michael Levy and Farah Mendlesohn. *The Lion and the Unicorn*, vol. 41, no. 3, 2017, pp. 404-406.
- 2015 Review of “*Unsuitable*” *Books: Young Adult Fiction and Censorship*, by Caren J. Town and *Literary Conceptualizations of Growth: Metaphors and Cognition in Adolescent Literature*, by Roberta Seelinger Trites. *Children’s Literature*, vol. 43, 2015, pp. 317-324.
- 2014 Review of *Reading Like a Girl: Narrative Intimacy in Contemporary American Young Adult Literature*, by Sara K. Day. *Children’s Literature*, vol. 42, 2014, pp. 335-340.

Other Publications

- Forthcoming Co-curator, *The Convention Legacy of the New York African Free Schools*, an exhibit at *ColoredConventions.org*. Author credit on the following pages: “1853 Convention: Case Study,” “Education at the Conventions” (includes interactive timeline, with Alyssa Amaral), “Lancasterian System at the NYAFS,” “Margaret Odle” (with Daniel J. Pfeiffer).
- 2015 “Prompts for Close-Reading Graphic Narratives.” *Class, Please Open Your Comics: Essays on Teaching with Graphic Narratives*, edited by Matthew Miller, McFarland, 2015, pp. 260-261.
- 2013 “Thinking Critically about Technology in the Classroom: Assignment Design for Pre-Service Teachers.” *The Journal of Interactive Technology and Pedagogy*, 7 March 2013. <https://jitp.commons.gc.cuny.edu/thinking-critically-about-technology-in-the-classroom-assignment-design-for-pre-service-teachers/>.

Creative Work

- 2001 “Ghosts of the New Tar-Pits.” *Lake Effect*, vol. 5, 2001, p. 6. [Published under surname Niedbala.]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “Aesthetic Resistance: Racist Visual Tropes and the Oppositional Gaze in Joel Christian Gill’s *Tales of the Talented Tenth*.” Annual International Conference of the Children’s Literature Association, San Antonio, TX, 28-30 June 2018.
- 2018 “Literacy Support in the Writing Center: Experimentation and Implications.” Northeast Writing Center Association Conference, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, 25 March 2018. Co-presented with Gissel Campos, Sarah Gerrish, Mary Joerg, and Renee Lavoie.
- 2018 “Modeling Reading Practices Across the Disciplines.” Conference on College Composition and Communication Annual Convention, Kansas City, MO. 16 March 2018. Co-presented with Mike Bunn and Ellen C. Carillo.
- 2017 “‘Sans Everything’: Jessie Willcox Smith’s Critique of Teleological Girlhood in ‘The Seven Ages of Childhood.’” Annual International Conference of the Children’s Literature Association, Tampa, FL, 23 June 2017.
- 2016 “Illustrations as Digressions: The Narrative Function of Ellen Forney’s Artwork in Sherman Alexie’s *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.” Annual

International Conference of the Children's Literature Association, Columbus, OH, 11 June 2016.

- 2016 "Feminist Leadership and the Ethics of Care in the English Education Classroom." The Feminist Workshop at the Conference on College Composition and Communication Annual Convention, Houston, TX, 6 April 2016.
- 2016 "Fostering Language Facility: Teaching Grammar as Rhetorical Choice to Pre-Service Teachers." Annual Convention of the New England Modern Language Association, Hartford, CT, 18 March 2016.
- 2015 "Revision Isn't Just for Papers: The Evolution of an Outreach Program." Writing Centers Association Annual Conference, Pittsburg, PA, 10 October 2015. Co-presented with Jessyka Scoppetta.
- 2015 "Sustaining Learning Communities Fostered in Summer Programs." Annual Atlantic Center for Learning Communities Curriculum Planning Retreat, West Hartford, CT, 29 October 2015. Co-presented with Lee Einhorn, Tami Devine Fagan, and Jessyka Scoppetta.
- 2015 "Remodeled Domesticity in *His Dark Materials*." Annual Convention of the New England Modern Language Association, Toronto, Canada, 1 May 2015.
- 2015 "The High School to College Transition: Strategies Emphasizing Reflection, Language, and Identity." Teaching Academic Survival and Success Annual Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL, 16 March 2015.
- 2013 "Demystifying College-Level Writing: A Partnership between an Urban High School and a Private Four-Year University." Annual Convention of the National Council of Teachers of English, Boston, MA, 22 November 2013. Co-presented with Tami Devine Fagan and Jessyka Scoppetta.

HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2018 Honorable Mention, Aetna Graduate Student Writing Award, for "Aesthetic Resistance: Racist Visual Tropes and the Oppositional Gaze in Joel Christian Gill's *Tales of the Talented Tenth*" (UConn)
- 2018 Part-time AAUP Faculty Development Grant (CCSU)
- 2017 English Graduate Program Travel Award (UConn)
- 2017 Winner, Children's Literature Association Graduate Essay Award, PhD level, for "Jessie Willcox Smith's Critique of Teleological Girlhood in 'The Seven Ages of Childhood'"

- 2016 Winner, Teacher-Consultant Writing Contest, Poetry division, for “Mary Bennett in the Underworld” (Connecticut Writing Project, Storrs)
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Teacher-Consultant Writing Contest, Prose Fiction division, for “Open Mic” (Connecticut Writing Project, Storrs)
- 2016 Fellowship, Connecticut Writing Project, Storrs, Summer Institute (UConn)
- 2016 Conference on College Composition and Communication Fund for Contingent Faculty Travel Award
- 2016 Part-time AAUP Faculty Development Grant (CCSU)
- 2016 Honorary Inductee, Alpha Sigma Lambda, USJ chapter
- 2015 Part-time AAUP Faculty Development Grant (CCSU)
- 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award, part-time faculty division (CCSU)
- 2011 Online Education Grant (USJ)
- 2004 Kappa Delta Pi Grant for beginning a “Center for Excellence in Writing and Reading” (AHS)
- 2003 Inductee, Kappa Delta Pi, CCSU chapter
- 2001 Inductee, Phi Beta Kappa, Fordham University chapter
- 2001 Alumni English Literature Prize (Fordham University)
- 2001 Bernice Kilduff White and John J. White Prize in Creative Writing (Fordham University)
- 2001 Irish Studies Essay Contest Winner (Fordham University)
- 2001 Academy of American Poets Prize (Fordham University)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

- 2016- Teacher Consultant, Connecticut Writing Project, Storrs
- 2016 Organizing Chair, “Literature in the First Year Seminar.” Annual Convention of the New England Modern Language Association, Hartford, CT, 17 March 2016.
- 2014 Conference Co-Organizer, Passing Notes: Connecting High School and College Peer Tutors, The University of Saint Joseph, West Hartford, 12 April 2014.
- 2006-2008 Cooperating Teacher, Avon High School

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Committees and Initiatives

- 2010-2018 Member, Interview Committee, English Education Program Candidates (CCSU)
- 2018 Member, Search Committee, Academic Success Coordinator (USJ)
- 2017-2018 Member, Common Reading Selection Committee (USJ)
- 2017-2018 Member, First Year Seminar Revision Committee (USJ)
- 2016-2018 Supervisor, Student-run First Year Writing Contest (USJ)
- 2015-2018 Member, First Year Seminar Selection Committee (USJ)
- 2016-2017 Co-Director, Professional Development for First Year Writing Faculty (USJ; grant-funded)
- 2016-2017 Co-Chair, Title III Student Academic Success Committee (USJ)
- 2016-2017 Member, Student Supports and Engagement Committee (USJ)
- 2014-2016 Member, NEASC Self-Study Committee: Mission Statement (USJ)
- 2014-2016 Director, Leadership Excellence in Academic Programs (USJ; grant-funded)
- 2013-2016 Member, Summer Bridge Committee (USJ)
- 2014-2015 Member, Presidential Task Force for Program for Adult Learners (USJ)
- 2014-2015 Director, Sophomores Achieving Independent Learning (USJ; grant-funded)
- 2013-2015 Member, Strategic Plan Committee: Cultivate Student Success (USJ)
- 2011-2014 Member, Program for Adult Learners Committee (USJ)
- 2005-2009 Mentor, Poetry Out Loud (AHS)

Student Research Mentorship

- 2018 Gissel Campos, Sarah Gerrish, Mary Joerg. "Literacy Support in the Writing Center: Experimentation and Implications." Northeast Writing Center Association Conference, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA, 25 March 2018, co-presented with Amanda M Greenwell and Renee Lavoie.
- 2017 Amanda Fontaine-Iskra. "The Academic Publication Process from a Student Author's Perspective." 2017 Symposium Day at the University of Saint Joseph, 5 April 2017.

- 2017 Amanda Fontaine-Iskra. "Tutors' Column: Making Audience Visible: Readership and Audience in Writing Centers." *Reading in the Writing Center*, special issue of *WLN: A Journal of Writing Center Scholarship*, vol. 41, no. 7-8, March/April 2017, pp. 25-28.
- 2015 Organizer and Faculty sponsor of a panel at the CSU Undergraduate English Conference: "In Our Good Graces: Philip Pullman's Representation of God and the Fall of Man in *His Dark Materials*."

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2015-2016 Director, Raising Our Voices: Writing into the College Conversation, a partnership with Bulkeley High School in Hartford, CT (USJ; grant-funded)
- 2014-2016 Co-Director, Connecticut College Readiness Project, which brought together high school and college faculty in discipline-specific conversations (USJ; grant-funded)
- 2014-2015 Co-Director, Raising Our Voices: Writing into the College Conversation (USJ; grant-funded)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Children's Literature Association
Modern Language Association
National Council of Teachers of English

CERTIFICATIONS

Professional Educator Certificate: Secondary English, CT, grades 7-12. Current.