

Mercedes Sheldon

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EDUCATION

current PhD candidate {ABD}, English - University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

DISSERTATION: "The Vast Majority of Women": Representations of Womanhood for the Mass Market Reader in Grant Allen's Periodical Prose, 1879-1900

COMMITTEE: Amit Yahav (chair), Michael Hancher, Kim Todd, Anna Clark

2024 *Master of Arts*, English - University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

2017 *Master of Arts*, English - University of St. Thomas, Minnesota

THESIS: "'An Adventuress I Would Be': Delineating Modern Womanhood through *Miss Cayley's Adventures* in the *Strand Magazine*"

COMMITTEE: Alexis Easley (chair), Amy Muse, Andrea Kaston Tange

2003 *Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude*, English - St. Olaf College, Minnesota

TEACHING

2026 Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota – Visiting Assistant Professor *Spring*

ENGL 230, Nineteenth-Century British Literature: Media Mayem, *instructor of record*, in person, 1 section

2021+ University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, Minneapolis, Minnesota

ENGL 3004W, Historical Survey of British Literature II, *instructor of record*, in person, 1 section

ENGL 3003W, Historical Survey of British Literature I, *instructor of record*, asynchronous, 1 section

WRIT 1305W, University Writing *instructor of record*, 2 asynchronous sections; 2 blended sections {2 credits in-person, 2 credits asynchronous}

ENGL 3003W, Historical Survey of British Literature I *sections leader*

ENGL 3006W, Historical Survey of American Literature II *sections leader*

2018+ University of St. Thomas, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Student Teacher Supervisor for secondary English *Spring '25 & '26*

ENGL 121W, Critical Thinking: Literature & Writing *instructor of record*, 7 sections over 6 terms

ENGL 204W, Media Mayhem *instructor of record*, 1 section, 1 term

FYEX 100, Foundations for College Success *instructor of record*, 3 sections over 3 terms

ENGL 121W, Critical Thinking: Literature & Writing *teaching mentorship with Dr. Erika Scheurer*, 1 section, 1 term

2018-19 Dunwoody College of Technology, Minneapolis, Minnesota

COMM 1010, Business Communication *instructor of record*, 3 sections over 2 terms; *medical leave coverage*, 2 sections over half a term

ENGL 1010, English *instructor of record*, 1 section, 1 term

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed

- 2021 "‘An Adventuress I Would Be’: Originality in *Miss Cayley’s Adventures* in the *Strand Magazine*," *Victorian Popular Fictions Journal* 3.1
- 2019 "‘From Foreign Sources’: The Rise and Fall of the Translated Short Story in the Early Years of the *Strand Magazine*," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 52.2

Book Reviews, Etc.

- 2026 "*The Victorian Mind’s Eye: Reading Literature in an Age of Illustration* by Julia Thomas" (review) British Association for Victorian Studies Newsletter 26.3 *forthcoming*
- 2023 "*Julia Wedgwood, The Unexpected Victorian: The Life and Writing of a Remarkable Female Intellectual* by Sue Brown" (review) *Victorian Periodicals Review* 55.3/4
- 2018 "*Serials to Graphic Novels: The Evolution of the Victorian Illustrated Book* by Catherine J. Golden, and *Drawing on the Victorians: The Palimpsest of Victorian and Neo-Victorian Graphic Texts* ed. by Anna Maria Jones and Rebecca N. Mitchell" (review) *Victorian Periodicals Review* 51.2
- 2017 "The RSVP Bibliography: ‘A Cooperative Effort’ Since 1968," *Victorian Periodicals Review* 50.3

SCHOLARLY AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

- 2026 Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Travel Award
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, English Department, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities *Fall 2026*
- 2025 Errett W. McDiarmid Graduate Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities *Fall 2025*
English Department Teaching Fellow, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities *Fall 2025*
Hella Mears Research Fellowship, Center for German & European Studies, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities *Summer 2025*
William and Mary Burgan Prize for the Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student, Midwest Victorian Studies Association
- 2024 Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Travel Award
- 2023 Liu Excellence Award, English Department, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for "The ‘Beneficent and Conservative Instinct’: Love and Eugenics in Grant Allen’s Periodical Writings" {seminar paper}
- 2022 Walter Nathan College in the Schools Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Community Shakespeare {[hyperlink](#)} Public Humanities Project Research Assistant for Dr. Katherine Scheil, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
- 2020 Professional Development Grant for Part-Time Faculty Members, Modern Language Association
- 2017 Part-time Fellowship, University of St. Thomas

- 2016 Archival Research, England: "The Victorian Scrapbook: Women's Public and Private Identity Formation, 1830–1910," University of St. Thomas Team Research Grant

SELECT REFERRED CONFERENCES

- 2026 "“Good Enough for Such a Public’: Representations of Movement in Periodical Illustrations,” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals {RSVP}, Dublin, Ireland *July*
 ““Bound to Raise the Dust:” Debating the Foundational Idea of Marriage,” Midwest Victorian Studies Association {MVSA}, Cincinnati, Ohio, April
- 2025 "The Emergence of Grant Allen's Voice as a Scientific Popularizer," Research Society for Victorian Periodicals {RSVP}, Chicago, IL, 10-12 July
 "Survival of the Fittest: Grant Allen's Evolution from Scientist to Celebrity Writer," Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Fort Wayne, IN, 3-6 April
- 2024 "Placing Grant Allen's Women: The Woman in the Illustration & the Illustration on the Periodical Page," RSVP, Stirling, Scotland, 13-15 June
 "The 'Beneficent and Conservative Instinct': Love and Eugenics in Grant Allen's Periodical Writings," Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Iowa City, IA, 19-21 April
 "Revising What We Mean by "Good Writing": Promoting Inclusion through Assignment Rubrics," University of St. Thomas teaching conference, St. Paul, MN, 22 Jan.
- 2022 "Mapping the Density of Grant Allen's Presence in the Late Nineteenth Century British Popular Press," Midwest MLA, Minneapolis, MN, 17-19 Nov.
- 2021 "“Discovery from Within’: Interrogating Eugenics in Fin de Siècle Short Form Fiction in the Strand Magazine,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, *virtual*, 11-13 March
- 2019 "“An Adventuress I Would Be’: Active Womanhood in *Miss Cayley's Adventures* in the *Strand Magazine*,” North American Victorian Studies Association, Columbus, Ohio, 17-19 October
 "Tracing Depictions of Leisure in the Blanche Butler Ames News Clippings Scrapbook," RSVP, Brighton, England, 25-27 July
- 2018 "“Some “Old School” Reflections’: Generationalism in *London Society* (1862–1898),” RSVP, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, 26-28 July
- 2017 "Conversations and Contexts: The Clippings Scrapbook as Cultural Discourse,” Nineteenth Century Studies Association, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2-4 February
 "Recovering María Cristina Mena,” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 4-7 January

SERVICE *to and beyond the Academy*

- 2025-26 Graduate Student Representative, Undergraduate Studies Committee, UMN English
- 2025 Co-facilitator, English Department Graduate Orientation
 Contributor to RSVP Bibliography for 2022-24
 Voting Delegate to International Convention of PEO
- 2024-25 Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, UMN English

- 2024-26 Deputy Clerk, Board of Elders, House of Hope Presbyterian Church (700+ members)
Chair, Congregational Nominating Committee (task: select, contact, and install 36
volunteer leadership positions)
- 2023-24 Associate Trustee – Quaker Hill Foundation
- 2018-20 President, PEO Chapter CL
- 2017-20 Committee member, PEO State Membership Committee

Editorial Work

- 2018-19 Dissertation: EdD candidate at the University of St. Thomas
- 2017 Dissertation Proposal: EdD candidate at the University of St. Thomas
- 2016-17 Assistant Editor, *Victorian Periodicals Review*
- 2016 Assistant Editor, *Routledge Handbook to Nineteenth-Century British Periodicals and Newspapers*
- 2015 Dissertation: EdD candidate at the University of Minnesota
- 2014 Dissertation: EdD candidate at the University of North Dakota

Teaching Licensure

- 2003-19 Communication Arts & Literature, 5-12
- 2006-19 Theater Arts, K-12

Secondary Educator Work

- 2003-12 English: 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade Language Arts courses at remedial, standard, and advanced levels; specialty courses in Media Studies and Composition
- 2003-08 Theater: introductory and advanced Theater Arts courses; directed school plays