

# Megan Becker-Leckrone

Chair and Professor of English

Department of English

College of Liberal Arts

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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<http://english.unlv.edu/faculty/becker.html>

## Employment:

Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2020-23

Associate Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 2005-2020

Assistant Professor, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, 1999-2005

Visiting Assistant Professor, University at Albany, State University of New York, 1998-1999

Lecturer in English, San Diego State University, 1997-1998

Lecturer/Instructor in Critical Theory, Humanities Core, English and Composition, University of California, Irvine, 1990-1998

## Education:

University of California, Irvine

Ph. D. in English, December 1996

M. A. in English, June 1992

Bryn Mawr College

B. A., *magna cum laude*, English Honors, June 1990

Major in English, Minor in Women's Studies

## Awards/Grants:

Faculty Development Leave, 2014-15

Leave to develop fluency in the field of medical humanities as it intersects with literary studies and critical theory (particularly narratology, phenomenology, psychoanalysis, affect theory, deconstructive ethics, and posthumanism); to join in a more scholarly way my decades-long experience with chronic, daily migraine; and to develop new coursework ("The Meaning of Pain," for the Honors College and English Department; "Philosophies of Feelings, Bodies, and the Self" for Great Works and the English Department). I have also begun a book manuscript (working title, *The Materiality of Migraine*).

UNLV Nominee for the Carnegie Foundation/CASE United States Professors of the Year Award, 2013

Nevada System of Higher Education Board of Regents' Teaching Award, 2013

Sole winner, state system-wide, for teaching at the four-year/research institutional level.

UNLV Foundations Distinguished Teaching Award, 2012

One of four winners, university-wide, and the sole UNLV nominee for the Regents' Teaching Award.

Rita Deanin Abbey Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2010

Chosen by undergraduate majors in the humanities with respective departments' highest GPAs.

Also nominated the following year, but ineligible because of previous award.

National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Seminar, 2009

“The Decadent 1890s: English Literary Culture and the *Fin de Siècle*,” at the William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Los Angeles, UCLA. Directed by Joseph Bristow, Distinguished Professor of English, UCLA.

Research Development Award (\$8300), UNLV, 2008

Money sought to fund content, design, production, and visibility updates to *The Pater Newsletter*, issues 53-60.

William Morris Award for Excellence in Scholarship, 2006

For publication of my book, *Julia Kristeva and Literary Theory* (Palgrave, 2005)

## **Publications:**

### **Books:**

*The Materiality of Migraine* (manuscript in progress)

*Julia Kristeva and Literary Theory*, Palgrave, 2005

<https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/julia-kristeva-and-literary-theory-megan-beckerleckrone/?sf1=barcode&st1=9780333781937>

### **Editor:**

*The Pater Newsletter*, 2006-2010, Issues 51-58 <https://swpa.info/issues/>

(Production Editor, 2011, Issue 59/60, under new editorship of Lene Østermark-Johansen, University of Copenhagen)

(Now publishing under the title *Studies in Walter Pater and Aestheticism*)

<https://walterpater.com/studies-in-walter-pater-and-aestheticism/editorial-board/>

### **Book Review Editor (North America):**

*Victoriographies: A Journal of Nineteenth-Century Writing, 1790-1914*, Edinburgh UP, 2011-2015  
Issues 1.1 (2011) through 5.3 (2015) <https://www.eupublishing.com/loi/vic>

### **Annotator/Reviewer:**

*The Pater Newsletter*, 2004-7

*Studies in Walter Pater and Aestheticism*, 2016

Manuscript reviews for *PMLA*, *Mosaic*, *English Text Construction*, Edinburgh UP, Manchester UP, Ohio State UP, Ohio UP, Palgrave, Routledge, and others, 2002-2018.

### **Articles:**

“Beerbohm’s ‘Improved’ *Intentions* and the Aesthetics of Cosmesis,” *Extraordinary Aesthetes*, ed.

Joseph Bristow (University of Toronto Press, 2023). [Serial delays due to Covid, formal press acceptance/contract in hand.]

“Grangerism,” *The Microgenre: A Quick Look at Small Culture*, eds. Anne Stevens and Molly

O’Donnell (Bloomsbury, 2019). <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/the-microgenre-9781501345821/>

“Walter Pater in the Wilderness,” *Reading Victorian Literature: Essays in Honour of J. Hillis Miller*,

eds. Monica Szuba and Julian Wolfreys (Edinburgh University Press/Oxford University Press, 2019). <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-reading-victorian-literature-hb.html>,

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/reading-victorian-literature-9781474447973?cc=us&lang=en&#>

“The Stories We Tell About Opioids,” Narrative Symposium: Living with Chronic Pain in the Midst of the Opioid Crisis, eds. Kelly Dineen and Daniel S. Goldberg (pp. 189-224). *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics: A Journal of Qualitative Research* 8.3 (Winter 2018): 193-6.  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/712001>

[NOTE: The symposium includes three bioethicists’ research articles that cite my essay. They include Travis N. Rieder, Berman Institute of Bioethics, Johns Hopkins University, (pages 227, 230); Maia Szalavitz, journalist (p. 233); and Caroline J. Huang, Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health Clinical Center (p. 240). A link to the entire symposium is here:  
<https://muse.jhu.edu/issue/39587>]

“Wilde’s Cosmos: Language, Citation, and Aesthetic Communities,” *Wilde’s Other Worlds*, eds. Michael Davis and Petra Dierkes-Thrun (Routledge, 2018), 87-109.  
<https://www.routledge.com/Wildes-Other-Worlds-1st-Edition/Davis-Dierkes-Thrun/p/book/9780815363590>

“Julia Kristeva,” *The Bloomsbury Handbook to Literary and Cultural Theory*, ed. Jeffrey R. Di Leo (Bloomsbury, 2018), 543-4. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/the-bloomsbury-handbook-of-literary-and-cultural-theory-9781350012806/>

“Wilde and Pater’s Strange Appreciations,” *Victoriographies* 1(2011): 93-126.  
<https://www.eupublishing.com/toc/vic/1/1>

“Subjectivity,” *The English Literature Companion*, ed. Julian Wolfreys (Palgrave, 2011): 221-30.  
<https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/The-English-Literature-Companion/?K=9780230008137>

“Formalism,” *The English Literature Companion*, ed. Julian Wolfreys (Palgrave, 2011): 267-69.  
<https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/The-English-Literature-Companion/?K=9780230008137>

“New Criticism,” *The English Literature Companion*, ed. Julian Wolfreys (Palgrave, 2011): 272-75.  
<https://www.macmillanihe.com/page/detail/The-English-Literature-Companion/?K=9780230008137>

“Same-Sex and the Second Sex in ‘Style,’” *The Pater Newsletter*, 52 (Spring 2007): 37-43.  
<https://walterpater.com/studies-in-walter-pater-and-aestheticism/back-issues/>

“How About a Game of Tennis?” *The J. Hillis Miller Reader*, ed. Julian Wolfreys (Stanford University Press, 2005): 289-94.  
<https://www.sup.org/books/extra/?id=7897&i=Table%20of%20Contents.htm>

“The Static of Genesis in *Finnegans Wake*,” *InBetween: Essays and Studies in Literary Criticism* (2003): 181-92.  
<http://ezproxy.library.unlv.edu/login?url=http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mlf&AN=2005296488&site=ehost-live>

“Pater’s Critical Spirit,” *Walter Pater: Transparencies of Desire*, eds. Laurel Brake, Lesley Higgins, and Carolyn

Williams (ELT Press, 2002): 288-97. <http://muse.jhu.edu.ezproxy.library.unlv.edu/chapter/290950>

“Oscar Wilde (1854-1900): Aesthetics and Criticism,” *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory*, eds. Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins, Kenneth Womack (Continuum Press, 2002; paperback edition, 2006): 658-65. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-continuum-encyclopedia-of-modern-criticism-and-theory-9780826414144/>

“Psychoanalysis and Literary Criticism,” *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory*, eds. Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins, Kenneth Womack (Continuum Press, 2002; paperback edition 2006): 519-28. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-continuum-encyclopedia-of-modern-criticism-and-theory-9780826414144/>

“American Feminisms of the 1980s and 1990s: The Encounter with Poststructuralism and Gender Studies,”

*The Continuum Encyclopedia of Modern Criticism and Theory*, eds. Julian Wolfreys, Ruth Robbins, Kenneth Womack (Continuum Press, 2002; paperback edition, 2006): 511-19. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/the-continuum-encyclopedia-of-modern-criticism-and-theory-9780826414144/>

“Julia Kristeva,” *Twentieth-Century European Cultural Theorists*, ed. Paul Hansom. *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, volume 242 (Gale, 2001): 248-263. [http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=DLBC&u=unlv\\_main&id=GALE%7CMVUOLB643446997&v=2.1&it=r&sid=DLBC&asid=c07769c2](http://go.galegroup.com/ps/i.do?p=DLBC&u=unlv_main&id=GALE%7CMVUOLB643446997&v=2.1&it=r&sid=DLBC&asid=c07769c2)

“‘Sole Author I, Sole cause’: Wordsworth and the Poetics of Importance,” *Modern Language Notes*, 113.5 (1998): 993-1021. <http://muse.jhu.edu/article/22486>

“Salome: The Fetishization of a Textual Corpus,” *New Literary History*, 26.2 (1995): 239-260. <http://muse.jhu.edu/article/24243>

#### **Book Reviews, Web Publications, Reports:**

“Report from the Workshop, ‘Towards a New Edition of the Collected Works of Walter Pater,’ University of Exeter, 30 June 2011,” co-written with Elicia Clements, *The Pater Newsletter*, 59/60 (2011): 52-67. <https://walterpater.com/studies-in-walter-pater-and-aestheticism/back-issues/>

NOTE: I published multiple short reviews of “Recent Publications” in Pater/aestheticism scholarship (book chapters, journal articles, in addition to book monographs) for *The Pater Newsletter* and *Studies in Walter Pater and Aestheticism* from 2004 to 2016, all listed below.

In *Studies in Walter Pater and Aestheticism* 1 (Spring 2016), pages 106-7 and 109-111 of, respectively:

- Hovanec, Caroline, “Rereading H. G. Wells’s *The Time Machine*: Empiricism, Aestheticism, Modernism,” *English Literature in Translation* 58.4 (2015): 459-485.
- Morgan, Benjamin, “Oscar Wilde’s Un-American Tour: Aestheticism, Mormonism, and Transnational Resonance,” *American Literary History* 26.4 (2014): 664-692.

In *The Pater Newsletter* 52 (Spring 2007), pages 75, 77, 78 of, respectively:

- Natarajan, Uttara, “Pater and the Genealogy of Hardy’s Modernity,” *SEL* 46.4 (Autumn 2006): 849-86.
- Carroll, Joseph. “Aestheticism, Homoeroticism, and Christian Guilt in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*,” *Philosophy and Literature* 29 (2005): 286-304.
- Evangelista, Stefano, “‘Lovers and Philosophers at Once’: Aesthetic Platonism in the Victorian *Fin de Siècle*,” *Yearbook of English Studies* 36.2 (2006): 230-244.

In *The Pater Newsletter* 51 (Fall 2006), pages 53-4, 59-60, and 61 of, respectively:

- Franke, Damon, “The ‘Curious’ Pagan Spirit of Pater’s *The Renaissance*,” *Nineteenth-Century Prose* 31.1 (Spring 2004): 170-190.
- Ohi, Kevin, “The Author of ‘Beltraffio’: The Exquisite Boy and Henry James’s Equivocal Aestheticism,” *ELH* (2005) 72.3: 747-767.

- Shrimpton, Nicholas, "Bradley and the Aesthetes," *Essays in Criticism* 55.4 (2005): 309-331.

In *The Pater Newsletter* 49/50 (Fall 2004/Spring 2005), pages 39-40, 40-41, 43, 44-45, 46 of, respectively:

- Bauer, Heike, "The Idea of Development: Decadence, Aestheticism, and Sexual Identity in Pater's *Marius the Epicurean*," *Australasian Victorian Studies Journal* 9 (2003): 1-15.
- Bridgewater, Patrick, "Walter Pater's Aesthetic Germanism," in *Anglo-German Interactions in the Literature of the 1890s* (Routledge, 1999): 10-43.
- Bridgewater, Patrick, "Masked Men: Nietzsche, Pater, and Wilde," in *Anglo-German Interactions in the Literature of the 1890s* (Routledge, 1999): 226-254.
- Fang, Po, "Style as the Man: The Aesthetics of Self-(Re)construction in Pater, Wilde, and Yeats," *Cocentric: Literary and Cultural Studies* 30.1 (2004): 169-202.
- Levine, Caroline, "Pater's Plots: *The Renaissance* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*," in *Serious Pleasures of Suspense: Victorian Realism and Narrative Doubt* (University of Virginia Press, 2003): 182-200.
- Phillips, Adam, "Appreciating Pater," in *Promises, Promises: Essays on Literature and Psychoanalysis* (Basic Books, 2002): 148-160.

Book review of William Shuter, *Rereading Walter Pater* (Cambridge University Press, 1997), in *Nineteenth-Century Prose*, 28.1 2001: 138-142.

[https://unlv-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01UNLV\\_ALMA21175096960004081&context=L&vid=UNLV&search\\_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=jsearch\\_slot&lang=en\\_US](https://unlv-primo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo-explore/fulldisplay?docid=01UNLV_ALMA21175096960004081&context=L&vid=UNLV&search_scope=EVERYTHING&tab=jsearch_slot&lang=en_US)

"Kojin Karatani's 'Nationalism and Ecriture' and Response by Jacques Derrida -- A Roundtable Discussion,"

Proceedings of the 1995 International Conference on Humanistic Discourse, *Surfaces* 5.201.1 (1995): 1-19. <https://pum.umontreal.ca/revues/surfaces/vol5/derrida.html>

### **Scholarly Papers Presented:**

- "What is an Essay?": Lukács, Pater, and Plato," panel co-organizer (with Thomas Albrecht and Matthew Potolsky), North American Victorian Studies Association, Vancouver, B.C., March 4, 2022. Forthcoming. [NOTE: 2021 conference postponed due to Covid; 2022 conference made virtual due to Covid.]
- "Aestheticism and Decadence in Comparative Contexts: Criticism, Philosophy, Politics," seminar co-organizer (with Thomas Albrecht and Matthew Potolsky), American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Georgetown University, March 7-10, 2019.
- "Positive Capability: Aestheticism Meets 20th-Century Scientific Criticism," presenter, American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting, Georgetown University, March 9, 2019.
- "Anaestheticism: The Fears and Desires of Sensibility in 19th-Century Anesthesia and Aestheticism," North American Victorian Studies Association, University of Florida (Sponsor), St. Petersburg, Florida, October 11-14, 2018.
- "Walter Pater in the Wilderness," International Walter Pater Society Conference, Université Sorbonne-Paris, Paris, July 3-5, 2014.

- “Pater’s Cosmos,” Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association, Boston, MA, January 4, 2013.
- “Pater’s Cosmos,” Panel on Decadent Representation, Modernist Studies Association, Las Vegas, October 19, 2012.
- “Pater’s Cosmetic Poetics,” Decadent Poetics Conference, University of Exeter, UK, July 2011.
- “Cosmesis: Max Beerbohm’s ‘Improved’ *Intentions*,” Cultures of Aestheticism Conference, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library, Sponsored by the Center for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies, UCLA, November 2010.
- “Oscar Wilde’s Cosmopolitan Aestheticism,” Conference on British Aestheticisms: Sources, Genres, Definitions, Evolutions, Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier, France, October 2009.
- “Bad Intentions and the Ethics of Reading,” ACLA Conference, Harvard University, March 2009.
- “Introduction to the Work of Peter Brooks,” KVBC Lecture Series, Peter Brooks, “The Identity Paradigm,” March 6, 2008.
- “Wilde’s Appreciations: Plagiarism, Citation, and Aesthetic Communities,” ACLA Conference, Princeton University, March 2006.
- “The Feminine Figure in Contemporary Discourses of the Sublime,” Conference on Rhetoric, Politics, and Ethics, Belgium, April 2005.
- “‘Where Now? Who Now?’: Julia Kristeva and the Intertextual ‘Joyce,’” Intl. James Joyce Symposium,
- “Bloomsday 100,” Dublin, Ireland, June 2004.
- “Bad Intentions and the Ethics of Reading,” J: Around the Works of J. Hillis Miller, University of California, Irvine, April 2003.
- Response to “Aesthetic Agency in Oscar Wilde” (presented by David Wayne Thomas, University of Michigan), Aesthetic(ism)s, Session I, The Society for Critical Exchange, Midwest Modern Language Association, Kansas City, November 2000.
- “The Purloined Pater,” Aesthetic(ism)s, Session II, The Society for Critical Exchange, Midwest Modern Language Association, Kansas City, November 2000.
- “Pater’s Critical Spirit,” Walter Pater at the Millennium, Conference of the International Walter Pater Society, Christ Church College, Oxford University, July 2000.
- “Misremembering Wilde: Oscar Wilde, His Criticism, and His Critics,” Conference of the Northeast Victorian Studies Association: “Victorian Memory,” Yale University, April 1999.
- “Pater’s Fatal Appreciations,” MLA Annual Convention, Washington D. C., December 1996.
- “A Reading of Wordsworth’s ‘Travelling Cripple,’” American Conference on Romanticism, Park City, Utah, October 1996.
- “Salome and Typology,” Comparative Literature Graduate Student Committee’s Faculty/Student Works in Progress Series, U. C. Irvine, February 1995.
- “The Static of Genesis: Narrative Transmission and Reception in *Finnegans Wake*,” XIV Annual International James Joyce Symposium: “Transcultural Joyce,” University of Seville, Spain, June 1994.

“Salome: The Fetishization of a Textual Corpus,” Stonybrook Fifth Annual Graduate Student Conference,

SUNY Stonybrook, NY, November 1993.

**Selected Courses Taught (Undergraduate and Graduate English; Honors College):**

Theories of Feelings, Bodies, and the Self  
The Meaning of Pain  
Introduction to Literary Theory and Criticism (Plato to the Present)  
Discourses of the Sublime (History of Aesthetics)  
Narrative and Interpretation (Narratology, Psychoanalysis, Fiction)  
The Decadent 1890s: Literature and Culture  
Victorian Prose Literature (Nonfiction)  
Writing About Literature (Introduction to Genre)  
Contemporary Literary Theory  
Postmodernism (Theory and Literature)  
Survey of British Literature (Romanticism to Modernism)  
Romantic Poetry  
Introduction to Poetry  
History of the British Novel  
The Contemporary Novel  
Humanities Core Course (UC Irvine)  
Tragic and Comic Drama  
Rhetoric and Composition (all levels)

**Selected Service:**

*University:*

Honors College Promotion Review Committee Member (Jacqueline Costello, 2020; Heather Lusty, 2022)  
Honors College, Honors Thesis Advising, 2004-2018  
Liaison, Seminar Organizer, and Introducer for KVBC Lecture Series Speaker, Peter Brooks (Yale University), “The Identity Paradigm,” March 6, 2008  
Committee to Selection Recipients of the UNLV Foundation Teaching Awards, 2013-14  
Committee to Select Recipients of the University Research Development Awards, 2009-10  
Commencement Marshall 2006  
Honors College Advisory Council, 2003-2005  
Faculty Senate, 2000-2003

*College:*

Great Works Academic Certificate Advisory Committee, 2017-22  
Chair, Richard L. Harp Great Works Scholarship Selection Committee, 2021  
Chair, Great Works Essay Award Selection Committee, 2021  
Executive Board Member, Black Mountain Institute, 2006-2022  
Faculty Liaison to the Black Mountain Institute, 2006-22  
University Council Member, Black Mountain Institute, 2020-22  
Search Committee, Executive Director, Black Mountain Institute, 2015-17  
University Forum Lecture Sponsor: “The Hubble Space Telescope: Revolutionizing Our View of the Universe,” David Leckrone, Chief Scientist Emeritus, Hubble Space Telescope, NASA Goddard, November 12, 2013  
Search Committee, Assistant Director, Black Mountain Institute, 2011

Committee to Select the William Morris Award for Excellence in Research, 2006-11

***Department:***

Chair, Department of English, 2022-

Assistant Chair, Department of English, 2021-22

Chair, Search Committee, Global Anglophone/Contemporary British Multiethnic Literatures, 2021-22

Graduate Committee, 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2008-9, 2020-22

Advisory Committee, 2001, 2016-18, 2020-21; 2021-22, ad hoc member)

Search Committee, Global Anglophone/Contemporary British Multiethnic Literatures, 2019-20  
(canceled, post-offer, due to Covid)

Undergraduate Committee, 1999-2000, 2002-2003, 2004-2005, 2010-11, 2015-18

Search Committee, African American Literatures, 2017-18

Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Native American/Indigenous Literatures, 2017-18

Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Creative Nonfiction, 2016-17

Director of Undergraduate Studies/Assistant Chair of English Department, 2016-17

Faculty Merit Award Committee, 2014

Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Fiction Writing, 2010-11

Research/Resources Committee, 2007-8 (Chair), 2008-11

Search Committee 19th-Century British Poetry, 2003-2004

Bylaws Committee, 2000-2002

Composition Committee, 1999-2000

Search Committee 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Poetry and Poetics, 2001-2002

Search Committee, 19<sup>th</sup>-Century British Literature, 2000-2001

Search Committee, Composition Director, 1999-2000

**Professional Memberships:**

International Walter Pater Society

American Comparative Literature Association

North American Victorian Studies Association

Modern Language Association