

Molly Volanth Hall

Rhode Island School of Design | Literary Arts & Studies Department
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Education

PhD, University of Rhode Island, English Literature and Culture, August 2020

Dissertation: "Ecologies of Materiality and Aesthetics in British Modernist War-Time Literature, 1890-1939"

Advisor: Dr. Jean Walton

Committee: Dr. Ryan Trimm, Dr. Erik Loomis, Dr. Kathleen Davis, Professor Annu Palakunnathu Matthew, Dr. Robert Widell, and Dr. Serpil Oppermann (Cappadocia University)

Diversity and Inclusion Training Program Certification, University of Rhode Island Graduate School, June 2020

[<https://uri.badgr.com/public/assertions/rQkWMQH1Ryq9OIdAW-ARPg>]

MA, University of New Hampshire, English Literature, 2014

Thesis: "J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*: Modernist Fantasy, Ecology, Trauma, and the Great War"

Advisor: Dr. James Krasner

Second Reader: Dr. Robin Hackett

MEd, Cambridge College at Boston, Humane Education, 2010

Thesis: "An Indoor-Outdoor Literary Studies Curriculum for Compassionate and Sustainable Choices in Grades 9-12"

Advisor: Dr. Melissa Feldman

BA, University of Massachusetts, English Language and Literature, *cum laude*, 2007

Capstone: "An Exploration of Heritage and Interdependence in Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent*: Our Bodies, the Earth, and the Ecosystem"

Advisor: Dr. Neil Bruss

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

"*Beloved* as Ecological Testimony: The Displaced Subject of American Slavery," *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 25.3 (2018): 549-565. [Digital access: <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isy043>]

"The Banal Sublime of Postcolonial Bombay and Calcutta: The Embodied Ghosts, Falling Bodies, and Tangled Webs in Chandra's 'Dharma' and Chaudhuri's *A Strange and Sublime Address*," *Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies* 7.1 (2018). [Digital access: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/745748>]

Edited Books

Hall, Molly Volanth, Kara Watts, & Robin Hackett, Eds. *Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature*. Introduction co-authored with Kara Watts. University Press of Florida, 2019. ISBN: 9780813057071. [Digital access: <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/63971> or <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvx073sw>].

Book Chapters

- “Wollstonecraft—Unnatural Woman: Between the Nature of the Feminine and a Gendered Nature.” *Romantic Sustainability: Endurance and the Natural World, 1780-1830*. Ed. Ben P. Robertson. Lexington Books, 2016. 217-230.
- “Narrating the Missed Encounter with the Loss of a World: *The Lord of the Rings*’ Testimony to Modern Ecology.” “*Something has gone crack*”: *New perspectives on J.R.R. Tolkien in the Great War*. Eds. Janet Brennan Croft & Annika Röttinger. Zollikofen, Switzerland: Walking Tree Publishers, 2019. 239-261.

Works Under Review

- “*Less Than (Ground) Zero*: Ellis and the (Absent) Impact of the Ecological Referent,” *Postmodern Culture*, revise and resubmit in progress.

Encyclopedia Entries

- “Patrick Anderson,” “Charles Brasch,” “Jack Cope,” “A. R. D. Fairburn,” “Robert Finch,” “Christopher Tully Hope,” “Dan Jacobson,” “John Newlove,” “Richard Rive,” and “Miriam Waddington.” *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*. Ed. Stephen Ross. Taylor and Francis, 2016.

Book Reviews

- “Cathy Caruth’s *Listening to Trauma: Conversations with Leaders in the Theory and Treatment of Catastrophic Experience* (2013).” *Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society* 22.4 (2017): 452-454.
- “Rick Dolphijn and Iris van der Tuin, *New Materialism: Interviews & Cartographies* (2012).” *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment* 8.1 (2017): 229-233.

White Papers

- Evelyn, Kim, Molly Volanth Hall, Beth Leonardo Silva, & Kara Watts. “University of Rhode Island, Humanities at Large: Next Generation Humanities PhD planning grant white paper.” 2017.

Grants and Honors

- [*Grants and funding awarded totaling \$137,000, not including assistantships]
- Andrew Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Council for European Studies, July 2019 - June 2020 (\$27500 + affiliation fees and benefits)
- Graduate Student Research and Scholarship Excellence Award in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, University of Rhode Island, Division of Research and Economic Development, June 2020 (\$500)
- Full Tuition Scholarship, URI Graduate School, 2019-20 (\$29311)
- Nominee for URI, Summer Institute in Public Humanities, New England Humanities Consortium, 2019 (declined to apply)
- Enhancement of Graduate Research Award, URI Graduate School, 2017 and 2018 (\$1000 each)
- Subvention Grant (with Kara Watts), for *Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature*, URI Center for the Humanities, 2018 (\$750)
- Graduate School Fellowship AY 2018-19, URI, 2018 (\$19000 + tuition, fees, benefits)
- Excellence in the Humanities Award, URI Center for the Humanities, 2018 (\$500)
- NeMLA Summer Research Fellowship, 2018 (\$1200)
- Teaching Award, Department of English, URI, 2018, 2019
- Early Career Humanities Fellows Seminar, URI Center for Humanities, Spring 2018
- Center for the Humanities Graduate Research Grant, 2017 (\$1000)
- Andrew J. Mellon Junior Fellowship, LuEsther T. Mertz Library, Humanities Institute, New York

Botanical Garden, Summer 2017 (\$3500, declined)
 NEH Funded Graduate Fellowship, The Coastal Institute, URI, 2016-17 (\$16,000 + tuition, fees, benefits)
 Senior Fellow Appointment, The Coastal Institute, URI, 2016-2022
 Assistant Project Director, “Memory vs. Representation: Veterans’ Homecoming in History, Literature and Testimony,” Rhode Island Council on the Humanities Grant Project, 2016 (\$1982)
 Nancy Potter Scholarship for Critical Essay Contest, Graduate Category, URI English Department, First Place Award – 2019 (\$100), Second Place Award – 2016, 2018 (\$50, \$50), Third Place Award – 2015 (\$25)
 Modernist Studies Association Conference Travel Grant, 2017, 2018, 2019 (\$225, \$150, \$200)
 Richard Beupre Hope and Heritage Fund Travel Award, URI, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 (\$750, \$750, \$225, \$300, \$300)
 GAU Grant Fund Award, Research and Conference Travel, 2015, 2016, 2017 (\$250, \$400, \$500)
 GSA Grant Fund Award for Conference Travel, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019 (\$250, \$200, \$500, \$250)
 Service Award, URI English Department, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019
 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, URI, 2014-18
 Glen Goodknight Memorial Scholarship, Mythopoeic Society, 2014 (\$200)
 Modern Language Association Conference Travel Grant, 2014 (\$300)
 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, UNH, 2013-14
 Full Tuition Scholarship, UNH Graduate School, 2012-13 (\$27, 941 + fees and benefits)
 Recognition of Excellence in English, Educational Testing Service, 2009
 Eugene M. Lang Scholarship, New School University, 2003
 Regis College Book Award, 2002

Conference and Seminar Papers

“Nation and Nature: An Environmental Aesthetics of Nativity in Interwar British Literature,” 27th International Conference of Europeanists, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2020 [Cancelled due to Covid-19 Pandemic].
 “Modernist Lessons for the Anthropocene: An Environmental History of the Present,” for “Modernism and Ecology 2: Eco-Catastrophe” Roundtable, Modernist Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, October 2019.
 “Modernist Matters on the Western Front,” for “Material Modernisms: Making and Remaking Things” Seminar, Modernist Studies Association, Toronto, Canada, October 2019.
 “Anxieties of Empire in No Man’s Land: Mud, Soil, Land, and Stone,” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment 13th Biennial Conference, Davis, CA, June 2019.
 “Situating the Modernist Ground of England’s Pasts: T.S. Eliot’s Poetic Landscaping,” American Literature Association 30th Annual Conference, Boston, MA, May 2019.
 “The Grace of Grass: Transformative Materiality in David Jones’s *In Parenthesis*,” David Jones Research Center Seminar: “David Jones: Theory of Art; Theory of Culture,” Booth Family Center for Special Collections, Georgetown University Library, March 2019.
 “Lithic Landscapes of David Jones’s War-Time Poetry,” Modernist Studies Association 20, Columbus, Ohio, November 2018.
 “British Nation and English Nature: War, Modernism, and Literary Studies,” WWI and Disciplinarity Seminar, Modernist Studies Association 20, Columbus, Ohio, November 2018.
 “Commemorating War in Landscapes of Environmental Affect: David Jones’ Syntactic Subject of the Great War,” Modern Language Association Convention, New York City, January 2018.

- “Occupying Temporary Space in an Endless War,” Modernist Studies Association 19, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2017.
- “Radclyffe Hall’s Queering of the Modernist Garden,” Modernist Gardens Seminar, Modernist Studies Association 19, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2017.
- “The Stain of War on the Surfaces of the Domestic: Relocating England in Rebecca West’s *The Return of the Soldier*,” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment 12th Biennial Conference, Detroit, MI, June 2017.
- “Humanities in the Undergraduate Curriculum,” Roundtable Participant, URI Graduate Conference, Kingston, RI, April 2017.
- “Modernist Spaces in a Time of Rupture: The Strange Matter and Queer Fantastic in Woolf and West,” North American Conference on British Studies, Burlington, VT, October 2016.
- “Trench, Garden, Park, and Field: Temporalizing Landscapes of Heritage in Virginia Woolf’s Interwar Britain,” 26th Annual International Conference on Virginia Woolf: Virginia Woolf and Heritage, Leeds, UK, June 2016.
- “Towards a Benjaminian Environmental Historiography: Shattering the Anthropocene,” Climate Change: Views from the Humanities [Almost Carbon Neutral Conference], Environmental Humanities Institute, UC Santa Barbara (online), May 2016.
- “Biopolitical Sacrifice and Consumption in Padmanabhan’s *Harvest*,” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA, March 2016.
- “Rhetorics of War, Poetics of Fragmentation: Inscribing the Trench into Modern Ecological Subjectivity,” Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment 11th Biennial Conference, Moscow, ID, June 2015.
- “Anne Locke’s *Meditation*: Traversing the Physical and the Immaterial in English Renaissance Protestant Humanism,” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Toronto, ON, April 2015.
- “The Body Interred: Excessive Subject of King and Country in *Hamlet*,” URI Graduate Conference, Kingston, RI, April 2015.
- “J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*: Modernist Fantasy, Ecology, Trauma, and the Great War,” Mythcon 45: Where Fantasy Fits, Norton, MA, August 2014.
- “Literary Activism in Academia: Ecocriticism’s Role in Reviving the Relevancy of Literary Studies,” Modern Language Association Convention, Chicago, IL, January 2014.
- “Wollstonecraft—Unnatural Woman: Between the Nature of the Feminine and a Gendered Nature,” Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Vancouver, WA, October 2013.
- “Ethical Animal Aesthetics and Speciesism in Olive Schreiner’s *The Story of An African Farm*,” Forms of Life: Reading Humans, Animals, and Machines in a Posthuman World, University of Alabama, Huntsville Graduate Conference, Huntsville, AL, April 2012.
- “Comic Books in the Classroom, Not Such a Comical Idea Anymore: The Graphic Novel in Humane Literary Studies Curricula,” Comic Arts Conference, Anaheim, CA, March 2012.

Teaching Experience

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (2017-2019, 2020-2021)

Lecturer, Literary Arts & Studies Department (LAS)

LAS E348: Remaking the World: Anglo-American Modernisms (2 Sections)

LAS E101: First-Year Literature Seminar (Themes: 1. Nature, Trauma, and Selfhood in Modernity; 2. Landscape, Myth, and Britishness, 3. What’s the Matter with Language?) (4 Sections)

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (2014-2018)

Instructor of Record (TA), Department of English

English 201: Principles of Literary Study (2 Sections)

English 110: Introduction to Literature

English 243: The Short Story (Theme: War Stories in the Long Twentieth Century)

Writing 104: Writing to Explain and Inform (3 Sections)

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (2013-2014)

Instructor of Record (TA), Department of English

English 401: First Year Writing - Special Topics: Ecology and Subjectivity

English 401: First-Year Writing

Service to the Profession, University, and Department

Member, Editorial Committee, *EuropeNow: A Journal of Research and Art*, September 2019 – June 2020

Peer Reviewer, *Ecozon@: European Journal of Literature, Culture and Environment*, 1 MSS, 2019

Senator, Graduate Student Association, URI, 2019-20

Member, Constitution and Finance Committees, Graduate Student Association, URI, 2020

Founding Member and Co-chair, URI English Graduate Professionalization Committee, January 2015-2019

Founder and Moderator, URI English Graduate Writing Group, January 2015-May 2020

Roundtable Co-moderator and Co-organizer, “Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature,” Modernist Studies Association 21, Toronto, Canada, October 2019

Panel Chair and Organizer, “Representing Empire in British Modernism—A Crisis of Environmental Aesthetics,” ASLE 13th Biennial Conference, June 2019, Davis, CA

Literature Teaching Assistant Trainer (Peer Mentor/Workshop Co-Organizer), English Department, URI, 2017-2019

Panel Organizer, “Planetary War and Modernist Ecologies of Ruin,” Modernist Studies Association 20, Columbus, Ohio, November 2018

Co-organizer, Humanities at Work in the World, Undergraduate Career Training Workshop, 2017

Committee Member: Core Committee, Coastal Environments Subcommittee, Collaboration and Development Committee; NEH Next Generation Humanities PhD Planning Grant, URI English Department, 2016-17

Member, Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Graduate Assistants United (Union), 2017

Student Advisory Board Member, URI Center for the Humanities, 2016-17

Evaluation Committee, URI Foundation Staff Excellence Awards, 2016, 2017

Department Steward, English, Graduate Assistants United, 2014-17

Session Co-chair and organizer with Dr. Gulsah Gocmen, “Modernist Resilience at the End of the World(s),” ASLE 12th Biennial Conference, June 2017, Detroit, MI

Panel Organizer, “Repurposing the Grounds of War: Modernist Environments,” Modernist Studies Association 19, Amsterdam, Netherlands, August 2017

Panel Moderator, “Understanding Femininity,” URI Graduate Conference, April 2017

Marketing and Logistics Coordinator, AAUP Sponsored “Climate Change Science in an Age of Misinformation,” Featuring Cornelia Dean, Kenneth Kimmell, J. Timmons Roberts, Lee McIntyre, and Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Kingston, RI, April 2016

Graduate Liaison to English Department Meetings, URI, 2015-16

English 110 for Secondary Schools Curriculum Development Committee, URI, 2016

Sessions Co-chair with Kara Watts, “Touching the Body in Pieces: Affective Ecologies of the Modern Body” (I) and (II), NeMLA Annual Convention, Hartford, CT, March 2016

Panel Moderator, “Transforming Perspectives in Military and Political History at the Eve of WWI,”
URI Graduate Conference, April 2016
Session Co-chair with Michael Haselton, “Food and Sustainability: Towards a Culinary Ecology,”
NeMLA Annual Convention, Toronto, ON, April 2015
Graduate Representative, English Department Graduate Committee, URI, 2014-15
Submissions Reader, *Ocean State Review*, 2014
Panel Moderator, “Global and Local Traumas: From WWI to Today,” URI GradCon, April 2015
Session Chair, Guaranteed Session: British Eighteenth Century Literature, RRMLA Annual
Convention, Vancouver, WA, October 2013
Co-chair of Professionalization, English Graduate Organization, UNH, 2013-2014

Invited Discussant

“Modern French Literature and Culture,” Upper Level Undergraduate Course, World War I
Contexts Discussion, Dr. Leslie Kealhofer-Kemp, April 2017
“Public Humanities,” Graduate Course, Dr. Kathleen Davis, January 2017
Writing and Rhetoric Teaching Assistant Training Workshop, Writing 999, August 2016
English Graduate Professionalization Course, English 510/11, October 2015, April 2016, January
2017, April 2018, April 2020
English Graduate Program New Student Orientation, URI, August 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, 2009-Present
Modern Language Association, 2012-Present
Modernist Studies Association, 2014-Present

Other Relevant Employment

History 142 (Native American History Since 1877) and 180 (Introduction to Latin American
Civilization) Tutor, Dr. Judith Gamble, Talent Development Program, URI, 2020
Associate Editor, *Empire Studies Magazine: Topics in the Rise and Fall of Empires*, May-August 2019
Teaching Assistant, Gender & Women’s Studies 220: Women and the Natural Sciences, Nursing BS
Accelerated Online Course, Dr. Karen Stein, URI, Spring 2018
Joint Coordinator, Marketing and Website Rebranding Project, English Department, URI, 2017-19
Teaching Assistant, English 160: World Literatures, Dr. Carolyn Betensky, Fall 2017
English 110 Tutor, Dr. Gititi, Talent Development Program, URI, 2017
Teaching Assistant, FLM 100 Nursing BS Accelerated Online Course, Marina Shron, Summer 2017
AP Exam Reader, English Language Responses, Kansas City, MO, June 2016
ETS Scorer, rSAT Online Tests, Essay Writing Section, December 2015-July 2017
Administrative Assistant, Center for Humanities, URI, Kingston, RI, 2015-16
Writing 100 Tutor, Dr. Hagen, Talent Development Program, URI, 2015
Marketing and Café Manager, Catering Sous Chef, Tidewater Catering Group, Manchester,
NH, 2011-2014
Substitute Teacher, Bangor School System, Bangor, ME, 2010-2011

Language Proficiencies

French – Reading and Writing, Basic
Latin – Reading, Basic

Academic Blog Posts

“Perspectives on Preparing for Comprehensive Exams” Series (3), *Essential Context: a graduate student blog*, URI English, September 2016.

“Researching in the Archives with Dr. Maury Klein,” *Essential Context: a graduate student blog*, URI English, April 2017.

In the Media

“ISLE Responds to the Call for Social and Environmental Justice,” *ISLE/OUP Curated Collection* featuring my “*Beloved* as Ecological Testimony: The Displaced Subject of American Slavery” alongside other articles responding to recent call for anti-racist progress, [<https://academic.oup.com/ISLE/pages/social-and-environmental-justice>]

“How Modernism Provisions Us for the Future,” *Studies in the Novel* 52.2 (Summer 2020): 209-214, review essay by Tim Weintzen, including review of *Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature*, [<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/756945>]

“Review of *Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature*, ed. Kara Watts, Molly Volanth Hall, and Robin Hackett by Marta Figlerowicz,” *Modernism/Modernity*, January 2020, [<https://muse.jhu.edu/article/751800>]

“Recent Awardees - Dissertation Completion Fellowship,” *Council for European Studies*, July 2019, [<https://councilforeuropeanstudies.org/grants-and-awards/dissertation-completion/recent-awardees>]

“Doctoral Candidate Wins Coveted Fellowship for Dissertation on Landscape Representation in Modernist Literature,” *URI Today*, July 2019, [<https://today.uri.edu/news/doctoral-candidate-wins-coveted-fellowship-for-dissertation-on-landscape-representation-in-modernist-literature/>].

“Conference Review: MSA 2019.” *TMR: The Modernist Review*, October 2019, [<https://modernistreviewcouk.wordpress.com/2019/10/31/msa-2019/>].

“Congratulations to Winners!,” *URI English: a graduate student blog*, April 2019, [<https://web.uri.edu/grad-english-blog/2018/04/12/congratulations-to-fellowship-and-scholarship-recipients/>].

“Graduate Student Edited Collection,” *Center for the Humanities*, May 2018, [<https://web.uri.edu/humanities/graduate-student-edited-collection/>].

“Student Spotlight: Molly Volanth Hall,” *URI English: a graduate student blog*, April 2018, [<https://web.uri.edu/grad-english-blog/2018/04/13/student-spotlight-molly-volanth-hall/>].

“Episode 7: Modernism at War,” *Modernist Podcast*, July 2017, [<https://modernistpodcast.org/episode-seven/>].

“I am a Humane Educator: Molly Volanth Hall,” *Humane Education Blog*, September 2016, [<https://humaneeducation.org/blog/2016/humane-educator-molly-volanth-hall/>].