

Molly Volanth Hall

University of Rhode Island | Department of English
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Education

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

Advisor: Dr. Jean Walton

Committee: Ryan Trimm, Erik Loomis, Kathleen Davis, Annu Matthew, Serpil Oppermann

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

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

MEd, Cambridge College, Mass., 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. DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isy043>.

"The Banal Sublime of Postcolonial Mumbai and Kolkata: The Embodied Ghosts, Falling Bodies, and Tangled Webs in Chandra's 'Dharma' and Chaudhuri's *A Strange and Sublime Address*," *The Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies* 7.1 (2019). Forthcoming.

Edited Books

Hall, Molly, Kara Watts, & Robin Hackett, Eds. *Affective Materialities: Reorienting the Body in Modernist Literature*. Introduction Co-Written with Kara Watts. University Press of Florida, 2019. ISBN: 9780813057071. [Digital access: <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/63971>]

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.

White Papers

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

Encyclopedia Entrees

"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).

Works Under Review

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

"Radclyffe Hall's Queering of the Modernist Garden." *Feminist Modernist Studies*, for the "Feminism and Ecology Special Issue," manuscript under review.

Professional Blog Posts

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

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

Conference and Seminar Papers

Roundtable Participant, "Modernism and Ecology 2: Eco-Catastrophe," Modernist Studies Association 21, Toronto, Canada, October 2019

Seminar Participant, Material Modernisms: Making and Remaking Things Seminar, Modernist Studies Association 21, 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.
- “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,” North East Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Toronto, ON, 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 Annual 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.
- “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.

Grants and Honors

- Andrew Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Council of European Studies, July 2019 - June 2020 (\$27,500+)
- Full Tuition Scholarship, URI Graduate School, 2019-20 (\$29,311)
- 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, University of Rhode Island, 2018 (\$19,000 + Tuition)
- 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 and 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)

Graduate Fellowship, The Coastal Institute, URI, 2016-17 (\$16,000 + Tuition)
 Senior Fellow Appointment, The Coastal Institute, University of Rhode Island, 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 and 2018 (\$50), and Third Place Award - 2015 (\$25)
 MSA Conference Travel Grant, 2017, 2018, 2019 (\$225, \$150, \$200)
 Richard Beaupre Hope and Heritage Fund Travel Award, University of Rhode Island, 2015 (\$750), 2016 (\$750), 2017 (\$225), 2018 (\$300), 2019 (\$300)
 GAU Grant Fund Award, Research and Conference Travel, 2015 (\$250), 2016 (\$400), and 2017 (\$500)
 GSA Grant Fund Award for Conference Travel, 2015 (\$250), 2016 (\$200), 2017 (\$500), and 2019 (\$250)
 Service Award, URI English Department, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019
 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of Rhode Island, 2014-7
 Glen Goodknight Memorial Scholarship, Mythopoeic Society, 2014 (\$200)
 Modern Language Association Conference Travel Grant, 2014 (\$300)
 Graduate Teaching Assistantship, University of New Hampshire, 2013
 Full Tuition Scholarship, University of New Hampshire, 2012
 Recognition of Excellence in English, Educational Testing Service, 2009
 Eugene M. Lang Scholarship, New School University, 2003
 Regis College Book Award, 2002

Teaching Positions

Lecturer, Literary Arts & Studies Department (LAS), Rhode Island School of Design, 2017-2019
 Instructor of Record (IA), Department of English, University of Rhode Island, 2014-16, 2017-8
 Instructor of Record (IA), Department of English, University of New Hampshire, 2013-14

Teaching Experience

RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN (2017-2019)

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

LAS E101: First-Year Literature Seminar: (1) Nature, Trauma, and Selfhood in Modernity; (2) Landscape, Myth, and Britishness (2 Sections total)

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND (2014-2018)

English 201: Principles of Literary Study (2 sections)

English 110: Introduction to Literature

English 243: The Short Story

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

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE (2013-2014)

English 401: First Year Writing: Ecology and Subjectivity

English 401: First-Year Writing

Selected Service to the Profession and the University

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Co-Chair and founding member, URI English Graduate Professionalization Committee, January 2015-Present

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Panel Moderator, “Transforming Perspectives in Military and Political History at the Eve of WWI,” URI GradCon, April 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

Founding member, URI English Graduate Writing Group, January 2015-Present

Graduate Liaison to English Department, University of Rhode Island, 2015-16

Submissions Reader, *Ocean State Review*, 2014

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

Panel Moderator, “Global and Local Traumas: From WWI to Today,” URI GradCon, April 2015

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

Session Chair, Guaranteed Session: British Eighteenth Century Literature, RRMLA Annual Convention, Vancouver, WA, October 2013

Co-Chair of Professionalization, English Graduate Organization, University of New Hampshire, 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, ENG 999, August 2016
English Graduate Professionalization Course, ENG 510/11, October 2015, April 2016, January 2017, April 2018
English Graduate Program New Student Orientation, URI, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019

Professional Affiliations

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment, Since 2009
Modern Language Association, Since 2012
Modernist Studies Association, Since 2014
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts, Since 2019

Other Academic Employment

Associate Editor, *Empire Studies Magazine: Topics in the Rise and Fall of Empires*, May-August 2019
Teaching Assistant, GWS 220: Women and the Natural Sciences, Accelerated Online Course, Dr. Karen Stein, URI, Spring 2018
Joint Coordinator, English Department Rebranding Marketing and Website Development Project, URI, 2017-19
Teaching Assistant, ENG 160: World Literatures, Dr. Carolyn Betensky, Fall 2017
English 110 Tutor, Dr. Gititi, Talent Development Program, URI, 2017
Teaching Assistant, FLM 100 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, Dec. 2015-July 2017
Administrative Assistant, Center for Humanities, URI, Kingston, RI, 2015-16
Writing 100 Tutor, Dr. Hagen, Talent Development Program, University of Rhode Island, 2015
Marketing Manager, 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

Media

“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/>].
“Congratulations to Winners!,” *URI English: a graduate student blog*, April 2019, [<http://urienglish.com/2019/04/26/congratulations-to-winners/#more-1032>].
“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, [<http://urienglish.com/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/>].