

Nick Valvo

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Curriculum Vitae

Positions

Lecturer, Northwestern University, 2015-
Lecturer, Bates College, 2013-15.

Education

2014. Ph.D. in English, University of California, Davis. Field in eighteenth-century British literature.
2004. B.A. with high honors in English, Oberlin College.

Dissertation

Penurious Payments: Debt, Dependence and Communal Form in Eighteenth-century Britain

Committee: David Simpson (chair), Alessa Johns, and Gregory Clark (economics).

Examiners: Timothy Morton and Christopher Loar.

Taking as my starting point the interpenetration of social, economic, and religious understandings of communal life in eighteenth-century Britain, my dissertation uses literary misrepresentations of debt as an opening for new approaches to literary and religious texts. The resulting readings help us better understand the emerging generic distinctions among imaginative, religious and economic modes of writing.

Honors, Grants, and Awards

2014-15, Fellow, Clark Library and UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies ASECS Fellowship.

2012-13, Fellow, Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship.

2012-13, Fellow, Clark Library and UCLA Center for 17th and 18th Century Studies Dissertation Fellowship (declined).

2011, University of California, Davis, English Department Competitive Summer Fellowship for dissertation writing.

2008-09, University of California President's Predoctoral Fellowship.

2008, University of California, Davis, English Department Competitive Summer Fellowship for research travel.

2006, University of California, Davis, English Department Competitive Summer Fellowship for language study.

2005-06, University of California President's Predoctoral Fellowship.

Research Fields

Eighteenth-century literary history; economic criticism; church history and secularization; psychoanalysis; everyday-life studies; cultural history of political liberalism; labor history of the Atlantic world; historicism; plasticity.

Book Projects

The Parish of Parnassus: Debt, Community, and Aesthetics in Eighteenth-century Britain. Manuscript in preparation.
Jubilee: Debt, Slavery, and Historical Consciousness in the Early Modern Atlantic World. Preliminary work underway.

Articles

- “Sentimental Disinterest,” forthcoming from *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation*.
“Costuming the Historical Figure: Hegel, Realism, and Fancy Dress,” revised and resubmitted to *Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*.
“Pseudo-Tillotson’s *Sentiments of Popery: A Book History of Toleration*,” submitted for review to *Huntington Library Quarterly*.
“Beauties and Deformities: Anti-formalism in Sentimental Literary Anthologies,” in preparation.
“The Plastic Impulse: or, What can speculative realism offer a historicist criticism?,” in preparation.

Invited Talks and Workshops

- “Sentimental Disinterest.” Invited talk at the Southern California Eighteenth-Century Group, University of California, Los Angeles. Los Angeles, CA, February 19, 2015.
“Strangers.” University of Michigan Eighteenth-Century Studies Group. Ann Arbor, MI, March 7, 2012.

Conference Activities

- “Economic Life in the British Past and How its History Can Help Us Rethink Modern British History,” Roundtable Participant, at the Rethinking Modern British Studies conference hosted by Modern British Studies Birmingham, July 1-3, 2015.
“Thinking Ancient Slavery from Henry Ainsworth to John Locke” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 2015 Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, March 19-21, 2015. Talk for the panel, “Slaves and Slavery in the Global Eighteenth Century.”
“Who thinks abstractly?: Eighteenth-century Economic Sociability” at the Northeast Conference on British Studies 2014 meeting in Lewiston, ME, October 18, 2014. Presentation for the roundtable “When was market society?: Narrating the cultural history of economic life in Britain, c. 1700-1900.”
“The Butcher Scene: Economic Locality in *Roxana*” at the Defoe Society 2013 Biannual Meeting in Normal, IL (August 10, 2013). Talk for the panel “Defoe’s Social Networks.”
“Against Trust: Reading Eighteenth-Century Credit Discourse Against the Grain” at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies 2013 Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, April 4-7, 2013. Talk for the panel, “Crediting Bankrupts, Bankrupting Credit, and Economic Circulation in Eighteenth Century Europe.”
“Jubilee and Nationalist Time” at the Midwest Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, OH, November 11, 2012. Talk for the panel, “Debts to the Past.”

- “Economic Locality and Estrangement in Defoe’s *Roxana*” at Transporting Bodies: 18th and 19th Century Travel, a graduate student conference given by the University of Michigan Eighteenth-Century Studies Group and Nineteenth-Century Forum, Ann Arbor, MI, September 15, 2012.
- “Secularization and the Limits of Tolerance: John Tillotson’s ‘Sentiments of Popery.’” The American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 2012 Annual Meeting, March 22-25, 2012, San Antonio, TX. Talk for the panel, “New Secularism.”
- “Performing Non-knowledge: Wesley, Witnessing and the Assurance Debate.” Northeast Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, April 7-10, 2011, New Brunswick, NJ. Talk for the panel, “Performing Knowledge.”
- “Liberty in the Book of Genesis.” A Liberty Fund colloquium, February 3-6, 2011, Asheville, NC. Invited participant.
- “The Sanctuary of Conscience: Tillotson and the Theology of Debt.” The American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies 2010 Annual Meeting, March 20, 2010, Albuquerque, NM. Talk for the panel, “Eighteenth-century Ectopias.”
- “Costuming the Historical Figure.” Projections: Speculating on Presence, Absence, and Nonsense, conference given by the CUNY Graduate Center, March 6, 2009, New York, NY. Talk for the panel, “Projections of the Self.”
- “Welcome to the Social.” The UC Davis English Graduate Student Association Scholar Symposium. March 14, 2008, Davis, CA. Talk for the panel, “Spaces of Annotation.”

Digital Humanities Projects

- “Spaces of Exception.” A digital humanities project, in collaboration with John Levin of the University of Southampton, using temporally-aware mapping software to plot attestations of early modern debt sanctuaries in time and space. Preliminary findings at <http://spacesofexception.org/>

Teaching Fields

Themed surveys and seminars in the literary history of the long eighteenth century: pleasure and the reading experience; nature and the natural in eighteenth-century literature; women and the eighteenth-century novel; comedy and the eighteenth-century sense of humor; what is Romanticism?; literatures of the family; religious minorities in eighteenth-century literature and culture.

Literature courses beyond the eighteenth century: labor and literature in the Atlantic world; the global literary history of debt; historicism and historical figuration; secularization and literary history; digital humanities in theory and practice.

Literary theory: eighteenth-century Anglophone aesthetics; ornament, gender and aesthetics; Hegel, Marx, Freud; Heidegger, Lacan, Derrida; ecocriticism; economic criticism; literary theory since 2000; the symptom; structure; figuration; object-oriented ontology, thing theory, Latour and Malabou.

Rhetoric and Composition.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Fall 2013, Fall 2014. Bates College. Instructor for “Nature and the Natural in Eighteenth-century British Literature.”

Fall 2009-Spring 2011. University of California, Davis. Instructor for University Writing Program 1, Expository Writing. Six quarters.

Teaching Assistant or Reader

Summer Session One, 2009. University of California, Davis. Reader for ENL 110B, Introduction to Principles of Criticism. Professor Timothy Morton.

Spring Quarter, 2009. University of California, Davis. Teaching Assistant for ENL 117A, Shakespeare's Early Works. Professor Gina Bloom.

Spring Quarter, 2008. University of California, Davis. Teaching Assistant for ENL 130, British Romantic Literature. Professor Timothy Morton. Gave five lectures, on a guest-lecturing basis, on Thomas Chatterton, Charlotte Smith, Erasmus Darwin, Thomas De Quincey and Immanuel Kant.

Winter Quarter, 2008. University of California, Davis. Teaching Assistant for ENL 110B, Introduction to Principles of Criticism. Professor David Simpson. Guest lecture on G.W.F. Hegel's vignette on the dialectic of master and bondsman and Jacques Lacan's "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the I as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience."

Fall Quarter, 2007. University of California, Davis. Teaching Assistant for ENL 44, Introduction to the Study of Fiction. Professor Patricia Moran.

Research and Editorial Assistantships

Research assistant to Prof Giovanna Ceserani of the Stanford University Classics Department, Summer 2010.

Assistant to the Editors, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 2006-7 academic year.

Editorial assistant on the manuscript preparation of two books for Digital Design Group, Inc. of Newton, MA.

Languages

Spanish, advanced reading and speaking.

French, research language.