
Dr. SARAH CONNELL

HOME ADDRESS

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UNIVERSITY ADDRESS

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Northeastern University
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EDUCATION

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Ph.D. in English, 2014

Specializations:

Early modern British and Irish literature, world medieval literature, digital humanities, medieval and early modern European historiography, archival studies, Shakespeare studies, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century transatlantic literature, postcolonial and empire studies, Irish studies, early women's literature

Bates College, Lewiston, ME

B.A. in English and Classical & Medieval Studies, 2004
Summa Cum Laude

GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH

Co-Principal Investigator, National Endowment for the Humanities: Institutes for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities, "Word Vectors for the Thoughtful Humanist: Institutes on Critical Teaching and Research with Vector Space Models," 2018–2021

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Flanders, Julia and Sarah Connell. "Writing, Reception, Intertextuality: Networking Women's Writing." *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. Forthcoming (2020).

Connell, Sarah, Julia Flanders, Nicole Infanta Keller, Elizabeth Polcha, and William Reed Quinn. "Learning from the Past: The Women Writers Project and Thirty Years of Humanities Text Encoding." *Magnificat Cultura i Literatura Medievales* 4 (2017).

Clark, Ashley and Sarah Connell. "Meta(data)morphosis." *Proceedings of the Symposium on sub rosa XML*. Balisage Series on Markup Technologies 18 (2016).

Connell, Sarah. "The Poetics and Politics of Legend: Geoffrey Keating's *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* and the Invention of Irish History." *The Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 14.3 (2014) 83–106.

Connell, Sarah. "Writing on the Land of Ireland: Nationality, Textuality, and Geography in the *Acallam na Senórach*." *Hortulus* 7 (2011).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Connell, Sarah. "Performance and Pedagogy: Bringing the *Merchant* Module Online." *Shakespeare and Digital Pedagogy*. Diana Henderson and Kyle Vitle, eds. The Arden Shakespeare. Forthcoming (2021).

Connell, Sarah. "Companions, Competitors, Contexts: Margaret Cavendish in Women Writers Online." *Cambridge Companion to Margaret Cavendish*. Brandie Siegfried and Lisa Walters, eds. Forthcoming.

Messina, Cara Marta, Sarah Connell, Julia Flanders, Caroline Klibanoff, and Sarah Payne. "Pedagogy, Collaboration, and Sociality as Design Principles in Digital Humanities Projects." *Social Knowledge Creation in the Humanities* (Vol. 2). Iter Press. Forthcoming (2019).

Flanders, Julia and Sarah Connell. "Quality Assurance Under Conditions of Scale and Complexity." *Parameters* (2018).

Connell, Sarah. "Maria Edgeworth in Review." *Women Writers in Context*. December 2016.

Baker, Noelle, Sarah Connell, and Sandra Petrulionis. "Mary Moody Emerson as Reader, Writer, and Reviewer." *Women Writers in Context*. December 2016.

Flanders, Julia, Syd Bauman, and Sarah Connell. "Text Encoding Fundamentals with TEI" and "XSLT: Transforming our XML Data." *Doing Digital Humanities: Practice, Training, Research*. Constance Crompton, Richard J. Lane, and Ray Siemens, eds. Routledge. 2016.

DISSERTATION

"No Room in History": Genre and Identity in British and Irish National Histories, 1541–1691

Committee: Professors Marina Leslie (chair), Kathleen Kelly, and Patrick Mullen

By recasting medieval chronicles and legends as the rich material of early modern history, I argue that these texts underlie early modern innovations in historical writing. The "mere annals" and "poetical fictions" developed by medieval historians enabled early modern writers to forward contemporary agendas of national identity, colonialism, and anticolonialism in both historical and literary texts. For example, I show that Edmund Spenser couples textual and national identities, claiming the authority to interpret the generically "mingled" medieval Irish chronicles in order to assert control over the problematic mingling of English and Irish populations in Ireland. In response, Geoffrey Keating's ca. 1634 *Foras Feasa ar Éirinn* musters the breadth of Ireland's *seanchas* ("ancient traditions") to invent a new genre of Irish national history designed to exclude colonialist writers who lacked access to Irish-language sources. I contend that because early modern historians made "room" for a variety of medieval and fictional materials in their discipline, current scholarship that works across period and genre most fully reflects the breadth of medieval and early modern historical and literary cultures.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP EXPERIENCE

Women Writers Project at Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Assistant Director, 2016–present

Project Manager, 2014–2016

- Collaborate with Professor Julia Flanders to set priorities and develop strategies for the continued success of this influential and long-established project. Supervise all encoding activities; lead weekly staff meetings; oversee encoder training; update the WWP's schema and documentation; and direct encoding, editing, and publication for *Women Writers Online*, the WWP's collection of early women's texts, and for the *Women Writers in Context* experimental publication platform.
- As a member of Northeastern University's Digital Scholarship Group, organize educational events and initiatives, including introductory and advanced seminars, a dissertation colloquium series, and a working group on using markup for literary research. Coordinate outreach to the university as a whole and work to foster collaboration among digital scholarship initiatives in the library and in humanities and social sciences departments. Outreach activities also include conference presentations, short-form web publications, and guest lectures.
- Provide consultation services on a national level to institutions and projects seeking to improve their digital scholarly editing, project development, and pedagogical practices.
- Collaborate on planning and writing grant proposals. Coordinate grant projects, including the NEH-funded *Cultures of Reception* initiative, which tracks the reception of early women's works in British and American periodicals, and the NEH-funded *Intertextual Networks* project, which explores intertextuality and citation in early women's texts.
- In collaboration with the *Almanacks of Mary Moody Emerson: A Scholarly Digital Edition* project team, coordinate encoding and publishing a set of manuscripts that will serve as a prototype for the WWP's future manuscript publication.

<https://www.wwp.northeastern.edu>

NULab for Texts, Maps, and Networks, Boston, MA

Assistant Director

2016–present

- Supervise the NULab's graduate Fellows, advising students on their individual research projects and directing their work for the NULab.
- Lead the NULab's efforts to improve digital proficiencies in the undergrad classroom, including the Digital Teaching Integration Initiative. Partner with faculty on developing and teaching assignments with digital components.
- Coordinate the Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities, planning curriculum, partnering with faculty to develop assignments, and co-teaching the NULab Project Seminar class.
- Organize the NULab's workshops, speaker series, annual conference, and other events; teach workshops on technical and pedagogical topics.
- Coordinate the NULab's Seedling Grants program.
- Lead all other NULab activities, such as outreach, budget administration, the visiting scholars program, and undergraduate research development.

<https://www.northeastern.edu/nulab/>

Digital Scholarship Group, Boston, MA
Boston Research Center Project Analyst
 2018–2019

- Organized the development of seven prototype digital projects during the pilot phase of the Boston Research Center.
- Analyzed the needs and possibilities reflected by the prototypes in preparation for a grant proposal to support a fully-implemented Boston Research Center.
- Developed web and other outreach materials.

<https://bostonresearchcenter.org/>

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Literature Section, Boston, MA
Postdoctoral Associate

2016–2017

- Worked with Professor Diana Henderson to design a module on *The Merchant of Venice* for delivery through the MITx online educational platform.
- Responsibilities as project manager for the course team included developing pedagogical content, researching best practices for online learning, coordinating resources and team members to design the module, locating and evaluating digital tools for working with Shakespeare and early modern drama, and developing the course's MITx instance using the Studio course-creation platform.

edge.edx.org/courses/course-v1:MITx+21L.010r+1T2017/info

Early Caribbean Digital Archive at Northeastern University, Boston, MA

TEI Developer

2014–2015

- Working on a team led by Professor Elizabeth Maddock Dillon, developed a customized TEI schema and documentation for the ECDA project, a collaborative digital lab exploring new ways to represent and offer access to pre-1900 Caribbean texts.
- Responsibilities included establishing data capture priorities, encoding texts, researching nineteenth-century transatlantic literary culture and textual circulation, writing documentation and guidelines, training new encoders, and writing short-form web posts about the project's research questions and encoding decisions.

<http://ecda.northeastern.edu/>

Women Writers Project at Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Research Assistant, Knowledge Organization and Data Modeling Transcription Project

2013

- Transcribed and edited presentations from the Knowledge Organization and Data Modeling symposium held at Brown University in 2012.
- Annotated and glossed transcriptions; researched and wrote materials pertaining to data modeling and digital scholarship; entered and edited texts on the symposium website.

<http://datasymposium.wordpress.com>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Instructor, Department of English

2017, 2018

- In collaboration with Professor Elizabeth Maddock Dillon developed and taught two sections of a new course for the English Department, *Literature and Digital Diversity*, designed to teach students text encoding, word vector modeling, and digital archive curation, while focusing on questions of diversity and inclusion in digital textualities.

<http://litdigitaldiversity.northeastern.edu/>

Guest Instructor, Department of English and Digital Scholarship Group

2014, 2016, 2018, 2019

- In partnership with Professor Marina Leslie, designed a unit on archival research, data modeling, and text encoding for the advanced undergraduate seminars *Topics in Renaissance Literature: Gender, Sex, & the Renaissance Body* and *Topics in Renaissance Literature: Becoming Human*.
- Collaborated on selecting course readings, structuring class sessions, and creating an assignment in which students encode and publish early modern archival texts using the TEI markup language; provided guidance and feedback to students as they completed the assignment; evaluated completed projects.
- Prepared and delivered lectures introducing students to the fundamentals of text encoding and exploring the significance of markup and other digital humanities resources for archival theory, representations of the Renaissance body, and early modern theories of the human.

<http://sarahconnell.org/pedagogy/encoding-digital-editions/>

Writing Lecturer, Department of English

2007–2016

- Thirty-one sections of ten different courses (3–5 classes taught yearly).
- Individually responsible for all course planning, including syllabi & assignments, classroom teaching, student feedback, and grading.
- Courses designed and taught: *College Writing*; *First-Year Writing*; *First-Year Writing for Multilingual Writers*; *Interdisciplinary Advanced Writing in the Disciplines*; *Advanced Writing in the Disciplines*; *Advanced Writing in the Arts, Media, and Design*; *Advanced Writing in the Technical Professions*; *Advanced Writing in the Social Sciences*; *Advanced Writing in the Health Professions*; *Advanced Writing for Speakers of Other Languages*.

INVITED LECTURES

Digital Humanities Speaker Series, MIT, February 2019

“In Praise of the Unpredictable: Exploratory Research Methods for Digital Collections”

Barrs Lecture Series, Northeastern University, April 2018

“Shakespeare Unbound: Text, Performance, Pedagogy” with Diana Henderson

Mahindra Humanities Center seminar series: *Women and Culture in the Early Modern World*,
February 2016

“What Stuff Are You Reading Here?: Encoding Intertextuality in Early Women’s Texts”

Trinity Long Room Hub, Trinity College Dublin, June 2015

“Making Room in History: Text Encoding and Early Modern Historiographies”

SELECTED SEMINAR AND WORKSHOP TEACHING

July 2019, Northeastern University, “Word Vectors for the Thoughtful Humanist”

July 2018, Attending to Early Modern Women, “Algorithms in the Archive: Explorations of the Early Modern Digital Classroom”

June 2018, Florida State University, “Introduction to the TEI”

November 2017, Boston University, “Topic Modeling in the Humanities”

June 2017, Folger Shakespeare Library, “Opening the Digital Anthology of Early Modern English Drama: Skills, Tools, and Texts”

May 2017, University of Guelph, “Introduction to the TEI”

April 2017, Northeastern University, “Introduction to TEI Customization”

May 2016, Cornell University, “Introduction to the TEI”

March 2016, Northeastern University, “Early Modern Digital Pedagogies”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

American Literature Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA

“Mary Moody Emerson’s *Almanacks* and Women Writers Online: A Casebook on Collaboration”
with Noelle Baker

54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

May 2019

“How dangerous—s^d any thing be ommitted!!!!: Editing and Encoding the *Almanacks* of Mary Moody Emerson”

MIT Press Tech Talk Series, Boston, MA

May 2018

“Encoding and Publishing Early Women’s Texts at the Women Writers Project”

Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, Milwaukee, WI

October 2017

“Addicted to the Reading of History: Mapping Historiographic Discourse in Women Writers Online”

Digital Humanities Conference 2017, Montreal, Canada

August 2017

“Intertextual Networks: Theorizing and Encoding Textual Connections in Early Women’s Writing” with Julia Flanders

International Margaret Cavendish Society: *Biannual Meeting*, Lewiston, ME
June 2017

“‘The Text is Variety’: Contextualizing and Analyzing the Works of Margaret Cavendish with Text Encoding.”

Renaissance Society of America: Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
March 2017

“‘A Bed-roll of Kings’: Reclaiming Geoffrey of Monmouth in Restoration National Histories”

Balisage: The Markup Conference, Washington, DC
August 2016

“Meta(data)morphosis” with Ashley Clark

Renaissance Society of America: Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
March 2016

Roundtable: “Modern Information Systems and the Gendering of Early Modern Textuality”

The Society for Textual Scholarship and the Association for Documentary Editing: *Convergences and Divergences*, Lincoln, NE
June 2015

“The Edition in Dialogue with the Archive”

50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
May 2015

“‘Searchers of Antiquities’: Early Modern Representations of Merlin as Fabulist and Historian”

Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, New Orleans, LA
October 2014

“Chronicles of Modernity: The Medieval Forms and Genres of Roderic O’Flaherty’s *Ogygia*”

Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, San Juan, PR
October 2013

“‘No Nation Voide of Myxture’: Representations of Generic and National Mixtures in the Irish Histories of Edmund Spenser, Edmund Campion, and Meredith Hanmer”

Berkeley Early Modern Organization: *Inarticulacy: An Interdisciplinary Early Modern Conference*, Berkeley, CA
November 2011

“Between ‘True Histories’ and ‘Poetical Romances’: Geoffrey Keating and the Role of Fiction in Seventeenth-century Irish National History”

University of British Columbia: *From Scroll to Screen: Translation and Reading from Ancient to Modern*, Vancouver, BC
October 2011

“Torquing the Text: Hypertextuality and the *Táin Bó Cúailnge*”

AWARDS AND HONORS

- American Society for Irish Medieval Studies, Honorable Mention, Terry Barry Competition, for the paper “‘No Nation Voide of Myxture’: Representations of Generic and National Mixtures in the Irish Histories of Edmund Spenser, Edmund Campion, and Meredith Hanmer,” presented at the Sixteenth Century Society & Conference, October 2013
- Northeastern University Excellence Fellowship (1 of 25 awarded university-wide), 2007–2012
- Northeastern University English Department Graduate Student Essay Prize for “Mind in the Gutter: Comics and the *Conte del Graal*,” 2009