

Shyam Patel

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Education

- Ph.D. in English, University of California, Irvine, August 2022.
 - Dissertation: “More Like Life: Politics and the Organic Metaphor in Late-Victorian Aesthetic Cultures”
- M.A. in English, University of California, Irvine, March 2016.
- M.A. in Humanities, University of Chicago, June 2013.
- B.A. (with “High Distinction”) in English, University of Virginia, May 2012.

Teaching Positions

Term Assistant Professor, George Mason University Department of English (2022 – Present)

- English 101: “Composition” (Hybrid).
 - *English 101 is a required first-year writing course at George Mason University. Students in English 101 learn to recognize and respond to the genre conventions, rhetorical purposes, and audience expectations that shape different modes of argumentative writing, and gain experience in collecting and synthesizing academic research in order to address contemporary social problems before non-academic audiences. In addition to affirming the sociality of all writing, English 101 frames writing as a recursive process of self-reflection and adaptation, in virtue of which the skills and strategies students acquire in the course can be transferred to new and unanticipated rhetorical situations, both within and beyond the university.*
- English 302B: “Advanced Composition: ‘Business’” (Hybrid and Online).
- English 302M: “Advanced Composition: ‘Multidisciplinary’” (Hybrid and Online).
 - *English 302 is a required upper-level writing course at George Mason University, geared toward students who have begun coursework in their declared major. The course is offered in five ‘versions’ that correspond to overarching disciplinary categories represented at the university. Irrespective of these versions, all students in English 302 learn how to find, enter, and negotiate the communities and practices of scholarship associated with their specialized discipline, and exercise this disciplinary awareness in the process of conducting both a scholarly investigation and a public intervention on a key contemporary debate in their field.*

Instructor, UC Irvine Department of English (2015 – 2022)

- Writing 39B: “Critical Reading and Rhetoric: ‘History and Rhetoric of Fairy Tales’” (Face to Face).
 - *Writing 39B is the first in a two-course sequence of writing courses for lower-division students at UC Irvine. In Writing 39B, students study the rhetorical conventions and contexts surrounding a culturally ubiquitous genre in order to gain training in rhetorical adaptability, audience awareness, genre analysis, multimodal composition, metacognition of the writing process, and reflective portfolios.*
- Writing 39C: “Argument and Research: ‘Social Mobility in Twenty-First Century America’” (Face to Face).
- Writing 39C: “Argument and Research: ‘The Origins of Today’s Student Loan Debt Crisis’” (Face to Face and Online).
 - *Writing 39C is the second in a two-course sequence of writing courses for lower-division students at UC Irvine. In Writing 39C, students study the conversations surrounding a*

contemporary social, cultural, or scientific problem in order to gain training in research methods, critical media literacy, writing in academic and non-academic contexts, multimodal composition, metacognition of the writing process, and reflective portfolios.

- English 28B: “Comic and Tragic Vision: ‘Deception and Betrayal’” (Face to Face).
 - *English 28B is the second in a three-course sequence of small, writing-intensive seminars for lower-division English majors at UC Irvine. In English 28B, students study and analyze selected examples of English dramatic literature in order to bridge their rhetorical training in lower-division Writing coursework to the practices of literary criticism they will exercise in upper-division English coursework.*

Teaching Assistant, UC Irvine Department of English (2017 – 2022)

- English 8: “What is Minority Literature?” (Face to Face).
- English 9: “Shakespeare” (Online).
- English 10: “Boredom and Literature” (Face to Face and Online).
 - Duties: for these courses, I planned and led two 30-person discussion sections per week; graded all papers, exams, quizzes, and homework assignments; commented on paper drafts; held office hours and paper conferences; delivered guest lectures; maintained course site and gradebook.

These lower-division, large-lecture courses serve as prerequisites for entry into the English major, and fulfill general education requirements for students of all majors.

- English 100: “Introduction to Literary Theory” (Face to Face and Online).
- English 102C: “Sentimentalism and Romanticism” (Face to Face).
- English 102D: “Alienation” (Face to Face).
 - Duties: for these courses, I fulfilled all the aforementioned duties for lower-division courses, in addition to providing input for syllabus design, co-composing assignment prompts, and composing real-time lecture notes for visual learners.

These upper-division, large-lecture courses instruct third- and fourth-year English majors in the interpretive methodologies and critical frameworks that characterize the field of English studies.

Professional Service

Mentorship

- English 615 Teaching Assistant Mentoring, George Mason University, Spring 2023.
- English Graduate-to-Undergraduate Mentorship Program, UC Irvine, 2019 – 2021.
- English Graduate-to-Graduate Student Mentorship Program, UC Irvine, 2019 – 2022.

Administrative Leadership

- English Department Representative: Humanities Center Graduate Liaison Network, UC Irvine, 2019 – 2020.
- Co-founder and Graduate Student Representative: Equity Committee for the Department of English, UC Irvine, 2018 – 2020.
- Graduate Student Representative: Women’s Forum Committee for the Department of English, UC Irvine, 2018 – 2019.
- English Graduate Committee Representative: Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, and English Graduate Student Association (CLCWEGSA), UC Irvine, 2015 – 2016 and 2018 – 2019.
- English Faculty Representative: Comparative Literature, Creative Writing, and English Graduate Student Association (CLCWEGSA), UC Irvine, 2016 – 2017.

Research and Working Groups

- Committee Member: “Hybrid Teaching and Learning Research Group,” George Mason University, 2023 – Present.
- Co-organizer: “English Department Research Cluster on Form and Formalism,” UC Irvine, 2015 – 2019.
- Co-organizer and Co-leader: “EcoMaterialisms: Scales of Matter(ing),” Inter-UC Research Group, 2015 – 2016.
- Co-organizer: “School of Humanities Working Group on Political Economy,” UC Irvine, 2015 – 2016.

Conference and Event Organizing

- Co-organizer: “NAVSA 2025: Aftermaths” Conference in Washington, DC. November 12–16, 2025.
- Organizer and Chair: “Neo-Stoicism and the Shaping of the Modern Mind,” panel at the Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). March 5–8, 2020.
- Organizer and Moderator: “Against Just Reading: Contemporary Reading Practices and the Future of Criticism,” colloquium for the Form and Culture & Capital research clusters at UC Irvine. February 15, 2019.
- Co-organizer: “Finance, Capital, Aesthetics: A Symposium” at UC Irvine. September 30, 2016.
- Co-organizer: “EcoMaterialisms: Scales of Matter(ing)” Conference at UC Davis. May 13–14, 2016.
- Co-organizer: “EcoMaterialisms: Organizing Life and Matter” Conference at UC Irvine. May 15, 2015.
- Co-organizer: “‘Whitehead and Speculative Realism,’ a distinguished lecture by Steven Shaviro at UC Irvine.” January 16, 2015.

Selected Honors and Awards

Fellowships

- President’s Dissertation Year Fellowship, Graduate Division, UC Irvine, 2021 – 2022 (\$45,826).
- Mellon Sawyer Seminar ‘Suffer Well’ Summer Fellowship, Center for Medical Humanities, UC Irvine, 2021 (\$3,000).
- Graduate Division Completion Fellowship, Graduate Division, UC Irvine, 2021 (\$7,500).
- Summer Dissertation Fellowship, School of Humanities, UC Irvine, 2019 (\$4,000).
- Predoctoral Fellowship, Clark Library/Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies, UC Los Angeles, 2018 (\$6,000).
- Joseph R. Dunlap Memorial Fellowship, William Morris Society in the United States, 2017 (\$1,500).
- Regents’ Fellowship, UC Irvine, 2014 – 2015 (\$51,655).

Teaching and Research Awards

- Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award, School of Humanities, UC Irvine, 2020 (\$1,500).
- Nora Folkenflik Endowed Graduate Research Award, Department of English, UC Irvine, 2020 (\$3,500).
- Research Merit Award, Department of English, UC Irvine, 2020 (\$2,000).
- Robert and Vivian Folkenflik Award, Department of English, UC Irvine, 2019 (\$1,500).

Conference and Working Group Grants

- Humanities Center Collaborative Conference Grant, provided for a co-organized symposium entitled “Finance, Capital, Aesthetics: A Symposium,” UC Irvine, Fall 2016 (\$3,000).
- Humanities Center Collaborative Conference Grant, provided for a co-organized conference entitled “EcoMaterialisms: Organizing Life and Matter,” UC Irvine, Spring 2015 (\$3,000).

Publications

- “‘That Which is Its Own Evidence’: Oscar Wilde and the Platonic Dialogue.” *Literature, Voice, Meaning: Philosophical Aspects*, edited by Garry Hagberg, Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming 2024).

Conference Presentations

- “Metabolizing Misery: Carceral Injustice and the Body Politic in Oscar Wilde's Prison Writings.” Annual Symposium of the George Mason University Center for Humanities Research (GMU CHR): “Democracy, Disposability, and Repair.” Fairfax, VA. April 11–12, 2024.
- “‘He–I–or we’: Gender, Medium, and Ekphrasis in Michael Field’s *Sight and Song*.” Annual Conference of Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (INCS): “Trans(–)Turns in Nineteenth-Century Studies.” Cincinnati, OH. March 21–24, 2024.
- “‘All That Jazz’: Flexibility and Improvisation in Hybrid Writing Classrooms.” (Co-presented with Ariel Goldenthal, Christina Grieco, and Courtney Adams Wooten.) Annual Conference of the Global Society of Online Literacy Educators (GSOLE): “Visions and Sites of Online Literacy Education.” Virtual. February 1–2, 2024.
- “Ignore, Prevent, Assimilate: Ancient Virtue Ethics Confronts Modern Structural Injustice in Oscar Wilde’s Prison Writings.” Annual Meeting of the Victorians Institute (VI): “Hard Times.” NC State University, Raleigh, NC. October 7–8, 2023.
- “Remixing Teaching Tools for Collaboration in Hybrid Classes.” (Co-presented with Ariel Goldenthal, Christina Grieco, and Suzy Rigdon-Williams.) The Future of Writing: A Symposium for Teachers on Pedagogy, Process, and Potential. University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. May 1, 2023.
- “‘He–I–or we’: Gender, Medium, and Ekphrasis in Michael Field’s *Sight and Song*.” Annual Convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, CA. January 5–8, 2023.
- “Metabolizing Misery: Utilities of Suffering in Oscar Wilde’s Prison Writings.” Annual Conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA): “Just Victorians.” Bethlehem, PA. September 29–October 2, 2022.
- “Metabolizing Misery: Utilities of Suffering in Oscar Wilde’s Prison Writings.” Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA). Baltimore, MD. April 8–10, 2022.
- “‘An Ordinary Man with a Minus Sign’: Max Nordau, Oscar Wilde, and the Decadence of Historical Consciousness.” *Decadently Queer, or Queerly Decadent: A Symposium on Gender, Sexuality, and Narratives of Decay*. UC Irvine. April 29, 2021.
- “Flourishing in Private: Modern Stoicism and Neoliberalism.” Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). Boston, MA. March 5–8, 2020.
- “‘All the Cunning of the Political Art’: Organicism, Analogy, and the Transdisciplinarity of Late-Victorian Aestheticism.” Annual Convention of the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA). San Diego, CA. November 14–17, 2019.
- “Portraiture, Discipline, Disease: Genres of Pedagogy in Walter Pater’s ‘Sebastian van Storck.’” Annual Conference of the North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA): “Media, Genre, the Generic.” Columbus, OH. October 17–19, 2019.
- “The Sourcing and Troping of Platonic Dialogue in Late-Victorian Aestheticism.” Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA). Washington, DC. March 21–24, 2019.
- “‘All the Cunning of the Political Art’: Organicism, Analogy, and the Transdisciplinarity of Late-Victorian Aestheticism.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Georgetown University, Washington, DC. March 9–12, 2019.
- “‘Petrifactions from Distant Ages’: Victorian Historiographies and the Future of Ruins.” Annual Conference of the Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States (VISAWUS): “Victorian Futures.” Palm Springs, CA. November 8–10, 2018.
- “‘The Fear of the Loss of Loss’: Unrecoverable History and its Victorian Negotiations.” Annual Meeting of the Victorians Institute (VI): “Victorian Recovery.” Furman University, Greenville, SC. October 13–14, 2017.
- “‘The Whole is the False’: Transcendental Arguments and Immanent Critique in New Historicist Approaches to Literature.” Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). Utrecht University, Utrecht, Netherlands. July 6–9, 2017.

Research Experience

- Grounded theory research into student perceptions of hybrid learning in GMU Composition courses (including conducting, transcribing, coding, and memoing student interviews). With Brian Fitzpatrick, Ariel Goldenthal, Sheri Sorvillo Rain, and Courtney Adams Wooten. 2023 – Present.
- On-site archival research of Oscar Wilde’s ‘Philosophy Notebook’ at the Clark Library at UC Los Angeles. January 4 – March 1, 2019.
 - Funded by a Predoctoral Fellowship from the Center for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Studies at UC Los Angeles (\$6,000).
- On-site archival research of William Morris’ correspondence and unpublished essays at the Hornbake Library at the University of Maryland in College Park, MD. August 1–5, 2018.
- On-site archival research of William Morris’ unpublished lectures at the British Library in London. July 5–14, 2018.
 - Funded by the Joseph R. Dunlap Memorial Fellowship from the William Morris Society in the United States (\$1,500).

Professional Development

- Midwest Victorian Studies Association (MVSA), “MVSA Summer Seminar: New Directions in Victorian Studies,” September 9, 2023.
- Modern Language Association (MLA), “A Workshop on ‘Reacting to the Past’: Transforming the Conditions of Teaching and Learning through Play,” January 5, 2023.
- George Mason University, “Composition Program Annual Fall Workshop,” 2022 – 2023.
- UC Irvine Graduate Division, “Mentoring Excellence Certificate Program,” January 20 – February 17, 2022.
- Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA), “Diversity Mentorship Program,” 2021 – 2022.
- UC Irvine Graduate Division, “Preparing for a Faculty Career Certificate Program,” July 8 – August 12, 2021.
- Activate to Captivate, “Public Speaking Certificate Program,” October 3 – November 21, 2016.

Professional Memberships

- Global Society of Online Literacy Educators (GSOLE).
- National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).
- Modern Language Association (MLA).
- American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA).
- North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA).

Languages

- German: fluent in reading and writing, proficient in speaking.
- Gujarati: proficient in speaking.