

Colten R. Biro

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English | Davis & Elkins College | Elkins, WV | Summer 2025 - Present

- Co-Director of the Honors Program
- Co-Coordinator of the Writing Concentration (An English Major Emphasis)

EDUCATION

PhD in English, Long Nineteenth-Century British Literature & Culture | Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri | 2020 – 2025 | Dissertation Title: “Liberalizing Wonder in the Golden Age of British Children’s Literature” | **Awarded “Distinction”** (Highest Honors)

Master of Arts in English | Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri

Philosophy & Letters: Graduate Certificate | Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri

Bachelor of Science | Spring Hill College: Mobile, Alabama | **Majors:** English, Political Science

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

“The Indemonstrable Monster: Shelley’s Sublime Demogorgon in *Prometheus Unbound* (1820)” *Keats-Shelley Journal*, vol. 72 no. 1, 2023, p. 40-61. Project MUSE, <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/970574>. (Published in Fall 2025)

“What about Becky?: Teaching Children’s Literature via Student-Led Experience(s)” *The Early Children’s Literature and Culture Chronicle*, 5.1 (Spring 2025).

“The Liberalism of *A Little Princess* (1905) and the Downfall of the Liberal Empire” *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly* 49.2 (Fall 2024), pp. 168-183. <https://doi.org/10.1353/chq.2024.a945158>.

“John O’Malley as a Guide for *Eloquentia Perfecta*, Community-Engaged Work, and Graduate Education.” Co-authored article with Allen Brizee and Stephanie Hurter Brizee. *Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal*. Vol. 11: No. 2, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.53309/2164-7666.1422>

“Visual Rhetoric: Making Meaning Via Visuals: Chapter 1.” *A Visual Rhetoric Field Guide*, ed. Sheila Coursey, et al. Saint Louis University, 2022.

“1619 – 2023: Tracing Systemic Racism in Saint Louis and Missouri.” Co-authored with Allen Brizee and Stephanie Hurter Brizee. *The Saint Louis Story: Learning & Living Racial Justice*. Summer 2023.

The Saint Louis Story: Learning & Living Racial Justice | <https://www.thesaintlouisstory.org>

- This is a public digital humanities and civic engagement project on the history of slavery and systemic racism in St. Louis, Missouri. | Research Contributor, Editor, Advisory Board Member | June 2022-January 2026

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED LECTURES

“Thinking Through the Rabbit-Hole: Lewis Carroll’s ‘Inward Turn’ Towards Liberal Character Development” | The Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States: “Gateways” Conference | October 3, 2025.

“English Garden Time: Self-Cultivation within Burnett’s *The Secret Garden* (1911)” | Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) Conference “Shortcuts and Tesseracts: Time/Space in Children’s Literature and Culture” | June 10, 2025.

“Playing at Discourse: Childish Conversations & Liberal Disinterest” | Panel Organizer, Panel Title: ““The Child [as] father of the Man’: Dynamic Genealogies of Childhood.”” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Fort Wayne, Indiana. April 4, 2025.

“What Can Children’s Literature Teach Us about the Nineteenth-Century World?” | Solicited to Organize a Panel & Present as Part of the Zoom Panel Series by The Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States | March 28, 2025.

“Liberalizing Memory: Kenneth Grahame and the Nostalgic Re-Imagining of Golden Age Childhoods” | Children’s Literature Association (ChLA) Conference, Madison, Wisconsin. June 1, 2024.

“Forming Alice by Formatting the Page: The Little Leather Library Edition of *Alice in Wonderland*” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Iowa City, Iowa. April 20, 2024.

“Fickle Formal Fantasies of Nonsense: *Phantasmagoria* (1869) and the Personal Journals of Lewis Carroll” | *Textual Revolutions in English Research*, hosted by the Department of English at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. December 6, 2023.

“The Liberalism of *A Little Princess* (1905) and the Downfall of the Liberal Empire” | Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee. April 16, 2023.

“Lewis Carroll’s Queens, Duchesses, & Bounded Liberalism: Liberal Educational Reforms & Conservative Children’s Authors” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Topeka, Kansas. March 25, 2023.

“The Invisibility of Personal Liberty in H. G. Wells’s *The Invisible Man* (1897)” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Richmond, Indiana. May 7, 2022.

“Reading Tennyson’s *In Memoriam of A.H.H.* (1850) as a Method for Processing the Traumas of the COVID-19 Pandemic” | 27th Annual Graduate Research Symposium, St. Louis, Missouri. April 30, 2021.

SELECTED TEACHING: INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Literature Courses:

- English 414: *Literary & Rhetorical Theory*
- English 219: *British Literature I* (British Literature to 1800)
- English 225: Literary Studies
- English 362: *Highland Dales & the Emerald Isle* (18th-20th Century Scottish & Irish Literature)
- English 225: *Madness & the Monsters Within* (19c British Literature & Genre Studies Course)
- English 2250: *Weaponizing the Child: The Politics & Social Power of Children’s Literature*
- English 2350: *The Bad, The Brooding, & The Byronic Hero*
- English 2930: *Wonder-ous Worlds & Alternate [Un]Realities*
- English 2750: *Dreamscapes, Nightmares, & the Imagination*
- English 3250: British Literary Traditions to 1800: *Consumption, Material Culture, & The Transatlantic Trade in 17th & 18th Century British Literature*
- English 3740: Introduction to Shakespeare

Writing, Rhetoric, & New Media Studies Courses:

- English 326: Writing for the Community (A Public Digital Humanities Course)
- English 204: Professional & Technical Writing
- English 324: Writing for New Media Genres
- English 102: College Writing II: *Multiple Sections*
- English 1900: Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric: *Multiple Sections & Themes (2017-2023)*
- English 1500: The Process of Composition: *Finding Your Voice in Academic Writing*
- English 4000: Business & Professional Writing

SELECTED AWARDS & RESEARCH GRANTS

Research Awards:

- The Rev. Walter J. Ong, S.J. Award for Excellence in Research | *Awarded by the St. Louis Literary Award Foundation recognizing a single graduate student each year for genuinely exceptional research, as well as scholarly achievement and promise | 2025*
- The William and Mary Burgan Prize for the Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student | *Awarded at the Midwest Victorian Studies Conference to a single graduate student who exemplifies the qualities of a teacher and scholar by giving a presentation that demonstrates “teacherly” qualities | April 2024*
- Sara van den Berg Award for Graduate Student Publication | *A recognition award for outstanding research contribution English literature awarded to two graduate students each year | AY 2023-2024*

Teaching Awards

- Saint Louis University Graduate Teaching Award | *A University-wide recognition awarded to a single graduate-student instructor each year for innovative & outstanding teaching in the classroom | AY 2022-2023*

Service Awards:

- Saint Louis University Graduate Service Award | *A university-wide recognition awarded to a single graduate-student each year demonstrating outstanding service to their department and the larger university community | AY 2023-2024*
- Joe Weixlmann Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Service | *Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to SLU’s Department of English, awarded to a single graduate student each year | AY 2022-2023*

Competitive Research Grants

- Beaumont Scholarship Research Award | Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Allen Brizee | Summer 2023 | \$8,000.00
- Brennan Research Fellowship Award | Summer 2023 | \$1,000.00
- Georgia K. Johnston Summer Research Award | Summer 2023 | \$2,500.00.
- SLU Compass Lab: Writing Grant to Fund Publication of *Saint Louis University’s Visual Rhetoric Field Guide to Eloquentia Perfecta* | Summer 2022 | \$3,000.00.