

# Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar

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## EDUCATION

### PhD in English literature

Western Michigan University (December, 2013)

Dissertation: *Old English Ecologies: Environmental Readings of Anglo-Saxon Texts and Culture*.  
An interdisciplinary, environmentally-focused analysis of the place of the human within the natural world as depicted in Anglo-Saxon texts.

Committee members: Dr. Jana Schulman (English, Dissertation Committee Chair),  
Dr. Eve Salisbury (English), Dr. Richard Utz (English), Dr. Sarah Hill (outside reader –  
Anthropology / Environmental Studies)

Comprehensive examinations: Early Medieval Literature, Late Medieval Literature,  
Renaissance Literature

### Master of Arts in Early Medieval Studies

University of York, England (2004; degree awarded with distinction)

Master's Thesis: *Trees in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Art*.

Directed by Dr. Jane Hawkes (Centre for Medieval Studies; Department of Art History)

### Bachelor of Arts in English and History (*magna cum laude*)

University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC)

English Honors Thesis: *King Arthur the Tyrant and the Scottish Call for Freedom*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Grand Valley State University**, Department of English, Allendale,  
Michigan (2015-2017)

English 203: World Literature (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 204: World Mythology

English 212: Introduction to Shakespeare (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 215: Approaches to the Study of Literature: Genre

English 216: Literary Criticism and Critical Theory

English 313: British Literature: William Shakespeare (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 382: Literature and the Environment (Supplemental Writing Skills)

English 386: Literary Responses to Death and Dying

**Part-time Lecturer, University of Michigan, Dearborn:**

English 311: Early British Literature: *Beowulf* to Milton

**Doctoral Candidate, Western Michigan University:**

English 3300: Early British Literature: *Beowulf* to Boswell

English 3110: Our Place in Nature, Honors College seminar (team-taught)

English 2070: Mythology and the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien

English 1100: Introduction to Literary Interpretation

English 1050: Thought and Writing

**Adjunct Lecturer, University of Maryland, Baltimore County:**

English 241: Rings, Cauldrons, and Cattle Raids: The Mythologies of the North

**Guest Lectures (at WMU):**

English 4800: Methods of Teaching Literature in Secondary Schools (August 9, 2011); lectured on techniques for teaching *Beowulf* in translation and in cultural context at the secondary level

English 3710: Structure of the English Language (September 13 and 15, 2010); lectured on the grammar of literary texts

English 3770: Language in the Multilingual Classroom (February 2, 2010); presented on issues for migrant farm-worker families and challenges for migrant education

English 4800: Methods of Teaching Literature in Secondary Schools (October 27, 2009); lectured on methods of teaching medieval texts in the secondary schools

English 3720: History of the English Language (October 7, 2009); lectured on languages of Britain (Celtic, Latin, Anglo-Saxon) and early medieval cultures

**PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES****Publications**

## Book Chapters

“Bringing Murder to Light: Death, Publishing, and Performance in Icelandic Sagas.” In Larissa Tracy (ed.), *Murder Most Foul: Medieval and Early Modern Homicide*. Boydell and Brewer. Forthcoming (2017).

Langan, Kathleen, and **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**. “Deciphering and Moderating Meaningful DH Conversations for Graduate Students in Humanities-based Disciplines.” In Arianne Hartsell-Gundy, et. al. (eds.), *Digital Humanities in the Library: Challenges and Opportunities for Subject Specialists*. 2015.

Nagle, Christopher, **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**, and Cynthia Klekar. “Virtual Museums: British Literary Works in Historical and Cultural Context.” In Allen Webb (ed.), *Teaching Literature in Virtual Worlds: Immersive Learning in English Studies*, pp. 123-136. Routledge, 2011.

## Articles

“The Old English *Soul and Body I and IP*” (invited contribution). In Robert Rouse and Sian Echard (eds.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*. 2016.

Vocke, Karen, Brooks Applegate, Carl Westine, and **Ilse Schweitzer VanDonkelaar**. “Serving Latino Farmworker Students in Michigan Summer Migrant Programs: Directors’ Perspectives.” *The Journal of Latinos and Education*. 2016.

**Schweitzer VanDonkelaar, Ilse**, and Christina Triezenberg. “Advocating for Mother Earth in the Undergraduate Classroom: Uniting Twenty-First Century Technologies,

Local Resources, Art, and Activism to Explore Our Place in Nature.” *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (Winter 2015).

“The *Cruce Gemmata* and Shifting Significances of the Cross in Insular Art.” *Marginalia: The Journal of the Medieval Reading Group at the University of Cambridge* (Summer 2006). Available at <<http://www.marginalia.co.uk/journal/06illumination/schweitzer.php>>.

#### Book Reviews

*Strange Beauty: Ecocritical Readings of Early Medieval Landscapes*, by Alfred K. Siewers. *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment* 18.1 (Winter 2011): 236-237.

*Looking for Hickories: the Forgotten Wildness of the Rural Midwest*, by Thomas Springer. *Third Coast* (Fall 2010): 181-183.

*The Plants of Middle-Earth: Botany and Sub-Creation*, by Dinah Hazell. In *Medievally Speaking: Medievalism in Review* (website). Available at <<http://medievallyspeaking.blogspot.com/2010/11/schweitzer-on-hazell-plants-of-middle.html>>.

#### Digital Projects

##### Online Old English Paradigm Project

Programmer for “OOEPP,” an educational tool of grammar quizzes for students of Old English, sponsored by Western Michigan University and directed by doctoral student Gregory Laing. Site available at <<http://homepages.wmich.edu/~g1laing/ooepp/index.html>>.

##### Literary Worlds Project

Creator of “Middangeard,” an educational, interactive online environment exploring Anglo-Saxon poetry and culture, for the *Literary Worlds Project*, directed by Dr. Allen Webb and sponsored by Western Michigan University. List of all *Literary Worlds Project* sites available at: <<http://brn227.brown.wmich.edu/literaryworlds/worldlist.htm>>.

#### Conference Presentations

##### International

“Paths Without End: Exile and Movement and Immobility in Anglo-Saxon Poetry” — Leeds International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2017

“Teaching the *Edda* and Sagas in the Undergraduate Classroom: Strategies and Approaches” (roundtable; presenter and organizer) — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017

“The Dead Speak: The ‘Soul and Body’ Tradition in Anglo-Saxon and Old Norse Literatures” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2014

“Waste Not, Want Not: Misuse and Disuse of Land and Labor in Old Norse Law and Literature” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2011

“Elegy, Environment, Ecology: a Green Reading of Exile in Anglo-Saxon Poetry” — International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009

“Publish and Perish: Declaring Murder in Icelandic Sagas”— International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2007

“The Memory of Trees in Anglo-Saxon Poetry”— University of Leeds International Medieval Congress, Leeds (UK), July 2006

“‘Still Combatants’ of *Ragnarök* in Anglo-Scandinavian Stone Sculpture” —International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2006

“The *Cruix Gemmata* and Shifting Significances of the Cross in Insular Art”—University of Glasgow “Visions and Visionary” Conference Workshop, Glasgow (UK), Spring 2004

Presider for session “Old English Lexis and Alliteration” -- International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2014

Presider for session “The Junius Manuscript and Its Poems”— International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010

### **National**

“American Norse: Frank Norris’s Adaptations of the Icelandic *Grettis Saga*” — Pop Culture Association / American Culture Association, April 2017 (*upcoming*)

“Houses of Earth and Bone: The Homely Grave in Anglo-Saxon Literature”  
— Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association, October 2014

“Wilderness, waste, *wester*: Into the Wild with Guthlac” — 2013 Anglo-Saxon Studies Graduate Colloquium, New York University, April 2013

“King Arthur the Tyrant and the Scottish Call for Freedom”— National Conference for Undergraduate Research, Salt Lake City (UT), Spring 2003; also presented at UMBC Undergraduate Research Day, Spring 2003

### **State / Regional**

“Natural Places and Digital Spaces: Teaching Environmental Writing with Blogging and Digital Storytelling” — Co-presenter with Christina Triezenberg, Michigan Academy Conference, Hope College (MI), March 2013

“Advocating for Mother Earth: Uniting 21st Century Technologies, Local Resources, Art, and Activism to Explore Our Place in Nature” — Co-presenter with Christina Triezenberg, Michigan Academy Conference, Saginaw Valley State University, March 2011

“Grettir’s Last Stand and the Icelandic Frontier: Frank Norris’s Retelling of the 13<sup>th</sup> century *Grettis Saga*”— Michigan Academy Conference, Alma College, March 2009

“Theorizing and Responding to Plagiarism in the Writing Center”— Co-presenter with Kim Ballard, Director of WMU Writing Center, Michigan Writing Centers Association Ideas Exchange in Muskegon (MI), October 2007

## **ADMINISTRATIVE AND COMMITTEE SERVICE**

Faculty Evaluator, GVSU English Department Student Capstone Conference (Spring 2016)

Social Media Specialist and Consultant, Medieval Institute Publications (2015)

Social Media Specialist, WMU Graduate College (2012-2015)

Co-Moderator, Interdisciplinary Work Group in the Digital Humanities, sponsored by the WMU Center for the Humanities (Fall 2013-Spring 2014)

Co-Organizer, Seminar Series in Digital Research and Scholarship, a lecture and workshop series offered by the Graduate College and University Libraries, WMU (Summer 2013)

Co-Organizer, "Advancing Your Research Skills for the Digital Age," a workshop offered by the Graduate College and University Libraries, WMU (March 2013); schedule available at <<http://www.wmich.edu/grad/events/digital.pdf>>

Graduate Assistant for WMU English Department Chair Dr. Jonathan Bush (2011-2012)

Graduate Research Assistant, Michigan Migrant Education Project (2009-2011)

Prague Summer Program Graduate Student Assistant (2009)

Secretary of Association of Graduate English Students (AGES) at WMU (2008-2010)

Student Representative for Policy Committee, WMU English Department (2008-2009)

English Department Steward for WMU Teaching Assistants' Union (2007-2009)

Student Representative for Graduate Committee, WMU English Department (2006-2008)

President of Association of Graduate English Students (AGES) at WMU (2006-2007)

Organizing Committee member for WMU Teaching Assistants Union (2005-2006)

Research Assistant for Dr. Christoph Irmscher, UMBC English Dept (Spring 2005)

## **EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE**

Acquisitions Editor and Copyeditor for Amsterdam University Press, Arc-Humanities Press and Medieval Institute Publications (2014-present)

Freelance Editor for the Applied Research Centre in the Humanities (2013-present)

Pre-Editor / Technical Editor for Brepols Publishers, Turnhout, Belgium (2012-2014)

Assistant Editor for *Medievally Speaking: Medievalism in Review*, available at <http://medievallyspeaking.blogspot.com/> (2012-2014)

Reviewer for *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (2013)

Associate Editor for *The Hilltop Review: A Journal of Western Michigan University Graduate Research* (2009-2010)

Proofreader (freelance) for Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler, Western Michigan University (2009)

Writing Consultant at WMU Writing Center (2007)

Graduate Writing Consultant for UMBC Writing Center (Spring 2005)

Writing Tutor for UMBC Writing Center (September 2000-May 2003)

## **AWARDS**

Graduate Students' Travel Fund Award from WMU Graduate College — 2013

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, awarded by WMU Graduate College — 2010

Prague Summer Program graduate essay award, selected by Robin Hemley and Richard Katrovas — 2009

WMU Graduate Research and Creative Scholar Award (Departmental Recipient) — 2008

Frederick J. Rogers Memorial Shakespeare Essay Prize (graduate level; WMU English Department) — 2007

Graduate Students' Travel Fund Award from WMU Graduate College — 2006

Garmonsway Prize at University of York — 2004

Graduate Students' Scholarship to University of York — 2003

British Marshall Scholarship alternate candidate — 2003

## **LANGUAGES STUDIED**

Anglo-Saxon (at York and WMU), Old Norse (at York and WMU), Latin (at UMBC and York), Scots Gaelic (at Aberdeen), French

## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Jana Schulman  
Director, Medieval Institute  
Western Michigan University  
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Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
jana.schulman@wmich.edu  
269-387-2627 (office number)

Dr. Richard Utz  
Chair, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts  
School of Literature, Communication, and Culture  
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