

Patrick John McGrath

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Southern Illinois University

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PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Associate Professor, Department of English, Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, 2021-

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English, Southern Illinois
University Carbondale, 2020-

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, 2015-2021

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2015)

M.A., English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2011)

B.A., Classics and English (*summa cum laude*, ΦBK) Amherst College (2007)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early modern poetry and drama; sexuality; Reformation theology and history;
rhetoric; literary style; theories of embodiment

BOOKS

Unyielding Hearts: Sexual Indifference in Early Modern English Literature and Religion

In some modern formulations, sexuality occupies an important place in personal identity; sexual desire constitutes a basic component of what makes us human; and sex represents the blissful height of embodiment. To what extent have these modern notions shaped our study of the early modern past? To begin answering that question, this book recovers a culture of sexual indifference in early modern English literature and religion. In particular, it provides examples of sexual aversion, disengagement, and diffidence in the writings of Shakespeare, Milton, Marvell, and the theology of early modern Protestantism. Whereas asceticism restrains sexual desire, often by painful means, the sexually indifferent already possess what ascetics laboriously seek: freedom (if that is the right word) from the body and its erotic urges. In early modern literature and religion, *Unyielding Hearts* offers a glimpse of human existence unstructured by the assumptions, delights, and constraints of sexual desire. Rather, it seeks to uncover literary representations that are unconstrained, uninflected, and curiously aloof from the compulsive sexualities of modernity. (In progress)

Early Modern Asceticism: Literature, Religion, and Austerity in the English Renaissance

This book demonstrates the post-Reformation relevance of asceticism in early modern England. In chapters on John Donne, John Milton, Andrew Marvell, and John Bunyan, it argues that conflicting approaches to asceticism inform literary depictions of sexual desire, subjectivity, and sexual renunciation (University of Toronto Press, 2019).

EDITED BOOKS

Towards a Sacramental Poetics. Edited with Regina M. Schwartz.

These essays investigate how the Reformation's changing attitude towards sacramentality influenced language, literature, history, theology, and philosophy. The collection includes contributions by Jean-Luc Marion, Lori Branch, Ingolf Dalferth, Hent de Vries, John Milbank, Paul Mariani, Stephen Little, Subha Mukherji, and Rowan Williams (University of Notre Dame Press, 2021).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Andrew Marvell's 'A Dialogue, Between the Resolved Soul, and Created Pleasure': Asceticism and the Plain Style," *Religion & Literature* 52.3-53.1 (2020-2021): 71-94.

"Marvell's Allusions," *Marvell Studies* 5.1 (2020): 1-26.

"Typology, Politics, and Theology in *Paradise Regained* and *Samson Agonistes*," *Studies in Philology* 116.4 (2019): 758-83.

“*Lycidas* and Laud,” *The Review of English Studies* 70.294 (2019): 252-71.

“A Religious House: Marvell’s ‘Upon Appleton House,’ Laudianism, and Exodus.” *The Andrew Marvell Newsletter* 5.2 (2014): 4-16.

“Formal Resistance: Eve’s Final Speech and Gender Hierarchy in *Paradise Lost*.” *Milton Quarterly* 47.2 (2013): 72-87.

“Reconsidering Laud: Puritans and Anglican Asceticism.” *Prose Studies* 34.1 (2012): 32-49.

“Satanic Barnwell and Evian Millwood: Allusions to *Paradise Lost* in Lillo’s *The London Merchant*.” *Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Theatre Research* 25.1 (2011): 47-61.

BOOK REVIEWS

Untimely Deaths in Renaissance Drama, by Andrew Griffin, in *University of Toronto Quarterly* 90.3 (2021).

Texts and Readers in the Age of Marvell, edited by Christopher D’Addario and Matthew C. Augustine, in *Modern Philology* 117.4 (2020).

Ascent: Philosophy and Paradise Lost, by Tzachi Zamir, in *Milton Quarterly* 53.2 (2019).

Andrew Marvell, Sexual Orientation, and Seventeenth-Century Poetry, by George Klawitter, in *Marvell Studies* 3.2 (2018).

AWARDS AND HONORS

Early Career Excellence Award, College of Liberal Arts, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2019

INVITED LECTURES

“Beyond Sexuality in Early Modern Literature,” Newberry Library Milton Seminar, Newberry library, Chicago, 2022

SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Asexuality in Andrew Marvell’s ‘The Garden.’” *Renaissance Society of America*. Virtual Conference, 2021.

“The Asceticism of Analogy: Donne, Hegel, and Derrida.” *Renaissance Society of America*. Toronto, CA, 2019.

“Sacred Landscapes and Virgin Bodyscapes in *Lycidas*.” *Renaissance Society of America*. New Orleans, LA, 2018.

“Early Modern Asceticism: The Body and/as Language.” *Renaissance Society of America*. Chicago, IL, 2017.

“The Plain Style and the Soul of Language.” *Shakespeare Association of America*. New Orleans, LA, 2016.

“John Bunyan and the Language of Monastic Conversion.” *Shakespeare Association of America*. St. Louis, MO, 2014.

“Ambiguity and Christopher Marlowe’s *Edward II*.” *Renaissance Society of America*. Washington, D.C., 2012.

“Revising Laud: Puritans and Anglican Asceticism.” *Purdue Renaissance Comparative Prose Conference*. Purdue, IN, 2011.

“‘Epitaphium Damonis’: Bacchic Orgies and the Church Fathers.” *South-Central Renaissance Conference*. Corpus Christi, TX, 2010.

“Milton’s ‘Epitaphium Damonis’: Bacchic Orgies and the Church Fathers.” *Newberry Library Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference*. Chicago, IL, 2010.

“Bacchus, Apollo, and Virgil’s ‘Eclogue VI’ in ‘*Lycidas*.’” *Milton 400* (sponsored by *Renaissance Society of America*). Manchester, NH, 2008.

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Organizer, Shakespeare 400, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2016

Co-Organizer, Newberry Library Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, Newberry Library, 2014-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Illinois University (* denotes course taught multiple times):

English

Undergraduate

300 level

Liberty, Sin, and Sexuality in the Age of Milton (English 393)

Shakespearean Sexualities (English 365)*

Introduction to Shakespeare (English 365)*

All You Need Is Love? Shakespeare, Sex, and Society (English 365)

Shakespeare and the Limits of Desire (English 365)

200 level

Witches, Demons, and Devils: The Occult in Early English Literature (English 209)

100 level

What Is Epic? (English 121)*

Horror Literature (English 102)

Graduate (English)

Late Style in Shakespeare and Milton (English 510)

Shakespeare's Late Plays (English 510)

Plainness and the Plain Style (English 510)

Classics

Classics 133B: Intermediate Latin (second semester Latin)

Classics 202A: Intermediate Latin* (third semester Latin)

Guest Teaching Lectures

“Shakespeare’s Biography in *All Is True*,” English Honor Society (Sigma Tau Delta), fall 2019

“Sex and the Fall in *Paradise Lost*,” English Honor Society (Sigma Tau Delta), spring 2018

Department of Theatre production of *The Boys from Bicester* (lectured on Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors*), spring 2018

“*Lycidas* and Laud,” English 500 (graduate student seminar), 31 October 2017

DISSERTATIONS/THESES

Kelly M. Batchelder, “Scene and Unseen: Abjection and the Female Body in Films and Drama of the Northern Irish Troubles, 1969-1998,” 2020 (dissertation committee member)

Nicholas J. Grossman, “From Sire to Sirrah: Lear’s Journey to Insignificance,” 2018, MA Thesis (Director)

Preliminary Exam Committee (Yoon Mi Sohn, Robert Van der Motter, Paul Gonzales)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Southern Illinois University

Department Service

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 2020-
Assistant to the Chair, 2019-2020
Graduate Placement Coordinator, 2018-2020
Policy Committee (elected appointment), 2017-2020
Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2015-2020

College Service:

Budget Committee, 2021, 2022
Search Committee, College of Liberal Arts Dean, 2022
College of Liberal Arts Council, 2019-2022
Vice-Chair, 2020-2021
Chair, Committee on Academic Policy, 2019-2020
Newberry Library Renaissance Consortium Representative, 2018-2020

University Service:

Search Committee Chair, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Associate Director,
2022
Faculty Senate, 2020-
Co-Chair, Faculty Senate Governance Committee, 2021-
Special Committee on Reorganization, 2020-2022
Academic Prioritization Committee, 2017
Scholarship Interview Weekend, Interviewer, 2016-2021

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Renaissance Society of America
Milton Society of America
Phi Beta Kappa

REFERENCES

Brooke A. Conti
Associate Professor of English
Cleveland State University
216-687-6870
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Professor of English
Yale University
203-432-2249
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Regina M. Schwartz
Professor of English and Law
Northwestern University
847-491-3637
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