

Rhona Trauvitch

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2013
M.Sc. Social and Public Communication, the London School of Economics and Political Science, 2004
B.A. Government, Smith College, 2003
Visiting Student, University of Oxford, 2001-2002

APPOINTMENTS

- 2020-present Associate Teaching Professor, Department of English, Florida International University
2014-2020 Instructor, Department of English, Florida International University
2013-2014 Visiting Lecturer, Department of English, Westfield State University
2013-2014 Visiting Lecturer, Program in Comparative Literature, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Massachusetts Amherst

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters

- “Synontological Spaces.” *The Routledge Handbook of Popular Culture and Tourism*, edited by Christine Lundberg and Vassilios Ziakas, Routledge, 2018, pp. 31-42.
- “*Mise en Abyme* and Quantum Mechanics: The Reader as Observer.” *Interface between Literature and Science: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Latin American Texts*, edited by Victoria Carpenter, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2015, pp. 115-140.
- “Ontology and Superposition: Where the Muppets Meet and Do Not Meet Schrödinger’s Cat.” *Jim Henson and Philosophy: Imagination and the Magic of Mayhem*, edited by Timothy M. Dale and Joseph F. Foy, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2015, pp. 199-208.
- “Charting the Extraordinary: Sentient and Transontological Spaces.” *Literary Cartographies: Spatiality, Representation, and Narrative*, edited by Robert T. Tally Jr., Palgrave Macmillan, 2014, pp. 199-213.
- “The Bible’s Paradise and *Oryx and Crake*’s Paradise: A Comparison of the Relationships between Humans and Nature.” *Plants and Literature: Essays in Critical Plant Studies*, edited by Randy Laist, Rodopi Press, 2013, pp. 165-180.
- “Alternate History as Countermonument.” *We Are What We Remember: The American Past Through Commemoration*, edited by Laura M. D’Amore and Jeffrey Meriwether, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012, pp. 114-133.

Paratext

“Discussion Questions for ‘Eulogy for My Avocado Tree’ by Donna Aza Weir-Soley.”
Introduction to Literature: Florida International University, edited by Amy Kahrman
Huseby, W. W. Norton & Company, 2018, p. 516.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Monograph

Exile and Belonging in Global Speculative Fiction

Science fiction and fantasy abound with depictions of the Other. Whether in adventures about interstellar travel or tales of artificially-created beings, these stories offer a lens onto how we encounter that which is seemingly disparate. My project explores representations of border crossing tropes in speculative fiction from around the world, considering them in terms of two cognate forms of alterity: at the micro level, that of the individual among communities, and at the macro level, that of the individual within humanity. I demonstrate that more than affording apt analogies for exilic experiences, these tropes provide a language with which to describe the often absurd facets of border crossing and migration – ones that may otherwise be incommunicable.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Fluent English, Modern Greek, and Hebrew
Intermediate German, Russian, and Spanish

COURSES TAUGHT

Instructor, Florida International University

Approaches to Literature
Around the World in Short Stories
Contemporary Literary Theory: Theory in Multimedial Popular Culture
Introduction to Literature
Jewish Literature: Judaic Mythology in Science Fiction and Fantasy
Literature among the Arts and Sciences: Intersections of Narrative Theory and Science
Major American Authors
Major Literary Genres: Short Stories of Horror and the Weird
Major Literary Modes: Studies in Metaphor
Quantum Narratology and Other Curiosities: Intersections of Science and Storytelling
Science Fiction
Semiotics and Narratology: How Fiction Crosses into Reality
Special Topics: Latinx Speculative Fiction
Special Topics: Shakespeare and Cervantes by way of Borges
Studies in the Film: Literary Tropes in Moving Images
Studies in the Film: Narrative Theory and Audiovisual Advertising

Visiting Lecturer, Westfield State University

Composition
Composition II: Writing about What Matters
World Literature II

Visiting Lecturer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Fantasy and World Literature
Introduction to Science Fiction

Instructor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Intensive Modern Hebrew I, with Shmuel Bolozky
Intensive Modern Hebrew II, with Shmuel Bolozky

Teaching Assistant, Smith College

Elementary Russian, with Catherine Woronzoff-Dashkoff

Teaching Associate and Course Designer, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Brave New Worlds
Good & Evil: East-West
International Short Story
Introduction to Science Fiction

Teaching Assistant, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Brave New Worlds, with David Lenson
Comic Art in North America, with N. C. Christopher Couch
Myth, Folktale and Children's Literature, with William Moebius

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

2018	Faculty Senate Award for Excellence in Teaching (\$5,000) Office of the Provost, Florida International University
2017	CASE Faculty Award for Teaching College of Arts, Sciences & Education, Florida International University
2017	UP:LIFT Course Reform Initiative Award (\$3,945) Office of the Provost, Florida International University
2013	Peter Rollins Travel Grant Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association
2008	Grant for Conference Organization Crossroads Conference Department of Comparative Literature, Smith College

- 2006 Graduate School Fellowship for Incoming Students (\$15,000)
Graduate School, University of Massachusetts Amherst
- 2002 Second place in annual poetry competition
St. Catherine's College, University of Oxford
- 1999 International Scholar
Smith College

INVITED LECTURES

- 2018 “Judaic Mythology and Speculative Fiction: The Animating Aleph-Bet,” Jewish Museum of Florida – FIU, Miami Beach, FL
- 2017 “The Alphabet, DNA, and Computer Programming,” Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series, Nova Southeastern University, FL
- 2016 “The Ingredients of Story in Contemporary Film,” Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series, Nova Southeastern University, FL
- 2016 “Ontology and the Muppets: Are Jim Henson’s Creatures Fictional, Non-Fictional, or Both?” Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series, Nova Southeastern University, FL
- 2015 “The Magical Machinations of Metalepsis: How Fiction Becomes Reality in Theory and in Practice,” Lecture Series for the Research Training Group: Factual and Fictional Narrative, Albert Ludwig University of Freiburg, Germany
- 2012 “The Wold Newton Universe and the Peculiar Case of Palimpsest Characters,” ConBust: Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Anime convention, Smith College, MA

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 “‘Creation by Letters’: Alterity and Belonging in Tales of Recombination,” Forum: Folklore, Myth, and Fairy Tale, Modern Language Association, Virtual Convention
- 2019 “Fantastical Border Crossings: The Language of Parallel Spaces and Alternate Realities,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL
- 2019 “The Symbolic Blending of Science and Magic in Cabiya’s *Wicked Weeds*,” Forum: Science and Literature, Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL
- 2018 “Synontological Communicative Acts as Atypical Rhetoric,” International Conference on Narrative, Montreal, Canada
- 2018 “Biological Homunculus, Mystical Golem, Technological Robot,” American Comparative Literature Association, Los Angeles, CA
- 2018 “Dancing Aleph-Bet: Grapheme Recombination in Speculative Fiction,” Gimelstob Symposium, Boca Raton, FL
- 2018 “The Transmedial and Synontological Complexity of *Castle*,” Forum: Popular Culture, Modern Language Association, New York, NY
- 2017 “Stories of Graphemes and Genes: Diversity and Extinction in Languages and Species,” Subject Area: Science Fiction and Fantasy, Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, San Diego, CA
- 2017 “Units of Expression on Shuffle in Borges, Asimov, and the X-Men,” International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, FL

- 2017 “Ectostory Interaction: The Confluence of Reception, Fandom, and Cognitive Flexibility,” Allied Organization: Reception Study Society, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 “Ignorance, Bliss? Collective Memory and Cultural Narrative in *The Buried Giant* and *The Wake*,” Forum: Memory Studies, Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2016 “Metaphor and Fictionality,” International Comparative Literature Association, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 “Fan-Tastic Non-Fictional Locales: Where Ectostory Interactions Commemorate Fictional Events,” Fan Studies Network, Norwich, England
- 2016 “Synontological Spaces,” International Conference on Narrative, Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- 2016 “Beyond Metalepsis: How Participation Lets Fictions Exceed Fictionality,” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA
- 2015 “Of *a/0* in the Work of Borges,” Literature and Crisis Symposium, Florida International University, Miami, FL
- 2015 “*Figmentum nonfictumi*, or, What You Get When You Cross Taxonomical Nomenclature with Popular Culture,” Subject Area: Science and Popular Culture, Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2015 “Media Convergence + Participatory Culture = De-Fictionalization,” American Comparative Literature Association, Seattle, WA
- 2015 “Sweet Sounds: Synaesthetic Metaphors and Multi-Modal Categorization,” Division: Linguistic Approaches to Literature, Modern Language Association, Vancouver, Canada
- 2014 “#Hashtag: Autoclassification in Hypertext and Speech,” Subject Area: Internet Culture Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Chicago, IL
- 2014 “Transontological Crossover Universes: Where Sherlock Holmes Meets both Tarzan and You,” American Comparative Literature Association, New York, NY
- 2013 “Kindred Metaphors: Literary Criticism at the Confluence of Narratology and Jewish Mysticism,” Association for Jewish Studies, Boston, MA
- 2013 “How Narratology and Speech Act Theory Decipher Quidditch, Klingon, and Kwik-E-Mart,” International Conference on Narrative, Manchester, UK
- 2013 “Temporal Crosshatching: Mapping Sentient Spaces,” American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, Canada
- 2013 “The Tree of (Real) Life as a Metaphor for Fiction-Memoir Integration in Amos Oz’s *A Tale of Love and Darkness*,” Discussion Group: Hebrew Literature, Modern Language Association, Boston, MA
- 2012 “Illusory Contours in the Language of the Palimpsests,” American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, RI
- 2012 “The Implausible Traces of YouTube in Borges,” Northeast Modern Language Association, Rochester, NY
- 2011 “The Authentic Imaginary: A Study of Catalogs and Second-Tier Fictions,” American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, Canada
- 2010 “Border Crossings along Axes of the Real and the Fictional,” Crossroads Conference II, Amherst, MA

- 2010 “Western Philosophy and Hebrew Mysticism: A Comparison of Language Theory,” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 “Brands of Multi-Dimensional Discourses,” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA
- 2008 “Brands of Multi-Dimensional Discourses,” Crossroads Conference, Amherst, MA
- 2007 “Flying Through Walls: Magical Realism in Literature and Advertisements,” American Comparative Literature Association, Puebla, Mexico

MEDIA AND INTERVIEWS

- 2016 “10 lugares inventados y reales que se hicieron famosos gracias a la literatura” [“10 Invented and Real Places That Became Famous Thanks to Literature”], *BBC Mundo*, <http://www.bbc.com/mundo/noticias-america-latina-36946445>
- 2012 “*One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Magical Realism, and Advertising,” *Tan cerca, tan lejos* [*So Near, So Far*], WMUA The Voice of UMass, 91.1 FM

INVITED CAMPUS LECTURES AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

At Florida International University

- 2018 “The Hebrew Letters in Science Fiction and Fantasy”
Alumni Dinner and TAK Induction, Department of Religious Studies
- 2017 Hybrid Course Design
Faculty Innovations for Student Success Showcase
- 2016 Hybrid Courses Workshop
- 2015 “Student Involvement and Instructor Engagement”
Faculty Development Series, FIU Online
- 2015 Fall Semester Online Teaching Workshops
- 2015 Spring Semester Online Teaching Workshops

ADVISING AND MENTORING

At Florida International University

- 2020-present Faculty Advisor, Geek Culture Club
- 2016-2017 Volunteer Mentor, Student Access and Success Mentoring Program
- 2016 Volunteer Mentor, CIS (Communities in Schools) of Miami Mentor Program
- 2015-2016 Faculty Advisor, Advanced Research and Creativity in Honors (ARCH) Program
- 2015-2016 Master’s Thesis Committee Member, Department of English

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

- 2018-present Member, Executive Committee, Linguistics and Literature Forum, Modern Language Association

- 2020 Session Organizer, “Linguistic Reimaginings in Speculative Fiction,” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA
- 2020 Session Organizer, “Alternate Linguistic Environments in Speculative Fiction,” Modern Language Association, Seattle, WA
- 2016 Seminar Organizer, “Metaphor and the Conceptualization of Fictionality,” International Comparative Literature Association, Vienna, Austria
- 2016 Seminar Co-organizer, “From Fiction to Fandom: Fictional Worlds, Participatory Culture, and Novel Social Formations,” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA
- 2015-2017 Nominee, Executive Committee for Linguistics and Literature Forum, Modern Language Association
- 2013 Seminar Organizer, “The Cartography of Fictionality: Mapping Communities that Originate in Fiction,” American Comparative Literature Association, Toronto, Canada
- 2012 Seminar Co-organizer, “Palimpsest Story: Vestiges and Emanations,” American Comparative Literature Association, Providence, RI
- 2011 Seminar Organizer, “Mythical Citations and Fictional Sources,” American Comparative Literature Association, Vancouver, Canada
- 2010 Seminar Organizer: “Language in the Quest for Utopia,” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, LA
- 2009 Seminar Organizer, “Packaging Art: Brands and Adaptations,” American Comparative Literature Association, Cambridge, MA

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

At Florida International University

- 2016-present Member, Literature Gateway Curriculum Committee
- 2019-2020 College of Arts, Sciences and Education Liaison
- 2017-2019 Participant, Literature Gateway Summer Institute
- 2018 Organizer, Literature Gateway Summer Institute
- 2017-2018 Member, Literature Track Committee
- 2016-2017 Member, Literature Instructors Hiring Committee
- 2016 Liaison, CAEP (Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation) Compliance
- 2015-2016 Co-coordinator; Coordinator, Program Assessment

REFERENCES

Dr. James Phelan
 Distinguished University Professor
 Department of English | The Ohio State University
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