

BEN PARKER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, English, Brown University 2025-present.
Assistant Professor, English, Brown University 2016-2025.
Visiting Assistant Professor, English, Brown University 2015-2016.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University 2013.
B.A. (*magna cum laude*), English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Misrecognitions: Plotting Capital in the Victorian Novel. Cornell University Press. (March 2024). 147 pages.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Interpretation as Responsibility: From Scriptural Hermeneutics to Social Ethics in *Adam Bede*.”
English Literary History, vol. 92, no. 1 (Spring 2025). pp. 211-234.

“Knowable.” Special issue “Victorian Keywords” in *Victorian Literature and Culture*, vol. 51, no. 3 (Fall 2023). pp. 443–446.

“Shelter from the Storm: Cynicism and the Refuge of Meaning.” *boundary2*, vol. 50, no. 2 (May 2023). pp. 195–210.

“Value and Abstraction in Thomas Hardy.” *Modern Language Quarterly*, vol. 79, no. 2 (May 2018). pp. 203-226.

“Disruption.” *Political Concepts*, Issue 5, no. 1 (2018). Online.

“The Method Effect: Empiricism and Form in Sherlock Holmes.” *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, vol. 49, no. 3 (Fall 2016). pp. 449-466.

“*History and Class Consciousness*’s Theory of the Novel.” *Mediations: Journal of the Marxist Literary Group* (mediationsjournal.org), vol. 29, no. 2 (Spring 2016). pp. 65-84.

“Recognition or Reification?: Capitalist Crisis and Subjectivity in *Little Dorrit*.” *New Literary History*, vol. 45, no. 1 (Winter 2014). pp. 131-151.

“The Western Film and Psychoanalysis.” *Film Quarterly*, vol. 68, no. 2 (Winter 2014).

“IMAX and Its Doubles.” *Film Quarterly*, vol. 67, no. 1 (Fall 2013).

Essays, Reviews, and Criticism

Review of Daniel Wright, *The Grounds of the Novel*, in *Genre*, vol. 58, no. 1 (2025). pp. 171-178.

“On Adam Phillips.” Review essay. *n + 1*, August 18, 2023. (<https://www.nplusonemag.com/on-adam-phillips>). 4,776 words.

“Incalculably Diffusive.” Review of Alicia Mireles Christoff, *Novel Relations: Victorian Fiction and British Psychoanalysis*, in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, vol. 54, no. 2 (August 2021). pp. 287–291.

Review of Anna Kornbluh, *The Order of Forms: Realism, Formalism, and Social Space*, in *Genre*, vol. 53, no. 3 (December 2020). pp. 265–270.

Review of D.A. Miller’s *Hidden Hitchcock*, in *Film Quarterly*, vol. 70, no. 4 (Summer 2017). pp. 135-137.

“The Novel and the Police and the Psychologist.” Review of Samantha Walton’s *Guilty but Insane: Mind and Law in Golden Age Detective Fiction*, in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, vol. 50, no. 2 (Summer 2017). pp. 312-315.

“*Twin Peaks: The Return* – Going off the Grid.” *Post45*, October 4, 2017. (<https://post45.org/2017/10/twin-peaks-the-return-going-off-the-grid/>)

“Around the dinner table, the conversation is lively.” Essay on *Twin Peaks: The Return*. *Post45*, August 17, 2017. (<https://post45.org/2017/08/twin-peaks-the-return-around-the-dinner-table-the-conversation-is-lively/>)

[“What is a Theory of the Novel Good For?”](#) Review of Guido Mazzoni’s *Theory of the Novel*. *boundary2* online, June 14, 2017.

[“Harsh Terrain.”](#) Essay on film adaptations of *Wuthering Heights*. Film Society of Lincoln Center quarterly program (Winter 2017) and FilmLinc “Daily.”

[“Snark, Quirk, Sneer, Smirk.”](#) Review of Lee Konstantinou’s *Cool Characters: Irony and American Fiction*. *Politics/Letters*, no. 5, 2016.

[“The Past is Useless.”](#) Review of Karl Ove Knausgaard’s *My Struggle*, vol. 4. *Los Angeles Review of Books*, 2015.

[“The Moments of Realism.”](#) Review of Fredric Jameson’s *Antinomies of Realism*. *Los Angeles Review of Books Quarterly*, Spring 2015.

[“Baggy Monsters.”](#) Essay on *Game of Thrones*. *Public Books*, June 10, 2014.

[“Cruise Control.”](#) Essay on *Eyes Wide Shut*. *ParisReview.com*, Feb. 6, 2013.

[“Book Smart.”](#) Review of Andrea Arnold’s *Wuthering Heights*. *Artforum.com*, Oct. 4, 2012.

PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

“Workshops of Conscience.” Mahindra Humanities Center, Victorian Literature and Culture seminar. Harvard University, March 13, 2025.

“Does Trollope’s Psychology Follow Newton’s Laws?” The Trollope Society (USA). New York, February 20, 2017.

Conferences

“Afterwardsness in Narrative Discourse,” presented at the North American Victorian Studies Association. Boston College, September 13-15, 2024.

“Incompleting the ‘I’: Narcissism and Misrecognition in First-Person Narration,” presented at LACK. University of Vermont. April 20-22, 2023.

“Workshops of Conscience: Forms of Conceptual Responsibility in the Realist Novel,” presented at the American Comparative Literature Association. April 8-11, 2021.

“Hegel’s Mediation and Eliot’s Adam Bede,” presented at the North American Victorian Studies Association. Ohio State University, October 18, 2019.

“Workshop of Conscience: How Fanny Price Uses *Mansfield Park*’s Narration,” presented at the North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. Brown University, June 22, 2018.

“Dickens and Winnicott on Reality,” presented at the Modern Language Association, panel on “The Victorians after Freud.” New York, January 5, 2018.

“Disruption,” presented at Political Concepts. Brown University, December 1, 2017.

“Uprootedness and Dispersal: Collectivity without Alienation,” presented at the American Comparative Literature Association, seminar on “Envisioning Collectivities.” Utrecht University, July 6-9, 2017.

“The Ballistics of *The Small House at Allington*,” presented at the North American Victorian Studies Association. NYU Florence, May 19, 2017.

“*Time Regained* is not a Historicism,” presented at the Society for Novel Studies conference, “The Novel in or Against World Literature.” University of Pittsburgh, May 13-14, 2016.

“The Theory of the Novel Hidden in Lukács’s *History and Class Consciousness*,” presented at the American Comparative Literature Association, seminar on “Marxism and Formalism Today.” Harvard University, March 17-20, 2016.

“Motivation and Imputation,” presented at the Novel Theory Seminar, New Work in Novel Studies Symposium, Mahindra Humanities Center. Harvard University, December 8, 2015.

“Censorship and Ideology,” presented at a *Social Text* workshop on “The Logic of Contemporary Capitalism: Jameson and After.” The New School, February 20-21, 2015.

“The Displacement of Affect in Finance Capital: from Trollope’s London to Barsetshire,” presented at the Society for Novel Studies conference. University of Utah, April 5, 2014.

“Character Networks, Legal Personhood, and Speculation in *Our Mutual Friend*,” presented at the North American Victorian Studies Association. University of Wisconsin, September 29, 2012

“How does ideology ‘get into’ literary form?: the Sherlock Holmes stories as a locked room,” presented at graduate student conference on “The Politics of Form,” Columbia University Nineteenth Century Colloquium. April 22, 2011.

Panels and Roundtable Discussions:

Moderator, book launch for Stuart Burrows, *Henry James and the Promise of Fiction*. Brown University, April 26, 2024.

Panelist, screening and discussion of Bernardo Bertolucci, *The Spider’s Stratagem*, Film-Thinking series at the Cogut Institute. Brown University, March 12, 2022.

Leader, keyword seminar on “Lukács,” Society for Novel Studies. Cornell University, June 1, 2018.

Panel organizer, “The Victorians After Freud,” Modern Language Association. New York, January 5, 2018.

Discussant, “The Novel and the Concrete,” Symposium presented by *Novel*. Brown University, November 3, 2017.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Bronson Fellowship, Brown University, 2018.

Marjorie Hope Nicholson Doctoral Fellowship, Columbia University. 2006-2013.

Charles Paterno Barratt-Brown Memorial Prize, Columbia University. (Undergraduate Thesis). 2005

TEACHING

Brown University, Undergraduate

The Good Book: Reading the Bible as Literature (ENGL 1562E. Fall 2025)

Marxist Literary Theory (ENGL 0800V. Spring 2025)

Severed Selves: Victorian Horror and Science Fiction (ENGL 0511P. Spring 2023)

The Art of the Novel: Henry James (ENGL 1511Z. Spring 2021, Spring 2024)

Terrible Births: The Novel out of Romanticism (ENGL 511K. Fall 2020, Spring 2024)

The Invention of Policing in the English Novel (ENGL 1562A. Fall 2020)

Do the Right Thing (ENGL 100Y. Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2024)

Brontës and Brontëism (ENGL 150Y. Spring 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2021)

Darwin and Other Victorian Crises of Faith (ENGL 1511W. Spring 2017)

Austen, Eliot, James (ENGL 511D. Fall 2016, Fall 2024)

The Nineteenth-Century British Novel (ENGL 511B. Spring 2016; Spring 2018, Fall 2022)

Nature and the Self in Victorian Poetry (ENGL 1511V. Spring 2016)
Dickens: The Novel and Society (ENGL 511A. Fall 2015; Spring 2020)
Oedipus in Myth, Tragedy, and Theory (ENGL 1561U. Fall 2015)

Brown University, Graduate

Theory and Theory of the Novel (ENGL 2510. Fall 2023)
Psychoanalysis and the Novel (ENGL 2561X. Fall 2022)
Rhetoric and Narrative Discourse (ENGL 2561T. Fall 2019)
Transcendental and Real in Nineteenth-Century British Fiction (ENGL 2561R. Spring 2018)

At other institutions:

Victorian Poetry (Brooklyn College; Spring 2014, Spring 2015)
Great Works of Literature I & II (Baruch College; Fall 2013, Spring 2014; Fall 2014, Spring 2015)
Humanism and its Critics (The New School; Spring 2015)
Pain and Meaning (The New School; Fall 2014)
Nineteenth-Century Novel (Brooklyn College; Fall 2014)
Legacy of the Mediterranean (Barnard College; Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

SERVICE

To Brown

English Department, Curriculum Committee (2022-24)
English Department, Area leader (2022-24)
English Department, Graduate Committee (2022-3)
English Department Careers Committee (2017-18, 2019-21)
English Department, reader for graduate admissions (2018-20, 21-24)
English Department, Lectures Committee (2020-22)
English Department, concentration advising (2017-18, 2019-20)
First-year advising (2019-24)
Judge, Rose Low Prize (2020, 2022, 2023)

To the Profession

Reader of manuscript submissions: *English Literary History*, *Novel: A Forum on Fiction*, *Victorian Studies*.