

1. Melinda Alliker Rabb, Professor, Department of English, Brown University

2. 70 Brown Street, Office # 332

3. A.B., magna cum laude, Radcliffe College, English and American Literature and Language

M.A. University of Chicago, English and American Literature

Ph.D., Harvard University, English and American Literature and Language

Dissertation topic: "Unaccommodated Man: The Portrayal of Man as Beast in English Literature and Illustration 1650-1750"

#### 4. PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Humanities, 1989-1991

Assistant Professor, Brown University, Department of English, 1991-1999

Associate Professor, Brown University, Department of English, 1999 -2007

Full Professor, Brown University, Department of English, 2007-

#### 5. COMPLETED RESEARCH AND SCHOLARSHIP

##### A. Books and editions

*Miniature and the English Imagination: Literature, Cognition, and Small-Scale Culture 1650-1765*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019

*Miniature and the English Imagination: Literature, Cognition, and Small-Scale Culture 1650-1765*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, reissue in paperback, 2020

*Satire and Secrecy in English Literature 1650-1750*. New York; Houndmills, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007

*Lucius: The First Christian King of Britain. The Broadview Anthology of Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Drama*, Gen. Ed. Douglas Canfield New York: Broadview Press, 2000; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2001, pp. 75-102

Special Editor, *Making and Rethinking the Canon: The Eighteenth Century. Modern Language Studies Special Issue* (1988) 43:1

##### B. Chapters in Books

“Missing in Action: Johnson and War,” *The Oxford Handbook on Samuel Johnson*, ed. Jack Lynch (Oxford University Press, 2022), pp. 457-475

Unlocking the Dressing Room: Mary Evelyn’s *Mundus Muliebris*,” *British Women Satirists in the Long Eighteenth Century*, eds. Amanda Hiner and Elizabeth Tasker Davis (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), pp. 45-64

“Early Modern Trauma and the Generation of Satire,” *Early Modern Trauma: Europe and the Atlantic World*, ed. Erin Peters and Cynthia D. Richards (University of Nebraska Press, 2021), pp. 361-376

“Unlocking the Dressing Room: Mary Evelyn’s *Mundus Muliebris*,” *British Women Satirists*, ed. Amanda Hiner and Elizabeth Tasker (Cambridge University Press, 2022), pp. 45-62

“The Voyage to Lilliput,” *Cambridge Companion to Gulliver’s Travels*, eds. Daniel Cook and Nicholas Seager (Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2023)

“Little snarling lapdogs: Satire and Domesticity” in *The Oxford Handbook of Eighteenth-Century Satire*, edited by Paddy Bullard. Oxford University Press, 2019, 457-472.

“Swift, Defoe and the Meaning of (Bare) Life” in *Reading Swift: Papers from the Seventh Munster Symposium on Jonathan Swift*. Hans Verlag, 2019, 361-381.

“Secret History, Parody, and Satire” in *The Secret History in Literature*, edited by Rachel Carnell and Rebecca Bullard. Cambridge University Press, 2017, pp. 103-116.

“Engendering Satire” in *The Cambridge Companion to Women’s Writing in Britain 1660-1789*, ed. Catherine Ingrassia, 2015, pp. 147-163.

“Cogito ergo Gulliver” in *Reading Swift*, edited by Hermann Real. Munster: Hans Fink Verlag, 2013.

“The Secret Memoirs of Lemuel Gulliver” in *Jonathan Swift’s Gulliver’s Travels*. Ed. Harold Bloom. New York, Bloom’s Literary Criticism, 2009. 165-192. [reprint]

“Postmodernizing Swift” in *Reading Swift*, ed. Hermann Real. Munich: Wilhelm Fink. Hans Verlag, 2008.

“The Secret Life of Satire.” *The Blackwell Companion to Satire*. Ed. Rueben Quintero. Oxford: Blackwell Publishers, 2006, 568-584.

"The Work of Women in the Age of Electronic Reproduction." *A Companion to Early Modern Women's Writing*. Ed. Anita Pacheco. Oxford: Basil Blackwell Publishers 2002, 339-360.

"Making and Rethinking the Canon: The Case of *Millennium Hall*." *Literature and Criticism From 1400 to 1800*. Ed. Jelena Kristovic. New York: Gale Research, 1999. [Reprint]

"Confinement and Entrapment in Henry Fielding's *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*" in *Entrapment in Eighteenth-Century Literature*. Ed. Carl Kropf. New York: AMS Press, 1998. 229-260 [revised and expanded reprint].

"Swift and the Spider-Woman." *Locating Swift: Essays From Dublin on the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Death of Jonathan Swift*, Ed. Aileen Douglas, Patrick Kelly and Ian Campbell Ross. Dublin: Four Courts Press, 1998. 60-81.

"Swift and the 'Manley' Style." *Pope, Swift, and Women Writers: Modern Essays in Criticism*. Ed. Donald C. Mell. Newark: University of Delaware Press, 1996. 125-153.

"Angry Beauties: Wo(Manley) Satire and the Stage," *Cutting Edges: Postmodern Critical Essays on Eighteenth-Century Satire*. Ed. James E. Gill. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995. 127-158.

"An Epistle from Mr. Pope to Dr. Arbuthnot': The Poet, Memory, and the Muse." *Eighteenth-Century Poetry*. Ed. Christopher Fox. New York: AMS Press, 1990. 249-262.

"Making and Rethinking the Canon: General Introduction and Case for *Millennium Hall*." *Making and Rethinking the Canon*. Ed. Melinda Alliker Rabb, *Modern Language Studies*, Special Issue xvii: 1 (1988). 3-16.

"'Wild and Circumstantial' Inventions: Interdisciplinary Possibilities for Teaching *Gulliver's Travels*." *Approaches to Teaching Swift's Gulliver's Travels*. Ed. Edward Reilly. New York: Modern Language Association Press, 1988. 102-108.

"Psychology and Politics in William Godwin's *Caleb Williams*: Double Bond or Double Bind?" *Psychology in the Eighteenth Century*. Ed. Christopher Fox. New York: AMS Press, 1987. 51-67.

"Engendering Accounts in Sterne's *A Sentimental Journey*."

*Johnson and His Age*. Ed. James Engell. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1985. 531-558.

C. Journal articles (peer reviewed)

"Swift, Secret History, and War," *Eighteenth-Century Life* (2020) 44:3, 30-50.

"Samuel Johnson, Lilliput, and Eighteenth-Century Miniature" (*Eighteenth-Century Studies* 46.2) The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012.

"Parting Shots: Eighteenth-Century Displacements of the Male Body at War" (*ELH* 78:1, 103-135).

"Is 'Before Depression' Before Paranoia?" *Le Spectateur Europeen*, Vol. 10. Montpellier: Presses Universitaires, (2010) 99-114.

"The Secret Memoirs of Lemuel Gulliver." *ELH* 73 (2006), 325-354.

"Soft Figures': Swift, Pope, and Memory," *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, 19 (1989), 185-195.

"Re-membering in Swift's 'The Lady's Dressing Room'," *Texas Studies in Literature and Language* 32:3 (1990), 375-396.

"Confinement and Entrapment in Henry Fielding's *Journal of a Voyage to Lisbon*." *Studies in the Literary Imagination*, 17:2 (1984), 75-89.

"Lost in a House of Mirrors: Pope's *Imitations of Horace*." *Papers on Language and Literature*, 18:3 (1982) 291-309.

"Underplotting, Overplotting, and Cor-respondence in *Clarissa*." *Modern Language Studies* xi:3 (1981) 61-71.

5. BOOK ABSTRACTS

A. *Parting Shots: Eighteenth-Century Displacements of the Trauma of War* (a book in progress):

This project focuses on questions about language, war, bodily and emotional trauma. I argue that the unprecedented disaster of the English Civil Wars initiated decades of literary representations that indirectly re-enact an irreversible cultural rupture. Literature participates in a process of displacement, a phenomenon evident in the Restoration and eighteenth century's many representations of displaced body parts,

but also through strategies of indirection and transference by which texts negotiate ideas too difficult to confront whole and entire. The introductory chapter appeared in *ELH* 78.1: "Parting Shots: Eighteenth-Century Displacements of the Male Body at War" and subsequently won the Clifford Prize for the best article on any subject in eighteenth-century studies in 2015. The second chapter, "No Quarter and the Meaning of (Bare) Life" was completed in preparation for a plenary paper given at Oxford for the annual meeting of the British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies in 2017. The next chapter will address questions of women, gender, and war.

B. *Miniature and the English Imagination: Literature, Cognition, and Small-Scale Culture 1650-1765* (Cambridge University Press, 2019; paperback edition, 2021)

Eighteenth-century literature offers many examples of the life-size world represented in reduced scale. Jonathan Swift's Lilliput, Alexander Pope's sylphs and gnomes, and Laurence Sterne's model battlefield of Namur are among the most familiar examples. The material culture of early modern Europe coincidentally produced many detailed miniature versions of familiar things -- almost everything imaginable from Chippendale bureaus to silver teaspoons, from bibles to sedan chairs. Little objects, more painstaking to create than their life-size counterparts, were intended for adults, not children. Why? Explanations have been offered, but what Samuel Johnson's Imlac says of the giant pyramids might apply as well to these minuscule wonders: "no reason has ever been adequate to the cost and labour of the work" (*Rasselas* xxxii). What practical or cultural work can "the small" perform, and how are size and scale implicated in changing modes of beholding, knowing, and desiring? Bill Brown's 'thing theory' asserts that "the story of objects . . . is a story of a changed relation to the human subject." I argue that miniaturization in eighteenth-century literature and material culture merges emotional response with cognitive function in order to test the limits of "comprehending the whole at once" (Samuel Johnson's phrase). Miniaturization responds both to technological and social innovations at home and to the enlarging world beyond Europe.

C. *Satire and Secrecy in English Literature 1650-1750* (Palgrave, 2007)

This book challenges the prevailing binary of public and private spheres by considering satire not as a strictly public mode but sometimes as a clandestine act, not as a masculine discourse emulating classical precedents, but as inclusive of women and popular culture. *Satire and Secrecy* offers a new vocabulary and a new conceptual framework within which to read both canonical (drawing principally on work by Behn, Dryden, Manley, Swift, and Pope) and non-canonical texts. The practice of writing secretly, and of writing about secrets, performs cultural work by creating subjects who experience the world with suspicion and who view themselves as repositories of exclusive knowledge. This writing practice supports an intensely ironic view of the social and political world. Pope writes: "Law can pronounce only on open Facts, Morality alone can pass censure on Intentions of mischief: so that for secret calumny or the arrow flying in the dark, there is no public punishment left, but what a good writer inflicts" (*TE* 5:14). The book thus offers a critical paradigm that may not pertain equally to every

satire but bridges gaps between many satires of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, the cultural history in which they were produced, and the evolution of satirical practices into the postmodern age.

#### 6. CONFERENCE PAPERS AND INVITED LECTURES (selected)

“Swift and the Golden Rule,” American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, March 2022.

Roundtable: “Unlocking the Dressing Room,” American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March 2022.

“Swift and the Pursuit of Happiness,” Dublin Symposium on Jonathan Swift, Dublin, Ireland, November 2019.

“Satire and Domesticity,” British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Oxford, England, January 2020.

“Trauma, Sovereignty, and Representation,” Special Workshop on War and the Eighteenth-Century, National University of Singapore, April 2018.

“Swift in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” A Raging Wit: The Life and Legacy of Jonathan Swift,” University of Pennsylvania, February 2018.

“Swift and the Meaning of (Bare) Life,” Munster Symposium on Jonathan Swift, Munster, Germany, June, 2017.

“Swift and Secret History,” *Swift 350*, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland, June 2017.

“No Quarter and the Meaning of (Bare) Life.” Plenary address, British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. St. Hugh’s College, University of Oxford, January 2017.

“The Stretch of Human Brain.” Plenary address. *Situating States of Mind: An Interdisciplinary Conference*. Newcastle UK, June 14-17, 2012.

“‘little snarling lapdogs’: Satire and Domesticity.” International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Rotterdam, July 2015.

“Parodying Secret History,” Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montreal, October, 2014.

“Seven Years of War in Two Inches.” Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Yale University, October 3-7, 2013.

"The Redressing Room." Pride and Prejudices Conference, Chawton House Library, Chawton, England, July 4-7, 2013.

"Pomatum and Puppy-Water." ASECS, Cleveland, Ohio, March, 2013.

"The Furniture of Gulliver's Mind." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. San Antonio, Texas, March, 2012.

"Defoe and the Civil Wars." The Defoe Society Annual Meeting, Worcester, UK, July 2011.

"Cogito ergo Gulliver." Sixth Munster Symposium on Jonathan Swift, Munster, Germany, June 2011.

"Size, Scale, Cognition, and The Royal Society." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, March 2011.

"Loving the Small: Toying with Emotion." British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Oxford, England, January 2011.

"Swift and the Sinews of War." Dublin Symposium on Jonathan Swift. Dublin, Ireland, October, 2010.

"Mimesis Reconsidered: Eighteenth-Century Objects in Miniature." The Courtauld Institute, London, November 2009.

"Secrecy, Narrative, and Eighteenth-Century Material Culture." Georg Brandes School at the University of Copenhagen, November 2009.

"'Nothing too little': Samuel Johnson and Eighteenth-Century Miniature." *Johnson at 300: A Symposium*, Harvard University, August 2009.

"Parting Shots: Representing the Male Body at War." The University of New Hampshire, April 2009.

"Is Before Depression Before Paranoia?" Before Depression: A Interdisciplinary Conference, University of Northumbria, June 2008.

"Words Made Flesh." British Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. St. Hughs College, Oxford, January 2008.

"Re-Orienting the Male Body: War, China, and Defoe." Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Dartmouth College, October 2007.

"Postmodernizing Satire." Fifth Munster Symposium on Jonathan Swift. Munster, Germany, May 2006

"Historians and literary scholars read Swift's *Tale of a Tub*," Third Annual Swift Symposium, Dublin, Ireland (2004)

"The Eighteenth Century Throws Away the 'Key'," Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Durham, New Hampshire, December 1999.

"Beyond Tory Satire: Swift and Manley," Bicentennial Celebration Conference on Jonathan Swift, Trinity College, Dublin (June, 1995).

"Manl(e)y Mock-Heroics," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, San Diego (December 1994).

"Problems of Biography," Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Regional Conference, Fordham University (October, 1994).

"Swift and the 'Manley' Style," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies National Conference, Seattle (April 1991).

"Swift's Echoes," Swift Studies Conference, University of Notre Dame (October, 1991).

"Pope's 'Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot'," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting (December, 1999).

"Pope's Remembrance of Things Past," Midwest Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Regional Conference, University of Notre Dame (October, 1998).

"'Soft Figures and a Paste of Composition Rare': Swift, Pope, and Memory," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies National Conference, University of Tennessee (April, 1998).

"Fictions and (F)Actions," Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, New York (December, 1994).

## 8. WORK IN PROGRESS

*Parting Shots: Eighteenth-Century Displacements of the Trauma of War* (a book in progress)

## 9. SERVICE

### A. University Service

Director of Undergraduate Studies, 1995-96  
Ad Hoc Committee on the Concentration in English, 1995-96  
Search Committee, 1993  
Supervisor, NEH Younger Scholars Award Project, Summer, 1992  
Director, English 15, 1991-94  
English Department Senate, 1992-94  
Interviewing Team, MLA 1992  
Graduate Committee, 1992-85; 1999-2001  
Concentration Advisor, 1994-present  
Prelim Committees (8)  
Lectureship Committee, Brown University, 1991-92  
Chair, Search Committee, 18th-century Position, 1990-91  
Convenor, Department Caucus on Women Writers/Gender Studies, 1990-91  
Director, Honors Program in English, 1994-1996  
Curriculum Committee, 1995- 1999  
Director of Graduate Studies, 1996-1998  
Department Senate, 1998, 2000-2001  
University Committee on the Status of Women, 1998- 2003  
Executive Board, Brown Women Writer's Project, 2000-present  
Committee on Academic Standing, 2007- 2010  
Sophomore Advisor, 2005- 2012  
Department of English: Feerick Tenure Committee, 2009-10  
Department of English: Self-Study Committee, 2009  
Organizational Review Committee #6, 2009  
Vice Chair, Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity, 2010-  
English Department Committee on Senior Hiring, 2010-2011  
Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity (AY2010-2013)  
Chair, Committee on Faculty Equity and Diversity (AY 2011-2012)  
Interviewer, search for the Assoc. Provost for Institutional Diversity  
English Department Concentration Advisor (2011-2012)  
Committee on Promotion: James Egan (2013)  
Reappointment review of Senior Lecturer Catherine Imbriglio (2013)  
Elected Vice-Chair, Faculty Executive Committee (2015)  
Chair of the Faculty (FEC) (2016-1017)  
Chair of the Faculty (FEC) (2017-2018)  
CFED, ex officio (2017-2018)

Ad hoc Committee on Faculty Governance [Bahar, Chair] (Fall 2019)  
English Department Curriculum Committee—Area II (2018-2019)  
Ad hoc Faculty Committee on Faculty and COVID-19 [Hanink, Chair] (Summer 2020)  
English Department Graduate Committee (2020-2021)  
Faculty Committee on Title IX Hearings (2018-2021)  
Committee on Promotion: James Kuzner (2021-2022)  
Provost Search Committee (2022)

## B. Professional Service

Division Delegate to the Modern Language Association Delegate Assembly, representing the Division on Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century Literature, 1991-1995.

Steering Committee and Program Committee member for the national conference of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Providence (April, 1993).

Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Bigotry on Campus, American Jewish Committee, 1996-2004.

National Endowment for the Humanities, Review Panelist, British Literature Division, Fellowships for University Teachers, 1996, 1997

Ad Hoc Promotion Committee, Brandeis University, 1999

Dissertation and Defense Committee (Melissa Lindbergh), Tufts University 2001

Reviewer of submissions for *PMLA*, *Modern Philology*, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, *Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, *Review of English Studies*, *Tulsa Studies in Women's Writing*

Advisory Board, Brown University Women Writers Project, 1998 – 2014

Advisory Board, Women Writers Project, Northeastern University, 2014-present

Expert Evaluator, Killam Research Fellowships, 2014

Dissertation and Defense Committee, Stephen Plunkett, Ph.D. Brandeis University, 2015

Graduate Committee, 2017-2018

Promotion Committee (George) 2017-2018

Outside Reviewer, Tenure case at Whitman College (2018)

Outside reviewer, Tenure case at Tufts University (2020)

Anonymous reviewer for Cambridge University Press (2019; 2020, 2022)

Outside reviewer for the Leverhulme Trust (2022)

Outside Reviewer, Promotion case at Vanderbilt University (2022)

#### C. Selected panels organized and chaired

Chair, "The Image of the Noble Savage" at the Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Conference (October 1991)

Chair, "Making and Rethinking the Canon" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies National Conference (April 1994)

Chair, "Rethinking the Novel" at the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies National Conference (April, 1993).

Chair, "Representations of Girlhood in 18th- and 19th-Century English Literature," Special Session at the Modern Language Association Annual Meeting (December, 1993).

Chair, "Swift and his Contemporaries" at the Bicentennial Celebration of Jonathan Swift, Conference at Trinity College, Dublin (June 1995)

Chair, "Scandal: The Publication of the Private," Northeast Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Durham New Hampshire, December 1999.

Chair, "Cognition, Re-Cognition," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March, 2014.

Chair, "Now joyous from their long confinement rose: Confinement in the Eighteenth Century," American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, March, 2020; rescheduled March 2021.

#### D. Community Service

Board of Directors, Museum Council, Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Visiting Committee, Department of Prints and Drawings, and Patrons Committee, Boston Museum of Fine Arts

Trustee, WGBH (Boston-based Public Broadcasting)

WGBH Commercial Policies Committee and Committee on Trustees

Trustee, Boston Ballet Company; Chair, Nominations Committee, Boston Ballet School Committee, Governance Committee; Best Practices Committee

Trustee, The Meadowbrook School of Weston; Chair of the K-8 expansion of the school; Chair, Annual Fund

“Safe Beds” Project, Steering Committee on Domestic Violence, Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts.

Steering Committee, New England Holocaust Memorial Committee

Board of Directors and National Advisory Board, American Jewish Committee

Head of School’s Committee, Milton Academy

Chair, Ralph Lowell Society, WGBH, Boston

Board of Directors, Boston Celebrity Series

## 8. ACADEMIC HONORS AND FUNDING

Lilly Foundation Teaching Fellowship, Brown University

Pembroke Center Faculty Fellowship, Brown University

Bronson Fellowship, Brown University,

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers

Percy Adams Prize, Honorable Mention 2007

Winterthur Research Fellowship, summer 2012

James L. Clifford Prize, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2012

Cogut Center Faculty Fellowship, 2013

Humanities Research Fund, 2010-2022

9. TEACHING (past five years only)

2018-2019 On leave

2019-2020

ENGL 100A: How to Read a Poem

ENGL 1560N: Restoration and Eighteenth-Century Drama

ENGL 1510A: Jane Austen and Her Predecessors

2020-2021

ENGL 1561N: The Eighteenth-Century Novel

ENGL 1310A: Firing the Canon: Early Modern Women's Writing

ENGL 1561G: Swift, Pope, Johnson

2021-2022

ENGL 2561V: The Pursuit of Happiness

ENGL 0100A: How To Read a Poem

ENGL 1562N: Somebodies, Nobodies, and Other Others: Eighteenth-Century Women's Writing