

VANESSA L. RYAN

Associate Dean of Student Development
Graduate School
Brown University
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Administrative Position

Brown University (Providence, RI)

Associate Dean of Student Development, Graduate School, 2014-present

Support graduate student success, enhance excellence in teaching and communication, and support professional development across 55 PhD programs and over 20 Master's programs with more than 2000 students.

- Special program development and oversight, program review and assessment, including Brown-Wheaton Faculty Fellows, Deans' Faculty Fellows, Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellowships, Brown Executive Scholars Training program, Effective Performance, Research Matters, Community Fellows, Open Graduate Education program.
- Liaison to the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Career Center (CareerLAB), School of Professional Studies Summer program (Summer@Brown), and the Writing Center.
- Graduate School representative on university-wide committees, including the Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board, College Curriculum Committee, and Campus Life Advisory Board.

Academic Positions

Brown University (Providence, RI)

Assistant Professor, Department of English, 2007-2015

Affiliated Faculty, Committee on Science and Technology Studies, 2009-2015

Courtauld Institute of Art (London)

Research Forum Mellon Foundation Visiting Professor, Spring 2009

Harvard University Society of Fellows (Cambridge, MA)

Junior Fellow, 2004-2007

Education

Yale University (New Haven, CT)

Ph.D., English Literature, 2004

Dissertation: "The Material Mind: Early Psychology and the Victorian Novel"

University of Tübingen (Germany)

Fulbright Fellowship, 1997-98

Harvard College (Cambridge MA)

B.A., Literature, 1997

Leadership Experience and Development

Trustee, Board of Trustees, St. Mark's School, Southborough, MA, 2011-2014, 2015-present
Executive Committee, 2014 and 2016-present. Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, 2016-present. Chair,
Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2014. Chair,
Education and Student Life Committee, 2012.

Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, 2010-13

A three-year program funded by the Teagle Foundation designed to identify and prepare a core national group
of emerging academic leaders to guide the future of the liberal arts.

Brown Faculty Leadership Development Retreat, 2014

Served on organizational committee and participated in workshops on critical leadership and management
topics.

Council of Graduate Schools, New Deans Institute and Summer Workshop, July 2014

Program covering governance and organization, management strategies, financing, political advocacy, and
program assessment. Workshop on core issues and new trends in graduate education.

ADE/ADFL Summer Seminar, June 2014

Association of Departments of English/Association of Modern Foreign Languages, Summer Seminar on
current issues in literature and language education. Directors of Graduate Studies Workshop.

Higher Education Presentations and Conferences

Social Science Research Council, Planning Meeting, January 2016

Invited Participant, Interdisciplinary Dissertation Research Proposal Development Program Planning
Meeting.

League for Innovation in the Community College, Annual Conference, March 2015

Panel Presentation, "Preparing PhD students for Teaching-Intensive Careers," with Matthew Reed, Vice
President for Academic Affairs, at Holyoke Community College, and Paula Krebs, Dean, College of
Humanities and Social Sciences, Bridgewater State University.

Modern Language Association, Annual Conference, January 2015

Roundtable Presentation, "From Teaching to Learning: Redefining the Teaching-Research Nexus," on panel
on "Teaching, Research, Service: A Close Reading."

Teagle Foundation, Convening, "Community of Scholars, Community of Teachers," April 2014

Invited Respondent to keynote address by Charles Blaich and Kathy Wise, Directors, Center of Inquiry in the
Liberal Arts, Wabash College.

American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Annual Conference, January 2013

Invited Presentation, "Mom, Dad, I'm an English Major: A National Conversation on the Future of Liberal
Education," with Brett Gadsden (Emory).

Teagle Foundation, Convening, "What Works and What Matters in Student Learning?," June 2012

Invited Participant.

Brown Graduate School Leadership Roles

Co-Coordinator, Deans' Faculty Fellows Program, 2014-present.
 Coordinator, Brown-Wheaton Faculty Fellows Program, 2014-present.
 Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Opportunities Fellows Program, 2014-present.
 Coordinator, BEST: Brown Executive Scholars Training Program, 2015-present.
 Co-Coordinator, Effective Performance: Communication and Improvisation for Graduate Students Workshop Series, 2015-present.
 Coordinator, Research Matters: Student Talks Program, 2014-present.
 Chair, Rapid Planning Group on Graduate Experience, at the request of the Office of the Provost, Summer 2015-2016.
 Institutional Coordinator, The Leadership Alliance, 2016-2017.
 Interim Institutional Coordinator, The Leadership Alliance, Fall 2015.
 Interim Coordinator, Brown-Tougaloo Faculty Fellows Program, Fall 2015.
 Interim Coordinator, Super Monday, Recruitment and Welcome Day for doctoral students from historically underrepresented groups, Spring 2016.
 Co-Coordinator, Postdoctoral Advisory Panel, 2015-2016.

University and Professional Service

University Service

Title IX Oversight and Advisory Board, 2016-present.
 Contribution to Community Awards Selection Committee, 2016-present.
 Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan Implementation Working Group, December 2015-present.
 English Language Specialist Search Committee, Spring 2016.
 Director of Health Promotions Search Committee, Spring 2016.
 Graduate Student Contribution to Community Life Award Selection Committee, Spring 2016.
 Fulbright Fellowship Committee, 2015-2016.
 Title IX, Dean's Hearing Officer, 2015.
 College Curriculum Committee, 2014-present.
 Transformative Conversations Committee, 2014-2016.
 Faculty Leadership Development Committee, 2014-2015.
 Program Steering Committee, Science and Technology Studies, 2012-2015.
 Winter Term Study Committee, 2013.
 Education and Innovation Strategic Planning Committee, 2012-2013.
 Open Access at Brown, Spring 2012-Fall 2012.
 Sarah Cutts Frerichs Lecture Committee, Cogut Center, 2010-2013.
 Pembroke Postdoctoral Fellow Selection Committee, Equal Opportunity Member, Pembroke Center, 2011-2012.
 Brown-in-Berlin Steering Committee, Cogut Center, 2012-present.
 Career Advising at Brown Committee, Fall 2008; CareerLAB Director Search Committee, Spring 2010.

Selected Graduate School Committees

Director of Administration and Operations Search Committee, Co-Chair, Spring 2017.
 Associate Dean of Diversity Initiatives Search Committee, Fall 2015.
 Master's Candidate Awards Selection, 2015.
 DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Graduate Fellowships Selection, 2014.
 Open Graduate Education Selection, 2014-present.
 Deans' Faculty Fellows Selection, 2014-present.

Student Advising

First-Year Advisor, 2011-13, 2016-2017.
 Sophomore Advisor, 2010-13.
 Concentration Advisor, 2011-13.
 Brown-RISD (Rhode Island School of Design) Dual Degree Advisor, 2011-13.
 Undergraduate Theses in English (7) and Science and Society (1), 2011-14.
 Doctoral Dissertations in English, Committee Member (5), 2010-2013.

Selected English Department Service

Workshop Leader, "External Fellowships," Graduate Professionalization Series, 2011, 2012.
 Committee to Review Introductory Courses in English, 2011-2012.
 Graduate Admissions Committee, 2007-2008.

Career and Academic Advising Presentations

Careers in Higher Education Administration, Workshop Presentation, Hispanic Studies, Brown University, November 2015.
 "University Response in Moments of Critical Crisis," Panel, Brown University, November 2015.
 Mentorship Workshop for Graduate Students, Young Scholars Conference for Women in Science, Brown University, September 2015.
 "Interdisciplinary Research, Careers, and Beyond," Leadership Alliance panel for Summer Research Early Identification Program, June 2015.
 "Introduction to Graduate School," Student-Organized panel, sponsored by Quest Scholars@Brown on applying to graduate school, February 2015.
 External Fellowships Workshop for Graduate Students, Brown Graduate School, February 2014.
 "The Academic Job Search Demystified," Brown Career Development Center, September 2007, September 2008, August 2010, September 2011, May 2012.
 "Interviewing for Academic Positions," Brown Career Development Center, October 2009.
 "Making the Decision to go to Graduate School," Brown Career Development Center, October 2008.
 "Capitalizing on a Brown Education," A Day on College Hill (ADOCH), April 2013.
 "Concentration Workshop," Curricular Resource Center, March 2012.
 "Demystifying the Professor," Matched Advising Program for Sophomores (MAPS), Curricular Resource Center, December 2011.
 "Crossing the Atlantic: Getting that Fellowship From the Other Side of the Ocean," Graduate Forum, *British Association for Victorian Studies* and *North-American Victorian Studies Association* (BAVS/NAVSA), Cambridge University, July 2009.
 "Applying for Jobs," for graduate students, English Department, Yale University, May 2007.
 "Emergency Preparedness: Duct-Tape and Plastic for the Classroom," Teaching at Yale Day, Graduate Teaching Center, Yale University, January 2004.

Profession:

Organizer, "Cognition, Neuroscience, & the Arts," a one-day conference on Cognition and the Humanities, Brown University, March 2014.
 Reader for *PMLA* (2012), *Journal of the History of Ideas* (2010), *RaVoN—Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net* (2013, 2010), *Victorian Studies* (2008, 2009, 2010), *Literature Compass* (2010), *Novel* (2007, 2009), *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* (2004).
 Reviewer, National Science Foundation (NSF) Improving Undergraduate STEM Education (IUSE) grant proposal, 2014.
 Project Organizer, "What is the Value of Liberal Education: A National Conversation," with collaborator Brett Gadsden, American Studies, Emory University, 2011-present.
 Member, *Northeast Victorian Studies Association* (NVSA) Program Committee (2011-present; 2007; 2001-2002).
 External Examiner, Preliminary Doctoral Exam on "Cognitive Literary Theory," Boston College, November 2012.

Event Organizer, TEDxBrownUniversity conference on “Life, Learning, and Liberal Education,” an independently organized TED conference, Brown University, October 2012.
 Conference Co-Organizer, *Northeast Victorian Studies Association* (NVSA) conference on “Victorian Cosmopolitanism” at Harvard University, April 2007.
 Coordinator and Moderator, “Literature and Cognitive Science in the Nineteenth Century,” “Literature and Cognitive Science” Conference, Storrs, Connecticut, April 2006.
 Coordinator (2000-2003), Yale British Studies Colloquium (an interdisciplinary group, organized by graduate students, funded by the Yale Graduate School).
 Commencement Speaker, St. Mark’s School, Southborough, MA, May 2013.
 Guest Teacher, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*, LaSalle Academy Book Club, Providence, RI, April 2008.
 Invited Lecture, “What is Thinking?,” Cum Laude Honors Society Initiation Address, St. Mark’s School, Southborough, MA, May 2008.
 Radcliffe Mentor (2005-2007), Mentor to a Harvard College undergraduate woman.

Training and Certification

Dean’s Hearing Officer Training, Student Conduct, Office of Student Life, September 2015.
 QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Suicide Prevention Training, Certified QPR Gatekeeper Instructor, QPR Institute, June 2015 (certification valid through 2018).
 Title IX, Brown University Office of the General Counsel, Training, May 2015.
 Facilitating Online Learning, Online Course, Brown University School of Professional Studies, January 2015.

Honors and Awards

Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, Brown University, 2013-2014. Awarded to untenured faculty who have achieved a record of excellence in teaching and scholarship. One semester leave.
 Walter Cochrane Bronson Fellowship, Department of English, Brown University, Spring 2011. One semester leave.
 Pembroke Center Faculty Research Fellowship, 2010-2011 (declined).
 Cogut Center Faculty Fellowship, Spring 2011 (declined).
 Fellow, National Forum on the Future of Liberal Education, Teagle Foundation, 2010-2012.
 Research Forum Mellon Foundation Visiting Professorship, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, 2008-2009.
 Whiting Dissertation Fellowship in the Humanities, 2002-2003.
RES: Review of English Studies Essay Prize, 2002.
 Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, 1999-2002.
 Richard J. Franke Humanities Fellowship, Yale University, 1998-2000.
 Yale University Doctoral Fellowship, 1998-2003.
 Fulbright Fellowship, Germany, 1997-1998.
 Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies (Honorary), 1997.
 Boston Ruskin Prize, Harvard University, 1996.

Grants

Brown University, 250th Anniversary Grant, “Research Matters: Celebrating Ideas and Discoveries,” Graduate School Symposium, September 2014.
 Brown University, Faculty Lectureship Award, “Cognition, Neuroscience, and the Arts,” Symposium, March 2014.
 Brown University, Richard B. Salomon Faculty Research Award, “The Invention of the Intellectual: Edwardian Fictions of Decline,” Office of the Vice President for Research, 2012.

- National Forum for the Future of Liberal Education (Teagle Foundation funded initiative), Project Seed Grant, "What is the Value of a Liberal Education? A National Conversation," 2012.
- Brown University, Curricular Advising Program Fellow Funding, First-year seminar, "Man and Machine," Undergraduate assistant, Fall 2012.
- Brown University, Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (for collaborative work with an undergraduate research assistant), Dean of the College, Summer 2012.
- Brown University, Curriculum Development Grant, Interdisciplinary Science Seminar, "The Brain and the Book," Office of the Dean of the College, 2010.
- Mellon Foundation and Courtauld Institute of Art, Research Forum Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Grant, 2008-2009.
- Brown University, Curriculum Development Grant, First-Year Seminar, "Man and Machine," Office of the Dean of the College, 2008.
- Harvard Medical School, William F. Milton Fund Grant, 2007.
- The Pragmatism Archive, Research Grant (Stillwater, Oklahoma), 2004.
- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), Graduate Research Fellowship, Institute for Ethics and the History of Medicine, University of Tübingen, Germany, Summer 2004.
- New York Academy of Medicine, Helfand Fellowship in the Medical Humanities, 2002-2003.
- Paul Mellon Centre, Summer Traveling Grant, Wellcome Institute, London, Summer 2003.

Publications

Book:

Thinking without Thinking in the Victorian Novel (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2012).

Refereed Journal Articles:

"Redefining the Teaching-Research Nexus Today," *Profession* (with essays by Leonard Cassuto, David Shumway, and Sidonie Smith) (November 2016), Online.

"Reading the Mind: From George Eliot's Fiction to James Sully's Psychology," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 70 (October 2009): 615-635.

"Considering the Alternatives . . .': George Bernard Shaw and the Death of the Intellectual," *SHAW: The Annual of Bernard Shaw Studies* 27 (2007): 175-189.

"Fictions of Medical Minds: Victorian Novels and Medical Epistemology," *Literature and Medicine* 25 (Fall 2006): 277-297 (submitted August, 2007; published December, 2007).

"The Unreliable Editor: Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus* and the Art of Biography," *RES: Review of English Studies* 54 (August 2003): 287-307. Winner of the RES Essay Prize for 2002.

"The Physiological Sublime: Burke's Critique of Reason," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 63 (April 2001): 265-279.

Non-Refereed, Invited Journal Articles:

"Living in Duplicate: Victorian Science and Literature Today," A Response to Jonathan Kramnick's "Against Literary Darwinism," *Critical Inquiry* 38 (Winter 2012): 411-417.

"Why Clough? Why Now?," *Victorian Poetry* 41 (Winter 2003): 398-406, Special issue: "Whither Victorian Poetry?," ed. Linda Hughes.

Chapters in Books:

"Spencer, Cognition, Fiction," in *Herbert Spencer: Legacies*, ed. Mark Francis and Michael Taylor (London: Routledge, 2015), 184-202.

“Psychology,” *Britain and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, ed. William Kaufman and Heidi Macpherson (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio Publications, 2005), 758-763.

Minor Publications and Book Reviews:

“The 60 Second Game,” *The Pocket Instructor*, ed. Diana Fuss and Bill Gleason (Princeton: Princeton UP” (3 pages; in press).

Review of Gregory Tate, *The Poet’s Mind: The Psychology of Victorian Poetry 1830–1870*, in *Victorian Studies* 52 (Winter 2015): 336-338.

Review of Peter Garratt, *Victorian Empiricism Self, Knowledge, and Reality in Ruskin, Bain, Lewes, Spencer, and George Eliot*, in *Victorian Studies* 45 (Spring 2012): 525-527.

“What Novels Do,” Review of Anna Maria Jones, *Problem Novels: Victorian Fiction Theorizes the Sensational Self*, in *NOVEL: A Forum on Fiction* 42.1 (Spring 2009): 145-148.

“Revisiting Evolution in 1890s Fiction,” Review of John Glendening, *The Evolutionary Imagination in Late-Victorian Novels: An Entangled Bank*, in *Twentieth-Century Literature* 55 (Winter 2009): 634-639.

Invited Lectures

Invited Speaker, “Distributed Attention: Cognition and Late-Nineteenth-Century Bibliotherapy “ as part of “A History of Distributed Cognition—Interdisciplinary Workshop Series, From Victorian Culture to Modernism,” dir. Miranda Anderson (Edinburgh) and Peter Garratt (Durham), Edinburgh, UK, July 2015.

“Plots and Perspectives: Optical Illusions and Narrative Ambiguity in the Nineteenth Century,” Conference on “Social Minds in Factual and Fictional Narration,” DFG Research Training Group, “Factual and Fictional Narration,” dir. Monika Fludernik, Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg, Germany, May 2014.

“When Art Isn’t Work: Victorian Theories of Creativity,” The Courtauld Institute of Art, Lecture Series, London, February 2009.

“Is There a Mind in This Text?,” An Interdisciplinary Event on “Real Minds and Fictional Minds: The Suspension of Disbelief from Realist Fiction to Cognitive Neuroscience,” presenting with Rebecca Saxe (Brain and Cognitive Science, MIT) and Elisabeth Camp (Philosophy, UPenn), Mind and Culture Program, Center for Cultural Analysis, Rutgers University, February 2007.

“Fictions of Medical Minds,” plenary lecture, *CUNY Victorian Conference* on “Victorian Medicine and Culture,” CUNY Graduate Center, New York City, May 2006.

“Blink: Thinking Without Thinking in the Victorian Novel,” Cognitive Theory and the Arts Seminar, Harvard Humanities Center, October 2005.

“Automatism: Victorian Cognitive Theory and Metaphors of Mind,” guest lecture in the “Science in Human Culture Series,” Northwestern University, April 2005.

“Who Dunit? Reflex and Responsibility in Victorian Fiction,” Richardson History of Psychiatry Seminar, Institute for the History of Psychiatry, Cornell Medical College, New York, May 2004.

“Are We Automata? Victorian Philosophy of Mind,” Pragmatism Archive Lectures, Department of Philosophy, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma, April 2004.

“Mental Machinery: How the Victorians Tried to Harness the Mind,” Richardson History of Psychiatry Seminar, Institute for the History of Psychiatry, Cornell Medical College, New York, May 2003.

“Talking and Thinking Machines in Victorian Britain,” *Haskins Laboratories* (Center for the Scientific Study of Spoken and Written Language), New Haven, April 2003.

“The Mystery of the Mind: Physiology of Thought in Victorian Britain,” the annual “Helfand Lecture in Medical Humanities,” *New York Academy of Medicine*, New York City, November 2003.

Select Papers Read

“Brain Training: Victorian Experiments in Bibliotherapy and Creativity,” Victorian Division, Modern Language Association (MLA) conference, Boston, January 2013.

“Dangerous Networks: G. K. Chesterton and the Crisis of Intellectuals,” *North American Victorian Studies Association* (NAVSA) conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, September 2012.

“Bibliotherapy: Self-Help Guides and Reader Autonomy,” *North American Victorian Studies Association* (NAVSA) conference, Vanderbilt University, November 2011.

“Close Thy Darwin, Open Thy Spencer: Toward a Systems Theory of Mind,” *Northeast Victorian Studies Association* (NVSA) conference, The University of Maryland, College Park, MD, April 2011.

“‘Hypnotizing’ the Reader: Arnold Bennett’s Fiction and Second Person Narration,” *North American Victorian Studies Association* (NAVSA) conference, Montreal, November 2010.

“Grey Matter: Arnold Bennett’s ‘How-to’ on Getting Old,” joint *British Association for Victorian Studies* (BAVS) and *North American Victorian Studies Association* (NAVSA) conference on “Past and Present,” Cambridge University, UK, July 2009.

“‘In Blood-Heat’: George Meredith and Effortful Style,” *North American Victorian Studies Association* (NAVSA), Yale University, November 2008.

“Is there a Mind in the Text? From George Eliot’s Fiction to James Sully’s Psychology,” *Novel: Democracy’s Forum?*, conference at Sussex University, April 2007.

“Henry James and the ‘Laboratory Brain,’” at the panel on “Neurological Aesthetics, 1875-1915,” *Modern Language Association* (MLA) conference, Philadelphia, December 2006.

Colloquia and Campus Lectures

“Victorian Mental Machinery,” Human-Robot Interaction Initiative (HRI) Symposium, Brown University, December 2012.

“The Eureka Moment: Science and Literature in Conversation,” Summer UTRA Lecture, Brown University, July 2012.

“Fictions of Medical Minds,” seminar presentation, History of Medicine Faculty Group, Brown University, December 2011.

“Consciousness and Volition: A Look Back to the Nineteenth Century,” Neurology Grand Rounds, Department of Neurology and the Alpert Medical School, Brown University, October 2011.

“One Culture? Rethinking ‘Thinking’ in Victorian Fiction and Science,” Wayland Collegium, Brown University, April 2011.

“The Eureka Moment: Victorian Brain Science and Fiction,” Brown Institute for Brain Science (BIBS), Brown University, March 2011.

“Spencer, Cognition, Fiction,” interdisciplinary panel on “States of Theory in Biology and the Humanities,” part of a year-long program on “Darwin’s Evolution,” Cogut Center for the Humanities and the Committee on Science and Technology Studies, Brown University, December 2008.

Teaching

Principle Areas: Victorian literature and culture, the novel, science and literature, cultural criticism, introduction to literature.

Courses: Graduate Seminars in “Intellectuals and the Public Sphere,” “Victorian Fictions of Consciousness.” Undergraduate Lectures in “Victorian Self and Society,” “Literature and the Fantastic,” “The Victorian Novel.” Undergraduate Seminars in “The Brain and the Book: Thinking and Reading in the Victorian Novel,” “From Frankenstein to Einstein: Science and Literature, 1800-1950,” “Man and Machine.”

Memberships

Modern Language Association (MLA), Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), Association of Departments of English (ADE), North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), Northeast Victorian Studies Association (NVSA), Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA), British Society for Literature and Science (BSLS).

Languages

German, French.

References

Provided upon request.

(Current 6/1/2017)