

David A. Brewer
Curriculum Vitae

Department of English
The Ohio State University
Columbus, Ohio 43210
brewer.126@osu.edu

Education:

Ph.D., English, University of California, Berkeley, 1999.
B.A., Literature, Bennington College, 1991.

Current Position:

The Ohio State University, Department of English.
Associate Professor, 2005 to the present.
Assistant Professor, 1999–2005.
Affiliated Faculty in the Department of Theatre, Film, and Media Arts, 2017 to the present.

Other Teaching Experience:

The American Antiquarian Society.
Co-leader (with Lynn Festa) of “Books in the Larger World of Objects,” the 2014 Summer Seminar in the History of the Book.
University of Dayton, Department of English.
Lawrence Ruff Visiting Chair in Eighteenth-Century Studies, Spring 2014.

Work in Progress:

The Fate of Authors. In preparation for the University of Pennsylvania Press’s Material Texts series.
A short book on Susanna Clarke’s *Jonathan Strange and Mr Norell*. In preparation for Palgrave Macmillan’s Science Fiction and Fantasy: A New Canon series.
“The Character Systems of Penelope Aubin; or, Narrative Theory in the Seraglio.” Under contract with Routledge as part of an essay collection, *Penelope Aubin: Poet, Novelist, Negotiator, Businesswoman*.
A book about how fictionality, typicality, and reference work in eighteenth-century satirical prints.
An article about how character works in the pulp magazines of the mid-twentieth century.

Books:

Editor of Penelope Aubin, *The Life of Madam de Beaumont* and *The Life of Charlotta Du Pont*. Broadview Press, 2023.

- The Book in Britain: A Historical Introduction* [co-authored with Daniel Allington, Stephen Colclough, Siân Echard, and Zachary Lesser]. Wiley-Blackwell, 2019.
- Interacting with Print: Elements of Reading in the Era of Print Saturation* [a “multigraph” collectively written with twenty-one other scholars]. University of Chicago Press, 2018.
- Editor of Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The Rivals*, and George Colman the Elder, *Polly Honeycombe*. Broadview Press, 2012.
- The Afterlife of Character, 1726–1825*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005, as part of their Material Texts series.

Articles:

- “Counter-Probabilistic Wishing.” Forthcoming in *Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft* as part of a forum on “Belief.”
- “Woodcuts, Woodcutters, and the Art of Savoring the World.” *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* 53 (2024): 21–33.¹
- “Institutions without Addresses,” in *Institutions of Literature, 1700–1900: The Development of Literary Culture and Production*, ed. Jon Mee and Matthew Sangster, 65–82. Cambridge University Press, 2022.
- “Secret History and Allegory,” in *The Secret History in Literature, 1660–1820*, ed. Rebecca Bullard and Rachel Carnell, 60–73. Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- “The Even Longer Restoration.” *Restoration: Studies in English Literary Culture, 1660–1700* 40, no. 2 (2016): 96–104.
- “Rethinking Fictionality in the Eighteenth-Century Puppet Theatre,” in *The Afterlives of Eighteenth-Century Fiction*, ed. Daniel Cook and Nicholas Seager, 174–92. Cambridge University Press, 2015.
- “The Tactility of Authorial Names.” *The Eighteenth Century: Theory and Interpretation* 54, no. 2 (2013): 195–213.
- “On the Value of the *Town-Bayes*,” in *Shakespeare Up Close: Reading Early Modern Texts*, ed. Russ McDonald, Nicholas D. Nace, and Travis D. Williams, 119–24. Arden Shakespeare, 2012.
- “Print, Performance, Personhood, Polly Honeycombe.” *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture* 41 (2012): 185–94.
- “Counting, Resonance, and Form, A Speculative Manifesto (with Notes).” *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 24, no. 2 (2012): 161–70.
- “The Moment of Tom and Jerry (‘when fistycuffs were the fashion’),” in *Romantic Fandom*, ed. Eric Eisner, a volume in the *Romantic Circles Praxis Series* (2011). <https://romantic-circles.org/praxis/fandom/brewer>
- “Making Hogarth Heritage.” *Representations* 72 (Fall 2000): 21–63.
- “‘Haywood,’ Secret History, and the Politics of Attribution,” in *The Passionate Fictions of Eliza Haywood: Essays on Her Life and Work*, ed. Kirsten T. Saxton and Rebecca P. Bocchicchio, 217–39. University Press of Kentucky, 2000.

¹ At the time this piece was written, I edited *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, but it was solicited by our associate editor, Crystal Lake, without my prior knowledge as part of a cluster of essays on the late seventeenth-century Japanese writer, Ihara Saikaku. Professor Lake oversaw the entire peer review and editorial process.

Shorter Pieces (select):

Entries on *A Continuation of the Life and Adventures of Signor Rozelli, Le Diable Boiteux, Memoirs of the Life and Adventures of Signor Rozelli, The Spanish Pole-Cat, and The Unfortunate Marriage*. Forthcoming in *The Cambridge Guide to the English Novel, 1660–1820*.

“An Unrecognised Allusion to Marvell’s “To his Coy Mistress?”” *Notes and Queries* 270, no. 2 (2025): 142–44.

Entry on *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman, Vol. IX*, in *The Sterne Digital Library*. <http://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/PR-CCD-00005-00092/1>

“The Books of Lydia Languish’s Circulating Library Revisited” [coauthored with Angus Whitehead]. *Notes and Queries* 255, no. 4 (2010): 551–53.

“A Drawing on the Blank Page.” *The Shandean* 17 (2006): 158–61.

Reviews (select):

Review of Kate Loveman, *The Strange History of Samuel Pepys’s Diary*. Forthcoming in *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*.

Review of Anahit Behrooz, *Mapping Middle-earth: Environmental and Political Narratives in J.R.R. Tolkien’s Cartographies*. *Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research* 12, no. 1 (2025): 106–10. <https://fafnir.journal.fi/issue/view/12425/2948>

Review of Melinda Alliker Rabb, *Miniature and the English Imagination: Literature, Cognition, and Small-Scale Culture, 1650–1765*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 53, no. 3 (2020): 513–15.

Review of John Frow, *Character and Person*. *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 32, no. 3 (2020): 532–34.

Review of Kate Loveman, *Samuel Pepys and his Books: Reading, Newsgathering, and Sociability, 1660–1703*. *The Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* 111, no. 3 (2017): 415–19.

Review of Judith Milhous and Robert D. Hume, *The Publication of Plays in London, 1660–1800: Playwrights, Publishers, and the Market*. *Modern Philology* 115, no. 1 (2017): E20–E25.

“Uncorking Old Sherry for the Twenty-First Century” [review of David Francis Taylor, *Theatres of Opposition: Empire, Revolution, and Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Richard Brinsley Sheridan: The Impresario in Political and Cultural Context*, ed. Jack E. DeRochi and Daniel J. Ellis]. *Eighteenth-Century Life* 39, no. 2 (2015): 81–86.

Exhibition Review of *Thomas Gainsborough and the Modern Woman*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 44, no. 4 (2011): 569–72.

Review of *Novel Definitions: An Anthology of Commentary on the Novel, 1688–1815*, ed. Cheryl L. Nixon. *Eighteenth-Century Fiction* 23, no. 3 (2011): 593–95.

Review of Harold Love, *English Clandestine Satire, 1660–1702*. *Eighteenth-Century Studies* 41, no. 3 (2008): 433–35.

Review of John O’Brien, *Harlequin Britain: Pantomime and Entertainment, 1690–1760*. *Modern Philology* 103, no. 4 (2006): 559–64.

Review of Alex Woloch, *The One vs. the Many: Minor Characters and the Space of the Protagonist in the Novel*. *Comparative Literature* 58, no. 1 (2006): 83–86.

Awards and Fellowships (select):

- Ronald and Deborah Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award, The Ohio State University, 2020.
- James L. Clifford Prize, awarded by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies to my “Rethinking Fictionality in the Eighteenth-Century Puppet Theatre” as “an outstanding study on some aspect of eighteenth-century culture, interesting to any eighteenth-century specialist, regardless of discipline,” 2016–17.
- Women’s Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2015–16.
- Winner of the Innovative Course Design Competition sponsored by the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2008–9.
- Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2006–7.
- Percy G. Adams Prize, awarded by the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies to my “‘Haywood,’ Secret History, and the Politics of Attribution” as “the best article on an eighteenth-century subject,” 1999–2000.

Invited Lectures (select; last twenty years):

- “Fictionality, Typicality, and Reference in a Few Prints by (or after) Hogarth.” Scheduled for the Eighteenth-Century Scholarly Seminar, Newberry Library, 2026.
- “The Friends of English Magic.” “The Magical Eighteenth Century,” Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Indiana University, 2024.
- “Books and Other Moving Objects.” The Kandersteg Seminar, Remarque Institute, New York University, Kandersteg, Switzerland, 2018.
- “Institutions without Addresses.” “Institutions as Actors,” University of York, 2017.
- “What is an Authorial Portrait?” Eighteenth-Century Literature and Culture Seminar, University of Oxford, 2017.
- “How is a High Flyer Like a Highwayman?” Annual Meeting of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, St. Louis, 2017.
- “The Importance of Being Inhuman.” Middle Modernity Group, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2014.
- “Hanging Pope in Effigy.” “Objects, Images, and Texts: Pope, Roubiliac, and Representations of Authorship,” Yale Center for British Art, 2014.
- “The Most Typical Author of the Eighteenth Century.” Keynote address at the Laurence Sterne Tercentenary Conference, Royal Holloway, University of London, 2013.
- “Can the Signboard Speak?” Annual Meeting of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, Montréal, 2013.
- “The *Ancien Régime* of Authorial Names.” Yale Program in the History of the Book, 2012.
- “The Inhumanity of Authors (and why it’s a good thing).” Long Eighteenth Century Seminar, USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, 2012.
- “The Tactility of Authorial Names.” Department of English, University of Delaware, 2012. Also delivered to the Literary and Cultural Studies Colloquium, Carnegie Mellon University, 2011.

- Participant in the President's Roundtable on "Defoe Bibliography." Biennial Meeting of the Defoe Society, University of Worcester, 2011.
- "Value, Vernacular Theory, and 'Things (including Authors).'" Research on Authorship as Performance group, Universiteit Gent [Ghent University], 2010.
- "The Literary Uses of Authorial Names." Plenary address at the Annual Meeting of the East-Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Pittsburgh, 2010.
- "Sociability, Value, and the Ghostly Materiality of Authorial Names." Annual Meeting of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, Madison, 2010.
- "Things (including Authors)." Harvard University Long Eighteenth-Century and Romanticism Colloquium, 2010.
- "The Sociability of Attribution." "Socializing with Print" [the Annual Workshop of the Interacting with Print: Cultural Practices of Intermediality, 1700–1830 Research Group], Montréal, 2008.
- "The Work of Attribution in the Atlantic World of Print." "The Atlantic World of Print in the Age of Franklin," McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 2006.

Conference Papers (select; last twenty years):

- "Farce and the Decline of Magic." Scheduled for the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Philadelphia, 2026.
- "Cephalopods, Impossible Positions, and the Evidentiary Value of the Implausible." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto, 2024.
- Participant in a roundtable on "Reading Contrariwise: Against Authorial Intent." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Toronto, 2024.
- "The Friends of English Magic." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, St. Louis, 2023.
- "Stuff and People in the Time of the *Ukiyo-zōshi*." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Baltimore, 2022.
- "Charles II in Aurangabad." Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2021.
- "Knife, Paper, Scissors." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Denver, 2019.
- Participant in a roundtable on "The Multimedia Eighteenth Century." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Denver, 2019.
- "On Folding." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Orlando, 2018.
- "Copies, Transfers, and Excerpts; or, How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Derivative." "Bibliography Among the Disciplines," Philadelphia, 2017.
- "Objects Under Pressure." "Bibliography Among the Disciplines," Philadelphia, 2017.
- "Smoaking Swift on both sides of the Irish Sea." "Jonathan Swift 350," Trinity College Dublin, 2017.
- "Authors and Objecthood (Take Three)." Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Minneapolis, 2017.

- Participant in a roundtable “Against the Novel.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Pittsburgh, 2016.
- Participant in a roundtable on “Reconsidering the Restoration.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Pittsburgh, 2016.
- “Secret History and Allegory.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, 2015.
- “Feigned Characters and Quasi-Fictions.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Los Angeles, 2015.
- Participant in a roundtable on “The Short Eighteenth Century.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Los Angeles, 2015.
- “Worldly Fictionality.” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montréal, 2014.
- “Viewing Authors from Below.” “Reading and Writing from Below: Exploring the Margins of Modernity,” Helsingin Yliopisto [University of Helsinki], 2014.
- “Hogarth, Fictionality, and Reference.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Williamsburg, Virginia, 2014.
- “Somebodies, Nobodies, Wood Bodies.” Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, Oregon, 2013.
- “Abstraction, Naming, and Competitive Wit in the ‘Missing Years’.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Cleveland, 2013.
- Participant in a roundtable on “What’s Fame got to do with it? Celebrity Studies and the Eighteenth Century.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Cleveland, 2013.
- “Authors and Objecthood.” “Histories of British Art, 1660–1735: Reconstruction and Transformation,” University of York, 2012.
- “The Interchangeability of Authors.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, San Antonio, 2012.
- “I take them to be Sally Fielding’s: Lady Mary Wortley Montagu and the Familial Uses of Authorial Names.” Annual Meeting of the British Women Writers Conference, Columbus, Ohio, 2011.
- “Authorial Heads: Painted, Printed, Carved, and Cast.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, 2011.
- Participant in a roundtable on “Why Not Smollett?” at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, 2011.
- “Print, Performance, Personhood, Polly Honeycombe.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Albuquerque, 2010.
- “Sociability, Reputation, and the ‘Very Name’ of Johnson.” “Johnson at 300,” Pembroke College, University of Oxford, 2009.
- “The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Editorial Personae.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Richmond, 2009.
- “Manuscript Attribution and the Materiality of Authorial Names.” Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Hamilton, Bermuda, 2009.

- “The Materiality of Authorial Names.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Portland, Oregon, 2008.
- “Resonance and Form; or, All Novels are Equal, but Some Novels are More Equal than Others.” Annual Meeting of the Modern Language Association, Chicago, 2007.
- “Attribution and Its Publics in the Late Stuart Atlantic.” “Making Publics: Media, Markets, and Association in Early Modern Europe, 1500–1800,” University of California, Santa Barbara, 2007.
- “Poetry and the Fate of Authorial Names.” Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montréal, 2006.
- “The Work of Attribution in the Age of Anonymous Publication.” “The Book” [the Twentieth and Final DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-Century Studies], University of South Florida, 2006.

Service to the Profession (select; last twenty years):

- Manuscript reviewer for sixteen journals and eleven presses.
- External reviewer for tenure cases at seven colleges and universities.
- Member of the Advisory Board, *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 2025–28.
- Organizer and Chair, “The Possibilities and Limitations of Literary Evidence,” a double roundtable scheduled for the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2026.
- Editor of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, 2020–24.
- Panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities, 2024, 2016, 2008.
- External consultant for Manuscript Revision Workshop, Syracuse University, 2022.
- Organizer and Chair, “Has the Eighteenth Century Ever Been Modern?,” a roundtable at the Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2021.
- Women’s Caucus Editing and Translation Fellowship Committee, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2020–21.
- Associate Editor of *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, 2019–20.
- Proposal reviewer for the Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek—Vlaanderen [Research Foundation Flanders, Belgium], 2018, 2011.
- James L. Clifford Prize Committee, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2017–18.
- External member of a dissertation committee, Department of English, University of Delaware, 2015–17.
- Member of the Advisory Board, *Studies in Eighteenth-Century Culture*, 2014–17.
- Proposal reviewer for the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst [German Academic Exchange Service], 2014.
- President of the Johnson Society of the Central Region, 2013–14.
- Organizer, “Irregular Performance in the Eighteenth Century.” A panel at the Annual Meeting of the North American Conference on British Studies, Portland, Oregon, 2013.

External member of a dissertation committee, Department of English, University of Texas, Austin, 2010–12.

Co-organizer (with Catherine Robson) of “Somebody’s Story: Twenty-Eight Ways of Being Taught By Cathy Gallagher” [a conference in honor of Catherine Gallagher]. University of California, Berkeley, 2011.

Innovative Course Design Competition Committee, American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, 2009–11 [Chair of the Committee, 2010–11].

Organizer and Chair, “Bodies, Affect, Reading,” a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, 2011.

Respondent to “Letters, Journals, and Literary Forms,” a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Vancouver, 2011.

Organizer and Chair, “Form in Space and Time,” a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Albuquerque, 2010.

Organizer and Chair, “Atlantic History and Literary History,” a panel at the Biennial Conference of the Society of Early Americanists, Hamilton, Bermuda, 2009.

Organizer and Chair, “Atlantic History and Literary History,” a panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Montréal, 2006.

Departmental Service (select; last twenty years):

Committee on Promotion and Tenure, 2019–present.

Procedures Oversight Designee for Assistant Professors, 2019–present.

Graduate Studies Committee, 2010–19, 2007–8.

Placement Director 2014–16.

Coordinator for New Faculty Hiring and Junior Faculty Annual Reviews, 2009–10.

Search Committee for a junior position in Early American Literature, 2009–10.

Search Committee for a junior position in Twentieth-Century Literature of the British Isles, 2007–8.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2004–6.

College and University Service (select; last twenty years):

Humanities Institute Advisory Board, 2019–24.

Review Committee for the Whiting Public Engagement Program, 2018.

Search Committee for an open-rank, open-discipline position in Computational Humanities, College of the Arts and Sciences, 2017.

Arts and Sciences Faculty Advisory Council, College of the Arts and Sciences, 2011–15.

Advisory Committee for Rare Books and Manuscripts, University Libraries, 2005–15.

Committee on the Hiring Framework for the Arts and Humanities component of the Data Analytics Collaborative, College of the Arts and Sciences, 2014.

Review Committee for Summer Stipends from the National Endowment for the Humanities, College of the Arts and College of Humanities, 2009.

Curriculum Committee, College of Humanities, 2007–8.

Review Committee for Grants for Research and Creative Activity in the Arts and Humanities, College of the Arts and College of Humanities, 2007–8, 2005–6.