

## Deborah Shapple Spillman

Department of English  
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### Teaching Appointments

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Oregon, 2005-present  
Lecturer, Department of English and Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2002-2005  
Instructor, Department of English and Women's Studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1996-1998, 2001

### Degrees

Ph.D., Comparative Literature and Literary Theory, University of Pennsylvania, December 2002  
Thesis: "Taking Objects for Origins: Cultural Fetishism and Visions of Africa in the Late Imperial Novel"  
Advisors: Elaine Freedgood and Liliane Weissberg  
Readers: Nina Auerbach, Henrika Kuklick, Catriona MacLeod, and Christina Poggi

B.A., English (honors) and Visual Art, double concentration, University of Rochester, May 1993  
Thesis: "The Parallel Visions of Samuel Beckett and Alberto Giacometti"  
Advisor: Daniel Albright

### RESEARCH

#### Book

"British Colonial Realism in Africa: Inalienable Objects, Contested Domains" (98,000 words)  
In production at Palgrave Macmillan (Palgrave Series in Nineteenth-Century Writing and Culture)

#### Refereed Articles

"African Skin, Victorian Masks: The Object Lessons of Mary Kingsley and Edward Blyden," *Victorian Literature and Culture* 39.2 (September 2011): 305-326. (12,840 words)

"Artful Tales of Origination in Olive Schreiner's *The Story of an African Farm*," *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 59.1 (June 2004): 78-114. (12,180 words)

#### Fellowships and Awards

Ernest G. Moll Research Professorship Award, Oregon Humanities Center, University of Oregon, 2008-9  
Junior Professorship Development Award, for research in South Africa, University of Oregon, 2006  
New Faculty Award, for research in South Africa, University of Oregon, 2006  
William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 1994-1997, 2001-2002  
German Language and Literature Award, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany, 2001, 2002  
Fellowship, Berlin International Summer Academy, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, 2001  
Research Assistantship, Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2000-2001  
Teaching Fellowship, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, 1999-2000  
DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Dissertation Fellowship, Humboldt University, Berlin, 1998-1999

DAAD Scholarship for study at the Goethe Institute, Dresden, summer 1998  
Teaching Fellowship, Department of English, University of Pennsylvania, 1997-1998  
DAAD Scholarship for "German Studies Summer Course," University of Regensburg, 1995  
Olin Fellowship, awarded 1994 (declined)  
Phi Beta Kappa, 1992  
AAUW (American Association of University Women) Scholarship, University of Rochester, 1988

### **Selected Presentations**

- "Objects, Inalienability, and Colonial Realism," Division on Anthropological Approaches to Literature, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, January 2011
- "Recollecting Realism in Nineteenth-Century South Africa," Oregon Humanities Center, Eugene, Oregon, March 2009
- "Ethnographic Visuality and the Alternative Object Lessons of E. W. Blyden," Division on Anthropological Approaches to Literature, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 2006
- "Of Trifles and Trade: Conrad and Globalization," Joseph Conrad Society of America, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004
- "Authenticity and Anachronism in Colonial Ethnographic Fictions," Division on Anthropological Approaches to Literature, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Diego, December 2003
- "Beyond Fetishism: The Lives of Objects in Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*," Annual International Conference of the Joseph Conrad Society of the United Kingdom, London, July 2003
- "Salvage Ethnography and the Rhetoric of Disappearance in *The Story of an African Farm*," Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Annual Conference, Virginia, April 2002
- Respondent to session "Earliest Tools, Art, and Fire," Interdisciplinary Conference on Human Origins, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin, August 2001
- "Victorian Observations, African Narratives: The Debate over 'Bushman Painting,'" Middle Atlantic Conference of British Studies, New York City, March 2001
- "The Aesthetics and Politics of Carl Einstein's *Negerplastik*," Modernist Studies Association, Philadelphia, October 2000

### **TEACHING**

#### **Teaching and Research Interests**

Victorian literature and culture  
Nineteenth- and twentieth-century British and Anglophone literatures  
Interdisciplinary theories of object relations  
Postcolonial and gender studies  
History of the novel  
History of science and aesthetics

**Recent Courses**

ENG 650. Victorian Words and Things, fall 2006, winter 2011  
ENG 452. Studies in Nineteenth-Century Fiction: Gender and Empire, winter 2008, fall 2010  
ENG 322. English Novel: Scott to Hardy, winter 2007, fall 2010  
ENG 604. Introduction to Literary and Critical Theory, spring 2010  
ENG 104. Introduction to Fiction, fall 2005, 2007 (two sections), spring 2010  
ENG 650. Victorian Fetishisms, spring 2009  
ENG 451/551. 19<sup>th</sup>-Century Literature & Culture: Victorian Gothic Fiction, winter 2007, spring 2009, fall 2011  
ENG 365. Anglophone Literature, winter 2006, 2008  
ENG 321. English Novel: Defoe to Austen, fall 2005, 2007  
ENG 452. Studies in Nineteenth-Century Fiction: Narratives of Empire, spring 2006  
ENG 323. English Novel: Conrad to the Present, spring 2006

**Dissertations and Theses**

Adviser, Megan Benner, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Adviser, Andrew Grace, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Adviser, Brian Psiropoulos, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Member, Tamara Holloway, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Member, Kelly Jane Rosenblatt, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Member, Rachel Bash, graduate dissertation in English (in progress)  
Member, Amanda Cornwall, graduate dissertation in Comparative Literature (in progress)  
Member, Jennifer Hoffman, Honors College Thesis in English (2006)  
Member, Jeanette Kranick, Honors College Thesis in English (2011)  
Member, Katie Jentzsch, Honors College Thesis in English (in progress)  
Member, Wendy Kral, Honors College Thesis in English (in progress)

**SERVICE**

**Departmental Service**

Member, Graduate Studies Committee, University of Oregon, 2007-2008, 2010-2011, 2011-present  
Member, Nineteenth-Century British Studies Search Committee, University of Oregon, 2006-2007  
Member, Merit Review Committee, University of Oregon, fall 2006  
Member, Speakers Committee, University of Oregon, spring 2006  
Member, Modern Irish Studies Search Committee, University of Oregon, 2005-2006

**Professional Service**

Co-Instructor, Undergraduate Seminar, "Dickens Universe," University of California, Santa Cruz, summer 2008  
Co-Organizer, "Things" Lecture and Seminar Series, University of Oregon, spring 2007  
Panel Organizer, "Cultural Travelling I & II," International Word and Image Conference, Philadelphia, fall 2005  
NEH Researcher and Cataloguer, Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Pennsylvania, 2004-2005  
Professional Writing Tutor, Philadelphia University, 2002-2004  
TA Training Workshop Leader, University of Pennsylvania, 2000  
Coordinator, Round Table about Theory Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, 1995-1998

**Professional Memberships**

Modern Language Association  
North American Victorian Studies Association  
Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies  
Modernist Studies Association