

**ALICIA MISCHA RENFROE**  
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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D in English, University of Tennessee, 2002**

7th Transatlantic Summer Academy, Center for European Integration Studies and Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany, Summer 2000

**M.A. in English (emphasis in Creative Writing), University of Tennessee, 1997**

**J.D. University of Florida College of Law, 1994**  
Admitted: Florida Bar Association

**B.A. in Honors English and Political Science, High Honors, University of Tennessee, 1991**

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## POST-DOCTORAL EDUCATION

**National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: Transcendentalism and Social Action in the Age of Emerson, Thoreau, and Fuller.** Concord, MA. Summer 2013. Directors: Dr. Sterling Delano

**National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: The Rule of Law and the Liberal Arts.** University of New England. Biddeford, Maine. Summer 2009. Directors: Drs. Catherine O. Frank and Matthew Andersen.

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## CURRENT PROJECTS

Invited Entry. "Rebecca Harding Davis and Law." Davis Archive. Digital Humanities Project. In progress.

Invited Chapter. "Social Protest Literature, 1820-1914." *The Blackwell Companion to American Literature*. Vol. 2. Eds. Susan Belasco, Theresa Strouth Gaul, Linck Johnson, and Michael Soto. (In progress, Mss due Feb 2016)

*Freedom of the Will: Nineteenth Century American Women Writers and the Law* (book project in progress)

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## EDITIONS

Editor and Introduction. *A Law unto Herself* by Rebecca Harding Davis. 1878. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2014. Print.

Introduction. *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. Afterword. Barry Sears. New York: Signet Classics, forthcoming 2015. Print.

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## PUBLICATIONS

"Casting Lots, Contracts, and Cannibals in William Dean Howells's *A Modern Instance*." *English Language Notes* Special Issue: Law, Literature, and Culture. Ed. Nan Goodman. 48.2 (2010): 143-52.

Co-author with Kenneth Brandt. "Assessing Questions of Intent and Culpability: A Legal Review of the Shooting in Ernest Hemingway's 'The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber'" *The Hemingway Review* 33.2 (2014): 8-29.

“From General Education to Law and Literature: Teaching Jack London in Multiple Contexts.” *Approaches to Teaching Jack London*. Eds. Kenneth Brandt and Jeanne Campbell Reesman. New York: Modern Language Association, 2014. 177-86. Print.

“Interrogations of Justice in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” *Cycnos* 19.2 (2002): 213-224.

“Prior Claims and Sovereign Rights: The Sexual Contract in Edith Wharton’s *Summer*.” *Law and Literature*. Ed. Michael J. Meyer. New York, NY: Rodopi, 2004. 193-206

“Rights Claims and the Rule of Law in Rebecca Harding Davis’s ‘Life in the Iron-Mills’” *Topic Special Issue: Rebecca Harding Davis*. 59 (2013): 15-29.

“Rights and Justice in Edith Wharton’s *The Reef*.” *Women’s Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 39 (2010): 1-24.

“Self-Interest vs. Self-Sacrifice: Louisa May Alcott’s Publishers and the Depiction of Contract in *A Modern Mephistopheles*.” *Nineteenth-Century Women Writers and the Literary Marketplace*. Eds. Earl Yarrington and Mary DeJong. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholar’s Press, 2007. 349-66.

“The Specter and The Spectator: Rebecca Harding Davis’ ‘The Second Life’ and the Naturalist Gothic.” *Haunting Realities*. Eds. Monika Elbert and Wendy Ryden. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2016. Forthcoming.

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## REVIEWS, ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES, SHORT WORKS

“Defining Romanticism: The Implications of Nature in *Jane Eyre* and *Frankenstein*.” Prometheus Unplugged? Romanticisms Past and Future. Emory University. April 1996. Web. Excerpt “Nature, the Moon, and *Jane Eyre*” reprinted in *The Bronte Messenger* 17 (2008): 3-5.

“The Legal Context of ‘The Case of Jane Boyer’” *Rebecca Harding Davis Society Newsletter* 3.1 (2012): 2-4.

“Review of *Crime in Literature: Sociology of Deviance and Fiction*.” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2004): 87.1-2. 231-36.

“Review of *What’s Left of Theory: New Work on the Politics of Literary Theory*.” *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* (2001): 84.3-4.

“*Presumed Innocent* by Scott Turow.” *Encyclopedia of American Popular Fiction*. Eds. Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 275-77.

“Scott Turow.” *Encyclopedia of American Popular Fiction*. Eds. Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 350-51.

“*The Summons* by John Grisham.” *Encyclopedia of American Popular Fiction*. Eds. Geoff Hamilton and Brian Jones. New York: Facts on File, 2009. 339-40.

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## TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

2015-        *Professor, Middle Tennessee State University*

2010-2015 *Associate Professor, Middle Tennessee State University*

2005-2010 *Assistant Professor, Middle Tennessee State University*

### Graduate Courses:

American Literature 1865-1910

Special Topics in Women Writers: Louisa May Alcott and Rebecca Harding Davis

Directed Reading: The Legacy of Transcendentalism in Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Literature  
Directed Reading: Utopian Communities in American Literature  
Directed Reading: Gothic Literature and Social Reform  
Directed Reading: Stephen Crane  
Directed Reading: Horatio Alger  
Directed Reading: Literature of the Progressive Era  
Directed Reading: John Steinbeck  
Directed Reading: Edith Wharton

**Upper Division:**

Studies in Prose Fiction: American Realism and Naturalism (designed course)  
Law and Literature (designed course)  
Nineteenth Century Women Writers  
Introduction to American Literature  
Online Introduction to American Literature (course developer and designer)  
The Development of the Short Story  
Professional Writing

**General Education:**

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
Online Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies  
The Experience of Literature  
Online Research and Argumentative Writing  
Expository Writing  
Online Expository Writing

*2002-2005 Lecturer, University of Tennessee English Department*

American Realism and Naturalism (Senior/Graduate level course)  
The American Novel to 1900 (Senior/Graduate level course)  
Modern American Literature (Senior/Graduate level course)  
Women in American Literature (Upper level course)  
Business and Administrative Communication  
American Literature from the Colonial Period to the 19th Century  
Honors American Literature from the Colonial Period to the 19th Century  
English 101 and English 102 (First Year Composition I and II)  
First Year Studies

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**GRANTS**

2015 Non Instructional Assignment (Spring Semester Salary)  
2013 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Grant (\$2100)  
2011 College of Liberal Arts Travel Grant (\$1100)  
2011 MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Combined Summer Salary Grant (\$6,100)  
2010 MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Summer Salary Grant (\$3900)  
2009 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Grant (\$3,800)  
2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2006 MTSU Graduate Faculty Travel Grant (\$250 each)  
2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2006 Women's Studies Travel Grant (\$200 each)  
2006 MTSU Faculty Research and Creative Activity Summer Salary Grant (\$3,440)

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**AWARDS**

2015 Nominee, Distinguished Research Award  
2013 Anye Cantrell Award for Outstanding Service to Women's and Gender Studies  
2011 Women's and Gender Studies Award for Excellence in Service  
2005 Nominee, John C. Hodges Award for Excellence in Teaching  
2004 Nominee, John C. Hodges Award for Excellence in Teaching  
2002 University of Tennessee Chancellor's Citation for Professional Promise  
2002 Thomas J. Wheeler Dissertation Research Fellowship  
2001-2002 Yates Dissertation Fellowship  
2001, 2002 Travel Awards, UPSF Graduate Student Travel Fund

2000-2001 Norman J. Sanders Dissertation Fellowship  
1997 University of Tennessee Chancellor's Fellowship for Outstanding First Year Graduate Student  
1997-2002 F. De Wolfe Miller Graduate Student Travel Grants

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## CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Co-Director and Program Chair, MTSU Interdisciplinary Conference: Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies. April 3-6, 2013.

Co-Director and Program Chair, MTSU Interdisciplinary Conference: Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies. March 24-26, 2011.

Panel Chair. Rebecca Harding Davis: Materialism, Tourism, and Children's Literature. American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 21-24, 2015.

Panel Chair: Rebecca Harding Davis, *Peterson's Magazine*, and Reform. American Literature Association. Washington, DC. May 22-25, 2014.

Panel Chair. Imagining the Civil War and its Boundaries. Witnessing and Remembering the Civil War(s): Woolson, Davis, and their Contemporaries. Columbus, GA. Feb 21-23, 2013.

Panel Chair. New Perspectives on Rebecca Harding Davis. American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 24-27, 2012.

Panel Chair. Rebecca Harding Davis Open Topic Panel. American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 27-30, 2010.

Panel Chair. Rebecca Harding Davis and Women Panel. Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference. Philadelphia, PA. Oct. 22-24, 2009.

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## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Specter and The Spectator: Rebecca Harding Davis and the Naturalist Gothic." American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 22-24, 2015.

"'The Deaf and the Dumb': Rebecca Harding Davis and Pennsylvania Workplace Reforms." American Literature Association. Washington, DC. May 22-25, 2014.

"Rebecca Harding Davis's Detective Fiction and the Civil War." Witnessing and Remembering the Civil War(s): Woolson, Davis, and their Contemporaries. Columbus, GA. Feb 21-23, 2013.

"Teaching Alcott in Law and Literature." American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 24-27, 2012.

"Marcus Schouler, Detective? Reading Frank Norris's *McTeague* as a Crime Novel." American Literature Association Symposium: Crime Fiction and American Culture. Savannah, GA. Sept. 22-24, 2011.

"'To Concord and back': Rebecca Harding Davis and Louisa May Alcott." American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 26-29, 2011.

"Approaches to Teaching 'Life in the Iron Mills.'" American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 27-30, 2010.

"'Why did this chance word cling to him so obstinately?': Rights Discourse and Natural Law in Rebecca Harding Davis's *Life in the Iron Mills*." Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. Brown University. Providence, RI. March 19-20, 2010.

“Contract, Property, and the Question of Justice in Rebecca Harding Davis’s *A Law Unto Herself*.” American Literature Association. Boston, MA. May 21-24, 2009.

“Rights and Region in Selected Works by Rebecca Harding Davis.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 22-25, 2008.

“Leaving Justice to Chance: Gendered Justice in Edith Wharton’s *The Reef*.” Literature and Law Conference. John Jay College of Criminal Justice. New York, NY. April 11, 2008.

Poster Presentation “Cannibalism, Contracts, and Capitalism: Reading William Dean Howells’s *A Modern Instance as a Naturalist Text*.” MTSU Scholar’s Week. Murfreesboro, TN. April 6, 2007.

“Louisa May Alcott and her Publishers.” Society for the Study of American Women Writers. Philadelphia, PA. November 8-11, 2006.

“Contractual Obligation and Necessity in William Dean Howells’s *A Modern Instance*.” American Literature Association. San Francisco, CA. May 25-28, 2006.

“The Treatment of Law in Louisa May Alcott’s ‘A Whisper in the Dark.’” Association for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities. College of Law. Syracuse, NY. March 17-18, 2006.

“James’s ‘thin guarantee’: Relational Contracts and Aesthetic Representation in *The Wings of the Dove*.” American Literature Association. Long Beach, CA. May 30-June 2, 2002.

“‘In love and in law’: Legal Discourse in Louisa May Alcott’s *Work*.” Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference. University of Pennsylvania College of Law. Philadelphia, PA. March 8-10, 2002.

“Representations of Democracy in the Work of William Dean Howells.” Literature and Democracy Conference. Emory University. Atlanta, GA. February 22-24, 2002.

“Interrogations of Justice in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.” International Law and Literature Conference. Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis. Nice, France. June 27-29, 2001.

“Rights and Justice in Edith Wharton’s *The Reef*.” Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference. Georgetown Law School. Washington, D.C. March 9-11, 2000.

“‘Gifts for Gifts Back Again’: Bargaining and the Individual in William Dean Howells’ *A Hazard of New Fortunes*.” Law, Culture, and the Humanities Conference. Wake Forest Law School. Winston-Salem, NC. March 12-14, 1999.

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## THESIS AND DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Director, Dissertation Committee for Shellie Michael (in progress)

Director, Dissertation Committee for Sarah Gray (in progress)

Director, Dissertation Committee for Brandi Williamson (in Progress)

Director, Thesis Committee for Ryan Jamieson (completed Fall 2012)

Director, Thesis Committee for Jennifer Rowan (completed Summer 2010)

Director, Thesis Committee for Sister Mary Esther Potts (completed Fall 2010)

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Gary Gravely (completed Summer 2015)

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Autumn Lazoun (completed Spring 2014)

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Joy Smith (completed Spring 2014).

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Margaret Johnson (in progress)

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Khristeena Lute (in progress)

Reader, Dissertation Committee for Scott McMillan (in progress)  
Reader, Dissertation Committee for Dennis Negron (in progress)  
Reader, Thesis Committee for Sara Rivas (Completed Spring 2015)  
Reader, Thesis Committee for Dan Copp (Completed Summer 2015)  
Reader, Thesis Committee for Nancy Warden (completed Fall 2010)

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## UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Member, MTSU English Department Faculty Governance Committee, 2014-present  
Member, MTSU English Department Upper Division Committee, 2013-present.  
Member, MTSU English Department Graduate Online Instruction Committee, 2014-present  
Member, MTSU English Department Advisory Committee, 2012-13.  
Member, MTSU English Department Graduate Program Committee, 2008-2013.  
Member, MTSU Writing Center Tutor Award Committee, Summers 2008 and 2009.  
Member, MTSU Graduate Teaching Award Committee, Summer 2009.  
Reader and Co-designer, PhD Preliminary Examination American Literature 1830-1910 (Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013)  
Reader and Co-designer, MA and PhD Qualifying Examination (Fall 2008)  
Reader and Co-designer, PhD Preliminary Examination American Literature to 1830 (Spring 2012)  
Reader, PhD Preliminary Examination Critical Theory (Spring 2008)  
Member, MTSU Web-based Curriculum Committee, 2005-2008.

Member, MTSU WGST Awards Committee 2104-present  
Member, MTSU WGST Conference Committee, 2008-2013  
Chair, MTSU WGST Conference Program Committee, 2010-2013.  
Member, MTSU WGST Graduate Certificate Committee, 2007-2012.  
Member, MTSU WGST Newsletter Committee, 2006-2007.  
Member, MTSU WGST Council, 2006- present (inactive Fall 2011, AY 2013-14)  
Member, MTSU Academic Appeals Committee for Liberal Arts, 2009-2011.  
Member, MTSU Grade Appeals Sub Committee for Liberal Arts, 2006-2008  
Alternate, MTSU Grade Appeals Sub Committee for Liberal Arts, 2013-2015

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## NATIONAL SERVICE AND DEVELOPMENT

Grant Reviewer, National Endowment for the Humanities Public Programs Division.

External Reviewer, Research, Tenure and Promotion Application for the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

External Reviewer, Research and Service, Promotion Application for St. Francis University.

Conference Coordinator, Society for the Study of Rebecca Harding Davis, 2009-present.  
Treasurer/Secretary, William Dean Howells Society, 2009-present.

Member, Rebecca Harding Davis Society; William Dean Howells Society, Charlotte Perkins Gilman Society; Edith Wharton Society; Louisa May Alcott Society; Jack London Society; Society for the Study of American Women Writers; Working Group for the Study of Law, Culture, and the Humanities; American Literature Association; Modern Language Association; *Phi Beta Kappa*

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## LANGUAGES

Reading knowledge of French and Spanish

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## REFERENCES

Dr. Tom Strawman  
English Department Chair and Professor of English  
Middle Tennessee State University  
Phone: 615-898-5644

Dr. Mary Papke  
Professor of English  
University of Tennessee  
Phone: 865-974-6934