

Elizabeth Fenton

curriculum vitae

Professor of Religion
 Director, Graduate Writing Center
 The University of Vermont
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026-	Professor of Religion, The University of Vermont
2023-	Director, Graduate Writing Center, The University of Vermont
2019-2026	Professor of English, The University of Vermont
2012-2019	Associate Professor of English, UVM
2007-12	Assistant Professor of English, UVM
2006-07	Assistant Professor of English, Loyola University Chicago

EDUCATION

2006	Ph.D., English, Rice University
2005	M.A., English, Rice University
2000	B.A., English and Women's Studies, The University of Vermont, <i>summa cum laude</i>

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Old Canaan in a New World: Native Americans and the Lost Tribes of Israel (NYU Press, August 2020).

Americanist Approaches to The Book of Mormon, co-editor, with Jared Hickman (Oxford University Press, August 2019).

Religious Liberties: Anti-Catholicism and Liberal Democracy in Nineteenth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (Oxford University Press, 2011).

ARTICLES

"The Book of Mormon and Book History," *The Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 32 (2023): 74-96.

"Absent-Minded Historicism," with Valerie Rohy, *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 7.1 (Spring 2019): 83-102.

Forum: *The Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 27 (2018). A special section of the journal devoted to my graduate course, "The Book of Mormon and Its World," this forum includes an interview with the journal editor, my course syllabus, and five papers written by students in the course.

"Indeliberate Democracy: The Politics of Religious Conversion in Royall Tyler's *The Algerine Captive*." *Early American Literature* 51.1 (2016): 71-100.

"Open Canons: Sacred History and American History in *The Book of Mormon*." *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists* 1.2 (Fall 2013), 339-61.

"Whitman, Lincoln and the Union of Men," with Valerie Rohy. *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance* 55.3-4 (Fall/Winter 2009), 237-67.

"Birth of a Protestant Nation: Catholic Canadians, Religious Pluralism, and National Unity in the Early U.S. Republic." *Early American Literature* 41.1 (March 2006), 29-57.

BOOK CHAPTERS

"Unessays and Our Teaching Lives: Equity, Assignment Design, and Whole Selves," (with Ellen Anderson and Susanmarie Harrington) in *The Unessay across Disciplines: Practical Advice from Instructors in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and STEM*, eds. Barbara Bordalejo, Ryan Cordell, and Daniel O'Donnell, The University of Alberta Press (forthcoming).

"Open Canons: Sacred History and American History in *The Book of Mormon*," in *Envisioning Scripture: Joseph Smith's Revelations in Their Early American Contexts*, ed. Colby Townsend (Salt Lake City: Signature Books 2022): 73-96. (Invited reprint of article above.)

"Nephites and Israelites: *The Book of Mormon* and the Hebraic Indian Theory," in *Americanist Approaches to The Book of Mormon*, eds. Elizabeth Fenton and Jared Hickman (New York: Oxford University Press, 2019): 276-297.

"The Secularization Narrative and Nineteenth-Century American Literature." *A Companion to American Literature*, Robert S. Levine and Caroline Levander, eds. (Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing, 2011), 61-76.

REVIEWS

Strange Nation: Literary Nationalism and Cultural Conflict in the Age of Poe, New York: Oxford University Press (2016), J. Gerald Kennedy. *The ALH Online Review*, series X (2017): https://academic.oup.com/alh/pages/alh_review_series_10

Principle and Propensity: Experience and Religion in the Nineteenth-Century British and American Bildungsroman, The University of South Carolina Press (2014), Kelsey L. Bennett. *Christianity and Literature* 66.2 (2017), 333-6.

Slavery and the Democratic Conscience, The University of Pennsylvania Press (2016), Padraig Riley. *Early American Literature* 52.1 (2017), 227-31.

Understanding the Book of Mormon, Oxford University Press (2010), Grant Hardy. *The Journal of Book of Mormon Studies* 25.1 (2016), 37-51.

The Altar at Home: Sentimental Literature and Nineteenth-Century American Religion, University of Pennsylvania Press (2014), Claudia Stokes. *The Journal of American History* 102.2 (2015), 558-9.

Gender Protest and Same-Sex Desire in Antebellum American Literature: Margaret Fuller, Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Herman Melville, Ashgate Press (2014), David Greven. *Poe Studies* 47 (2014), 105-7.

Catholicism and the Shaping of Nineteenth-Century America, Cambridge University Press (2011), Jon Gjerde. *American Catholic Studies* 124.3 (2013), 75-6.

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"It's Not About Religion: Michael Stipe and the American Sacred," Spiritual Powers Symposium, Tempe, AZ, April 2026.

"Printing Time," Mormon Book History Symposium (co-organized with Dr. Robin Jensen), The Church History Library: July 2025.

"Readymade Blank Books and the Fabrication of the Sacred," Scripture and Literature Conference, The University of Virginia: June 2019.

"'The Most Delightful Climate Ever Known or Dreamed About': The Hollow Earth as Religious Paradise in De Witt C. Chipman's *Beyond the Verge*," Illinois Wesleyan University: March 2018.

Plenary Address: "Don't Mind the Gap: The Lost Tribes of Israel and the Power of Absence in *The Book of Mormon*," The Book of Mormon Studies Association Conference, Logan, UT: October 2018.

"Not Just A Musical: *The Book of Mormon* as Text," Vermont Humanities Council, Ideas on Tap, Burlington, VT: October 2017.

"Nephites and Israelites: *The Book of Mormon* and the Hebraic Indian Theory," Rice University: November 2013.

"Why Americanists Should Read *The Book of Mormon*," The University of Maryland: October 2012.

"Religion, Secularism, and American Literature," Bridgewater State University: October 2011

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Seminar Leader, "Buried (by) Books," C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists, Cincinnati, OH, March 2026.

"Review of John Turner's *Joseph Smith: The Rise and Fall of an American Prophet*," The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Meeting, Logan, UT, October 2025.

"The Religious Fraud of Mark Hofmann Among the Mormons," Christianity and Literature Conference, Dallas, TX, November 2024.

"The Last Shall Be First: Print History and Primacy in the Book of Mormon," The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Conference, Logan, UT, October 2024.

"Scripture Unbound: Why the Book of Mormon's Binding Matters" The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Conference, Logan, UT, October 2023.

"Did Mormon Invent the Three-Ring Binder?" Mormon History Association Annual Conference, Rochester, NY, June 2023.

"The Book of Mormon and Book History," The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Convention, Logan, UT, October 2022.

"Transcribing All Things Which Shall Be Given": Replication and the Sacred Text. Joseph Smith Papers Project Meeting, Virtual, September 2021.

"Transcribe/Translate/Transfigure; or, When is a Copy Not a Copy?" The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Meeting, Logan, UT, October 2021.

"Readymade Books and the Preservation of the Sacred in the Book of Mormon and the Early Church." The Book of Mormon Studies Association Annual Conference, Logan, UT: 11-12 October 2019.

"'The Most Delightful Climate Ever Known or Dreamed About': The Hollow Earth and the Millennium in De Witt Clinton Chipman's *Beyond the Verge*." C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM: March 2018.

"Sacred Interiors in De Witt Clinton Chipman's *Beyond the Verge*." The American Literature Society Annual Meetings, Boston, MA: May 2017.

"Absent-Minded Historicism" (with Valerie Rohy). The Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: January 2017.

"A Future in Ruins: *The Anarchiad*, *The Book of Mormon*, and the Excavation of Early America." C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Annual Meeting, State College, PA: March 2016.

"Lost Tribes in a New Nation: Elias Boudinot and the Politics of Prophecy." The American Comparative Literature Association Convention, Seattle, WA: March 2015.

"The Apple of God's Eye: Elias Boudinot and the Hebraic Indian." The American Literature Association Symposium on God and the American Writer, San Antonio, TX: February 2015.

"Vanishing Indians and Hebraic Indians in James Fenimore Cooper's *The Bee-Hunter*." The American Literature Association Annual Convention, Washington, D.C.: May 2014.

"Uncommon Approaches to a Common Text: *The Book of Mormon*." Roundtable Co-organizer, C19: The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Bi-Annual Convention, Chapel Hill, NC: March 2014.

"Approaches to Close Reading." The National Council of Teachers of English Annual Convention, Boston, MA: November 2013.

"This Remarkable Cross": Incest and Evidence in George Bourne's *Lorette*." The American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA: May 2013.

"Indeliberate Democracy: The Politics of Religious Conversion in Royall Tyler's *The Algerine Captive*." The Society of Early Americanists Convention: Savannah, GA: February 2013.

"'There Cannot be Any More Bible': American History as Sacred History in *The Book of Mormon*." C19: The Society of 19th-Century Americanists Convention, Berkeley, CA: April 2012.

"Out of Time: William Apess, Sacred History, and the Ten Lost Tribes of Israel." The American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA: May 2011.

Participant, "New Approaches to Sexuality and Nineteenth-Century American Literature Roundtable." The Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA: December 2009.

"Papal Persuasions: Religious Conversion and Deliberative Democracy in the Captive Nun Tale." The American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.: November 2009.

"Whitman, Lincoln, and the Union of Men" (with Valerie Rohy). The American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston: MA, May 2009.

Chair and Respondent, "Hateful Saints, a Sodom City, and the Ku Klux Klan: Anti-Catholicism in the Americas." The American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Albuquerque, NM: October 2008.

"'Not in Hayti': U.S. Abolitionism and the Problem of Haitian Catholicism." The American Literature Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA: May 2008.

"Anti-Catholicism and Frontier Freedom in Catharine Sedgwick's *Hope Leslie*." The American Literature Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA: May 2007.

"Reformers and Priests: Anti-Catholicism and the Liberal Democratic Project in Margaret Fuller's European Dispatches." MLA Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA: December 2006.

"Ousting the Pope of Canada: U.S. Revolutionary Discourse Confronts Quebec." The American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.: November 2005.

"Forgive Me, Father, for I have Sinned Again: Confession as Serial Narrative." The Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, Burlington, VT: April 2004.

"Forgetting the Priest and the Devil: Confession and the Construction of Sexual Truth in *Sor Juana's Second Dream*." The Western Literature Association, Houston, TX: October 2003.

"Inhabited Silences: Epigraphs, Trauma, and the Voicing of the Unnarratable." The Society for the Study of Narrative Literature, Berkeley, CA: March 2003.

"We Interrupt this Program Constantly: The News Crawl as a Narrative of Crisis and Crisis Management." The Modern Language Association, New York, NY: December 2002.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2023- Vice President, The Book of Mormon Studies Association
 2018-2020 Board Member: Vermont Humanities Council
 2017-2020 Editorial Advisory Board: *The Journal of Book of Mormon Studies*
 2014-17 Editorial Advisory Board: *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*

Article Reviewer: *American Nineteenth-Century History*; *The Journal of the Early Republic*, *Church History*, *The Catholic Historical Review*; *ESQ: A Journal of the American Renaissance*; *J19: The Journal of Nineteenth-Century Americanists*; *Studies in American Fiction*; *Early American Literature*; *Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought*

Manuscript Reviewer: Oxford University Press; The University of Massachusetts Press; The University of Illinois Press; The University of Pennsylvania Press

SELECT SERVICE: UVM

2024 Chair, Search Committee, Department of English
 2022- Commencement Names Reader, Graduate College
 2021-2024 Executive Committee, UVM Graduate College
 2020 (spring) Interim Chair, Faculty Standards Committee, UVM College of Arts & Sciences
 2019-2020 Faculty Standards Committee, UVM College of Arts & Sciences
 2018-2020 Advisory Board, UVM Humanities Center
 2017 Associate Director, UVM Humanities Center
 2016-2023 Graduate Committee, English Department
 2016 Ad Hoc Committee on NEH Applications (Fall)
 Executive Committee, English Department (Spring)
 Interim Director of Graduate Studies, English Department (Spring)

2014	Ad Hoc Committee on Ph.D. Regalia Bieneke Scholarship Committee
2013-14	Honors College Council Chair, Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Executive Committee
2011-14	Director of Graduate Studies, English Department Executive Committee, English Department Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences
2011-13	President's Commission on LGBT Equity
2010-12	Allbee Awards Committee, English Department
2008-11	English Department Representative, Faculty Senate
2007-10	Curriculum Committee, English Department Sexuality and Gender Identities Studies Minor Committee
2008-09	Faculty Adviser, FREE2B student group
2008	Search Committee, English Department: Creative Writing

HONORS AND AWARDS

2025	UVM Humanities Center Summer Research Award
2013	Glen Elder Faculty Leadership Award, UVM
2009	Best Professor Award, English Graduate Student Association, UVM
2006	Chair's Prize for Best Dissertation, Rice University
2005	Shirley Bard Rapoport Prize for Best Graduate Student Essay, Rice University
2005	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Summer Research Stipend, Rice University
2005	Andrew W. Mellon Research Seminar: "Towards a Hemispheric Americas," Rice University
2005	Dunlevie Teaching Fellowship, Rice University
2004	Dean's Summer Research Grant, Rice University
2003	Robert L. Patten Award for University Service, Rice University
2001-5	President's Fellowship, Rice University

COURSES TAUGHT

ENGLISH

Undergraduate

American Literature I: Beginnings to 1865
 Literary Theory
 The Literatures of Colonial Encounter
 The Early U.S. Novel
 Transatlantic Renaissance Poetry
 Hot Protestants
 Puritanism Then and Now
 Nineteenth-Century U.S. Poetry

Nineteenth-Century U.S. Fiction
A History of the Book
Making Books
Hamilton & Friends

Graduate

The Early U.S. Novel
The Book of Mormon and Its World
Survey of Literary Theory and Criticism