

# Michael Tondre, Ph.D.

Stony Brook University, State University of New York, English Department

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor of English, Stony Brook University, 2019—present  
Assistant Professor of English, Stony Brook University, 2012—2019  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Literature, Media, and Culture, Georgia Tech, 2011–2012  
Lecturer in English, University of Michigan, 2010-11

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2010)  
M.Phil. in English, Oxford University (2003)  
A.B. in English, University of California, Davis (2001). Highest honors

## BOOKS

*The Physics of Possibility: Victorian Fiction, Science, and Gender*. Charlottesville and London: University of Virginia Press, 2018. Victorian Literature and Culture series.

- Reviewed by *The British Society for Literature and Science*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *Studies in English Literature*, *Studies in the Novel*, *Modern Philology*, *Victorian Studies*, *V21 Collations Forum*, *Victoriographies*, *Victorianweb*, *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, *The Year's Work in English Studies*, *The Dickensian*, and *CHOICE Academic Reviews*.

*Oil!* by Upton Sinclair. Edition with introduction and notes. New York: Penguin Random House, Penguin Classics (2023).

- Featured in *The London Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, The Sierra Club “Must-Read Books” list, *The Climate Pod* podcast, and American Society for Literature and the Environment quarterly book forum

*Oil*. New York and London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming September 2024. Object Lessons series.

*Refinement: Oil, Literature, and the British Atlantic World, 1850-1930* (in preparation).

## ARTICLES AND REVIEWS

“The Invention of Oil” (under review).

“Introduction: Global Petrocultures in the Nineteenth-Century Anglosphere,” *Victorian Review* (guest editor’s introduction, in preparation).

“On the Petro-novel,” *The Paris Review* (online), March 18, 2023.

“On Fossil Finitude: Industrial Energy Regimes and “the Growing Good” in *Middlemarch*,” in “*Middlemarch* at 150,” *Dickens Studies Annual* 53 (2022): 283-321. Invited.

“Conrad’s Carbon Imaginary: Oil, Imperialism, and the Victorian Petro-Archive.” *Victorian Literature and Culture* 41, “Open Ecologies” special issue, ed. Deanna Kreisel and Devin Griffiths (2020): 35-71.

“The Impassive Novel: ‘Brain-Building’ in Walter Pater’s *Marius the Epicurean*.” *PMLA* 133 (2018): 329-346.

- Winner, 2018 Schachterle Article Prize (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts)
- Winner, 2019 Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Article Prize

“‘The Interval of Expectation’: Delay, Delusion, and the Psychology of Suspense in *Armada*.” *ELH* 78 (2011): 585-608

“George Eliot’s ‘Fine Excess’: *Middlemarch*, Energy, and the Afterlife of Feeling.” *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 67 (2012): 204-233

“*Victorian Contingencies: Experiments in Literature, Science, and Play*,” *Victorian Studies* (forthcoming).

“*The Life of George Eliot*,” *Nineteenth-Century Literature* 67 (2013): 561-564

“*Vision, Science, and Literature*,” *Victorian Studies* 56 (2014): 367-369

### EDITORIAL WORK

Special issue editor: “Historical Petrocultures in the British Atlantic World.” *Victorian Review* (6 articles, afterward, and a 3,000 word introduction, in preparation)

Advisory board, *Victorian Review* (incoming summer 2024)

*Editor for Science, Victorian Literature and Culture* (2012-2018)

### INVITED TALKS

“The Invention of Oil,” Rutgers University, November 2023.

“The Invention of Oil,” Stony Brook University, October 2023.

“Transimperial Energies: Response to Sukanya Banerjee,” Swathmore College, March 2023

“Petro-Nostalgia in the British Caribbean,” Harvard University, February, 2020.

“Victorian Petro-imaginaries,” City University of New York, Graduate Center, November, 2017.

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Stony Brook University Humanities Institute Research Fellowship. 2022

Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Article Prize. 2019

Schachterle Article Prize (Society for Literature, Science, & the Arts). 2018

Faculty in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Grant, Stony Brook University. 2018 (with E. Ann Kaplan and Mary Jo Bona)

Faculty in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Grant, Stony Brook University. 2019

President’s Travel Award, Stony Brook University. 2019; 2020

Departmental Travel Grant, Stony Brook University. 2015-16; 2017-18

Faculty in the Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Research Grant, Stony Brook University. 2016

Stony Brook Faculty Fellowship Award, Stony Brook University. 2014-2015

Departmental Teaching Award, Georgia Tech. 2012

Marrion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellowship, Georgia Tech. 2011–2012

## **OTHER JOURNAL WORK**

*Ad hoc book manuscript reviewer, University of Chicago Press*

*Ad hoc manuscript reviewer, Victorian Studies, Victorian Literature and Culture, Modernism/modernity, Modern Philology*

## **SELECTED SYMPOSIUM AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

*The Future of English Studies: A Symposium for Adrienne Munich*, Stony Brook University (May 7, 2018)

*Northeast Victorian Studies Association*. Conference theme: “Sensation,” Stony Brook University (April 11-13, 2014)

*Robert Browning Bicentennial Celebration*, Stony Brook University (September 18, 2012)

*Symposium in Honor of Martha Vicinus*, University of Michigan (May 11, 2008)

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

“On Petro-Liberation.” Petrocultures Conference (expected May, 2024).

“Conference Wrap-Up.” Northeast Victorian Studies Association (March, 2023). Invited.

“Oil and Utopia, c. 1871.” Petrocultures Conference (August, 2022).

“On Petro-liberation: Oil and Utopia, c. 1871.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (October, 2021).

“The Invention of Oil,” Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (March, 2021).

“Drowning in Oil: Victorian Petro-Magic.” Los Angeles, CA. Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies (March, 2020).

“Mythopoetics of Abundance.” Columbus, OH. North American Victorian Studies Association. (October, 2019).

“Kingsley’s Petro-Nostalgia.” Charleston, SC. Victorians Institute Conference. (October 2019).

“Conrad’s Carbon Imaginary.” Amherst, MA. Northeast Victorian Studies Association. (April, 2019).

“Mythopoetics of Abundance: Petro-Imperialism in Anglo-Caribbean Culture.” Dallas, TX. Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies. (March, 2019).

“Petro-Modernisms and the Energetics of the Novel.” Kansas City, MO. Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (March, 2019).

“Conrad’s Carbon Imaginary.” North American Victorian Studies Association. St. Petersburg, FL. (November, 2018).

Main Moderator, CUNY Annual Victorian Conference. Theme: “Victorian Eco-Time,” CUNY Graduate Center (May 4, 2018).

“Conrad’s Carbon Imaginary.” Philadelphia, PA. Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies. (March, 2017)

“Walter Pater and the Politics of ‘Brain-Building’.” Phoenix, AZ. North American Victorian Studies Association. (November, 2016)

“Pater’s Affective Historicism: Materialist Aesthetics and Utopia.” Asheville, NC. Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies. (March, 2016)

“‘The Kingdom of Might-Have-Been’: Counterfactual Science.” London, ON. North American Victorian Studies Association. (November, 2014)

“Walter Pater and the Politics of ‘Brain-Building’.” Stony Brook University (September, 2014).

“The Lost Futures of the Novel: Desire, Deviation, and Negated Potential in *Richard Feverel*.” Fresno, CA. Nineteenth-Century Studies Association (March, 2013)

“Faculty Response. Stony Brook Manhattan. Stony Brook Graduate Conference (February, 2015). Invited

“Faculty Response to ‘Victorian Masculinities at Home’,” (panel participant). Stony Brook Manhattan. Stony Brook Graduate Conference (March, 2013). Invited

“Normal Fictions: The Probabilistic Calculus and the Curve of History.” Seattle, WA. Modern Languages Association (January, 2012)

“‘A Nat’ral Born Friend’: Friendship, Filiation, and Group Selection in *Dombey and Son*.” Vanderbilt University. North American Victorian Studies Association (November, 2011)

“George Eliot’s ‘Fine Excess’.” University of Toronto. Northeast Victorian Studies Association (March, 2008)

“Charles Kingsley and ‘The Natural Theology of the Future’.” University of Michigan. Nineteenth-Century Forum (December, 2007)

“Physics and Fiction: General Economy and the Economy of Form in *Middlemarch*.” Portland, ME. Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (February, 2007)

### **PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS**

“Developing an Academic Vita.” Stony Brook University. Graduate Student Organization (April, 2018)

“Publishing an Article.” Stony Brook University. Graduate Student Organization (October, 2012)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Stony Brook University:

*Topics In Energy Humanities: Literature in the Age of Oil* (Spring 2023; Spring 2024)

*Topics in Cultural History: Subtitle: Afrofuturisms, Past and Present* (fall, 2021)

*Senior Seminar: Subtitle: Fictions of Energy* (Spring, 2021)

*Ph.D. Seminar: Subtitle: Scaling Literature: Histories of Energy and the Environment* (Spring 2019)

*Topics in Literary History: Subtitle: “British Aestheticism and Decadence”* (Spring 2018)

*Ph.D. Seminar: Subtitle: “The Discipline of Literary Studies”* (Fall, 2017)

*Topics in Literature, Science and Technology: Subtitle: “The Human Age”* (Fall, 2017; Spring 2018; Fall 2021)

*M.A. Seminar: Subtitle: Victorian Literature and Empire* (Fall, 2016)

*Ph.D. Seminar: Subtitle: “Archaeologies of the Posthuman”* (Spring, 2016)

*Literary Analysis and Argumentation* (Fall, 2012; Fall, 2016; Spring, 2018; Spring, 2019; Fall, 2020; Fall 2022; Spring 2024)

*Survey of British Literature, 1660-1900* (Spring, 2013; Spring, 2016)

*Special Topics in Literary Studies: Subtitle: “Literature, Psychology, and Culture”* (Fall, 2013)

*Topics in Cultural Studies (M.A. seminar): Subtitle: “Victorian Science and Literature”* (Fall, 2012; fall 2020)

*Major Writers of the Victorian Period in England: Subtitle: “Aestheticism, Decadence, and the New Woman”* (Spring, 2013; Fall, 2016)

*Senior Honors Seminar: Subtitle: “The Rise of the Novel”* (Spring, 2014)

*Victorian Literature: Subtitle: “The Evolutionary Imagination”* (Spring, 2014)

*Senior Honors Project* (Spring, 2013; Fall 2017; Fall 2019; Spring 2021; Spring 2023; Spring 2024)

*Victorian Literature: Subtitle: "Fictions of Development"* (Fall, 2013)

*Independent Study* (Fall, 2013; Summer 2017; Fall 2017; Spring 2018; Spring 2020)

## **Georgia Tech:**

*Advanced Multimodal Composition: Subtitle: "Experimental Knowledge: Plotting Science and Literature"* (Winter, 2012)

*Multimodal Composition: Subtitle: "Technologies of the Self"* (Fall, 2011)

## **SELECTED SERVICE**

Honors Program Director (fall 2022-present)

Undergraduate Program Director (spring 2024-present)

English Undergraduate Advisor (spring 2024-present)

Rudikoff First Book Award Committee, Northeast Victorian Studies Association (2020-2023)

Essay Prize Committee, Northeast Victorian Studies Association (2019-present)

Junior Faculty Article Award Committee, Vcologies (2020)

Undergraduate Program Committee (2018-2019)

Tenure and Promotion Committee, Junior Faculty (2020-2021)

Graduate Admissions Committee (2015-2018, 2020-present)

Quantum Computing Hire Initiative (2022)

Invited Students Day showcase speaker, "English: Equipment for Life," Stony Brook University (2018)

*Graduate Admissions Committee*, Stony Brook University (2014-2018; 2020-present)

*Executive Committee*, Stony Brook University (2017-2018)

*University Senate*, Stony Brook University (2015-2017)

*Planning Committee, Northeast Victorian Studies Association (2013-2014, 2014-2015)*

*World Englishes Committee, Georgia Tech*

## **GRADUATE SUPERVISION**

### **As Dissertation Director:**

Frank Harder (dissertation director). Expected to finish 2024.

Hayden Kindrat (dissertation director). Expected to finish 2024.

Anthony Gomez (dissertation director). Expected to finish 2024. Placement: Tenure Track Assistant Professor of English, University of Oklahoma at Norman.

Steven Pallas (dissertation co-director). Expected to finish 2024.

Anne Summers (dissertation co-director). Finished 2019.

Julia Clarke (Ph.D. dissertation co-director). Finished 2018.

### **As Dissertation Committee Member:**

Anthony Poltrack (exams and dissertation committee)

Aliza Atik (Ph.D. dissertation committee)

Rachel Duchkewich (Ph.D. dissertation committee)

Caitlyn Duffy (Ph.D. exams committee)

Kaitlyn Frakyl ((M.A. thesis director)

Margaret Kennedy (Ph.D. dissertation committee)

John Heggstad ((Ph.D. dissertation committee)

Michael Holko (Ph.D. dissertation committee)

Jordan Plavinky (M.A. thesis director)

Andrew Rimby (Ph.D. dissertation committee)

Matthew Roberts (M.A. thesis committee)

Nicole Savage (Ph.D. dissertation co-chair)

Adam Schultheiss (M.A. thesis committee)

**As External Reader**

Jayne Hildebrand (Ph.D. external dissertation committee member)

**SENIOR THESIS SUPERVISION**

Sarah Phung, Ian Bacchaus, Bryan Gamble, Clara Yan , Courtney Taylor, Victoria Manuel

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Nineteenth-century British literature, environmental humanities, history and philosophy of science, gender and sexuality studies, critical theory

**AFFILIATIONS**

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment

Modern Languages Association

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies

North American Victorian Studies Association

Petrocultures Research Group

Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts

Vcologies Working Group

V21: Victorian Studies for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century