Megan N. Fontenot

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**Education**

University of Georgia, *Athens, GA* Expected May 2024

Ph.D. in English Literature

Michigan State University, *East Lansing, MI* May 2019

M.A. in English Literature

Thesis: “‘They always wished to talk to everything’:

Recovering the Border-walking Mystics of Middle-earth”

Thesis Director: Prof. Gary Hoppenstand

Milligan College, *Milligan College, TN* December 2016

B.A. in English and Humanities

**Awards & Funding**

Robert Park Essay Award winner, *University of Georgia*  2021

*For* “Bad Form: Mathilde Blind’s Response to the

Violence of the Dramatic Monologue”

Robert Park Essay Award nominee, *University of Georgia* 2021

*For* ““The Wild Scenery of This Lovely Country”:

Scotland and the Maternal in Mary Shelley’s *Mathilda*”

Funding for SFRA editorial duties, *University of Georgia* 2020-2021

Summer Research Fellowship, *Michigan State University*  May 2019

Research Enhancement Fellowship, *Michigan State University* March 2019

Conference & Research Travel Fellowship, *Michigan State University* January 2019

Alexei Kondratiev Award, *Mythopoeic Society* July 2018

*For* “‘No Pagan ever loved his god’: Tolkien, Thompson,

and the Beautification of the Gods”

Ivor Jones Outstanding Senior Award, *Milligan College* April 2017

Edwin W. Gaston Scholarship, *Alpha Chi National College Honor Society* April 2016

English Award, *Milligan College* April 2016

Outstanding Undergraduate Research Project, *Milligan College* April 2016

Kent and Emily Gray Pettit Scholarship (English), *Milligan College* 2015 – 2016

**Publications**

Articles

“The Art of Eternal Disaster: Tolkien’s Apocalypse and the Road to Healing.” Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review, vol. XVI, 2019. 91–109.

“‘No Pagan ever loved his god’: Tolkien, Thompson, and the Beautification of the Gods.” Mythlore: A Journal of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and Mythopoeic Literature, vol. 37.1 (Fall/Winter), 2018.

Essays & Reviews

Review essay of Journey Back Again: Reasons to Revisit Middle-Earth, edited by Diana Pavlac Glyer, Azusa Pacific University Honors College, 2020. Forthcoming in Mythlore.

Review essay of Tolkien's Cosmology: Divine Beings and Middle-Earth, by Sam McBride, the Kent State UP, 2020. Forthcoming in Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research.

Review essay of Music in Tolkien’s World and Beyond, edited by Julian Eilmann and Friedhelm Schneidewind, Walking Tree Publishers, 2019. Published in Mythlore #137, vol. 39, no. 1, 2020.

Review essay of There Would Always Be a Fairy Tale: More Essays on Tolkien, by Verlyn Flieger, Kent State UP, 2017. Published in Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research, vol. 5.1, 2018. <http://journal.finfar.org/articles/book-review-there-would-always-be-a-fairy-tale/>

Contributions

Continuing web article series on the textual history of J.R.R. Tolkien’s Middle-earth characters for Tor.com (sci-fi/fantasy publisher). <https://www.tor.com/members/megannfontenot/articles/>

**Conference Presentations**

“Students, Fan Culture, and the ‘Crisis in Humanities.’” **Human Matters: Engaging Publics in the Humanities, University of British Colombia,** Okanagan, BC, July 2020. [Postponed due to COVID19]

“Staggering Towards the Light: Utopian Potential in the Apocalyptic World of Shelley’s The Last Man.” **“Utopia 2020: The Plan for the New World Order,” Florida State University**, Tallahassee, FL, April 2020. [Postponed due to COVID19]

“Returning to the Scene of Victory: Tolkien’s Use of Apocalypse in the Climactic Moments of The Lord of the Rings.” **Texmoot, Houston Baptist University,** February 2020.

“The Life and Legacy of J.R.R. Tolkien.” Guest lecture. **River Terrace Church**, East Lansing, MI, May 2019.

“Translating Trickster: Reading Loki for the 21st Century.” “**More than Marvel: Representations of Norse Mythology in Contemporary Popular Culture,”** **ICMS**, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019.

“Death by Romance: The Tortured Textuality of Alcott’s A Modern Mephistopheles.” **Hideous Progeny: The Gothic in the Nineteenth Century,** **Loyola University Chicago Victorian Society**, Chicago, October 2018.

“‘No Pagan ever loved his god’: Tolkien, Thompson, and the Beautification of the Gods.” **Mythcon 49, The Mythopoeic Society**, Atlanta, July 2018. [Received the Alexei Kondratiev Award from the Mythopoeic Society]

“The Last of the Minstrels: Tolkien’s Quest for Abdication in the Age of the Author.” **NCUR**, Asheville, NC, April 2016. [Received the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award from Milligan College]

“The Return of the King: Power Constructs and Cycles in The Lord of the Rings.” **NCUR**, Asheville, NC, April 2016. [Received the Edwin W. Gaston scholarship from the Alpha Chi National College Honor Society]

**Other Papers & Course Work**

Papers

“‘The Wild Scenery of this Lovely Country’: Scotland in Mary Shelley’s Mathilda.” Article in Process, Fall 2019.

“Tolkien Studies and the Digital Archive.” DH project proposal, Spring 2019.

“Nationalism and Empire in Where the Forest Murmurs.” Seminar paper, Fall 2018.

“‘They swore an oath that none shall break’: Tolkien’s Tale of Oathtaking, Fate-bonds, and the Power of Language.” Seminar paper, Fall 2017.

“Seeking Shared Enrichment: Undermining Oppression through Creative Participation.” Undergraduate senior thesis, Fall 2016. Advisors: Profs. Michael Blouin & Lee Blackburn.

Course Work

“Media Ecologies, Resource Ecologies, Literature.” Prof. Richard Menke, Spring 2021.

“Composition Theory and Pedagogy.” Prof. Rebecca Hallman Martini, Spring 2021.

“Victorian Literature: The Dramatic Monologue and Historical Poetics.” Prof. Tricia Lootens, Fall 2020.

“Academic Writing.” Prof. Rebecca Hallman Martini, Fall 2020.

“The Black and Green Atlantic.” Prof. Peter O’Neill, Fall 2020.

“Environmental Philosophy.” Prof. Piers Stephens, Spring 2020.

“Tolkien and the Fin-du-Siècle’s ‘New Paganism.’” Directed Reading with Prof. Jonathan Evans, Spring 2020.

“Nineteenth-Century British Periodicals.” Directed Reading with Prof. Richard Menke, Spring 2020.

“Old English Literature.” Prof. Jonathan Evans, Spring 2020.

“Romantics.” Prof. Casie LeGette, Fall 2019.

“First Year Writing Pedagogy.” Profs. Sara Steger and Nathan Kreuter, Fall 2019.

“Old English.” Prof. Jonathan Evans, Fall 2019.

“The Interface.” Prof. Kathleen Fitzpatrick, Spring 2019.

“Theories and Methods of Popular Cultures.” Profs. Ann Larabee & David Stowe, Spring 2019.

“The Nature of Representing Nature.” Prof. Ellen McCallum, Fall 2018.

“Transnational Decadence and Modernism.” Prof. Kristin Mahoney, Fall 2018.

“Readings in Nordic Mythologies and Sagas.” Independent study with Prof. Gary Hoppenstand, Spring 2018.

“Literary Criticism and Theory.” Prof. Salah Hassan, Spring 2018.

“As if the Apocalypse has Already Happened: Ecology and Humanity at the End of the World (as We Know It).” Prof. Scott Michaelsen, Spring 2018.

“Race-shifting in Transatlantic Literature of the 1700s.” Prof. Ned Watts, Fall 2017.

“Genre and Narrative Theory in Popular Fiction.” Prof. Gary Hoppenstand, Fall 2017.

**Experience & Professional Development**

Research Assistant, *North American Victorian Society*/COVE Summer 2021—present

Graduate xPD Editorial Intern, *University of Georgia Press*, Athens, GA Summer 2021

Assistant Fiction Book Reviews Editor, *SFRA Review* 2020 – Present

First Year Writing Instructor, *University of Georgia,* Athens, GA 2019 – Present

Emerging Leaders Program, *University of Georgia,* Athens, GA Fall 2020

LGBT Safe Space Training Spring 2020

Workshop in Scholarly Publishing Series Spring 2019

Preparing for Fieldwork in Archives Training Course Spring 2019

Online Presence and Public Scholarship Fellows Program Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI 2017 – 2019

Gothic Literature (IAH 207) Spring 2019

U.S. Pop Culture and the World (IAH 201) Fall 2018

Autobiography & Self Portrait (IAH 207) Spring 2018

Race and Culture in the U.S. (IAH 207) Fall 2017

**Academic Service & Activities**

Vice President of the English Graduate Organization (EGO), UGA – AY 2021 – 2022

PhD Representative to the Graduate Committee, UGA – AY 2020 – 2021

Assistant Fiction Reviews Editor, SFRA Review – Spring 2020 – Present

Personal Statement Workshop Series volunteer consultant, UGA – Spring 2020

Travel Funding Committee Member for MSU AEGS, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Moderator for Legacies of the Enlightenment, East Lansing, MI – October 5-7, 2018

**Other Service**

Deacon and worship leader, First Christian Church Athens – 2020 – Present

**Memberships**

Science Fiction Research Association

The Tolkien Society

The Mythopoeic Society

Sigma Tau Delta International English Honor Society

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society

Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society