

# Rachel F. Stapleton

## Contact Information

---

Centre for Comparative Literature  
Isabel Bader Theatre, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
93 Charles St. W.  
Toronto, ON M5S 1K9  
[rachel.f.stapleton@utoronto.ca](mailto:rachel.f.stapleton@utoronto.ca)

[www.rachelfstapleton.com](http://www.rachelfstapleton.com)

## Education

---

2008–2020 Doctor of Philosophy, University of Toronto (Centre for Comparative Literature)  
2007–2008 Master of Arts (with honours), University of Toronto (Centre for Comparative Literature)  
2005–2006 Graduate Certificate (with honours), Centennial College, Book & Magazine Publishing  
2000–2004 Honours Baccalaureate in Arts (with honours), University of Guelph, English–Spanish

## Dissertation

---

“Autobiographical Strategies in Early Modern English, Irish, and Iberian Women’s Letters (1540–1640)”  
Supervisor: Professor Lynne Magnusson (English)  
Committee: Professor Josiah Blackmore (Romance Language and Literatures, Harvard University)  
Professor Katherine R. Larson (English)  
Professor Jill Ross (Comparative Literature, Medieval Studies)  
External Examiner: Professor Madeline Bassnett (English, University of Western Ontario)

## Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships, Grants, and Honours

---

2017– Mulcaster Fellow, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto  
2015–16 Ontario Graduate Scholarship  
2014 Graduate Student Travel Grant to SCSC (New Orleans, 2014), Society for the Study of Early Modern Women  
2013–2014 Ontario Graduate Scholarship  
2013–2014 Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto  
2013 Graduate Student Travel Grant to SCSC (Puerto Rico, 2013), Society for the Study of Early Modern Women  
2013 Sponsored Student Scholarship, Digital Humanities Summer Institute 2013, University of Victoria  
2012–2013 University of Toronto OGS Top-up  
2012–2013 Ontario Graduate Scholarship  
2012 Sponsored Student Scholarship, Digital Humanities Winter Institute 2013, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland  
2012–2013 Doctoral Completion Award, University of Toronto – Declined  
2012 SSHRC Aid to Research Workshop and Conference Grant for “(An)Aesthetic of Absence.” Grant Co-author. PI: Professor Victor Li.  
2011–2012 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship  
2011–2012 Ontario Graduate Scholarship – Declined  
2011–2012 University of Toronto SSHRC Top-up  
2011–2012 Centre for Comparative Literature SSHRC Top-up

- 2011 Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, Best Article by a Graduate Student
- 2011 SSHRC Aid to Research Workshop and Conference Grant for “Iconoclasm.” Lead Grant Co-author. PI: Professor Linda Hutcheon
- 2011 School of Graduate Studies (University of Toronto) Conference Travel Grant
- 2009 SSHRC Aid to Research Workshop and Conference Grant for “The Poetics and Politics of Reading” (Recommended for funding). Lead Grant Co-author. PI: Professor Jill Ross
- 2008–2019 Centre for Comparative Literature (University of Toronto) Conference Travel Grant
- 2008–2011 University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship—PhD
- 2008 University of Toronto Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Admission Award
- 2007–2008 University of Toronto Graduate Fellowship—MA
- 2002–2003 University of Guelph Travel Scholarship
- 2002–2003 University of Guelph College of Arts Honours Scholarship
- 2000–2004 University of Guelph Entrance Scholarship

### Research Interests

---

Epistolarity and life-writing; Communication & Distance; Epistolary rhetoric; Digital humanities; Women’s literature; Early modern literature; Comparative methodologies

### Publications

---

#### *Journal Articles*

- 2012 “‘As I am a free prince’: The epistolary self-deceptions of James VI,” *New Directions in the Study of Early Modern Correspondence*. Ed. James Daybell and Andrew Gordon. Spec. issue of *Lives and Letters* 4.1 (Autumn 2012): 115–132. <<http://xmera.co.uk/journalarchive/editorial4.pdf>> (Peer Reviewed)
- 2012 “Motherly Devotion and Fatherly Obligation: Eleanor of Aquitaine’s Letters to Pope Celestine III,” *Medieval Feminist Forum* 48.1 (2012): 97–121. <<http://ir.uiowa.edu/mff/vol48/iss1/>> (Peer Reviewed; winner of the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship Graduate Essay Prize, 2011) DOI: 10.17077/1536-8742.1913
- 2009 “The Radiant City at Night: Zombies in Suburbia,” *TransVerse* 9 (2009). (As Rachel Freedman). Toronto: Centre for Comparative Literature, 2009 (Peer Reviewed).

#### *Book Chapters:*

- Forthcoming 2020. “‘Minerva of her Time’: Luisa Sigea and Humanist Networking,” in *Women and Community in Medieval and Early Modern Iberia*. Ed. by Michelle Armstrong-Partida, Alexandra Guerson, and Dana Wessell Lightfoot. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
- 2017 “Les mouvements épistolaires.” In *La nouvelle culture (1480–1520)*, vol. 2 of *L’Époque de la Renaissance (1400-1600)*. Ed. by Eva Kushner, et al. Subseries of *L’Histoire comparée des littératures de langues européennes/The Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages*. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins. (Peer Reviewed) DOI: 10.1075/chlel.xxx.15sta
- 2011 “La question de l’art épistolaire.” In *Maturations et mutations (1520–1560)*, vol. 3 of *L’Époque de la Renaissance (1400-1600)*. Ed. by Eva Kushner, e al. Subseries of *L’Histoire comparée des littératures de langues européennes/The Comparative History of Literatures in European Languages*. Amsterdam, Philadelphia: John Benjamins, 2011. 358–368. (Peer Reviewed) DOI: 10.1075/chlel.xxvi.35sta

*Edited Collections (Co-editor):*

2019 *Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images*, with Antonio Viselli (Canterbury). Montreal, Kingston: McGill-Queens University Press.

*Special Issue (Co-editor):*

2011 “The Poetics and Politics of Reading,” with Jonathan A. Allan (Brandon), a special volume of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue canadienne de littérature comparée* 38.4 (December 2011). Edmonton: University of Alberta Press.  
<https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/crcl/index.php/crcl/issue/view/1512>

### Conference Presentations, Seminars, & Lectures

---

*Conference Presentations*

- 2016 “Epistolary (Auto)fictions of Luisa de Carvajal y Mendoza,” at the conference “Epistolary Cultures,” Humanities Research Centre, University of York, York, UK, March 18–19, 2016.
- 2014 “Fervor and Fever in the Letters of Luisa de Carvajal y Mendoza” as part of the panel “Writing Women’s Lives in Early Modern Iberia and Beyond” at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, New Orleans, LA. October 16–19, 2014.
- 2014 “Fighting History: Militant Women on the Edges of Empire” as part of the panel “Frontiers of Engagement: Memory, Loss, and Conflict in Medieval and Early Modern Europe” (co-organized with Adleen Crapo and Dan Redding-Brielmaier) at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, University of Toronto, May 22–25, 2014.
- 2013 “‘El asunto breve’: Women’s petitions and lived experience,” presented to the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, Puerto Rico, October 24–27, 2013.
- 2013 “Reading on the Edge of the World: Women’s Arms and Letters in Early Modern Europe,” presented to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Comparative Literature Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, at the University of Victoria, June 2–4, 2013.
- 2013 “‘Here lies the most famous Sigea’: Reading the exceptional in sixteenth-century women’s letters,” presented to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, at the University of Victoria, June 1–3, 2013.
- 2012 “‘To boldly go where no man has gone before’: crossing the threshold in the *Libro de buen amor*,” presented to the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Comparative Literature Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, at Wilfred Laurier University and the University of Waterloo, May 27–29, 2012.
- 2012 Seminar Participant: “Annotating Shakespeare: Old Words, New Tools,” (chaired by Jennifer Roberts-Smith) at the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, April 5–7, 2012.
- 2012 “The Absent Body in Medieval Love Letters,” presented at “(An)Aesthetic of Absence,” the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Graduate Colloquium at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, March 8–10, 2012.
- 2011 “‘How to Read This Letter’: Controlling Reception in Suitors’ Letters,” presented at “Cultures of Correspondence in Early Modern England, 1550–1640,” at the University of Plymouth, Plymouth, UK, April 14–16, 2011.
- 2010 “Authorship, Authority, and *Auctoritas*: The Veracity of the Text in Umberto Eco’s *The Name of the Rose* and Giovanni Boccaccio’s *Decameron*,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Comparative Literature Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, at Concordia University, Montréal, QC. May 28–30, 2010.

- 2009 “Look Who’s Evil Now!: Dancing Demons and Zombie Mobs,” presented at “Cine–Excess III, the Third Annual Conference on Cult Film Traditions,” at Brunel University, London, UK. April 30–May 2, 2009.
- 2008 “The Radiant City at Night: Zombies in Suburban America,” presented at the Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference “Underground,” at the Department of Comparative Literature, City University of New York, NY. November 6–7, 2008.

#### *Conference Panel Organization*

- 2014 Panel co-organizer, with Faith S. Harden (Arizona), “Writing Women’s Lives in Early Modern Iberia and Beyond” at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, New Orleans, LA. October 16–19, 2014 (Sponsored by the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.)
- 2014 Panel co-organizer, with Jonathan Hart (Alberta), “The State of the Profession and Discipline,” at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Comparative Literature Association, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, at Brock University, St. Catherines, ON. May 25–27, 2014.
- 2014 Panel co-organizer, with Adleen Crapo (Toronto) and Daniel Brielmaier (Toronto), “Frontiers of Engagement: Memory, Loss, and Conflict in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” at the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON. May 22–25, 2014.

#### *Invited Presentations*

- 2013 “The faculty/graduate student relationship: a graduate student’s perspective,” an invited speaker at “Graduate Student Learning in the Humanities,” convened by Professor Martin Revermann, at the University of Toronto, September 28, 2013.
- 2012 “La mujer varonil: Petitioning women and manly rewards,” presented to the Early Modern Interdisciplinary Graduate Forum, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, University of Toronto, January 10, 2012.
- 2011 “Premodernity in Comparative Literature,” invited speaker at “A Celebration of Early Modern Studies at the University of Toronto,” Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, March 4, 2011.

### **Teaching Interests**

---

Early modern literature; Critical Thinking; Rhetoric and Critical Writing; Women’s texts; Literary Theory & Criticism; Digital pedagogy

### **Teaching Experience**

---

#### *Courses Taught (Sole-Responsibility Instructor)*

- 2017 Summer ENGB03H: Critical Thinking about Narrative (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2017 Winter ACMB01H: Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing for ACM Programs (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2016 Fall ACMB01H: Critical Reading, Thinking and Writing for ACM Programs (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2016 Summer ENGC15H: Concepts in Literary Criticism (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2016 Summer ENGB03H: Critical Thinking about Narrative (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2015 Fall ENG307H: Women Writers, 1660–1800 (University of Toronto St. George)
- 2015 Summer ENGB03H: Critical Thinking about Narrative (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2015 Winter ENGC15H: Concepts in Literary Criticism (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2014 Fall ENGB03H: Critical Thinking about Narrative (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- 2014 Summer ENGB03H: Critical Thinking about Narrative (University of Toronto Scarborough)

*Courses Taught (Teaching Assistant)*

- 2020 Winter ENG100H: “Effective Writing” (University of Toronto St. George). Marker/Grader  
Supervisor: Kimberly Rodda
- 2019 Fall ENG101H: “How to Read Critically” (University of Toronto Mississauga). Tutorial Leader.  
Supervisor: Jessica Henderson
- 2019 Fall ENG100H: “Effective Writing” (University of Toronto Mississauga). Marker/Grader  
Supervisor: Jessica Henderson
- 2016 Fall ENGB27H: “Charting Literary History I” (University of Toronto Scarborough). Tutorial  
Leader. Supervisor: Prof. Katherine Larson
- 2014 Winter ENGB31H: “The Romance: In Quest of the Marvelous” (University of Toronto  
Scarborough). Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Prof. Kara Gaston
- 2013 Fall ACMA01H: Exploring Key Questions in the Humanities (University of Toronto  
Scarborough). Tutorial Leader. Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Kleeb
- 2013 Summer ENG232H: Biography and Autobiography (University of Toronto St. George)  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Dr. Sarah De Jong Carson
- 2013 Winter HUMA01H: Exploring Key Questions in the Humanities (University of Toronto  
Scarborough). Tutorial Leader. Supervisor: Dr. Sarah Kleeb
- 2012 Fall HUMA01H: Exploring Key Questions in the Humanities (University of Toronto  
Scarborough). Tutorial Leader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Petit
- 2012 Fall ENGB50H: Women & Literature: Forging a Tradition (University of Toronto Scarborough)  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Dr. Ann Gagné
- 2011–12 ENG202Y: British Literature, Medieval to Romantic (University of Toronto St. George)  
Tutorial Leader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Johnstone
- 2011 Fall HUMA01H: Exploring Key Questions in the Humanities (University of Toronto  
Scarborough). Tutorial Leader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Petit
- 2010–11 ENG210Y: The Novel (University of Toronto St. George).  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Boughn
- 2010 ENG220Y: Shakespeare (University of Toronto St. George)  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Prof. Joaquin Kuin
- 2009 Winter ENG237H: Science Fiction (University of Toronto St. George)  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Johnstone
- 2008 Fall ENG237H: Science Fiction (University of Toronto St. George)  
Marker/Grader. Supervisor: Dr. Michael Johnstone

**Other University Employment**

- 
- 2019– Conference Coordinator, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University  
in the University of Toronto
- 2017– Mulcaster Fellow, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the  
University of Toronto
- 2015– Chief Presiding Officer (Examinations Invigilator), Rotman School of Business, University of  
Toronto
- 2013–14 Research Assistant, Professor Helen Solterer, Department of Romance Languages, Duke  
University (Visiting Professor to the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto)
- 2012–17 Chief Presiding Officer (Examinations Invigilator), Faculty of Arts and Science, University of  
Toronto
- 2012 Research Assistant, Professor Sherry Lee, Department of Music, University of Toronto  
Scarborough

2011–12 Research Assistant, Professor Neil ten Kortenaar, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto

### Conference Organization

---

2018–19 Conference Assistant, “Early Modern Songscapes,” hosted by the Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the University of Toronto. February 8–9, 2019.

2013 Member of Organizing Committee, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, “Global Positioning Systems,” hosted by the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto. April 5–7, 2013.

2012 Member of Organizing Committee, 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Graduate Colloquium at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, entitled: “(An)Aesthetic of Absence.” March 8–10, 2012. Recipient of SSHRC ARWC Grant.

2011 Chair of Organizing Committee, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual International Graduate Colloquium at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, entitled: “Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images.” March 17–19, 2011. Recipient of SSHRC ARWC Grant.

2009 Chair of Organizing Committee, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual International Graduate Colloquium at the Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto, entitled: “The Poetics and Politics of Reading: Studies in Honour of University Professors Linda Hutcheon and J. Edward Chamberlin.” March 19–21, 2009. Shortlisted for SSHRC ARWC Grant.

### Digital Humanities Skills Development

---

2013 “Augmented Reality: An Introduction,” Digital Humanities Summer Institute, University of Victoria, 6–10 June, 2013.

2013 “Project Development,” Digital Humanities Winter Institute, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, University of Maryland, 7–11 January, 2013.

2012 “Intro to Javascript,” Ladies Learning Code, Toronto, 18 March, 2012.

2012 “Custom Post Types & Custom Fields,” Ladies Learning Code, Toronto, 15 March, 2012.

2012 “Introduction to Wordpress for Beginners,” Ladies Learning Code, Toronto, 14 January, 2012.

### Extracurricular Pedagogical Training

---

2016–17 Teaching Fundamentals Certificate, TATP

2014 English Pedagogy Day (Department of English, UTSC)

2014 THE500: Teaching in Higher Education (Woodsworth College, University of Toronto)

2014 New Faculty Orientation/Summer Teaching Workshops (Centre for Teaching and Learning, UTSC)

2013 Presenter, “Graduate Student Learning in the Humanities” (Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto)

2013 Looking Ahead: Documenting your Teaching and Demonstrating Effectiveness (Teaching Assistant Training Program, Faculty of Arts and Science, University of Toronto)

### Other Academic Experience

---

#### *Editorial Experience:*

2019 Co-editor, with Antonio Viselli, of *Iconoclasm: The Breaking and Making of Images* (McGill-Queens University Press).

2018 Associate Content Developer, Pearson Canada.

2018 Intern, Content Management and Development, Pearson Canada.

- 2011 Co-editor, with Jonathan A. Allan, of “The Poetics and Politics of Reading,” a special volume of the *Canadian Review of Comparative Literature/Revue canadienne de littérature comparée*. 38.4 (December 2011). U. Alberta P.
- 2010 Editorial Board Member, *TransVerse*, vols. 9–10 (2009–2010), Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto.
- 2008 Proofreader, *TransVerse* 8 (Spring 2008), Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto.

*Academic Service:*

- 2019– Member of Academic Programs Committee, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the University of Toronto
- 2015– Member of Programs Committee, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the University of Toronto
- 2015– Member of Graduate Advisory Committee, Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Victoria University in the University of Toronto
- 2015 Member of Advisory Committee for the appointment of the Director, Centre for Comparative Literature, University of Toronto
- 2013–15 Early Career Representative, Canadian Comparative Literature Association
- 2011–12 Treasurer, Comparative Literature Graduate Course Union, University of Toronto
- 2010–11 Member of “Save Comparative Literature” Coalition, University of Toronto
- 2010 Workshop Organizer: “Making the most of your Health Benefits”, September 27, 2010
- 2007–08 Departmental Representative to the Graduate Students’ Union, University of Toronto

*Academic Websites (Design & Maintenance):*

- 2014 Course Website for COL2100H1S, “Pre-Modern Times: A User’s Manual”  
<http://premoderntimes.wordpress.com>
- 2013–14 Website for “Joy,” 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Colloquium,  
<http://conference.complit.utoronto.ca/Joy>
- 2011–12 Website for “(An)Aesthetic of Absence,” 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Graduate Colloquium,  
<http://conference.complit.utoronto.ca/Absence>
- 2010–11 Website and Facebook Group for “Iconoclasm: The Making and Breaking of Images,” 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Graduate Colloquium, <http://conference.complit.utoronto.ca/Iconoclasm>
- 2010–11 Website and Facebook Group for the “Save Comparative Literature” Coalition,  
[www.savecomplit.ca](http://www.savecomplit.ca) (archived at [www.savecomplit.blogspot.com](http://www.savecomplit.blogspot.com))

**Languages**

---

English: Native Speaker

Spanish: Fluent

French: Advanced

Modern Welsh: Intermediate

Latin: Advanced Reading knowledge (Level 1 (MA) Pass, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, 2008)

**Professional Memberships**

---

- ◆ Canadian Comparative Literature Association (since 2008)
- ◆ Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric (since 2013)
- ◆ International Comparative Literature Association (since 2010)

- ◆ Modern Languages Association (since 2009)
- ◆ Renaissance Society of America (since 2010)
- ◆ Shakespeare Association of America (since 2011)
- ◆ Sixteenth Century Society & Conference (since 2013)
- ◆ Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (since 2011)
- ◆ Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender (since 2013)

### **Other Experience & Employment**

---

2010–12	First Aid & CPR Instructor, ERT Canada
2010–	Freelance Translator, Spanish-to-English
2001–13	Sailing Instructor and Nationally Certified Sailing Coach
2001–05	Managing Editor; Editorial Board, <i>Carousel</i> (University of Guelph)
2005	Volunteer English Teacher, Fundación Ecología y Desarrollo, León, Nicaragua
2003	Copyeditor, <i>Hit by an Iceberg: Coping with Disability in Mid-Career</i> , Trafford, 2003.