

Abby Clayton

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EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

PhD, English, minor in Victorian Studies, expected May 2026

Dissertation: "What to Do with News: Media and the Making of Anglo-American Nationalism, 1830–1870"

Committee: Ivan Kreilkamp and Christoph Irmscher (co-chairs), Lara Kriegel, and Paul Gutjahr

MA, English, 2022

Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

BA, English, *magna cum laude* with honors, 2020

BOOKS

Editor, with Colby Townsend. *Printing New Religion: Transatlantic Movements in the Nineteenth Century*.

University of Illinois Press (under contract; submitting November 2025).

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed

"Nothing but a Humbug: P. T. Barnum, Charles Dickens, and the Construction of National Identities in a Living Archive." *Victorian Review*, vol. 49, no. 2, 2023, pp. 279–300.

In Progress

"Abolition's Scissors: George Thompson and the Life of the Clipping in Transatlantic Activism." *American Periodicals* (revise and resubmit).

Web-Based

"Transatlantic Studies: A Reading List." *JSTOR Daily*, 29 April 2025, <https://daily.jstor.org/transatlantic-studies-reading-list/>.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Competitive Research Fellowships

American Antiquarian Society Kate B. and Hall J. Peterson Fellow, \$2000	2024–2025
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Massachusetts Historical Society Malcolm and Mildred Freiberg Fellow, \$300	2024–2025
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Curran Fellowship, Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, \$3000	2023
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Graduate Research Exchange Fellowship, IU and University of Manchester, UK, \$3400	2023
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Juried Honors

William Riley Parker Prize in British Literature, Department of English, IU, \$500	2025
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Susan Clements Memorial Summer Fellowship, Department of English, IU, \$2000	2021–2024
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Travel Awards

Conference Travel Award, North American Victorian Studies Association	2025
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College Arts & Humanities Graduate Travel Award, IU	2024
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Graduate and Professional Student Government Travel Award, IU	2024
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Susan C. Thrasher Travel Award, Department of English, IU	2024
Conference Travel Award, Research Society for Victorian Periodicals	2024
Conference Travel Award, Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies	2022, 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Aftermaths of the Civil War in Transatlantic Visual Culture.” Panel organizer and speaker, North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference. Washington, DC, November 13–16, 2025.
- “‘A Spectacle of Industry in the Midst of Ruin’: Re-visioning the US Civil War in the Illustrated British Press.” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals annual conference. Chicago, IL, July 10–12, 2025.
- “Paranormal Events and the New Religion of Activism in the Mid-century Press.” North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference. West Lafayette, IN, September 20–21, 2024.
- “Narrating Abolition: The Place of Fake News in Scissors-and-Paste Reform.” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals annual conference. Stirling, Scotland, UK, June 13–15, 2024.
- “Telling the Truth in Fragments: The Transatlantic Editing of Nationalist Abolition Movements.” North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference. Bloomington, IN, November 9–11, 2023.
- “W. T. Stead’s Ordinary ‘Folks’ and the Paradox of the Progressive Anglosphere.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies annual conference. Knoxville, TN, April 13–16, 2023.
- “An Industrial Fairy Scene: Creating the Child Consumer in Great Exhibition Juvenilia.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies annual conference. Salt Lake City, UT, March 24–27, 2022.
- “Fusing the Commercial and Domestic: Victorians en Route to Jane Austen.” Victorian Interdisciplinary Studies Association of the Western United States annual conference. Reno, NV, October 15–17, 2021.
- “Lost and Found: Victorian Travelers and the Sensationalizing Domesticity of Jane Austen.” English Graduate Department 18th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference. Bloomington, IN, April 16–17, 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Department of English, Indiana University

- ENG-L204 Introduction to Nonfiction Prose: The Stuff of Memory (General education literature and intensive writing course; 1 section of 25 students; Fall 2025)
- ENG-W131 Reading, Writing, and Inquiry: Conflicts of Culture and Capitalism (First-year composition course; 6 sections of 23 students each; 2021–2023)

Graduate Assistant, Department of English, Indiana University

- ENG-L260 Introduction to Advanced Study of Literature: Island Stories, Professor Ivan Kreilkamp (Introductory literary criticism course; 1 section of 26 students; Fall 2024)

Guest Lectures

- “Cutting and Pasting Viral Trends.” ENG-W171: The Taylor Swift Effect: Power, Influence, and Culture, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 5, 2025.

- “Andrea Levy’s *Small Island* and British Nationalism.” ENG-L260: Island Stories, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, November 21, 2024.
- “Multi-Modal Research from the 19th Century to Today.” RHET 105: Writing and Research, University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, November 11, 2024.
- “Abolition and the Racial Politics of Truth-Telling.” Antrim Literature Project, Public Humanities Fall Lecture Series, Boston, MA, October 9, 2024.
- “*Robinson Crusoe*, Realism, and Virginia Woolf.” L260: Island Stories, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, October 8, 2024.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Editorial

- Managing Editor, *Victorian Studies*, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (2023–2025)
- Editor, Chen Zhu, Professor, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (2023–2025)
- Editor and Publisher, Carr Krueger, Administrative Assistant Vice President, Brigham Young University, Remote, Provo, UT (2020–2022)

Research

- Research Assistant, Susan Gubar, Professor emerita, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (2023–present)
- Research Assistant, The Book Lab, Co-PIs Patricia Ingham and Elizabeth Hebbard, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN (2022–2023)
- Research Assistant, Kevin Mintz, Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford Department of Bioethics, Remote, Stanford, CA (2021–2022)

Public Communications

- Impact Strategy Research Intern, Declarative. Salt Lake City, UT (May to August 2022)
- Intern, Annual Graduate Institute on the Constitution, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation. Marymount University, VA (June 2020 and June 2021)
- Digital Development Intern, Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Stratford-upon-Avon, UK (May to August 2019)

SERVICE

Co-founder, English Degree of Tomorrow, https://www.englishdegreeoftomorrow.org .	2025
Designed collaborative platform for students, faculty, and education industry experts to connect and reimagine the English postsecondary degree	
Organizer, Job Preparation Working Group, Department of English, Indiana University	2025
Organizer, Summer Fellows’ Writing Group, American Antiquarian Society	2024–present
Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University	
President	2023–2024
Events Chair	2022–2023
Public Relations Representative	2021–2022
Conference Organizer, North American Victorian Studies Association	2023

LANGUAGES

Spanish (speaking and reading fluency)

MEMBERSHIPS

Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies (INCS)
North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA)
Research Society for Victorian Periodicals (RSVP)
The Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists (C19)

REFERENCES

Ivan Kreilkamp
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Co-editor, *Victorian Studies*
Indiana University
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Christoph Irmscher
Distinguished Professor, Department of English
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Lara Kriegel
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