

# Abby Clayton

Ballantine Hall 440, 1020 E Kirkwood Ave, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405  
[aclayto@iu.edu](mailto:aclayto@iu.edu) | (571)730-0390

## EDUCATION

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### 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

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*Printing New Religion: Transatlantic Movements in the Nineteenth Century*. University of Illinois Press (under contract). Editor, with Colby Townsend.

## PUBLICATIONS

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

"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).

Review of *The Rise of Celebrity Authorship: Nineteenth-Century Print Culture and Antislavery* by Sarah Danielle Allison, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies* 22.1 (2026).

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

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### Competitive Research Fellowships

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

### Juried Honors

- William Riley Parker Prize in British Literature, Department of English, Indiana University, \$500 (2025)

- Susan Clements Memorial Summer Fellowship, Department of English, Indiana University, \$2000 (2021–2024)

## Travel Awards

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

## PRESENTATIONS

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- “Onlookers Near and Far: Civil War Ruins and the Anglo-American Imagination.” North American Victorian Studies Association 23rd annual conference: Aftermaths. 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 58th annual conference: Voices and Visions. Chicago, IL, July 10–12, 2025.
- “What to Do with News: Media and the Making of Anglo-American Nationalism, 1830–1870.” Dissertation lightning talk, English Department Annual Symposium: Legacies and Contingencies: The Past and Future of Collaborative Community. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 29, 2025.
- “Paranormal Events and the New Religion of Activism in the Mid-century Press.” North American Victorian Studies Association 22nd annual conference: EVENT. West Lafayette, IN, September 20–21, 2024.
- “Narrating Abolition: The Place of Fake News in Scissors-and-Paste Reform.” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals 57th annual conference: Place in the Victorian Press. Stirling, Scotland, UK, June 13–15, 2024.
- “Telling the Truth in Fragments: The Transatlantic Editing of Nationalist Abolition Movements.” North American Victorian Studies Association 21st annual conference: Revision, Return, Reform. Bloomington, IN, November 9–11, 2023.
- “W. T. Stead’s Ordinary ‘Folks’ and the Paradox of the Progressive Anglosphere.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies 38th annual conference: Nineteenth-Century Movement(s). Knoxville, TN, April 13–16, 2023.
- “An Industrial Fairy Scene: Creating the Child Consumer in Great Exhibition Juvenilia.” Interdisciplinary Nineteenth Century Studies 37th annual conference: Strata. 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 26th annual conference: Victorian Transitions. Remote, October 15–17, 2021.
- “Lost and Found: Victorian Travelers and the Sensationalizing Domesticity of Jane Austen.” English Graduate Department 18th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference: How to Do Things with Words. Bloomington, IN, April 16–17, 2021.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Instructor of Record**, Department of English, Indiana University

- ENG-L206 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)

### Teaching 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

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### Editorial

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

### Research

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

### Public Communications

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

## CONFERENCES, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

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- “Aftermaths of the Civil War in Transatlantic Visual Culture.” North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference. Washington, DC, November 13–16, 2025. Panel Organizer
- English Department Annual Symposium: Legacies and Contingencies: The Past and Future of Collaborative Community. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, March 29, 2025. Keynote organizer
- Job Preparation Working Group, Department of English, Indiana University (2025). Co-organizer
- Summer Fellows’ Writing Group, American Antiquarian Society (2024–present)
- North American Victorian Studies Association 21st annual conference: Revision, Return, Reform. Bloomington, IN, November 9–11, 2023. Organizing committee member
- Meet the Faculty series for graduate students, Department of English, Indiana University (2022)

## ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SERVICE

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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

Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Department of English, Indiana University

President (2023–2024)

Events Chair (2022–2023)

Public Relations Chair (2021–2022)

## LANGUAGES

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Spanish (speaking and reading fluency)

## MEMBERSHIPS

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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

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Ivan Kreilkamp  
Professor, Department of English  
Co-editor, *Victorian Studies*  
Indiana University  
ikreilk@iu.edu  
(812) 855-6132

Lara Kriegel  
Professor, Department of History  
Professor, Department of English  
Director, Collins Living-Learning Center  
Co-editor, *Victorian Studies*  
Indiana University  
lkriegel@iu.edu

Christoph Irmscher  
Distinguished Professor, Department of English  
Director, Wells Scholars Program  
Indiana University  
cirmsche@iu.edu  
(443) 622-3271

Susan Gubar  
Distinguished Professor Emerita,  
Department of English  
Indiana University  
gubar@indiana.edu  
(812) 606-9989

(812) 855-6290