

Margaret Homans

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Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, Yale University, New Haven, CT
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Education:

B.A. Yale University, 1974
Ph.D. Yale University, English, 1978

Employment:

Assistant Professor of English, Yale University, 1978-1982
Associate Professor of English, Yale University, 1982-1989 (tenured
1986)
Professor of English, Yale University, 1989-present
Breadloaf School of English, summer 1997
Professor of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Yale University,
1998-present
Chair, Women's Studies/Women's & Gender Studies, Yale University,
1993-2003

Books:

Women Writers and Poetic Identity: Dorothy Wordsworth, Emily Bronte,
and Emily Dickinson (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1980)
Bearing the Word: Language and Female Experience in Nineteenth-
Century Women's Writing (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986)
Virginia Woolf: A Collection of Critical Essays (Twentieth Century
Views), edited with an introduction (New York: Prentice Hall, 1992)
Remaking Queen Victoria, coedited with Adrienne Munich (Cambridge:
Cambridge University Press, 1997)
Royal Representations: Queen Victoria and Victorian Culture 1837-1876
(Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998)

Articles:

Repression and Sublimation of Nature in Wuthering Heights, PMLA 93
(1978)
Tennyson and the Spaces of Life, ELH 46 (1979)
Eliot, Wordsworth, and the Scenes of the Sisters' Instruction,
Critical Inquiry 8 (1981)
Dreaming of Children: Literalization in Jane Eyre and Wuthering
Heights, in The Female Gothic, ed. Juliann Fleenor (Montreal: Eden Press,
1983)
"Oh, Vision of Language!": Dickinson's Poems of Love and Death, in
Feminist Critics Read Emily Dickinson, ed. Suzanne Juhasz (Bloomington:
Indiana University Press, 1983)
"Her Very Own Howl": The Ambiguities of Representation in Recent
Women's Fiction, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 9 (1983)
"Syllables of Velvet": Dickinson, Rossetti, and the Rhetorics of
Sexuality, Feminist Studies 11 (1985)

The Ghost of Creusa (review essay on feminist criticism and theory), The Yale Journal of Criticism 1 (1987)

The Woman in the Cave: Recent Feminist Fictions and the Classical Underworld, Contemporary Literature 29 (1988)

Keats Reading Women, Women Reading Keats, Studies in Romanticism 29 (1990); Keats-Shelley Association prizewinner for 1991

Audre Lorde, in African American Writers, ed. Valerie Smith, Walton Litz, and Lea Baechler (New York: Scribner's, 1991)

Dinah's Blush, Maggie's Arm: Class, Gender, and Sexuality in George Eliot's Early Novels, Victorian Studies 36 (1993); reprinted in Sexualities in Victorian Britain, ed. Andrew H. Miller and James Eli Adams (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996)

"To the Queen's Private Apartments:" Royal Family Portraiture and the Construction of Victoria's Sovereign Obedience, Victorian Studies 37 (1993)

"Women of Color" Writers and Feminist Theory, NLH 25 (1994); repr. in Feminisms, 2nd edition ed. Warhol and Herndl, 1997

Feminist Fictions and Feminist Theories of Narrative, Narrative 2 (1994)

The Powers of Powerlessness: The Courtships of Queen Victoria and Elizabeth Barrett, in Feminist Measures: Soundings in Poetry and Theory, ed. Lynn Keller and Cristanne Miller (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1994)

Victoria's Sovereign Obedience: Portraits of the Queen as Wife and Mother, in Victorian Literature and the Visual Imagination, ed. Carol T. Christ and John O. Jordan (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995)

"Racial Composition:" Metaphor and the Body in the Writing of Race, in Female Subjects in Black and White: Race, Psychoanalysis, Feminism, ed. Elizabeth Abel, Barbara Christian, and Helene Moglen (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1997)

A Response to Mary Poovey's "Recovering Ellen Pickering," The Yale Journal of Criticism 13 (2000)

Amy Lowell's Keats: Reading Straight, Writing Lesbian, The Yale Journal of Criticism 14 (2001)

Adoption and Essentialism, Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature 21: 2 (fall 2002)

Lowell, Keats, and the "shielded scutcheon" of Imagist Art, in Amy Lowell: American Modernist, ed. Adrienne Munich and Melissa Bradshaw (New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2003)

Adoption Narratives, Trauma, and Origins, Narrative 14:1 (Jan. 2006)

Book Reviews:

Review of Karl Keller, The Only Kangaroo among the Beauty: Emily Dickinson and America, American Literary Realism 13 (1980)

Review of Joanne Feit Diehl, Dickinson and the Romantic Imagination, Studies in Romanticism 22 (1983)

Review of Jane Gallop, The Daughter's Seduction, The Yale Review 72 (1983)

Review of Luce Irigaray, Speculum of the Other Woman and This Sex Which Is Not One, The Women's Review of Books 3:6 (1986)

Review of Karen Chase and Michael Levenson, The Spectacle of Intimacy, Victorian Studies, 2003

Review of Alison Booth, How To Make It as a Woman, Modern Philology 103:4 (May 2006)

Academic honors and awards:

Whiting Fellowship, 1977-1978
Theron Rockwell Field Prize (for the dissertation), 1978
Fellow, Whitney Humanities Center, 1980-1982
ACLS Fellowship, 1980, used 1981, concurrently with
Morse Fellowship, 1981-1982
NEH Course Development Grant, summer 1983
A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Grants (Yale fund for research
travel), 1983, 1989, 1994, 1996
NEH Summer Stipend, 1986
Keats-Shelley Association Prize 1991

Invited lectures and conference papers:

Paper given at Divisional Meeting on Dickinson, MLA Convention, 1979
Panelist at special session, "Victorian and Edwardian British Women
Poets," MLA Convention, 1979
Panelist at special session on Dickinson, MLA Convention, 1980
University of Rochester, April 1981, "Dickinson's Poems of Love and
Death"
Cornell Symposium on Feminist Criticism, October 1981, "A Thematics
of Women and Language: Testing the Franco-American Alliance"
Panelist at special session, "British Romanticism and Fiction," MLA
Convention, 1981
Brandeis University, March 1982, "Dickinson's Love Poems in the
Context of Feminist Critical Theory"
Whitney Humanities Center, Yale, March 1984, paper delivered in
Faculty Work in Progress Series
Lectures based on Bearing the Word at Princeton, Nov. 1984; Harvard,
Dec. 1984; Dartmouth, Feb. 1985; Johns Hopkins, April 1985; Rutgers, April
1985; Middlebury, Dec. 1985
Panelist at Dickinson Conference, University of Mass. at Amherst,
April 1986
The English Institute, Harvard University, Aug. 1986, "Keats and
Women Readers"
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Nov. 1986, and Vassar,
March 1987, "Gender and Poetic Tradition: Keats Reading Women and Women
Reading Keats"
Central Connecticut State University, Feb. 1987, and Connecticut
College, April 1987, "Feminist Criticism and Theory: An Introduction"
University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 1987, "The Ghost of Creusa:
Feminist Criticism and Derrida Today"
University of Virginia, Oct. 1987, "Recent Feminist Fictions and the
Classical Underworld"
Panelist at special session, "The Politics of the Maternal," MLA
Convention 1987
University of Toronto, Feb. 1989, and Yale, June 1989, "Women's
Violence and the Violations of History: From Classic to Contemporary"
Panelist at conference, "Redefining Marginality," University of
Tulsa, March 1989
Narrative Conference, April 1989, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
"Alice Walker: The Mother's 'I'"
NEH Seminar on Culture and Society in Victorian Britain, Yale British
Art Center, July 1991, "Class and Gender in George Eliot's Early Novels"

Panelist at special session, "Influence and Intertextuality," MLA 1991 (paper on Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Queen Victoria)

Vassar College, May 1992, "African American Women Writers and Feminist Theory"

Narrative Conference, April 1992, "Maggie's Arm: Class and Gender in The Mill on the Floss"

UC Santa Cruz, Dickens Conference, paper on "Portraits of Queen Victoria," Aug. 1992

UC Santa Cruz, conference on Psychoanalysis in African-American Contexts: Feminist Reconfigurations, "'Racial Composition:' Metaphor and the Body in the Writing of Race," Oct. 1992

Semiotics Society Conference, Oct. 1992, paper on Elizabeth Barrett Browning and Queen Victoria

CUNY Women's Studies Lecture Series, Nov. 1992, "Revamping Queen Victoria" (with Adrienne Munich)

MLA session, Division on the Victorian Period, "The Political Economy of Women's Sexuality in The Mill on the Floss," Dec. 1992

Panelist at special session, "Victorian(n) Self-Fashioning: Gender and Genre Construction," MLA 1992 (paper on Victoria's Highland Journal)

Lectures on "Women of Color Writers and Feminist Theory," SUNY Stony Brook, Feb. 1993; University of Oregon, May 1993; University of Washington, May 1993

Lectures on "Portraits of Queen Victoria" at Harvard Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Victorian Seminar, March 1993; at the University of New Hampshire, April 1993

Narrative Conference, April 1993, "Feminist Fictions and Feminist Theories of Narrative"

Keynote Lecture, Eighteenth and Nineteenth-Century Women Writers Conference, University of Washington, May 1993 (on Barrett Browning and Victoria)

MLA session, Division on Women's Studies, "'Women of Color' Writers and Feminist Poststructuralism," Dec. 1993

MLA special session on Author-izing Queens, "Queen Victoria and Victorian Women Novelists," Dec. 1993

Invited seminar leader (discussion of "'Women of Color' Writers and Feminist Theory"), Rutgers University, Oct. 1994

MLA forum on Feminist Criticism, "Despecularizing Feminist Literary History," Dec. 1994

Keynote Speaker, Graduate Student Conference, LSU, Feb. 1995: "Queen Victoria and Victorian Queens"

Rice University, Mar. 1995, "Queen Victoria and Victorian Queens"

Narrative Conference, April 1995, "Victorian Queens in the 1860s: Ruskin, the Alice Books, and Representations of Victoria's Widowhood"

Yale English Department colloquium, Nov. 1995, "Royal Representations: Queen Victoria as Author and the Reform Act of 1867"

Rice University, Feb. 1996, "Queen Victoria as Author"

The English Institute, Harvard University, Oct. 1996, "Queen Victoria's Memorial Arts"

Copenhagen University, Nov. 1996: "Women as Authors: Queen Victoria and Her Contemporaries" and "Race, Gender, and Women Writers in the U.S." (both subsequently published in local journals)

CUNY Graduate Center, May 1997, symposium on "The Victorians and the Photographic Eye:" "Cameron's Idylls and Victoria's Memorials"

Harvard Center for Literary and Cultural Studies, Victorian Seminar,
Nov. 1997, "Empire of Grief: Queen Victoria Mourns Her Highland Servant"
SUNY Albany, Richard Thorns Lecture, April 1998, "Queen Victoria: The
Woman, the Writer, and the Empress"
University of Houston, April 1999, Houston lecture, "Queen Victoria:
The Woman, the Writer, and the Empress"; faculty seminar: "Amy Lowell and
Keats: Queer Genealogy"
Narrative Conference, April 1999, "Amy Lowell and Keats: Queer
Genealogy"
MIT, April 2000, "Amy Lowell and Keats: Queer Genealogy"
"My Victorian Afterlife," Oct. 2001, keynote lecture for Victorians
Institute conference, UNC-Chapel Hill
Keynote panel address, "The Future of Victorian Studies," Nov. 2001,
Northeast Conference on British Studies, Worcester MA
Yale 18th and 19th Century colloquium, "Lowell, Keats, and the
'shielded scutcheon' of Imagist Art," April 2002
Bridgewater State University, April 2004, invited lecture, "World War
I, Feminist Theory, and Gender at the Front"
Narrative Conference, April 2004, "Narratives of Adoption and
Identity"
Northeastern University, Sept. 2004, invited lecture, "World War I,
Feminist Theory, and Gender at the Front"
Harvard University, December 2004, invited lecture, Remembering
Monique Wittig: A Memorial Conference: "A Personal Debt: Wittig in the
Classroom"
Narrative Conference, April 2005, "Stories of Adoption: Narrating
Origins"
ASAIK conference on Adoption and Culture, November 2005,
"Representations of Origins Searches in China Adoption"

Service to the Profession (partial listing):

Member, Executive Committee of the Division on Late 19th- and Early
20th-Century American Literature, MLA, 1982-84; chair 1984
Editorial Board member and manuscript reader: Browning Institute
Studies / Victorian Literature and Culture, Tulsa Studies in Women's
Literature, Contemporary Literature, Yale Journal of Criticism, Narrative
Society, Executive Council 1992-1995
Member of PMLA Advisory Committee, 1987-1991
Consulting editor, Feminist Companion to Literature in English (New
Haven: Yale University Press, 1990)
MLA Committee on Honors and Awards, 1992-95
Symposium co-organizer, Yale Center for British Art, Oct. 1997,
"Queen Victoria, Home, and Empire: A Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee"
Elected Second Vice President of Narrative Society, fall 2005 for
four year term, to serve as President in 2008

Administrative offices and major committees at Yale:

University:

Jaynes Committee (review of minority hiring), 1990-92
Term Appointments Committee, 1993-1995
Ad hoc tenure committee, May 1997
FLAGS committee 1993-present; Acting Chair, spring 1995
Committee on the Economic Status of the Faculty, 1997-98
Committee on Honors and Academic Standards, 2000-01

English Department:

Chair, Senior Essays and Special Projects Committee, spring 1984, 1985-86, spring 1992, 1993-95, 2000-01

Course director, English 129: The European Literary Tradition, 1984-1986

Associate Chair (job placement): spring 1987-fall 1987, 1988-1989, spring 1994

Women's Studies / Women's & Gender Studies Program (as of 1998) /
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program (as of 2004):

Core Faculty/ Council, 1979-present

Acting Chair, spring 1985-fall 1985

Chair, Council, spring 1986

Chair, Executive Committee, 1990-92

Program Chair, 1987-1989, 1993-2003

Curriculum Committee chair, 2003-4

Director of Undergraduate Studies, fall 2006

Fund for Lesbian and Gay Studies/ Larry Kramer Initiative in Lesbian and Gay Studies:

Committee member 1980s-present

Teaching fields:

Feminist criticism and theory; nineteenth-century fiction and poetry (British and U.S.); modern and recent women writers

Courses recently taught:

George Eliot and Virginia Woolf; Virginia Woolf; History of Feminist Thought; Feminist and Queer Theory; The European Literary Tradition (first-year survey of drama, epic, the novel); Feminist Perspectives on Literature; Victorian Heroines; Gender and Power in Victorian Literature; Graduate Research Colloquium in Women's & Gender Studies; World War I, Gender, and Literature; Reading and Writing the Modern Essay; Adoption Narratives