

SØRINA HIGGINS

Curriculum Vitae

Baylor University
One Bear Place, #97404
Waco, TX 76798-7404

Department of English
sorina_higgins@baylor.edu
484-866-2147

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Literature

Baylor University, Waco TX
Presidential Scholar

anticipated completion 2021

M.A., English Literature

The Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College, Middlebury VT
“Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Writings of C. S. Lewis”
Adviser: John Fyler; second reader, Isobel Armstrong

2007

B.A., English and Music, magna cum laude

Gordon College, Wenham MA

2002

Certificate of Biblical Studies, magna cum laude

The Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox MA

1999

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Chair of the Language and Literature Department, Signum University (online), 2015–2019

Preceptor, Signum University, 2014–present

Adjunct Faculty Member, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville PA, 2010–2016

Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley PA 2012–2013

Instructor and Course Designer, Master’s Academy of Fine Arts, Greenville PA, 2005–2010

English Teacher, Players of the Stage Fine Arts Center, Allentown PA, 2006–2008

English Teacher, Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Allentown PA, 2008–2009

Adjunct Faculty Member, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox MA, 2002–2004

SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

Presidential Fellowship/Scholarship Recipient, Baylor University. This distinctive non-service award from the Graduate School is given to only the top 1–2% of applicants each year. \$8,000/year for five years.

2018 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies Winner, *The Inklings and King Arthur: J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, C. S. Lewis, and Owen Barfield on the Matter of Britain* (Apocryphile Press, 2017).

Best Seminar Paper Winner, “[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*,” Annual Meeting of

the T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta GA, September 2018. \$100 prize.

Best Graduate Student Paper Winner, “Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain.” Annual C.S. Lewis and Inklings Conference, Tulsa OK, April 2017.

Second Place Winner, Modern/Contemporary Research Seminar Graduate Student Paper Prize, “Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*,” Baylor University, September 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED BOOKS

The Inklings and King Arthur: J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, C. S. Lewis, and Owen Barfield on the Matter of Britain (Apocryphile Press, 2017).

Williams, Charles. *The Chapel of the Thorn: A Dramatic Poem* (Apocryphile Press, 2014).

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*.” (currently under review)

“Charles Williams and Friendship Sub Specie Arthuriana.” VII: *Journal of the Marion E. Wade Center* (December 2018). 31–50.

“Double Affirmation: Medievalism as Christian Apologetic in the Arthurian Poetry of Charles Williams.” *Journal of Inklings Studies*, vol. 3, no. 2 (October 2013). 59–96.

“Is a ‘Christian’ Mystery Story Possible? Charles Williams’ *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study.” *Mythlore* vol. 30 no. 1/2 issue 115/116 (Fall/Winter 2011). 77–90.

INTRODUCTIONS and CHAPTERS

“Introduction—Present and Past: The Inklings and King Arthur.” *The Inklings and King Arthur* (Apocryphile Press, 2017). 1–11.

“The Matter of Logres: Arthuriana and the Inklings.” *The Inklings and King Arthur* (Apocryphile Press, 2017). 25–59.

Introduction. *Taliessin through Logres and The Region of the Summer Stars* by Charles Williams (Apocryphile Press, 2016). 1–16.

Introduction. *The Chapel of the Thorn: A Dramatic Poem*, by Charles Williams, edited by Sørina Higgins, (Apocryphile Press, 2014). 5–38.

“Is a ‘Christian’ Mystery Story Possible? Charles Williams’ *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study.” *Christianity and the Detective Story*, edited by Walter Raubicheck and Anya Morlan (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013). 2–19.

PUBLISHED CONFERENCE PAPERS (selected)

“Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings.” *The Lamp-Post*, vol. 36, no. 2 (2018). 30–41.

“The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Letters of C.S. Lewis.” *New York C.S. Lewis Society Bulletin* 471 (January/February 2016). 1–10.

“Arthurian Geographies in Tolkien, Williams and Lewis.” *New York C.S. Lewis Society Bulletin* 462 (July/August 2014). 1–8.

“King Arthur Was an Elf! An Imaginary, Composite, Inklings Arthurriad.” Signum University and the Mythgard Institute, *MythMoot II Proceedings* (July 2014).

With Rebecca Tirrell Talbot, “‘Between Two Strange Hearts’: Spiritual Desolation in the Later Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and Charles Williams.” *Inklings Forever VIII: The 8th Francis White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends* (2012). 64–72.

BOOK REVIEWS (selected)

Roukema, Aren. *Esotericism and Narrative: The Occult Fiction of Charles Williams*. *Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal*. (forthcoming)

Williams, Charles. *The Celian Moment and Other Essays*, edited by Stephen Barber. *Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal*. (forthcoming)

Glyer, Diana Pavlac. *The Company They Keep*. *The Charles Williams Quarterly* 141 (2002): 11–13.

Van Leeuwen, Mary Stewart. *A Sword between the Sexes?* *Sehnsucht* 4 (2010). 184–86.

Schwartz, Sanford. *Science and the Supernatural in the Space Trilogy*. *Sehnsucht* 3 (2009). 101–10.

Ward, Michael. *Planet Narnia*. *Sehnsucht* 2 (2008). 83–97.

CREATIVE WORK

Editor of *The Soul of Wit*. Prize-Winning Flash Fiction and Short-Form Poetry from Signum University’s “Almost an Inklings” Creative Writing Contest 2015 (Oloris Press, 2016)

Poetry Collection: *Caduceus* (David Robert Books, 2012)

Poetry Chapbook: *The Significance of Swans* (Finishing Line Press, 2008)

Poems in journals, including: *Alive Now*, *Avatar Review*, *The BioLogos Forum*, *The Deronda Review*, *The Eclectic Muse*, *idiom*, *Innisfree*, *The Lyric*, *Mythic Circle*, *Perspectives*, *Radix*, *Relief*, *Studio*, and *Windhover*

PLENARY LECTURES

“The Inklings Among Other Arthurs.” Southern California C. S. Lewis Society Festival, Redlands CA (3/9/19)

“Real Modernisms: Revising (Meta)Fictional Modernist Narratives.” Signum University’s Mythmoot IV, Leesburg VA (6/4/17)

“Charles Williams and Friendship *sub specie Arthuriana*.” Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland IN (6/3/16)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Sympathizing with the Dead: A *Christmas Carol* as Hospitable Medium.” Midwest Victorian Studies Association, Fort Worth TX (4/27/19)

- “The dread forbidden wine’: Yeats’s Early Occult Dramas.” American Conference for Irish Studies Southern Regional Meeting, The College of Charleston, Charleston SC (2/1/19)
- “[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*.” Annual Meeting of the T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta GA (9/21/18)
- “The Red Side of the Green Ground: W. B. Yeats on Conflict and Creation Care.” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco TX (10/24/18)
- “Little Loosed Dragons: Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings.” Texas Medieval Association Annual Conference, Waco TX (9/30/17)
- Roundtable on “The Future of Inklings Studies.” Annual C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference, Tulsa OK (4/8/17)
- “Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain.” Annual C.S. Lewis and the Inklings Conference, Tulsa OK (4/8/17)
- “Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*.” American Conference on Irish Studies Annual Conference, Kansas City MI (3/3/17)
- “Collaboration in Community: An Application of Diana Glycer’s Theories of Influence to Higher Education.” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, Waco TX (10/28/16)
- Roundtable on “The Future of Inklings Studies.” Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland IN (6/3/16)
- “How to Handle the Hallows: Editing a 100-year-old Play for the Twenty-First Century.” Signum University’s Mythmoot III, Linthicum MD (1/11/15)
- Roundtable on “Fantasy and Faith.” The Mythopoeic Society’s Mythcon 45, Norton MA (8/10/14)
- “Arthurian Geographies in Tolkien, Williams and Lewis.” New York C. S. Lewis Society, NYC (1/10/14)
- “King Arthur Was an Elf? An Imaginary, Composite, Inklings Arthuriad.” Signum University’s Mythmoot II, Linthicum MD (12/15/13)
- With Rebecca Tirrell Talbot. “Between Two Strange Hearts’: Spiritual Desolation in the Later Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins and Charles Williams.” Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland IN (5/29/12)
- “Checking Out and Hooking Up: Reading Eugenides through the National Study of Youth and Religion.” Western Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Seattle WA (5/24/12)
- “Hallows Within and Without: Grail Relics in the Mythos of Charles Williams and J.K. Rowling.” Conference of the National Popular Culture and American Culture Association, Boston MA (4/14/12)
- “Double Affirmation: Medieval Chronology, Geography, and Devotion in the Arthuriad of Charles Williams.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI (5/14/11)
- “Charles Williams’s *War in Heaven* as a Generic Case Study.” Northeast Regional Meeting of the Conference on Christianity and Literature, NYC (3/6/10)
- “Cosmic Longing in Lewis’s Dantean Universe.” Oxford C.S. Lewis Society’s International Colloquium on Perelandra, Oxford UK (1/27/09)
- “The Development of Lewis’s *Sehnsucht* in his Correspondence and Cultural Context.” C. S. Lewis—The Man and His Work: A 21st Century Legacy, Wake Forest NC (10/27/07)

INTERVIEWS

Conversation with Ken Myers, *The Mars Hill Audio Journal* 143 (5/3/19)

“Sorina Higgins on The Inklings and King Arthur” with Glenn McDorman, *Agnus* podcast (3/9/19)

“Arthur of the Century” with Sean Marchese and Alan Sisto, *The Prancing Pony* podcast (11/11/18)

“Sorina Higgins discusses Charles Williams and the Inklings” with “The Skrauss,” *Image for Hire*, Milwaukee RiverWest Radio (10/2/18)

“The Inklings and King Arthur” with William O’Flaherty, *All About Jack* podcast (2/16/18)

“The Inklings and King Arthur” with Corey Olsen (moderator), Brenton Dickieson, and Malcolm Guite, Signum University Symposium (2/5/18)

Conversation with Christy Tennant, *IAM Conversations* podcast (8/16/12)

Guest poet on “Poets’ Pause,” Berks Community TV, with host Doug Arnold (8/13/08)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teacher of Record, Baylor University, Waco TX 2016–present
English 1302: Thinking and Writing (first-year writing course; essays in several modes)
English 1304: Thinking, Writing, and Research (first-year writing course; essays and a research paper)

Colloquium Instructor, Honors College, Baylor University

Two-and-a-half-hour discussion sessions, each on a single book of the instructor’s choice, followed by a short essay. The instructor of these Colloquia is solely responsible for providing assignments and instructions ahead of time, leading the discussion, and grading the essays.

Eliot, T. S. *Murder in the Cathedral* (10/28/19; *upcoming*)

Lewis, C. S. *Till We Have Faces* (2/1/19)

Williams, Charles. *Descent Into Hell* (10/8/18)

Preceptor, Signum University, online 2014–present

Each course is taught by a faculty team: Lecturers provide twenty-four 90-minute lectures in the term, which students may access live or recorded. Students taking the course for credit then attend a one-hour discussion session with a “Preceptor,” who also assigns and grades all assessments, meets with students one-on-one as needed for their writing, and generally serves as the faculty member with whom the students have the most contact.

LITD 5307: The Inklings and King Arthur (with Maggie Parke and Gabriel Schenk, Lecturers)

LITA 5312: Tolkien’s Wars and Middle-earth (with John Garth, Lecturer)

LITD 5304: Beowulf Through Tolkien (with Tom Shippey, Lecturer)

LITA 5302: Lewis and Tolkien (with Corey Olsen, Lecturer)

Guest Lecturer, Signum University

On occasion, a guest speaker is invited to give one or more of the 90-minute lectures in a course and compensated accordingly. In addition, sometimes several speakers contribute to a topic in a roundtable format.

“The Inklings and Literary Criticism,” joint lecture with Corey Olsen, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (4/4/17)

“On Being a Public Intellectual,” roundtable discussion with Brenton Dickieson and David Russell Mosley, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (1/24/17)

“Overview of Critical Theory,” joint lecture with Corey Olsen, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (2/21/17)

“Little Loosed Dragons: Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings,” solo guest lecture, LITD 5304: *Beowulf* Through Tolkien (3/13/2015)

“Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Writings of C.S. Lewis,” solo guest lecture, LITA 5302: Lewis and Tolkien (10/7/14)

Adjunct Faculty Member, Lehigh Carbon Community College, Schnecksville PA 2010–2016

ENG 235: Creative Writing
ENG 215: Introduction to Poetry
ENG 106: College English II
ENG 105: College English I
ENG 100: Fundamentals of Writing

Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley PA 2012–2013

ENGL 202-B: Writing in the Humanities
ENGL 015: Rhetoric and Composition

English Teacher, Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Allentown PA 2008–2009

ENG 12: Survey of British Literature
ENG 10: Survey of World Literature
ENG 9: Introduction to Literary Genres and Themes
Creative Writing
Drama

Instructor and Course Designer, Master’s Academy of Fine Arts, Greenville PA 2005–2010

This program was organized according to historical time periods: Each academic year corresponded to one era of the past in European and American history, arts, and culture. In this way, it was similar to a “Great Texts” or “Classical Education” approach. All of the following courses were designed from scratch in consultation with the history and art teachers.

Academic and Creative Writing
Advanced Language Arts
An Introduction to C. S. Lewis
Baroque Music Composition
Baroque Music History
Classical Music Composition
Creative Writing
Intermediate Language Arts
Lesser-Known Works of the Inklings
Literature of the Seventeenth Century
Literature of the Medieval/Renaissance Era
Literature of the Baroque Era
Medieval/Renaissance Music Composition
Medieval/Renaissance Music History
Medieval/Renaissance Poetry Writing
Poetry Writing in Forms
Poetry Writing with the British Romantics
Reading and Writing Medieval Legends
Seventeenth Century Poetry Writing
Short Story Writing
Study Skills

English Teacher, Players of the Stage Fine Arts Center, Allentown PA 2006–2008
This was an enrichment program for homeschool families, and I designed and taught these courses for middle-school- and high-school-aged students.
Advanced Inklings
Beginning Inklings
Intro to Philosophy
Shakespearean Readers' Theatre

Adjunct Faculty Member, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox MA 2002–2004
ENG 230: Writing for Publication (also designed this course)
ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition

SERVICE to the PROFESSION

Outside Reader of abstracts for a forthcoming academic essay collection on Frank Herbert's *Dune*
Peer Reviewer of articles for *The Journal of Inklings Studies* and *Christianity and Literature*
Reviews Editor for *Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal*, 2010–2016
Panel Chair and Organizer, "The Inklings and King Arthur," The Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon 45, Norton MA (8/10/14)
Guest Presenter on *The Chapel of the Thorn* and *The Inklings and King Arthur*, Charles Williams Society Annual General Meeting, Oxford University, Oxford UK (6/6/15)

SERVICE to BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2019–present
Alternate English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2018–2019
Convener of the Modern/Contemporary Research Seminar, 2017–2018

SERVICE to SIGNUM UNIVERSITY

Conference Organizer of the Annual Texas Literature and Language Symposium: TexMoot 2018, Fort Worth, TX (1/13/18), and TexMoot 2019, Waco, TX (1/19/19). Serving as lead of the planning team for TexMoot 2020, Houston, TX (2/8/20).
Chair and Organizer, Thesis Panels and Panel in honor of Verlyn Flieger, Mythmoot VI (*upcoming*)
Graduation Coordinator, 2018–present
Division Lead in Language and Literature, guiding the M.A. program through an important redesign in 2016, supervising curriculum development, overseeing faculty culture, coordinating the thesis program, designing a faculty observation system that includes both administrative and peer observations, creating and supervising a tutoring program, contributing to the creation of Student and Faculty Handbooks, and participating in the review by the New Hampshire Department of Education leading to Signum's approval from the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission
Member of the Admissions Team and the Strategy Team
Consultant Member of the Institutional Development and the Credentialing Teams

Thesis Panel Chair and Organizer, “Where Imagination Takes Us: Investigations into Literary Traditions Old and New,” Mythmoot IV, Leesburg VA (6/3/17)

Thesis Panel Chair and Organizer, “Women and Men: Gender, Imagination, and the Chain of Being in Lewis and Tolkien,” Mythmoot IV, Leesburg VA (6/4/17)

Course Co-Designer with Karl Person, LITZ 5301: Research Methods

Host and Judge, “Almost an Inkling” Creative Writing Contest, 2016

SERVICE to LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Faculty Adviser to *Xanadu* literary club and magazine, 2012–2016

MEMBERSHIPS

The American Conference for Irish Studies

The Conference on Christianity and Literature

The C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society

The Modern Language Association

The Mythopoeic Society

The T. S. Eliot Society

The Yeats Society Sligo

LANGUAGES

English (native speaker)

French (beginner)

Old English (basic scholarly familiarity)

REFERENCES

Richard Rankin Russell

Baylor University

Corey Olsen

Signum University

John Fyler

The Bread Loaf School of English,
Middlebury College