

SØRINA HIGGINS

Curriculum Vitae

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

Department of English
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D., English Literature** *anticipated completion December 2021*
Baylor University, Waco, TX
From Dramaturgy to Thaumaturgy: Staging Occult Modernism, 1890–1945
Director: Richard Rankin Russell
Committee members: Julia Daniel, Philip Jenkins
- M.A., English Literature** 2007
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
- B.A., English and Music, magna cum laude** 2002
Gordon College, Wenham, MA
- Certificate of Biblical Studies, magna cum laude** 1999
The Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- Chair of the Language and Literature Department**, Signum University (online), 2015–2019
- Teacher of Record**, Baylor University, Waco, TX, 2016–*present*
- Preceptor**, Signum University (online), 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, 2003–2004
- Teaching Assistant**, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA, 2002

SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

Presidential Fellowship, 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.

The Robert G. Collmer Family Archival Research Fellowship. \$2,000 for archival dissertation research in the British Isles, for summer 2020.

~~**Full Tuition Scholarship,** T. S. Eliot International Summer School, for summer 2020. (cancelled due to COVID-19).~~

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, Waco, TX, September 2017.

PUBLICATIONS

EDITED BOOKS

Editorial project in process: General Editor for “Theater of the Occult,” a series from Apocryphile Press. Collections of plays by twentieth-century British and Irish occult playwrights.

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).

FORTHCOMING ARTICLES

“[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*.” *The T. S. Eliot Studies Annual*.

“‘The Weird Dominions of the Infinite’: Edgar Allan Poe and the Scientific Gothic.” *Penumbra*.

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

“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

“The Inklings Among Other Arthurs.” *The Lamp-Post*, vol. 37/38, no. 3/1 (2018). 35–67.

“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 Arthuriad.” Signum University, *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: Francis White Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends* (2012). 64–72.

BOOK REVIEWS (selected)

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.

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

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, 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

- ~~“Treading the Board(er)s: Mysticism and Magic in Irish Occult Theatrical Networks.” American Conference for Irish Studies, Houston, TX, April 1–4, 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19).~~
- “Sister of my Soul: Coercion and Control in Occult Theatrical Networks.” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (11/16/19).
- “They Have the Cathedral in Common: T. S. Eliot and Charles Williams as Canterbury Playwrights.” Annual Meeting of the T. S. Eliot Society, St. Louis, MO (9/28/19).
- “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.” C.S. Lewis and Inklings Conference, Tulsa, OK (4/8/17).
- “Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain.” 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

“Charles Williams: The Discarded Mage,” Conversation with Crystal and David Downing, the podcast of the Marion E. Wade Center (11/14/19).

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

“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*
ENG 1302: Thinking and Writing (4 sections)
ENG 1304: Thinking, Writing, and Research (9 sections)
ENG 2301: British Literature (1 section)

Colloquium Instructor, Honors College, Baylor University, Waco, TX 2018–*present*
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)
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)

Thesis Director, Signum University, online

Gwen Grant, M.A. Thesis, "Charles Williams's Magical Language," 2020

Guest Lecturer, Signum University, online

On occasion, a guest speaker is invited to give one or more of the 90-minute lectures in a course at Signum and compensated accordingly. Sometimes multiple speakers contribute to a topic in a roundtable format.

"Charles Williams's Arthuriad: An Introduction," guest lecture, LITD 5307: The Inklings and King Arthur (6/4/19).

"Tracing Themes in *Taliessin Through Logres*," guest lecture, LITD 5307: The Inklings and King Arthur (6/6/19).

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

"On Being a Public Intellectual," roundtable 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," guest lecture, LITD 5304: Beowulf Through Tolkien (3/13/2015).

"Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Writings of C.S. Lewis," 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

An enrichment program for homeschool families; designed and taught the following 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 2003–2004

ENG 230: Writing for Publication (also designed this course)
ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition

Teaching Assistant, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA 2002

ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition

SERVICE to the PROFESSION

Occasional **Peer Reviewer** of articles for *Mythlore*, *The Journal of Inklings Studies* and *Christianity and Literature*.

Panel Moderator, "Literature and Trauma," MMLA, Chicago, IL (11/15/19).

Outside Reader of abstracts for a forthcoming academic essay collection on Frank Herbert's *Dune* (2019).

Reviews Editor for *Sehnsucht: The C. S. Lewis Journal*, 2010–2016.

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).

Panel Chair and Organizer, "The Inklings and King Arthur," The Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon 45, Norton, MA (8/10/14).

SERVICE to BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2019–*present*.

Colloquium Instructor for the Honors College, 2018–*present* (once per semester).

Alternate English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2018–2019.

Convener of the Modern/Contemporary Research Seminar, 2017–2018.

SERVICE to SIGNUM UNIVERSITY

Faculty Representative Member of the Board, fall 2019–*present*

Conference Organizer of the Annual Texas Literature and Language Symposium: TexMoot 2018, Fort Worth, TX (1/13/18), TexMoot 2019, Waco, TX (1/19/19), and TexMoot 2020, Houston, TX (2/8/20).

Graduation Coordinator, 2018–*present*.

Chair and Organizer, Thesis Panels and Panel in honor of Verlyn Flieger, Mythmoot VI, Leesburg, VA (June 2019).

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 (2014–2019).

Member of the Admissions Team and the Strategy Team (2017–2019).

Consultant Member of the Institutional Development and Credentialing Teams (2017–2019).

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 (2016).

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

South Central Modern Language Association

The T. S. Eliot Society
The W. H. Auden Society
The Yeats Society Sligo

LANGUAGES

English (*native speaker*)
French (*reading, intermediate; speaking/listening, beginner*)
German (*basic scholarly familiarity with dictionary*)
Old English (*basic scholarly familiarity with dictionary*)
Middle English (*basic scholarly familiarity*)

REFERENCES

Richard Rankin Russell
Baylor University
Richard_Russell@baylor.edu
(254) 710-4815

Julia Daniel
Baylor University
Julia_E_Daniel@baylor.edu
(254) 710-6904

Corey Olsen
Signum University
corey.olsen@signumu.org
(215) 840-9231

John Fyler
The Bread Loaf School of English,
Middlebury College
John.Fyler@tufts.edu
(617) 627-2455