

SØRINA HIGGINS

Curriculum Vitae

Baylor University
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Department of English
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www.linkedin.com/in/sorina-higgins

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. in English Literature** expected 2021
Baylor University, Waco, TX
From Dramaturgy to Thaumaturgy: Staging Occult Modernism
Director: Dr. Richard Rankin Russell
Committee Members: Dr. Julia Daniel, Dr. Philip Jenkins
- M.A. in 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: Dr. John Fyler; Second Reader, Dr. Isobel Armstrong
- B.A. in English and Music, magna cum laude** 2002
Gordon College, Wenham, MA
- Certificate of Biblical Studies, magna cum laude** 1998
The Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA

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).

REFEREED ARTICLES

- Forthcoming*: "Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*." *International Yeats Studies*.
- Forthcoming*: "[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: A Journal of Weird Fiction* No. 1 (Summer 2020). 203-23.
- "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 & 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 Arthurriad.” 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.

PUBLIC-FACING WORK

The Oddest Inkling: An exploration of the works of poet Charles Williams (1886-1945). A blog that systematically explores Williams’s major works and important themes. Nearly 78,000 visitors. 2013–2016.

CREATIVE WORK

Editor of *The Soul of Wit*. Prize-Winning Flash Fiction and Short-Form Poetry from Signum University’s “Almost an Inkling” 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*.

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, The King’s College, New York City, Spring 2016

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

AWARDS & HONORS

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.

Winner, Fall 2020 Outstanding Research Award, Baylor University. This competitive award exists to promote the research productivity of graduate students. ~~\$400 in travel funding for dissertation research.~~ (*research travel postponed due to COVID-19*).

The Robert G. Collmer Family Archival Research Fellowship, Baylor University English Department. ~~\$2,000 for archival dissertation research, for summer 2020.~~ (*research travel postponed due to COVID-19*).

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

Third Place Winner in the Ph.D. classification of **the Three-Minute Thesis Contest**, spring 2020.

2018 Mythopoeic Scholarship Award in Inklings Studies Winner for *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) from The Mythopoeic Society.

Annual Eliot Seminar Prize, “[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*,” Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta, GA, September 2018. \$100 prize.

First Place for Best Graduate Student Paper, “Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain,” at The 20th Annual Conference of the C. S. Lewis and Inklings Society, 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.

 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Distinguished Lecturer in Romantic Theology

The Center for Theology, Spirituality, and Ministry at Northwind Seminary, online upcoming in 2021
 Featured Lectures on special topics related to Charles Williams

Teacher of Record, Baylor University, Waco, TX

2016–present

ENG 1302: Thinking and Writing—Theme: “Vocation” (4 sections)
 ENG 1304: Thinking, Writing, and Research—Theme: “What Does It Mean to Be Human?” (9 sections)
 ENG 2301: British Literature—Themes: “Political Leadership” and “Creation Care” (3 sections)

Preceptor, Signum University, online

2014–present

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)

Colloquium Instructor, Honors College, Baylor University, Waco, TX

2018–2019

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)

Thesis Director, Signum University, online

Gwen Grant, M.A. Thesis, “Charles Williams’s Magical Language,” 2020

Thesis Second Reader, Signum University, online

Mark Lachniet, M.A. Thesis, “Hacker Qua Magician in Cybermancer Fiction,” 2020.
 Thesis Director: Gabriel Schenck.

Guest Lecturer, Signum University, online

“Charles Williams’s Arthuriad: An Introduction,” LITD 5307: The Inklings and King Arthur (6/4/19).
 “Tracing Themes in *Taliessin Through Logres*,” 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).
 “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,” LITD 5304: Beowulf Through Tolkien (3/13/2015).
 “Heraldry of Heaven: The Development of *Sehnsucht* in the Writings of C.S. Lewis,” LITA 5302: Lewis and Tolkien (10/7/14).

Adjunct Faculty Member, The King’s College, New York City

Spring 2016

LIT 254: Fantasy and Science Fiction of C. S. Lewis

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

<p>Adjunct Faculty Member, Penn State Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, PA ENGL 202-B: Writing in the Humanities ENGL 015: Rhetoric and Composition</p>	<p>Higgins 5 2012–2013</p>
<p>English Teacher, Lehigh Valley Christian High School, Allentown, PA ENG 12: Survey of British Literature ENG 10: Survey of World Literature ENG 9: Introduction to Literary Genres and Themes Creative Writing Drama</p>	<p>2008–2009</p>
<p>Instructor and Course Designer, Master’s Academy of Fine Arts, Greenville, PA 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</p>	<p>2005–2010</p>
<p>English Teacher, Players of the Stage Fine Arts Center, Allentown, PA 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</p>	<p>2006–2008</p>
<p>Adjunct Faculty Member, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA ENG 230: Writing for Publication (also designed this course) ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition</p>	<p>2003–2004</p>
<p>Teaching Assistant, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Lenox, MA ENG 117: Christian Classics and Composition</p>	<p>2002</p>

 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).

 PRESENTATIONS

Panelist: “With All Your Heart, Soul, and Mind: A Conversation on Faith and Graduate School,” Baylor’s Graduate Student Association (10/20/20).

Paper: “Religious Drama: Does It Work?” Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, online (10/3/20).

Panelist: Group Discussion on Mental Health for Baylor’s MacNair Scholar’s Workshop (7/31/30).

Paper: ~~“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).~~

Paper: “Sister of my Soul: Coercion and Control in Occult Theatrical Networks.” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (11/16/19).

Panel Moderator: “Literature and Trauma,” Midwest Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (11/15/19).

Interview: “Charles Williams: The Discarded Mage,” *Wade Center Podcast*, hosted by Crystal and David Downing (11/14/19).

Paper: “They Have the Cathedral in Common: T. S. Eliot and Charles Williams as Canterbury Playwrights.” Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, St. Louis, MO (9/28/19).

Interview: *The Mars Hill Audio Journal* 143, hosted by Ken Myers (5/3/19).

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

Interview: “The Inklings and King Arthur,” *Agnus* podcast, hosted by Glenn McDorman (3/9/19).

Paper: “‘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).

Interview: “Arthur of the Century,” *The Prancing Pony* podcast, hosted by Sean Marchese and Alan Sisto (11/11/18).

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

Seminar Paper: “[Re]Cycled Fragments: The End of *Sweeney Agonistes*.” Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society, Atlanta, GA (9/21/18).

Paper: “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).

Interview: “The Inklings and King Arthur” *All About Jack* podcast, hosted by William O’Flaherty, (2/16/18).

Roundtable Participant: “The Inklings and King Arthur,” Signum University Symposium with Brenton Dickieson and Malcolm Guite, moderated by Corey Olsen, (2/5/18).

- Paper: "Little Loosed Dragons: Intertextuality in *Beowulf* and the Inklings." Texas Medieval Association Annual Conference, Waco, TX (9/30/17).
- Roundtable Participant: "The Future of Inklings Studies." C.S. Lewis & Inklings, Tulsa, OK (4/8/17).
- Paper: "Barfieldiana: Owen Barfield and the Matter of Britain." C.S. Lewis & Inklings, Tulsa, OK (4/8/17).
- Paper: "Spirits on Stage: Rosicrucian Magic in *The Countess Cathleen*." American Conference on Irish Studies Annual Conference, Kansas City, MI (3/3/17).
- Roundtable Moderator and Participant: "On Being a Public Intellectual," Signum University, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (1/24/17).
- Paper: "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 Participant: "The Future of Inklings Studies." Frances Ewbank Colloquium on C. S. Lewis and Friends, Upland, IN (6/3/16).
- Presentation: "The Inklings and King Arthur," Charles Williams Society Annual General Meeting, Oxford University (6/6/15).
- Paper: "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 Participant: "Fantasy and Faith." The Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon 45, Norton, MA (8/10/14).
- Panel Moderator: "The Inklings and King Arthur," The Mythopoeic Society's Mythcon 45, Norton, MA (8/10/14).
- Paper: "Arthurian Geographies in Tolkien, Williams and Lewis." New York C. S. Lewis Society, NYC (1/10/14).
- Paper: "King Arthur Was an Elf? An Imaginary, Composite, Inklings Arthuriad." Signum University's Mythmoot II, Linthicum, MD (12/15/13).
- Interview: *IAM Conversations* podcast, hosted by Christy Tennant (8/16/12).
- Paper: 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).
- Paper: "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).
- Paper: "Hallows Within and Without: Grail Relics in the Mythos of Charles Williams and J.K. Rowling." National Popular Culture and American Culture Association, Boston, MA (4/14/12).
- Paper: "Double Affirmation: Medieval Chronology, Geography, and Devotion in the Arthuriad of Charles Williams." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (5/14/11).
- Paper: "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).
- Paper: "Cosmic Longing in Lewis's Dantean Universe." Oxford C.S. Lewis Society's International Colloquium on *Perelandra*, Oxford, UK (1/27/09).
- Television Appearance: Guest poet on "Poets' Pause," Berks Community TV, with host Doug Arnold (8/13/08).
- Paper: "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).

 SERVICE to the PROFESSION

Host & Organizer of “Ready, Professor One?” a fellowship-and-support group for faculty who had to pivot swiftly to online and hybrid teaching modalities.

Outside Reader of abstracts for a forthcoming academic essay collection on Frank Herbert’s *Dune* (McFarland, 2021 or 2022).

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

SERVICE @ BAYLOR UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Representative on the Teaching, Learning, and Technology Committee, 2020–2021.

English Department Representative to the Graduate Student Association, 2019–*present*. Representative of the Month, November 2020. Host of a discussion on Jemar Tisby’s book *The Color of Compromise*, October 2020.

Colloquium Instructor for the Honors College, 2018–2019 (once per semester).

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

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

SERVICE @ SIGNUM UNIVERSITY

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); TexMoot 2020, Houston, TX (2/8/20); and TexMoot 2021, online (*forthcoming*, 2/13/21).

Co-Author, “The Future of the Humanities: A White Paper,” *forthcoming*

Facilitator, Theology Breakout Session, “Summit on Teaching the Humanities,” 7/25/20

Faculty Representative Member of the Board, 2019–2020

Graduation Coordinator, 2018–2019.

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 Persson, LITZ 5301: Research Methods (2016).

Host and Judge, “Almost an Inkling” Creative Writing Contest (October 2016).

SERVICE @ LEHIGH CARBON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

 SERVICE to the COMMUNITY

Host & Organizer of “Daily Choices,” a group that meets monthly to discuss ethical living in the areas of creation care and social justice, 2020.

Co-Teacher of a Sunday School class on Mental Health, with Mark Roberts, PA-C, at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Waco, October & November 2019.

Host & Organizer of “Ekphrasis: Fellowship of Christians in the Arts,” a monthly sharing-and-critique group for writers, artists, actors, musicians, etc. in the Allentown, PA area, 2009–2016.

 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*)

 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