

## Laken D. Brooks

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### EDUCATION

**University of Florida:** Gainesville, Florida

**MA/PhD** in English Literature, started in August of 2018

**University of MichiganX**

**Professional Certificate** in Library Management, concluded in June of 2018

**Emory and Henry (E&H) College:** Emory, VA

**BA** Literature with a Gender in Text minor, completed in May of 2017

- Honors Program, Dean's List for all eight semesters, Class President of Alpha Phi Omega community service fraternity, Vice President of Sigma Tau Delta literary fraternity, President of Peer Educators

### SKILLS

- Wordpress and HTML
- Editing
- Uncontracted Braille
- Teaching

### PUBLICATIONS AND FEATURES

#### Articles and Essays

- "Kidnapped Amazonians, Severed Breasts, and Witches: Renaissance Perceptions of the Destructive Nature of the Freakish Female in Spenser's *Bower of Bliss* and Shakespeare's *Two Noble Kinsmen*." *Digital Literature Review* (Ball State University), vol. 3, no. 1, 2016.
- "Cavemen and Musicals: Storytelling as a Tool for Emotional Healing." *The Alternative Wellbeing Sciences*, edited by Jacqueline Rose, Lovely Silks Publishing, 2017.  
→ The chapter considers race and gender in Todrick Hall's musical autobiography *Straight Outta Oz*.
- "Conversing with the Page: How Reading Can Make Us Better Speakers." *The Art of Communication*, edited by Jacqueline Rose, Lovely Silks Publishing, 2018.

#### Book Reviews

- "A Review of *Sarah Waters: Gender and Sexual Politics* by Claire O'Callaghan." *Frontiers Journal of Women's Studies*, April 26, 2019.
- "Book Review: *Better With Books* by Melissa Hart." Harrison Middleton University, [hmu.edu/blog](http://hmu.edu/blog), July 12, 2019.
- "Book Review: *The Stonewall Reader*." Harrison Middleton University, [hmu.edu/blog](http://hmu.edu/blog), August 9, 2019

### **Pending Publications**

- Accepted in 2018 and pending publication: Brooks, Laken. “Underlying Punishment: How Clothing Marketed as ‘Empowering’ Can Actually Police Women’s Gender Conformity.” *Voices de Queer Femmes Anthology, Vol. II*, edited and published by The Vigil Center for the Arts

### **Publications Under Consideration**

- “From Captivity Narratives to the Dothraki, The White Woman Colonist and Native Erasure” in a collection edited by Michelle N. Boyer, under consideration by McFarland
- Double book review on Alex Tankard’s *Tuberculosis and Disabled Identity in Nineteenth-Century Literature* and Manon Mathias’ and Alison M. Moore’s *Gut Feeling and Digestive Health in Nineteenth-Century Literature, History, and Culture*, under consideration by *Victiographies* journal.
- “The Pigments of Patriarchy and Femme Trans Exclusion in the History of the ‘All Natural’ Makeup Movement” in a collection edited by Clare Douglass Little
- Review of webseries *Brown Girls* in *Gender Forum* journal
- Women’s history encyclopedia entries: “Rural women in the war years,” “Irish motherhood, bodily autonomy, and Catholicism,” “Puritanism and idealized womanhood in colonial America,” “Women in World War II resistance,” and “Midwives in the 1900s United States.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of the Daily Life of Women: How They Lived from Ancient Times to the Present*, edited by Michael Tarver, ABC-CLIO Publishing, expected publication in 2019.

### **Opinion Editorials, Technical Pieces, and Features:**

- *Inside the Dark Room: Poetry on the Beautiful and Destructive Perceptions of Women*. Middle Island Press, 2015.
- *Jólabókaflóðið: a Yuletide literary tour of Iceland's capital city*: a chronicle of Iceland’s publishing industry, literary history, and minority literary representation at <http://www.wordbynature.org/not-competitive-publishing-culture/>, 2016.
- “The Beast of LGBTQ+ Representation: How Disney’s New *Beauty and the Beast* Movie Reinforces Old Stereotypes.” *Entropy Magazine*, 15 March, 2017.
- “The Impact of Gender/Sex on Experiences with Artificial Technology.” White paper written for Impact of Gender/Sex of Innovation of Novel Technologies (iGIANT), 7 August, 2018.
- Essays and travel guides written for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, including “Giovanni’s Room and the Fate of LGBT Bookstores in a Dying Industry,” “Recovering Queer History in Indianapolis,” and “Take a Cross-Country Tour of America’s LGBT Ranches, Farms, and Co-ops.”
- Essays written for Lambda Literary, including “Literary Cats, Queer Children’s Books, and More Archival News”
- “Public Humanities as a Model of Community Care.” Imagining America’s PAGE Blog Salon, 18 September, 2019.  
[https://medium.com/page-blog-salon-2019/public-humanities-as-a-model-of-community-care-54c95cd1c13c?source=collection\\_home---4-----2-----](https://medium.com/page-blog-salon-2019/public-humanities-as-a-model-of-community-care-54c95cd1c13c?source=collection_home---4-----2-----)

- “What Books Teach Us About Accessible Design: Assessing Book Design for Readers with Prosthetic Limbs.” *UX Collective*, 1 March, 2020.  
<https://uxdesign.cc/assessing-book-design-for-readers-with-prosthetic-limbs-222697face5b>

### **Thesis:**

While the historical papermaking process often caused health problems for workers, books continue to misrepresent disability. My thesis analyzes the trajectory of blind representation in children’s books over time and posits new design alternatives that actively include blind readers.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND RESIDENCIES**

- Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Poland, 2017-2018
- *Adios Barbie* writing fellow, 2018
- Young People For (People for the American Way) social justice fellowship, 2018 - 2019  
→ Sponsored travel to regional training in Atlanta and national conference in Oakland
- Scholar-in-Residence for iGIANT (Impact of Gender/Sex on Innovation and Novel Technology), 2018  
→ Arranged a roundtable discussion about gender, disability, and accessibility of university spaces at the University of Szczecin, May 2018  
→ Authored a white paper about the impact of AI on women’s user experience
- University of Florida Teaching and Research Assistantship, begun in 2018
- Harrison Middleton University Fellowship in Ideas, 2019  
→ Faculty workshops, honorarium, and registration for Great Books conference
- PAGE fellow with Imagining America, 2019-2020  
→ Sponsored travel to the Imagining America conference, publishing opportunity, mentorship
- Society for Scholarly Publishing mentee in editing and design tracks, 2019-2020
- Movement School fellow, in digital and technology track, 2020

### **AWARDS AND GRANTS**

- Bonner Scholar, E&H College, 2013 - 2017: nearly 2,000 community service hours and significant financial assistance
- Patrick Henry Scholarship, E&H College, 2013 - 2017
- Michael Blessi Reading Award from E&H College, 2014
- Reynolds Scholarship, 2016: Sponsored travel to Brazil to teach English in Lins and Birigui
- William A. Stuart Prize from the E&H College English Department, 2016
- Paul Adrian Powell Award for Best Supplemental Instruction at E&H College, 2016
- Virginia Collegiate Honors Council Student of the Year, 2016 (includes VA and WV): comped travel, conference/accommodation fees  
→ Nominated for National Collegiate Honors Council Student of the Year, 2016 - 2017
- Ampersand Grant from E&H College to research publication in Iceland, 2016

- Emory & Henry College Senior of the Year Award, 2017 - 2018
- Town Poet Laureate of Lansing, North Carolina, 2017
- Karen Kirchgasser Enrichment Fund through Fulbright, Poland, 2018
- Semifinalist for Point scholarship, the nation's premier LGBT merit scholarship, 2019
- University of Florida English Department Teaching Award, 2020  
→ Nominated for a university-wide award; however, because of school being moved online due to COVID-19 illness concerns, the university teaching award process was not completed

## TALKS

- TEDx Talk: "Poetry: A Simple Solution to Math Anxiety," March 9, 2017 at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGkfRN2i6vY>
- "Mean Girls: A Workshop on Internalized Misogyny in Literature and Leadership Circles," March 20, 2018 at Lyceum nb. 2 in Szczecin, Poland
- "Asserting Our Voices: A Publishing Workshop" at the YP4 National Summit, February 18, 2019 in Oakland, California
- "Reading Sideways: Multimodal Text for 21st-Century Learners" at the University of Florida's Center for Teaching Excellence, in-person workshop on February 5, 2020, and Zoom workshop on February 24, 2020
- "Embracing the Mess in Digital Making" at the University of Florida in ENC 1136 Multimodal Writing/Digital Literacy course, March 9, 2020 in Gainesville, Florida

## EDUCATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE AND CERTIFICATIONS

- Supplemental Instructor in religion studies at E&H College, 2014 - 2016
- Supplemental Instructor in *Pride and Prejudice* course at E&H College, fall of 2016
- Virginia state Secondary English teaching certificate, earned in 2017  
Student teaching at Patrick Henry High School in Emory, Virginia and John Battle Middle School in Bristol, Virginia
- Summer Duke TIP residential counselor and Academic Program Assistant, 2016 - 2017
- Fulbright English Teaching Assistant for University of Szczecin, 2017 - 2018:  
English: The Language of Science, Math, and Technology, 2nd Year BA  
English Literature, 2nd Year Extramural BA, featuring gender  
Integrated English Skills, 1st Year MA  
English Writing Skills, 2nd Year BA
- University of MichiganX Professional Certificate in Library Management through Edx.org consisting of eight courses, 2018
- University of Florida Teaching Assistant, 2018 - current:  
ENC 1101: Expository and Argumentative Writing, fall 2018 and fall 2019  
ENC 1102: Writing in the Disciplines (Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences), spring 2019  
ENC 3246: Professional Communication for Engineers, fall 2018 and spring 2019  
ENC 1145: Lovestruck: Composition in Sequential Love Narratives, fall 2019  
LIT 2000: English Literature, spring 2020
- University of Florida's Passport to Great Teaching professionalization certificate, 2020

## TRADE EXPERIENCE

- Marketing intern with Pulse Publishing, summer of 2016
- Editor-in-Chief of E&H College's *Ampersand* Literary Journal, 2016 - 2017
- Volunteer with *Sinister Wisdom* and the Lesbian Poetry Archive, 2017 - 2018
- Editing volunteer with Open Book Publishers, September of 2018 - current
- Transcribing volunteer with ONE National Gay & Lesbian Archives at the University of South California, September of 2018 - November of 2018
- Editorial internship with Lambda Literary, January 2019 - May 2019
- Mentor with Association for Media Professionals, January 2019 - April of 2019
- LGBTQ+ Editing intern with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, June 2019 - July 2019
  - Spent the summer researching gaps in the organization's LGBT and disability coverage, suggesting new content ideas, and writing detailed best practices guides for the marketing division.
- Freelance copy and line editor with Georgia McBride Media Group, May 2019 - current
- Guest writer and editor with Lambda Literary, June 2019 - current
- Collaborator with the National Park Service Telling All Americans' Stories feature, August 2019 - current
- Assistant Book Review Editor with ImageText Interdisciplinary Comics Journal, August 2019 - May 2020
- Graduate intern with the University of Florida's Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, spring 2020
- National Endowment for the Arts intern in the research and publications department, June 2020 - July 2020

## PERTINENT CONFERENCES

- "Gender Conformity and Early Spoken Vocabulary Use in Children"
  - Blue Ridge Undergraduate Research Conference at King University, VA, 2015
  - National Collegiate Honors Council in Chicago, 2015
- "Those Who Consume and Those Who Are Consumed: an Analysis of Food and the Hierarchy of Imperialism, the Sexual Psyche, and Gender within Bram Stoker's *Dracula*"
  - College English Association Conference in Denver, 2015
- "Shakespeare's Patriarchal Women: Internalized Misogyny in Shakespeare's Plays"
  - Virginia Collegiate Honors Council at Lynchburg College, VA, 2016
  - National Collegiate Honors Council in Seattle, 2016
- Great Books Conference in Chicago, 2019
- "Supernatural Spouses: The Changing Face of Heteronormativity and the Divine in Erotica"
  - The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, 2019
- "Breaking the Bro-Code: Confronting Gender Code-Switching in the Classroom"
  - University of Florida's Pedagogy, Practice, and Philosophy Conference in Gainesville, 2019
- "Designing Sideways: Interactive Book Design for Disability"
  - Imagining America annual meeting in Albuquerque, 2019
- "Buy-In and Digital Writing: How to Compose a Communal, Multimodal Textbook"

University of Florida's Pedagogy, Practice, and Philosophy Conference in Gainesville, 2020

- "Posthuman Tomboys: Disability and Gender Expression in Speculative Fiction and Comics"  
The International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts in Orlando, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Holistic Storytelling: Reimagining Virtual Reality for Accessible User Experience at Historic Sites and Museums"  
Museums Challenge Symposium in Gainesville, 2020
- "Community Composition: Building a Multimodal Comic"  
Graduate Comics Organization Conference at the University of Florida in Gainesville, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Multimodal Methods as Accessible Assessment"  
Assessment Conference at the University of Florida in Gainesville, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Engaging Book Design for Disability and Environmental Justice"  
Children's Literature Association in Seattle, 2020  
→ Unable to attend due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Audio Soundscapes and Adapting Picture Book Illustrations in the Digital Sphere"  
Electronic Literature Organization in Orlando, 2020  
→ Unable to attend due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "User Experience with Sound-Adapted Picture Books"  
Florida Digital Humanities Consortium, St. Augustine, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Girls Code and Knitting Binary: Reclaiming Digital Composition as Communal Expression"  
Marxist Reading Group Conference in Gainesville, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns
- "Woolf in the Technosphere: How 21st-Century Women Adapt Woolf in Online Spaces"  
Between the Waves: British Women Writers 1930-1960 Redux in Hull, 2020  
→ Canceled due to COVID-19 illness concerns

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

- Moderating a panel presentation on advising problems in honors education at the National Collegiate Honors Council in Seattle, 2016
- EducationUSA mentor for a Polish student applying to U.S. colleges through Fulbright and the Polish Embassy, 2018
- University of Florida's Graduate Student Union dues-paying member, 2018 - current
- Associate transfer member of Tau Chapter Alpha Phi Omega national community service fraternity, 2018 - current
- Member of the English Graduate Organization, 2018 - current
- Moderating a panel at the University of Florida's Pedagogy, Practice, and Philosophy Conference in Gainesville, 2019

