

Eric Lorentzen

Associate Professor at University of Mary Washington

Fredericksburg, VA, US

Dr. Lorentzen is an expert on Charles Dickens and 19th-century British literature.

Biography

Few scholars know Charles Dickens better than Associate Professor of English Eric G. Lorentzen. In teaching 19th-century British literature, he maintains that Dickens' works still have a powerful lesson today.

"In 'Great Expectations,' Dickens questions the construction of gender identity, forcing us toward a revision of how we define masculinity, and what it takes to be a gentleman in a society that perpetuates male violence, possessiveness, and control as its distinguishing features," Dr. Lorentzen wrote in an op-ed in tribute to Dickens' 200th birthday. "In the same novel, and elsewhere in 'Oliver Twist' and 'Bleak House,' he cogently explores the pathology of domestic abuse, and the societal forces that enable violence against women."

Dr. Lorentzen has published articles in numerous professional journals, including Dickens Studies Annual, The Review of Education, Pedagogy and Cultural Studies, Victorian Newsletter, and The Virginia Woolf Miscellany. He has presented scholarly papers at more than two dozen national and international conferences.

His current research explores the rise of mass literacy in 19th century England and the ways in which pedagogical institutions often marginalized, rather than empowered, at-risk readers such as women, the working classes, and colonial subjects.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Print Media, Research, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

English Literature, Literacy and Education, Victorian Literature, British Literature Since 1800, University Teaching, Pedagogy, Novel/Fiction (British)

Event Appearances

Is Teaching Sherlock Holmes as an Undergraduate Literature Course Too 'Elementary?'

Northeastern Modern Language Association

'The Narrative of the Tombstone': Teaching English 251S — British Victorian Detective and Sensation Novel

Victorians Institute conference

The Victorian Psychological Novel and Memory: Wordsworthian Echoes, Freudian Anticipations
Northeastern Modern Language Association Conference

Teaching Dickens and Cultural Studies in the 21st Century
Culturing the Popular II

Education

Pennsylvania State University
Ph.D. English Literature

Pennsylvania State University
M.A. English Literature

Rowan University
B.A. English Literature

Rowan University
B.A. Communications

Accomplishments

Graduate Assistant Teaching Award, English

Awarded by Pennsylvania State University to recognize graduate student teaching assistants for superior instruction in the areas of physical science and engineering, life sciences, social and behavioral sciences, and the arts and humanities.

Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award

The Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award recognizes graduate assistants for outstanding teaching performance. This award is jointly sponsored by the Pennsylvania State University Graduate School, through the Harold F. Martin Graduate Assistant Outstanding Teaching Award endowment, and the Office of the Vice President and Dean for Undergraduate Education.

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