

James T. Williamson  
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Birth: June 7, 1959

Current teaching

University of Vermont, Lecturer: Fall 1990-present

- Eng. 40: Science Fiction and Fantasy ; Eng. 40: Tolkien's Middle-earth; Eng. 40: Nature and Origins of Fairy Tales; Eng. 40: Evolution of Modern Fantasy; Eng. 30: Native North American Oral Traditions; Eng. 57: Race and Ethnicity (American Indian Lit.); Eng. 50: Expository Writing; English 23/24: American Literature; English 25/26: World Lit.; Eng. 1: Written Expression; Eng. 167/168: African American Lit.; English 95/96: American Indian Lit. and King Arthur; English 005 (TAP): King Arthur.
- I planned and taught six sections of English 1: Written Expression as a Graduate Teaching Fellow 1988-1990.
- I served on the English Department's International Committee from 1997-2002, organizing visits and lectures by scholars from different parts of the world; and panel discussions on subjects such as teaching abroad.
- I have served as advisor in tandem with TAP seminars, Fall 2011, 2012, 2013, & 2019.
- I have written numerous Letters of Recommendation for former students.
- I have frequently been reader for Honors theses, senior projects, and am presently reader for an MA theses by Claire Theoret.
- I have served on the English Department's Personnel Committee.
- I serve as advisor for Living and Learning's Science Fiction Program 2013-present.
- I serve as faculty advisor for the UVM Quidditch team.
- I have served (2009-10), and am serving presently (2016-), on the English Department's Curriculum Committee.

Other

Burlington College, Instructor 1983-2005

Mentor, Independent Degree Program 1994-2007.

- I designed, planned, and taught courses nearly every semester 1983-1996, and 2000-5 in the campus program, including Intro., Expository and Creative Writing; World Literature; American Indian Lit.; African American Lit.; King Arthur; William Blake; and numerous others.
- I taught through the Independent Degree Program from 1993 to 2007, and served as mentor (advising, designing degree plans, etc.) from 1994 to 2007.
- I have advised numerous independent studies.
- Faculty representative on the Curriculum Committee 1991-1993.

## Education

M.A. University of VT, 1990. English Literature.

- G.P.A.: 4.0
- Thesis: “The Fourfold Myth of Death and Rebirth in George MacDonald’s Phantastes.”

B.A. Connecticut College, 1981. English Literature.

- Dean’s List five of eight semesters

## Publications

- Preface to Idols With Tears, by Sierra Leonan author Michael Kallon (2005)
- My essay “Emblematic Bodies” appears in *The Body in Tolkien’s Legendarium*, edited by Chris Vaccaro, published by McFarland August 2013.
- My book *The Evolution of Modern Fantasy: From Antiquarianism to the Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series*, was published by Palgrave in July 2015.
- My essay “The Fourfold Myth of Death and Rebirth in George MacDonald’s *Phantastes*,” was published in *North Wind No. 33 (2014)*, a scholarly journal dedicated to the work of George MacDonald, and appeared in May 2015.
- Blogpost: “Kenneth Morris/Cenydd Morus” on *Literature Wales* website (solicited).
- Three short creative pieces, “W.Hears a Whine,” “W. Encounters a Splice,” and “W.’s Adventures in Robustania” in *05401PLUS* 2016-18.

## Awards

- My Book *The Evolution of Fantasy* won the Mythopoeic Society’s Best Scholarly Work in Myth and Fantasy for 2016.

## Papers Presented at Conferences and Lectures

- Tolkien: Fantastist and Medievalist symposium, Burlington VT:
  - March 2004: “Narrative Unfixed: Tradition and the Mutability of Narrative in Tolkien’s Middle Earth”
- UVM Tolkien Conference:
  - March 2005: “Emblematic Bodies: Female Physical Presence in Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings*”
  - March 2006: “Tolkien and the Eighteenth Century”
  - April 2007: “The Double Identity of Eowyn”
  - April 2008: “Tales Twice and Thrice Told”
  - April 2009: “The Body in Tolkien and William Morris”
  - April 2012: “Tolkien and his Predecessors”
  - April 2013: “Anachronism in *Farmer Giles of Ham*”
  - April 2015: “From Verse to Prose”
  - April 2016: “Tolkien and the Creation of the Fantasy Genre in Popular Publishing”

- April 2017: “The Old Irish and Arthurian Love Triangle in Tolkien’s Work”
- April 2018: “Tolkien and the Evolution of Modern Translation Practices”
- April 2019: “Tolkien, Fantasy, and the Gothic Revival”
- Mythcon: Conference of the Mythopoeic Society:
  - August 2019: “Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* and William Morris’s *Well at the World’s End*”
- 75 Years of Science Fiction Conference: Burlington VT:
  - April 2013: “Science Fiction Publishing and the Creation of the Fantasy Genre”
- Science Fiction Program: Living and Learning: Burlington VT.
  - November 2011: “The Construction of the Fantasy Genre”
  - April 2012: “Fantasy and Horror”
- Medieval Forum, Plymouth NH:
  - April 1990: “The Principle of Revision in Piers Plowman”
  - April 1991: “Patience and the Categories of Medieval Biblical Exegesis”
  - April 1993: “The Decline of Virgil and the Unwriting of Dante’s Commedia”
- International Association for the Fantastic and the Arts, Dania FL
  - March 1990: “George MacDonald and Medieval Allegorical Dream Lit.”

#### Related Work

- Two novels are in process; one, *The Booke of W.*, is complete in draft/word-processed form and being revised.
- I was involved in the organization of all of the above noted UVM Tolkien conferences through 2013; I continue as sometime moderator and practical aide.
- Contributing editor, Rapid Fire Magazine 1992-4
- My songwriting is available on audio cassette and CDs, which have received numerous favorable local reviews and a fair amount of local airplay.