



Irena Yamboliev

Advanced Lecturer
Writing and Rhetoric Studies

Bio

BIO

I work on ornament and forms—literary but also visual—and focus especially on writers’ metaphors for inter-arts relations, their syntactic encodings of color and texture, and the balances of stylistic elaboration and emplotment they negotiate. My work includes studying the adjective as a compositional unit, and I am developing methods to quantify the “visual” in literature, and to record and describe readers’ subjective experiences of interactions between a text and visual art.

My book manuscript, *Ornamental Form in the Victorian Novel*, reads writers’ experiments in using decorative arts as formal models for their prose styles, in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In converting visual patterns into idiosyncratic syntaxes, I argue, novelists revolted against the “realistic” prioritizing of morally coherent plot and personalized character, favoring stylistic embellishments that were specially mimetic: embellishments that capture the “microplots” (Garrett Stewart’s term) of moment-to-moment perception being rendered in language.

I also work on how literary texts help us think of environmental relations, in their similarities and their differences from human relationships. I am the curator of the Colloquy “Queer Environmentalities,” hosted through the Arcade salon. My short work *Looking Was Not Enough*, a critical companion to Jeffrey Eugenides’s *Middlesex*, is forthcoming from *Fiction Advocate*.

At Stanford, I teach writing and literature. I have designed courses that focus on language’s power in shaping figures in our culture (the scientist, the detective), genres (travel writing, the coming-of-age story), metaphors for investigation (detection), and topics that are our most intimate, yet also thoroughly public, such as love and gender.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, Writing and Rhetoric Studies

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Co-coordinator of the Working Group on the Novel, Center for the Study of the Novel, Stanford University (2010 - 2012)

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- PhD, Stanford University , English January (2015)
- BA, University of Nevada, Reno , English (2006)
- BS, University of Nevada, Reno , Biology (2006)

SERVICE, VOLUNTEER, AND COMMUNITY WORK

- Events and Activities Committee, Program in Writing and Rhetoric (8/2015 - 6/2016)
- Team-teaching at the Dickens Universe (August 2012)

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

Visual and literary culture of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Britain

Decoration, its history and rhetoric

Color theory across disciplines (optics, chemistry, art, literature, music)

Aesthetics

Queer theory

Ecocriticism

Digital humanities and data-driven literary criticism

The history of science

Literary Decadence

PROJECTS

- Ornamental Form in the Victorian Novel
- Looking Was Not Enough: Jeffrey Eugenides's Middlesex
- Queer Environmentalities: A Colloquy
- The Colors of the Novel - Stanford University

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Oceans of Rhetoric: PWR 1IYB (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Many Faces of Sherlock: Race, Gender, Power, and the Rhetoric of the Detective: PWR 2IY (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Rhetorics of Travel and Tourism: PWR 1IY (Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Writing & Rhetoric 1: Oceans of Rhetoric: PWR 1IYB (Win)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Many Faces of Sherlock: Race, Gender, Power, and the Rhetoric of the Detective: PWR 2IY (Aut)

2022-23

- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Many Faces of Sherlock: Race, Gender, Power, and the Rhetoric of the Detective: PWR 2IY (Aut, Win, Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Far from the Madding Crowd at 150: Seven Reflections** *DICKENS STUDIES ANNUAL*
Guiliano, E., Henchman, A., Hennessy Jr, M. M., Jackson, J., Jenkins, M., Kim, J. E., Lorentzen, E. G., Yamboliev, I.
2024; 55 (2)

- **Passionate Pleasure and Fearful Mastery: Michael Field's Sapphos and Da Vincis** *Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature*
Yamboliev, I.
2023; 144: 186-204
- **The Light Is Different There: Stained Glass in Taos and Beyond** *D.H. Lawrence Studies (Korea), DH ### ##*
Yamboliev, I. I.
2023; 31 (2): 131-156
- **Vernon Lee's Novel Construction** *NINETEENTH-CENTURY LITERATURE*
Yamboliev, I.
2020; 75 (3): 346-371
- **Christopher Dresser, Physiological Ornamentist** *BRANCH: Britain, Representation and Nineteenth-Century History. Ed. Dino Franco Felluga. Extension of Romanticism and Victorianism on the Net.*
Yamboliev, I.
2020
- **D.H. Lawrence's Stained-Glass Prose** *Twentieth Century Literature*
Yamboliev, I. I.
2019; 65 (3)
- **Late Victorian into Modern (Book Review)** *JOURNAL OF VICTORIAN CULTURE*
Book Review Authored by: Yamboliev, I.
2018; 23 (4): 570–73
- **Food in the Novels of Thomas Hardy: Production and Consumption (Book Review)** *VICTORIAN STUDIES*
Book Review Authored by: Yamboliev, I.
2018; 60 (3): 472–74
- **The Outward Mind: Materialist Aesthetics in Victorian Science and Literature (Book Review)** *NINETEENTH-CENTURY CONTEXTS-AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL*
Book Review Authored by: Yamboliev, I.
2018; 40 (2): 203–5
- **A.C. Swinburne's Sea-Prose and the Anti-Novel** *Victorian Literature and Culture*
Yamboliev, I.
2016
- **Review of Gerald Stern's Stealing History (2012)** *Mantis: A Journal of Poetry, Criticism & Translation*
Yamboliev, I.
2013; 11: 149-51
- **Style at the Scale of the Sentence** *n + 1*
Allison, S., Gemma, M., Heuser, R., Moretti, F., Tevel, A., Yamboliev, I.
2013: 109-68