Stanford



Rebecca Richardson

Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Bio

BIO

Rebecca (Becky) Richardson is an Advanced Lecturer in PWR. She attended Mount Holyoke College and holds a Ph.D. in English from Stanford University. Her research interests include the rhetoric of inspiration and self-help, nineteenth-century literature, the history of economics, environmental studies, and the medical humanities; these interests coalesce in Material Ambitions: Self-Help and Victorian Literature (JHUP, 2021). In her PWR1 course, "In Another's Shoes: The Rhetoric of Empathy," she is especially interested in encouraging students to think about the relationship between writing, expression, empathy, and identity. Her PWR2 course, "Re-Make It Anew: The Rhetoric of Adapting, Rebooting, and Remaking," is inspired by her interest in adaptations of 19th-century literature and critical approaches including "strategic presentism" that trace the work stories do across times and cultures.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Advanced Lecturer, Program in Writing and Rhetoric

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

SPECIALIZATION: The Rhetoric of Inspiration and Self-Help; Nineteenth-Century Literature; Environmental Studies; History of Political Economy; The Medical Humanities; Expressive Writing and Self-Reflection

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18 (Aut)
- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18A (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Re-Make It Anew: The Rhetoric of Adapting, Rebooting, and Remaking: PWR 2BRC (Win, Spr)

2025-26

- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18 (Aut)
- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18A (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Re-Make It Anew: The Rhetoric of Adapting, Rebooting, and Remaking: PWR 2BRC (Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Exploration: ESF 22A (Aut)
- Confronting the Diversity of Life: The Emergence of Evolution from Tropical Exploration: ESF 22 (Aut)
- Leland Scholars Program: Introduction to Collaborative Research at Stanford: UAR 43 (Aut)
- Topics in Writing & Rhetoric: Patient-Centered Stories, Research, and Advocacy: PWR 194BR (Win)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Re-Make It Anew: The Rhetoric of Adapting, Rebooting, and Remaking: PWR 2BRC (Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18 (Aut)
- Between Gods and Beasts: The Struggle for Humanity: ESF 18A (Aut)
- Leland Scholars Program: Introduction to Collaborative Research at Stanford: UAR 43 (Aut)
- Writing & Rhetoric 2: Re-Make It Anew: The Rhetoric of Adapting, Rebooting, and Remaking: PWR 2BRC (Win, Spr)

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein: Birth Without the Gendered Body**
  Richardson, R.
  New Ohio Review.
  2023
- **Ambition, monomania and the seeds of self-help** *PSYCHOLOGIST*
  Richardson, R.
  2022; 35: 68-72
- **Material Ambitions: Self-Help and Victorian Literature**
  Richardson, R.
  Johns Hopkins University Press.2021
- **Becky Sharp, Gender, and Likability: Adapting Thackeray's Vanity Fair after 2016 and #MeToo** *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*
  Richardson, R.
  2020; 16 (2)
- **Imagining Environmental and Economic Systems in Harriet Martineau's Illustrations of Political Economy** *Nineteenth-Century Prose*
  Richardson, R.
  2020; 47 (2)
- **The Environmental Uncanny: Imagining the Anthropocene in Mary Shelley's The Last Man** *ISLE-INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN LITERATURE AND ENVIRONMENT*
  Richardson, R.
  2019; 26 (4): 1062-1083
- **"Sent Here For Her Health": Accounting for Sanditon's Economies** *STUDIES IN ROMANTICISM*
  Richardson, R.
  2017; 56 (2): 203-222
- **DRAMATIZING INTIMACY: CONFESSIONS AND FREE INDIRECT DISCOURSE IN SENSE AND SENSIBILITY** *ELH*
  Richardson, R.
  2014; 81 (1): 225-244
- **Bradley Headstone's Bad Example of Self-Help: Dickens and the Problem with Ambition** *Dickens Studies Annual*
  Richardson, R.
  2013; 44
- **A Competitive World: Ambition and Self-Help in Trollope's An Autobiography and The Three Clerks**
  Richardson, R.

The Fortnightly Review.
2012