Stanford



Blakey Vermeule

Senior Associate Dean for Humanities and Arts and Albert Guérard Professor of Literature

English

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

Blakey Vermeule's research interests are neuroaesthetics, cognitive and evolutionary approaches to art, philosophy and literature, British literature from 1660-1820, post-Colonial fiction, satire, and the history of the novel. She is the author of The Party of Humanity: Writing Moral Psychology in Eighteenth-Century Britain (2000) and Why Do We Care About Literary Characters? (2009), both from The Johns Hopkins University Press. She is writing a book about what mind science has discovered about the unconscious.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, English

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Vice Chair of English Department, Stanford University, (2012-2012)
- Co-Chair of Ph.D. Job Placement, English Department, Stanford University, (2012-2012)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- CO-editor on a series on Cognitive Studies in Literature and Performance, Palgrave-Macmillan Publishing
- Member, Faculty College English Department Team, Stanford University
- Member, Renaissance Search Committee in the English department, Stanford University
- Co-Chair, Job placement for the English department, Stanford University
- Member, Assistant Professor reappointment committee, English department, Stanford University
- Pre-Major Advisor, Stanford University
- Member, Reappointment Committee of Claire Jarvis, Stanford University

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Modern Thought and Literature
- Philosophy and Literature

Teaching

COURSES

2026-27

- Navigating the Humanities and Social Sciences at Stanford: HUMSCI 1 (Aut)

- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Spr)

2025-26

- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Dangerous Ideas: HUMSCI 2 (Spr)
- Navigating the Humanities and Social Sciences at Stanford: HUMSCI 1 (Aut)
- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

2024-25

- Cape Town as Archive: A Material and Ecological History of the Present: OSPCPTWN 72 (Aut)
- Citizenship in the 21st Century: COLLEGE 102 (Win)
- Orals, Publication and Dissertation Workshop: ENGLISH 398W (Win, Spr)
- Qualifying Exam Workshop: ENGLISH 398Q (Sum)
- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Chaucer's Canterbury Tales: ENGLISH 175 (Win)
- Enlightenment and its Shadows: British Literature of the long Eighteenth Century: ENGLISH 322 (Win)
- Introduction to Graduate Study for Ph.D. Students: ENGLISH 396 (Aut)
- Why College? Your Education and the Good Life: COLLEGE 101 (Aut)
- Workshop in Philosophy and Literature: DLCL 222 (Aut, Win, Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Alexia Ainsworth

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **David Foster Wallace and Suffering** *Gesturing Towards Reality: David Foster Wallace and Philosophy*
  Vermeule, B.
  edited by Bolger, R. K., Korb, S.
  Continuum Press.2014
- **The New Unconscious: A Literary Guided Tour** *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Literary Studies*
  Vermeule, B.
  edited by Lee, J. D., Kirk, A.
  2013
- **The Unreasonable: A Response to Michael Clune's Writing Against Time** *Nonsite.org*
  Vermeule, B.
  2013
- **Wit and Poetry and Pope, or The Handicap Principle** *CRITICAL INQUIRY*
  Vermeule, B.
  2012; 38 (2): 426-430
- **A Comeuppance Theory of Narrative and Emotions** *POETICS TODAY*
  Vermeule, B.
  2011; 32 (2): 235-253