

Melanie J. Fishbane, B.A., M.A., M.F.A.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- *Maud, A Novel Inspired by the Life of L.M. Montgomery* Penguin Teen: Penguin Random House of Canada, 2017.
- Editorial board for the *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*
- Board of Directors, Sexuality Studies Association: Communications Co-ordinator, 2023-2024
- ACCUTE/MLA Representative Graduate English Association, 2023-2024
- Designed and develop course outline and curriculum for George Brown College's GHUM 1017 Children's Literature
- Publishing marketing/promotions expert with more than 17 years' experience in the book retailing industry.
- Juror and developed the criteria for Monica Hughes Science Fiction and Fantasy Award, Canadian Children's Book Centre.
- Juror for Elizabeth Mrazik-Cleaver Picture Book Award, International Board for Young People (IBBY), and the Ruth and Sylvia Schwartz Children's Book Award.
- Juror for the Vine Award for the Best in Canadian Jewish Literature, 2019

WRITING AWARDS, GRANTS, AND ACCOLADES

- Winner! The Thomas Waugh Emerging Scholar Award, Sexuality Studies Association, 2023 .
- Ontario Arts Council Grant, 2018
- South Dakota Humanities Council Grant, 2020
- *Maud: A Novel Inspired by the Life of L.M. Montgomery* shortlisted for a Vine Award for the Best in Canadian Jewish Literature.
- Winner! Hamilton Public Library's Next Top Novel - 2018
- Selected by the Forest of Reading 2018 Teen Summer Reading Committee!
- Featured on *Book Riot's* 50 Must-Read Canadian Children's and YA Books!
- *Listed on Toronto Public Library's Top 100 Great Reads for Youth 2018!*
- *A Huffington Post Canada* Selection: "Great Books for Kids in Summer 2017."
- Selected by the *Forest of Reading Kid Committee Summer Reading List*

EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in English University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario Chair's Entrance Scholarship	2022
M.F.A. Writing for Children and Young Adults Vermont College of Fine Arts Merit Scholarship	2013
M.A., History Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec <i>Thesis Topic: Spiritual Woman Warrior: The Construction of Joan of Arc in Contemporary Children's Literature</i>	2003

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B.A., Double Honours: English and History
York University, Toronto, Ontario

1992-1997

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Professor of English, Seneca College

September 2019 to Present

- Developing synchronistic and asynchronistic addendums, learning materials, and assignments for a COM101: Communicating Across Contexts and EAC273 Children's Literature
- Employing up-to-date smart classroom strategies.

Professor of English, George Brown College

September 2014, 2018 to Present

- Designed and developed course outline and curriculum for GHUM 1017 Children's Literature.
- Developing lesson plans, incorporating multimodal pedagogical strategies to:
 - Online: Children's Literature GHUM 1017
 - College English: COMM 1003
 - Business Communications: COMM 1047
 - College English: COMM 1007

Professor of English, Humber College

September 2014 to April 2022

- Incorporating a variety of multimodal and smart classroom strategies in English and General Arts and Science classes, which include the following: College Reading and Writing Skills: WRIT 100; Professional Writing Skills: WRIT 200; Modern Literature: GLIT 200; Writing in the Digital Age 1 Foundation: PWRT 5002
- Designed and developed course outline and curriculum for Writing for the Digital Age: Foundation course, part of the Professional Writing and Communications Graduate Certificate.
- Member of the EDI committee for Humber's Faculty of Arts and Innovative Learning Department, developing Principles for EDI, consulting on incorporating pedagogical considerations, and developing materials.

Manager of Digital Marketing, L.M. Montgomery Institute

April 2015 to March 2021

- Managed student hire to run LMMI's social media account, create digital assets, and new content for the website.
- Mentored the Avery Award winning student on social media best practices for the University of Prince Edward Island, such as Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.
- Assisted in LMMI's social media initiatives including promoting the L.M. Montgomery and Reading Conference.
- Organized opportunities to engaging with writers and scholars, such as the Q&A with Liz Rosenberg and Julie Morstad, the author and illustrator of *House of Dreams: The Life of L.M. Montgomery*.
- Strategized and implemented digital marketing strategies for key initiatives, such as the launch Kindred Spaces, the promotion of three biennial conferences, and the launch of the *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*.
- Daily monitoring and posting of LMMI's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

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- Provided monthly social media analysis to the L.M. Montgomery Institute's Committee Members.
- Active member of the L.M. Montgomery Institute Committee (2014-2021).
- Managed, wrote copy, and coordinated the redesign of www.lmmontgomery.ca in 2016.

Graduate Assistant, Vermont College of Fine Arts

July 2013

- During the residency for VCFA's Writing for Children and Young Adult Program.
- Worked with the other GAs to facilitate the general orientation for first semester students.
- Organized the recording of all graduate and faculty lectures.
- Manuscript critiques for first semester students.
- Assisted VCFA faculty and administration as required.

Online Editor and Merchandising Kids & Teens, Indigo Books and Music Inc.

2006 - 2014

- Manager of key revenue-generating portfolio for chapters.indigo.ca, including Home pages for Kids and Teens.
- Social media relationship management of authors and publishers using Twitter, Facebook and other digital mediums.
- Writer and editor on current events and book trends relating to children's and teen books on the Indigo Blog, as well as the Editor for the Indigo Corporate Blog and Digital Magazine.
- Copywriter and editor (marketing) of Marketing and Merchandising digital and print materials including Emails, banners, and other online assets.

Inventory Analyst, Kids, Chapters and Coles

1998 - 2006

- Worked with a team of Category Managers, Category Directors and Inventory Analysts to strategize improvements to the current inventory and structure of the departments.
- Maintained and analyzed forecast and replenishment parameters for articles in Teen and Young Readers departments.
- Organized and implemented new merchandising initiatives that increased the store's overall profitability.
- Completed and helped to maintain basic operational standards including lost prevention, customer service techniques, and basic cash procedures.
- Hired, evaluated and trained staff in bookselling, receiving and returns procedures as per Indigo standards.

WRITING AND RESEARCH CREDITS

- Co-authored with Jones, Caroline, E. "Discovering Grace: Research Challenges in Finding the Lost Ingalls Sister." *South Dakota History*, Winter 2024.
- Exhibit: "Fighting the 'Peculiar Institution': Genres of Abolitionist Writing in the Transatlantic World." *D.B. Weldon Library*, Western University, co-organized with Abby Coutinho, Colleen Foster, and Dr. Alyssa MacLean, August to October 2023 and WORDS Festival, November 2023.
- "Pfeiffer, Julie. Transforming Girls: The Work of Nineteenth-Century Adolescence." *Women's Studies*, vol. 52, no. 5, 2023, pp. 601-602.
- Revised and Resubmitted: "'More like Americans': The Queering of Historical Fiction Girls' Series in Sydney Taylor's *All-of-a-Kind-Family* Series." *Beyond Nancy Drew: U.S. Girls' Series Fiction in the Mid-Twentieth Century, 1920-1970*, edited by LuElla D'Amico and Emily Hamilton-Honey, Lexington Books, TBD.

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- Revised and Resubmitted: "Under the Menorah: Hallmark's Honorary Hanukkah Movies." *Under the Mistletoe: Essays on Holiday Romance*, edited by Liz W. Faber, McFarland & Company Inc., TBD.
- Co-authored with Reese, Ashley. "Babies Raising Babies: Subverting the Role of Motherhood Through Philanthropy in Louisa May Alcott's *Rose in Bloom* and L.M. Montgomery's *Rilla of Ingleside*." *Expanding the Canon: Essays on the Secondary Works of Louisa May Alcott*, edited by Lauren Hehmeyer, Palgrave Macmillan, TBD.
- Revised and Submitted: "The Best-Looking Boy in P.E.I.": Gilbert Blythe and the Perfect Man Archetype." *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*, TBD.
- Revised and Submitted: "'Perfect Delineations of Woman': Exploring Grace Aguilar's Jewish Girlhood and Transatlantic Sunday School Movement." *Between Worlds: Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic Women Writers and Religious Identity*, edited by LuElla D'Amico and Lindsay Katzir, TBD.
- Peer Review: "Literary Apprenticeship: L.M. Montgomery's Non-Fiction Juvenilia (1889 – 1892)," *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*.
- "Two Annes, Many Annes: A Writer's Reflection on Reading *Anne of Green Gables* and the *Diary of a Young Girl*." Special Issue: L.M. Montgomery and Reading, *Journal of L.M. Montgomery Studies*, 2021
- Laura's "Farmer Boy": The Fictionalization of Almanzo Wilder in the *Little House* Series." *Reconsidering Laura Ingalls Wilder: Little House and Beyond*. University Press of Mississippi, 2019.
- *Maud: A Novel Inspired by the Life of L.M. Montgomery*, Penguin Teen, Penguin Random House of Canada, 2017.
- 2011 to Present: Book reviews for *Quill & Quire* and *Canadian Children's Book Centre Magazine*.
- "Maud Author Melanie Fishbane on the Various TV and Movie Adaptations of *Anne of Green Gables*." *Quill and Quire*, November 30, 2016.
- "New *Anne of Green Gables* TV Movie Highlights Female Relationships," *Cinefilles*, February 13, 2016.
- "When Stars Align: A L.M. Montgomery fan on the set of *Anne of Green Gables*," *Cinefilles*, February 15, 2016.
- "Almanzo Wilder: A 'Very Special' Perfect Young Man," *LittleHouseonthePrairie.com*, December 1, 2015.
- "'My pen shall heal, not hurt': Writing as Therapy in L.M. Montgomery's *Rilla of Ingleside* and *The Blythes Are Quoted*," in *L.M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years, 1911-1942*. Toronto: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2015.
- "In Conversation: Sarah Henstra." *Humber Literary Review*, May 16, 2015.
- "Jonathan Crombie, Gilbert Blythe, and the Perfect Man Archetype." *Quill & Quire*, April 23, 2015
- "A Seriously Funny Author Roundtable." *Canadian Children's Book News*. Winter 2013, Vol. 36 Issue 1. February 2013.
- "Creating a Fairy Tale from History: An Analysis of the Influence of Merlin's Prophecy of the Early Years of Joan of Arc in Children's Biographies." *Proceedings of the Seventh Annual History in the Making Conference: History and Media*, March 17, 2001.
- "Introduction" to *History in the Making V: History in the Millennium from Antiquity to Modernity* (co-written and with Delores LePratt-Houseman), 1999.

LECTURE CREDITS

- "Going West": Paternal Politics and the Mythology of the Constructed West in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* Series. CAAS 2023: WEST BY NORTHEAST, 22-24 September 2023.

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- Winner of The Thomas Waugh Emerging Scholar Award: “The Book of Joanna: Re-Imagining Gender and Belief in Joanna Russ’s *The Female Man*.” In Panel: Re-Imaginations: Creating Queer Futures. Congress 2023 of the Humanities and Social Sciences: Reckoning and Re-Imaginations: Sexuality Studies Association, York University, Toronto, ON, 29-31 May 2023.
- June 2022: “‘Nostalgic Reminiscences’: L.M. Montgomery’s Re-Visioning in Her Life Writing,” Panel: Revising What Never Was: Nostalgic Romanticism in L.M. Montgomery’s Life Writing, co-organized with Jones, Caroline E. and Dawn Sardella-Ayres, *L.M. Montgomery and Re-vision: 15th Biennial Conference L.M. Montgomery Institute*: Charlottetown, 22 -26 June 2022. (Role: proposal, organization, research, and editorial).
- June 2021: “‘Then I’m a Conservative, Too!’ Paternal Politics in Classic Girls’ Literature,” Daddy Issues Panel. *2021 ChLA Virtual Conference: The Arcade*.
- October 2020: “Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy: Discovering the Jewish Girl in Louisa May Alcott’s *Little Women*. *Concepts of Girlhood Now and Then: “Girls’ Literature” and Beyond Virtual Conference*, Linnæus University, Växjö, Sweden.
- Ongoing: “Finding My Fictional Maud.” Author Talks at libraries, high schools, and book festivals across Canada. Including, Word on the Street in Saskatoon, the Telling Tales Festival, and the Kingston Writersfest Readers and Writers Festival.
- July 2019: (with Caroline E. Jones): “Finding Grace: The Lost Ingalls Sister.” *LIWLRA Conference 2019 “All Roads Lead to Laura.”* Onalaska, WI.
- November 2018: A version of the theories presented in my paper, “Laura's "Farmer Boy": The Fictionalization of Almanzo Wilder in the *Little House* Series,” *Roundtable: Reconsidering Laura Ingalls Wilder: Beyond Little House, 2018 Society for the Study of American Women Writers Triennial Conference*, Denver, Colorado.
- June 2018: “A Box of Their Own: Reader Expectations of L.M. Montgomery and Her Characters.” *L.M. Montgomery and Reading: 13th International Conference*, Charlottetown, PEI.
- May 2018: “‘Between the river and the poplar bluffs,’” L.M. Montgomery’s Nostalgic Reminiscences of Prince Albert.” *Panel: L.M. Montgomery and the City. 2018 ACCUTE Conference*, University of Regina in Regina, Saskatchewan.
- October 2017: Becoming a “Canadian” Writer: Montgomery as Teen Writer. Leaskdale, Ontario.
- October 2016: “In Friendship and Farewells: Finding Maud’s Story in L.M. Montgomery’s Teen Poetry.” Leaskdale, Ontario.
- September 2016: “What You Think You Know is Wrong! Questioning Certainties Questioning Romance: The Anti-Perfect Man in YA Literature.” *Humber Liberal Arts Conference*, Toronto, Ontario.
- June 2016: “Crafting Fiction from Fact: The Perfect Man Archetype in Historical YA Fiction.” *L.M. Montgomery and Gender: 12th International Conference*, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
- October 2015: “Fairy Slopes and Phantom Shadows: L.M. Montgomery as Teen Poet.” Leaskdale, Ontario.
- September 2015: “A Fine Partnership: The Development of the Perfect Man Archetype in Young Adult Literature.” *A Better World: Humber Liberal Arts Conference*, Toronto, Ontario.
- July 2015: “The Man of the Place:” Almanzo Wilder and the Perfect Man Archetype in Young Adult Literature,” *LauraPalooza 2015: “Through Laura’s Eyes:” Imagery, Illustrations, and Impressions from the Little House, Brookings*, South Dakota.
- April 30, 2015: “Beyond Green Gables: L.M. Montgomery's Darker Side,” *46th Annual NeMLA Convention*, Toronto, Ontario.
- January 2015: “Full and Frank:” L.M. Montgomery’s Reflections on her Teen Romances and Writing,” *The Canadian Home Front: L.M. Montgomery's Reflections on War -- Idea of Canada as a Nation*, North York Central Library, Toronto, Ontario.

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- November and December 2014: “Maud Without an “E”: L.M. Montgomery’s Legacy and Canadian Culture,” *University of Toronto Continuing Education Series*. Oakville and Markham, Ontario.
- October 2014: “From Her Story: L.M. Montgomery as Teen Author,” *L.M. Montgomery Day: Maud as Storyteller*, Leaskdale, Ontario.
- June 2014: “War with the Mean Girls: Clemmie Macneill vs. Maud Montgomery and the (Mock) Trial of the Century,” *L.M. Montgomery and War: 11th International Conference*, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
- June 2012: “‘The Best Looking Boy in P.E.I.’: The Immortalization of Gilbert Blythe in Our Cultural Memory,” *L.M. Montgomery and Cultural Memory: 10th International Conference*, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.
- October 2011: “In Shadow and Light: How L.M. Montgomery Explores Grieving in *Rilla of Ingleside*,” *L.M. Montgomery in Leaskdale Conference*, Leaskdale, Ontario.
- June 2010: “Anne + Gilbert Forever: The Cultivation of The Perfect Man in L. M. Montgomery’s *Anne Series*, Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* and Stephenie Meyer’s *Twilight Saga*,” *L. M. Montgomery and the Matter of Nature: 9th International Conference*, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.