

Eric Wilson
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Thomas H. Pritchard Professor
English Department, Wake Forest University
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EDUCATION:

1996, Ph.D. in English, with distinction, The Graduate School and University Center, City University of New York
1990, M.A. in English, Wake Forest University
1989, B.A. in English, *summa cum laude*, Appalachian State University

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Thomas H. Pritchard Professorship, Wake Forest University, 2006-present
Fellowship, National Humanities Center, 2003-4
Wake Forest University Award for Research Excellence, Wake Forest University, 2002
Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Fellowship, Wake Forest University, 2001-2005
Christian Hoepfner Award for Best Essay in *Southern Humanities Review*, 2000
Saguiv Hadari Junior Faculty Leave, Wake Forest University, 2000
Archie Summer Grant for Research Excellence, Wake Forest University, 2001, 2000
Sigma Tau Delta (St. John's Chapter) Professor of the Year, 1998
Robert Day Interdisciplinary Dissertation Award, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1997
Graduate Fellowship, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1991-1996
Teaching Fellowship, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1991-1996
Distinction on Oral Examination, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1994
Distinction on Comprehensive Written Examination, Graduate Center, CUNY, 1993

PUBLICATIONS:

Books:

The Occult Current: A Poetics of Electricity (New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2008)

The Strange World of David Lynch: Ironic Religion from Eraserhead to Mulholland Dr (New York and London: Continuum International Publishing, forthcoming 2007)

The Melancholy Android: On the Psychology of Sacred Machines (Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2006).

Secret Cinema: Gnostic Vision in Film (New York and London: Continuum International Publishing, 2006).

Coleridge's Melancholia: An Anatomy of Limbo (Gainesville, FL: University Press of Florida, 2004). [Reviewed in *The Wordsworth Circle*; *Choice*; *Southern Humanities Review*;

Prism(s): Essays in Romanticism]

The Spiritual History of Ice: Romanticism, Science, and the Imagination (New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003). [Reviewed in *Ambix: The Journal for the Society of the History of Alchemy and Chemistry* The *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*; *European Romantic Review*; *Canadian Literature*; *Studies in Romanticism*; *The Wordsworth Circle*; *Choice*; *Gothic Studies*]

Romantic Turbulence: Chaos, Ecology, and American Space. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2000. [Reviewed in *Nineteenth-Century Prose*; *Comparative Literature*; *Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and the Environment*; *Prism(s): Essays in Romanticism*; *Wordsworth Circle*; *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society*.]

Emerson's Sublime Science. New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 1999. [Reviewed in *Ambix: The Journal for the Society of the History of Alchemy and Chemistry*; *American Literary Scholarship*; *European Romantic Review*; *Prism(s): Essays in Romanticism*; *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society*; *Wordsworth Circle*.]

Essays:

"The Dark Art," *The Georgia Review*, forthcoming.

"On Spirit and Matter in the Age of Animal Magnetism." *Philosophy and Literature*, forthcoming.

"Gnostic Paranoia in Proyas' *Dark City*." *Literature/Film Quarterly* 34:3 (2006), 232-39.

"Hermetic Melancholia and the Suffering of Androids." *Esoterica: A Journal for Studies in Esotericism* 8 (2006), 83-111.

"Shelley and the Poetics of Glaciers." *Wordsworth Circle* 36:2 (Spring 2005), 53-7.

"Movie-Going and Golem-Making: The Case of *Blade Runner*." *Journal of Film and Video* 57:3 (Fall 2005), 31-43.

"Emerson's Gnostic Democracy." *Esoterica: A Journal for Studies in Esotericism* 6 (2004), 1-33.

"Polar Apocalypse in Coleridge and Poe." *The Wordsworth Circle* 35:1 (Winter 2004), 37-44.

"Thoreau, Crystallography, and the Science of the Transparent." *Studies in Romanticism* 43:1 (Spring 2004), 99-118.

"Emersonian Transparency and the Anatomy of Crystal." *Nineteenth-Century Prose* (Special Issue: Ralph Waldo Emerson Bicentenary) 30:1/2 (Spring/Fall 2003), 72-101.

“Coleridge, Emerson, and Electromagnetic Hermeticism.” *Wordsworth Circle* 32:3 (Summer 2001), 34-39.

“Melville, Darwin, and the Great Chain of Being.” *Studies in American Fiction* 28:2 (Autumn 2000), 131-150.

“Emerson’s Fiery Tent.” *Southern Humanities Review* 34:4 (Fall 2000), 305-332.

“Whitman’s Rhizomes.” *Arizona Quarterly* 55:3 (Autumn 1999): 1-22.

“Emerson’s *Nature*, Paralogy, and the Physics of the Sublime.” *Mosaic* 33:1 (March 2000): 39-58.

“Thoreau, Thales, and the Distribution of Water.” *The Concord Saunterer* 6 (1998): 27-46.

“The Nomad, the Pilgrim, and the White Whale.” *Colby Quarterly* 34:3 (September 1998): 226-42.

“Dickinson’s Chemistry of Death.” *American Transcendentalist Quarterly* 12:1 (March 1998): 27-44.

“Coleridge’s Conversing.” *Southern Humanities Review* 32:1 (Winter 1998): 1-24.

“Terrible Simplicity: Emerson’s Metaleptic Style.” *Style* 31:1 (Spring 1997): 58-80.

“Emerson and Electromagnetism.” *Emerson Society Quarterly* 42:2 (December 1996): 93-124.

“The Blood-Wrought Peace: A Girardian Reading of *Beowulf*.” *English Language Notes* 34:1 (September 1996): 7-29.

“Weaving: Breathing: Thinking: The Poetics of Emerson’s *Nature*.” *American Transcendentalist Quarterly* 10:1 (March 1996): 5-24.

“On the Way to the Still Point: Eliot’s *Four Quartets* and Martin Heidegger.” *The Yeats Eliot Review* 13:3 4 (Fall 1995): 56-62.

Review Essays:

“From Metaphysical Poverty to Practical Power: Emerson’s Embrace of the Physical World.” *Emerson Society Quarterly* 43:1-4 (1998): 295-322.

Reviews:

Ted Underwood, *The Work of the Sun: Literature, Science, and Economy, 1760-1860*, in *The Wordsworth Circle* (forthcoming).

David M. Robinson, Ed, *The Political Emerson*, in *The Emerson Society Bulletin* (forthcoming).

Robert G. David, *The Arctic in British Imagination, 1818-1914*, in *The Wordsworth Circle* 32:4 (Autumn 2001), 210-12.

Martin Halliwell, *Romantic Science and the Experience of Self: Transatlantic Crosscurrents from William James to Oliver Sacks*, in *Isis: Journal of the History of Science Society* 92:1 (March 2001), 189-90.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

“The Religion of David Lynch”

“Film Collecting in the Digital Age”

“The Dark Art”

“*Eraserhead*, Gnosticism, and the Prison of Language”

“The Nitrate Fix”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Occult Current: A Romantic Poetics of Electricity

A Strange World: The Ironic Religion of David Lynch

CONFERENCE TALKS:

“Coleridge on Mesmer: The Philosophy of Sleepwalking.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. West Lafayette, 2006.

“Esoteric Cinema.” Biannual Conference for the Association for Studies in Esotericism. Davis, 2006.

“Thoreau’s Ironic Optics.” The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2006.

“Thoreau’s Analogical Science.” The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2006.

“Shelley and the Poetics of Glaciers.” Sponsored by the Wordsworth Coleridge Association. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Philadelphia, 2004.

“Emerson’s Esoteric Electromagnetism.” Annual Conference of the Association for Esoteric Studies. East Lansing, 2004.

- “Polar Apocalypse in Coleridge and Poe.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. New York City, 2003.
- “The Science of the Transparent: Emerson, Thoreau, and Crystallography.” The Annual Gathering of the Thoreau Society. Concord, 2003.
- “Emerson, Thoreau, and Public Things.” Sponsored by the Thoreau Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. New York City, 2002.
- “Thoreau, Crystallography, and the Forms of Turbulence.” Sponsored by the Emerson Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. New Orleans, 2001.
- Respondent, “Temporal Politics.” American Studies Association Annual Convention. Washington, D.C., 2001.
- “Emerson, Electricity, and the Redemption of Matter.” Sponsored by the Emerson Society. American Literature Association Annual Convention. Boston, 2001.
- “Thoreau, Nietzsche, and Time’s Streams.” American Literature Association Annual Convention. Boston, 2001.
- “Coleridge, Emerson, and Electromagnetic Hermeticism.” Sponsored by the Wordsworth-Coleridge Association. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Washington, D.C., 2000.
- Organizer and Chair, “Nietzschean Emerson/ Emersonian Nietzsche.” A Special Session. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Francisco, 1998.
- “Emerson and the Redemption of Power.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Gainesville, 1998.
- “The Secret Mechanism of Life and Sensation: The Young Emerson and Electricity.” Sponsored by the Thoreau Society. Modern Language Association Annual Convention. Toronto, 1997.
- “Parables of Monomania: Scientific Doubling and Sublime Difference in *Moby-Dick*.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Pittsburgh, 1997.
- “Emerson’s Electric Tropes.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Literature and Science. Atlanta, 1996.
- “Teaching at C.U.N.Y.” Annual Panel for New Teaching Fellows. Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. New York City, 1995.

“The Blood-Wrought Peace: A Girardian Reading of Beowulf.” Annual Conference of the New York Medieval Club. New York City, 1994.

“The Uncanny Nostalgia.” Annual Graduate Student Conference of the City University of New York. New York City, 1993.

INVITED LECTURES:

“The Electromagnetic Moment: On the Romantic Apocalypse of Matter.” Keynote Address, Nineteenth-Century Literature and the Cultural Moment, University of South Carolina, March, 2006.

“Poetry, Ecology, and Some New Ways of Looking at Ice.” Annual Back to the Classroom Alumni Lecture, Wake Forest University, November, 2006.

“Nineteenth-Century American Literature and Science.” Lecture Series for Portals of Discovery, Reynolda Museum of American Art, November, 2006.

“The Melancholy Android: A Primer on Some Literary and Cinematic Machines.” Colloquium Series. Wake Forest University, September, 2005.

“Romantic Sleepwalkers.” Appalachian State University, March, 2005.

“Emersonian Transparency and the Anatomy of Crystal.” Duke University Americanist Speaker Series, November, 2003.

“The Occult Current: A Romantic Poetics of Electricity.” National Humanities Center, September, 2003.

“American Literature and American Landscape Painting: Some Examples from Three Periods.” Reynolda Museum of American Art, January, 2002.

“Science, Biography, Identity: The Cases of Faraday and Emerson.” Boston Colloquium for the Philosophy of Science. November, 2001.

“Becoming an American Scholar.” Symposium for Honors Fellows. Appalachian State University. Boone, NC. November, 2000.

“Thoreau on Ice.” Friday Forum Lecture Series. Graduate School and University Center, CUNY. New York City. October, 2000.

“Emerson, Electricity, and Ecology.” The Book Club. Taylorsville, NC. November, 1999.

MASS MEDIA APPEARANCES

What's the Word? National Public Radio, October, 2005.

Odyssey, Chicago Public Radio, February, 2005.

Odyssey, Chicago Public Radio, December, 2004.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Referee, *European Romantic Review*, 2006
Referee, Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2006
Referee, University of Missouri Press, 2006
Referee, State University of New York Press, 2005
Referee, Farleigh Dickinson University Press, 2005
Referee, *European Romantic Review*, 2005
Referee, *European Romantic Review*, 2004
Referee, *Studies in the Novel*, 2003
Referee, *Eighteenth-Century Life*, 2003
Referee, *Publications of the Modern Language Association*, 2003
Referee, *Emerson Society Quarterly*, 2001
Referee, Palgrave Macmillan Press, 2001
Referee, University of California Press, 1999
Referee, *Emerson Society Quarterly* (Special Volume on Emerson and Nietzsche), 1998

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Professor, Wake Forest University, 2006-present
Associate Professor, Wake Forest University, 2002-2006
Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, 1998-2002
Assistant Professor, St. John's University (New York), 1997-98
Visiting Assistant Professor, Wake Forest University, 1996-1997
Teaching Fellow, Baruch College, CUNY, 1991, 1993-1996
Adjunct Lecturer, Queens College, CUNY, 1994-95
Lecturer, Appalachian State University, 1990-91, 1992-93

COURSES TAUGHT:

American Romanticism; American Poetry to 1900; Nineteenth-Century American Literature; Early American Literature; British Romanticism; Romantic Philosophy and Literary Theory; Literature and Science; Literature and Ecology

SCHOLARLY FIELDS:

The American Renaissance; Nineteenth-Century American Literature; Transatlantic Romanticism; Literature and Philosophy; British Romantic Poetry; Film Studies; Literature and Science; Film Studies

ACADEMIC SERVICE:

Chair, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2003-
University-Wide Writing Assessment Committee, 2004-06
Director of Graduate Studies, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2003-04
Executive Committee, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2002-04
Interview Committee, Early Modern Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2002
Major Advisor, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2001-03

Richter Fellowship Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02
Marshall and Rhodes Scholarships Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02
University Scholarship Committee, Wake Forest University, 2000-02
Lower Division Committee, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2000-03
Search Committee, British Romantic Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 2000
Search Committee, British Romantic Poetry, English Department, Wake Forest University, 1999
Carswell Scholarship Interview Committee, Wake Forest University, 1999-2000
Freshman Advisor, Wake Forest University, 1999-2001
Library Representative, English Department, Wake Forest University, 1998-99

REFERENCES:

Angus Fletcher, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.
(angusjsf@aol.com)

Robert D. Richardson, Professor Emeritus of English, University of Denver
(rrichardson@aol.com)

Laura Dassow Walls, Professor of English, University of South Carolina (wallsld@gwm.sc.edu)

Joseph Wittreich, Distinguished Professor of English, Graduate Center, C.U.N.Y.
(jwittreich@gc.cuny.edu)