

ELIZABETH HECKENDORN COOK

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Education

1990 Ph.D., Comparative Literature, Stanford University
1982 M.A., Comparative Literature, Indiana University
1980 B.A., French (Honors) and English Literatures, Whitman College

Employment

1997 - present Associate Professor of English, University of California, Santa Barbara
2000 - 2005 Associate Dean, Humanities & Fine Arts, College of Letters & Science (50% appt.)
1995 - 1997 Assistant Professor of English, UCSB
1990 - 1995 Assistant Professor of English, Yale University
1983 - 1984 Instructor, Department of Foreign Languages, Yunnan University, People's Republic of China

Current Research

Book ms: "British Silva Culture: Trees and Forests in Long-Eighteenth-Century Literature"

This interdisciplinary study of British representations of trees, woodlands, and Crown forests from the 1660s to the 1820s argues that writers used trees and forests to ground aesthetic, ethical, and political debates about political and personal identity, improvement, and beauty, among other values. Chapters address trees in a variety of media: silvicultural handbooks, beginning with John Evelyn's 1664 *Sylva*, and the early-modern material history of trees and timber-management in private and Crown holdings; trees in 17th-a and 18th-c. natural-history writing; treatises on picturesque aesthetics and collections of engravings of famous trees; pastoral elegies on tree-felling and disafforestation (from Cavendish to Cowper); Romantic novels set in British Crown forests by Edgeworth and Burney; finally, depictions and management of colonial forests and today's debates on preservation and profit.

Publications

"Charlotte Smith and 'The Swallow': Migration and Authorship." Accepted for an essay collection entitled Transformations, ed. Lorna Clymer (to be submitted to University of Toronto Press in spring 2007).

Review of Susan Scott Parrish's American Curiosity: Cultures of Natural History in the Colonial British Atlantic World. In Early Science and Medicine XII(1), 2007, pp. 112-13.

"The Epistolary Novel": 2500-wd article for the Encyclopedia of British Literature (Oxford Univ. Press, 2006).

Review of Ted Dadswell's The Selborne Pioneer: Gilbert White as Naturalist and Scientist. In Early Science and Medicine, IX(2), 2004.

Review of James How's Epistolary Spaces: English Letter Writing from the Foundation of the Post Office to Richardson's "Clarissa." In Prose Studies 26(3), 437-40.

"Enlightenment Landscapes": 3000-wd article for The Encyclopedia of Enlightenment (Oxford Univ. Press, 2003).

Review of Thomas O. Beebee's Epistolary Fiction in Europe 1500-1850. In Eighteenth-Century Fiction, October 2000.

"'Perfect' Flowers, Monstrous Women," in "Defect": Engendering the Modern Body, eds. Helen Deutsch and Felicity Nussbaum (Univ. of Michigan Press, 2000).

"Crown Forests and Female Georgic: Frances Burney and the Reconstruction of Britishness," in The Country and the City Revisited: England and the Politics of Culture, 1560-1840, eds. Donna Landry, Gerald MacLean, and Joseph Ward (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998).

Review of Ann B. Shteir's Cultivating Women, Cultivating Flowers: Flora's Daughters and Botany in England, 1760-1860. In Victorian Studies, Autumn 1997.

Review of Nigel Everett's The Tory View of Landscape. In Criticism, Winter 1997.

Epistolary Bodies: Gender and Genre in the Eighteenth-Century Republic of Letters (Stanford Univ. Press, 1996).

Conference and Colloquium Presentations

"Trees Talk Back." American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Atlanta, March, 2007.

"Improvement and Oak Exceptionalism, 1653-1781." ASECS, Montreal, April 2006.

"John Evelyn's Sylva and the Political Agenda of Natural History." ASECS, Las Vegas, April 2005.

"Sylva: One Hundred Years of Natural History." DeBartolo Conference on Eighteenth-C. Studies, February 2005.

"Charlotte Smith and 'The Swallow': Migration and Authorship." Presented by invitation to the Southern California Eighteenth-Century Studies group, January 2003, and to the Berkeley Eighteenth-Century Studies Working Group, November 2002. Also presented by invitation to the UCSB Department of History Gender Studies group, March 2003.

"Three Ways of Looking at a Swallow: Migration and Romantic Authorship." Northwest Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Seattle, November 2002.

"The 'window in the breast': Gender and Epistolarity in Wright of Derby's Early Candlelight Studies." ASECS, Philadelphia, April 2000.

"Enlightenment Landscapes." Series on Enlightenment Studies, co-sponsored by the UCSB Interdisciplinary Humanities Center and the Karpeles Manuscript Library, November, 1999.

“Landscaping Nationalism: ‘Celtic Fringe’ Landscapes in Late 18th-C. Literature.” American Conference on Romanticism, October, 1998.

“Enterprising Letters: Defoe, Correspondence, and the Public Sphere.” Modern Language Association, December, 1997.

“‘Perfect’ Flowers, Monstrous Women.” UCLA Center for 17th- and 18th-C. Studies workshop: “Monstrosity, Deformity, and Gender,” October 1996 (invited).

“Natural Identities.” Northeastern American Society for 18th-C. Studies, September, 1996.

“‘China’: Horner and the Critics.” ASECS, March 1996.

“Natural Histories, National Identities.” Stanford Seminar on Enlightenment and Revolution conference: “Regimes of Description,” January 1996 (invited).