

Julia Rossi

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Education

- PhD, English Literature, The University of Chicago, 2017 – June 2024 (expected). Dissertation committee: Josephine McDonagh, Elaine Hadley, and Zachary Samalin
- MSt., English and American Studies, The University of Oxford, 2016 – 2017
- B.A., English and Urban Studies (*summa cum laude*), The University of Pennsylvania, 2011 – 2015

Research Interests

- Nineteenth-century British literature and culture; labor history; political economy; infrastructure; the built environment; urban studies; public humanities.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Antrim Literature Project: Fall 2023

- Delivered a lecture titled “William Morris and Victorian Medievalism” for the Antrim Literature Project, an online public humanities forum that aims to bring high-quality literary analysis to adult learners.

Instructor of Record, The University of Chicago: Fall 2021

- Designed and taught a course in the English department titled “Making Progress with the Victorian Novel.” The course provided an introduction to Victorian fiction and discourse, with an emphasis on the concept of “progress” and the anxieties it inspired over the course of the nineteenth century.
- Developed fluency with object-oriented teaching; curated classes held in the University’s Special Collections.

Course Assistant, The University of Chicago: Fall 2019 – Spring 2021

- Led weekly seminars and delivered occasional lectures for three courses: “The History of the Novel” (Fall 2019 and Fall 2020) and “Black Shakespeare” (Spring 2021).
- Received formal training and gained practical experience in inclusive pedagogy.

Workshop Facilitator, The Odyssey Project: Winter 2021

- Designed and led a creative writing workshop with students and alumni of The Odyssey Project – a free, college-credit earning humanities program for income-eligible adults who have had limited or no access to higher education. The Odyssey Project is run through Illinois Humanities, the Illinois state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Other Academic Experience

Coordinator and Course Assistant, UChicago Public History Practicum: July 2022 – June 2023

- Served as administrative coordinator and course assistant for the University of Chicago’s 2022-2023 Public History Practicum, a graduate-level course series that provides a theoretical introduction to public history, as well as hands-on internship experience. The theme for the 2022-23 Practicum, which I co-designed, was “Science, Health, and Environment.”
- Formed partnerships with Chicago-based curators, programmers, and other public history professionals and worked with them to develop internship projects for practicum students.
- Provided feedback on students’ work-in-progress (which included brainstorming high-level narratives for exhibitions and podcasts and editing exhibition text) and facilitated the satisfactory completion of internship projects for both students and partner institutions.
- Organized and booked skills training sessions, class trips, and guest speakers.

Co-Coordinator, 18th- and 19th- Century Atlantic Cultures Workshop, UChicago: June 2019 – June 2020

- Organized and publicized a bi-weekly, interdisciplinary workshop in which graduate students, faculty, and invited guests presented unpublished works-in-progress related to eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literature, history, and culture.
- Invited faculty from other universities to the workshop and arranged for their travel, accommodation, and reimbursement, while maintaining a strict budget.
- Planned an event with the University of Chicago's Special Collections in which faculty and graduate students (including myself) presented rare books or objects related to their research.

Conferences, Workshops, and Invited Talks

- London Nineteenth-Century Studies Seminar: "William Morris's Infrastructural Imagination" (forthcoming, February 2024; invited speaker)
- The University of Chicago, 18th- and 19th-Century Atlantic Cultures Workshop: "Maintenance Costs: Anthony Trollope and the Old-Age Novel" (2023)
- Midwest Modern Languages Association (MMLA) Conference: "The Fowl and the Pussie: Michael Field and the Practice of Conversion" (2019)
- The University of Chicago, 18th- and 19th-Century Atlantic Cultures Workshop: "The Ethics of Undetachability: Henry James and the Necessity of Contextual Reading" (2019)

Honors, Awards, and Recognition

- Hanna Holborn Gray Dissertation Completion Fellowship (UChicago)
- Affiliated Fellow, Franke Institute for the Humanities (UChicago)
- Graduate Global Impact (GGI) Internship grant recipient (UChicago)
- Danette Kauffman Award for Outstanding Graduate Global Impact Internship (UChicago)
- L. Barry Pick Award for the Best Honors English Thesis (UPenn)
- Norman Glickman Prize for the Best Thesis in Urban Studies (UPenn)
- Member of the University Scholars research program (UPenn)

Professional Experience

Strategy Consultant and Programs Assistant, The American Library in Paris: September 2023 – Present

- Researching and writing a report for the Director of the Library on options for extending the Library's outreach efforts; proposing new partnership structures and audience development plans.
- Conducting a horizon scan of public programs offered at peer institutions; drafting a strategic planning report with advice on scaling up the Library's programs.
- Assisting in curating, developing, and delivering public programs, including the Library's high-profile Evening with an Author series and a program developed in partnership with the Cannes Film Festival; regularly producing marketing copy for the Library's public programs.
- Devising evaluation strategies to optimize the Library's program engagement.

Education Intern, The International Museum of Surgical Science: May 2023 – August 2023

- Developed and delivered public tours and drop-in educational workshops that draw from the Museum's collections; conducted tours and led workshops for adults, families, and visiting groups of all ages.
- Wrote and installed exhibition panels on sensitive subjects, including the display of human remains.
- Worked with a small team to complete a total overhaul and re-launch of the Museum's app. This involved redesigning the app's self-guided tours; conducting collections research and writing new interpretive content; and using a Content Management System.
- Assisted in the development, marketing, and delivery of programs, including Science Fest and Family Day.
- Generated engagement with collections by crafting social media posts that spotlight interesting objects.

- Researched and wrote blog posts that interpret objects from the Museum’s collections (publication forthcoming).

Learning and Engagement Intern, The Field Museum: January 2022 – June 2022

- Worked with curators and programming staff at the Field Museum and local partner institutions to create a Harris Learning Collection Experience Box for middle-school students. These boxes function as part of the Field Museum’s lending library, which loans cultural artifacts, biological specimens, and traveling dioramas to educators and community organizations. The box that I worked on focused on spotlighting the industrial, natural, and cultural heritage of the Calumet Region (a geographical area that includes northeastern Illinois and northwestern Indiana) and fostering a sense of regional identity.
- Curated box contents, wrote descriptive materials, and developed middle-school learning activities in line with state learning standards.
- Facilitated focus groups with teachers in Chicago and the surrounding area and incorporated their feedback into box content revisions.

Graduate Global Impact Intern, The Odyssey Project: September 2020 – September 2021

- In addition to facilitating a writing workshop, I also managed the production of a journal that featured writing and visual artwork by Odyssey students. I worked directly with students to develop their pieces, coordinated an editorial review process, copy-edited all submissions, and worked closely with a graphic designer.
- Created and designed a map-based, multimedia version of the publication described above, using an interactive storytelling platform called ArcGIS StoryMaps.
- Designed a substantive resource document on carceral justice for Illinois Humanities’ “Envisioning Justice” program, using InDesign.
- Created regular social media posts for Illinois Humanities’ social media pages.

Graduate Fellowships Advising Intern, UChicagoGRAD: November 2019 – September 2020

- Advised MA students regarding upcoming fellowships opportunities and application processes. This involved engaging deeply with students’ research topics to strengthen their proposals; providing detailed feedback on their research statements; and running information sessions and peer editing groups.
- Coordinated the campus interview process and managed preparatory workshops for the Boren Award, a prestigious fellowship for students of international and diplomatic relations. In the year that I coordinated these processes, the University of Chicago received more awards than any other university.
- Updated and maintained the UChicagoGRAD graduate fellowships website.
- Researched, compiled, and disseminated the university’s Graduate Fellowship Funding Guide on a weekly basis, using the marketing software Emma.

Contracts Assistant, The University of Chicago Press: November 2017 – June 2019

- Reviewed the Press’s contracts and permission documents in order to respond to inquiries about text and image permissions, translation rights, adaptation rights, etc.
- Conducted a review of the Press’s older contracts (pre-2000) in order to determine which books can be legally expanded into an E-book format.
- Registered the Press’s books and journals for copyright with the Library of Congress.
- Updated and maintained internal systems to incorporate new contracts and rights-related information.