

SEAN H. MCDOWELL
Curriculum Vitae
(September 2024)

Department of English
Seattle University
901 12th Avenue

33328 41st Avenue SW
Federal Way, WA 98023

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2020 Imagining the World Photography Competition Faculty Award for “Dream Another World,” a photo from the 2019 annual study abroad trip to Ireland.
- 2019 Distinguished Publication Award, John Donne Society, for John Donne and Contemporary Poetry: Essays and Poems (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017). (I share this award with volume editor Judith Scherer Herz and fellow contributors Calvin Bedient, Stephen Burt, Joseph Campana, Mark Dow, Heather Dubrow, Katie Ford, Kimberly Johnson, Alicia Ostriker, Molly Peacock, Carl Phillips, Rowan Ricardo Phillips, Jonathan F. S. Post, and Stephen Yenser).
- 2016 Distinguished Faculty Award, Seattle University Alumni Association
- 2014 “Tooth” included in The Best of Vine Leaves Literary Journal 2014 (Australia)
- 2006 Most Inspirational Faculty Member Award, Graduating Class of 2006, Seattle University
- 2006 Honorable Mention, Teacher of the Year, Student Executive Council to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Seattle University
- 1999 Teaching Excellence Recognition Award (TERA), Department of English, Indiana University
- 1998 Outstanding Teacher/Scholar Award, College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University
- 1994 Mary Ellen Solt Award in Poetry, The National Society of Arts and Letters (Bloomington Chapter)

PUBLICATIONS: BOOKS AND MAJOR EDITIONS

- Learning to Jump. Resource Publications (an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers), 2023.
This book was favorably reviewed in The High Window, a quarterly poetry review:
[https://tblb.003 Tc -0.003b.0\[\(b.0ss.0-0c \(e\)-30.m0-0/c \(eaS\)TjETQ\[\(b.003\)\]T\)-30. Tw-8](https://tblb.003 Tc -0.003b.0[(b.0ss.0-0c (e)-30.m0-0/c (eaS)TjETQ[(b.003)]T)-30. Tw-8)

<https://thehighwindowpress.com/2022/03/06/spring-2022-spring-poetry/#Sean%20McDowell>

- 2020 “Shelf Building,” “Birthday Wish,” and “Clock,” *The High Window* (U.K.) (Winter 2020): [The High Window: Issue 20 Winter 2020 | The High Window \(thehighwindowpress.com\)](#).
- 2020 “Photogram” and “Driftwood,” *Scintilla* (U.K.) 23 (2020): 144-148.
- 2019 “Connemara Village,” *The Lyric* (U.S.) 99.3 (Summer 2019): 87.
- 2018 “Egg Tempera,” “Homemade Wine on the 4th of July,” and “My Aunt, Sketching,” *The High Window* (U.K.) 11 (Autumn 2018): [The High Window: Issue 11 Autumn 2018 | The High Window \(thehighwindowpress.com\)](#).
- 2018 “Between Two Rivers in Galway,” *Cirque: A Literary Journal of the North Pacific Rim* (US) 2.9 (2018): 52.
- 2018 “Chicken Soup,” *Poetry Ireland Review* (Ireland) 125: 74-75.
- 2018

PUBLICATIONS: SCHOLARLY ESSAYS AND REVIEWS

“The Poet Well-Dressed: R. S. Thomas’ ‘Choice’ Herbert,” *Scintilla: A Journal of Literary Criticism, Prose, and New Poetry in the Metaphysical Tradition* 27 (2024) (forthcoming).

“‘Pictures’ of the Mind and the Tongue’s ‘Translatōns’: Donne Conceit’s Reconsidered,” *John Donne Journal: Studies in the Age of Donne* 37 (2018-2019; pub. 2023): 83-98.

“Ted-Larry Pebworth (1936 – 2021),” *John Donne Journal: Studies in the Age of Donne* 36 (2017; pub. 2022): 211-224. Co-authored with Raymond-Jean Frontain.

“Edward Herbert within the Fellowship of Plain Speakers” in *Contentious Communion: Edward and George Herbert in the European Republic of Letters*, ed. Anne-Marie Miller-Blaise and Greg Miller. Manchester University Press, 2022: 241-259.

“‘Love’ (III) as a ‘Third Kind of Love’?”, a review of Aaron Kunin, *Love Three: A Study of a Poem by George Herbert* (Wave Books, 2019), *George Herbert Journal* 43 (2020): 61-70.

“In Memoriam: Coburn Freer (November 3, 1939 – February 26, 2019),” *John Donne Journal: Studies in the Age of Donne* 35 (2016; pub. 2019): 289-294.

“The Sonnet Made New in George Herbert’s *The Temple*,” *Scintilla: A Journal of Literary Criticism, Prose, and New Poetry in the Metaphysical Tradition* 22 (2019): 112-130.

“Urban Marvell,” *The Oxford Handbook of Andrew Marvell*. Ed. Edward Holberton and Martin Dzelzainis. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019: 208-97. Also published as part of *Oxford Handbooks Online*: DOI: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198736400.013.17

“Of Quintains, Harts, and Lionesses: Melancholy As Shakeseeeee(13)10 (0.)]Ti /P ÅMCI03 Tc 0.003

“Richard Crashaw’s Poem on Matthew 22 and the Ars Memorativa.” ANQ 21.3 (2008): 28–35.

“Stealing and Being Stolen: A Distinction Between Sacred and Profane Modes of Transgressive Desire in Early Modern England.” *Negotiating the Sacred and Profane in Seventeenth-Century Literature*. Ed. Mary A. Papazian (U of Delaware P, 2008). 132–158.

Review of John Stubbs, *John Donne: The Reformed Soul*. *Seventeenth-Century News* 66.1 & 2 (Spring - Summer 2008): 1–5.

Review of Murray Roston, *Tradition and Subversion in Renaissance Literature: Studies in Shakespeare*. *Spenser* 40.1 (Spring 2008): 1–5.

PUBLICATIONS: TEXTBOOKS

- 2009 Seattle University College of Arts and Sciences Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, "The Struggle Against Religious Intolerance in Restoration England: Andrew Marvell's Mr. Smirke, or, The Divine in Mode." Award: \$5,000
- 2003 Seattle University Summer Faculty Fellowship, "Edification and the Reader of Religious Lyrics" and "Marvell's Consecrated Gardens." Award: \$6,000

EDITORIAL BOARDS

- Reviewer, *Scintilla* (2017–present)
Advisory Board, *The Variorum Edition of the Poetry of John Donne* (2015–2021)

PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- 2025 "The Power of 'If,'" Renaissance Society of America Conference, Boston (March)
- 2024 "Donne's Object Poems," 27th Association of Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers Conference, Washington, D.C. (October)
- 2024 "Words that Matter in Donne's Definition Poems," Renaissance Society of America Conference, Chicago (March)
- 2024 "Metaphysicals and Moderns": A Response, 37th Annual John Donne Society Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (February)
- 2023 "Donne's Verbal Relish," Presidential Address, 36th Annual John Donne Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (February)
- 2022 "The Poet 'Well-Dressed': R. S. Thomas' 'Choice' Herbert," Sixth Triennial Conference of the George Herbert Society, "George Herbert and Eloquence," University of Cambridge, England (June)
- 2022 "Montaigne's Philosophizing and Donne's 'Death Be Not Proud,'" Renaissance Society of America Conference, Dublin (April)
- 2020 "Donne's Hymns as Invitations to Write," John Donne Society Webinar: "Teaching Donne on Emergent Occasions" (December)
- 2020 "Done with Donne?: Donne's Relevance in the 21st-Century Classroom: A Roundtable," moderator and panelist, Thirty-Fifth Annual John Donne Conference, Baton Rouge Louisiana (February)
- 2020 "'Metaphysical,' 'Meditative,' and the Poetry of Donne and Ronald Johnson," Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Seattle (January)

- 2019 “Ignatius his Conclave and the Power of Word Cluster Searches,” Thirty-Fourth Annual John Donne Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (February)
- 2018 Respondent to Session 11: Donne and Our World, Thirty-Third Annual John Donne Conference, Lausanne, Switzerland (June)
- 2018 “‘Goodfriday, 1613. Riding Westward’ As A Verse Letter,” Renaissance Society of America Conference, New Orleans (March)
- 2017

2012 "Catholicism at the Turning Point: Richard Crashaw and Andrew Marvell,"
South-

- 2006 “Lived Experience in Marvell’s ‘A Dialogue between the Soul and Body,’” South-Central Renaissance Conference, Houston, Texas (March)
- 2005 “Richard Crashaw’s Reputation in the 1650s: Insights from an Imitator,” South-Central Renaissance Conference, Malibu, California (March).
- 2005 Respondent to Session 7, Twentieth John Donne Society Conference, Baton Rouge, Louisiana (February).
- 2004 “Interpretive Risks in Macbeth, Act One.” “Exploring the Renaissance 2004.” South-Central Renaissance Conference, Austin, Texas, (April).
- 2004 Respondent to Session 4, Nineteenth John Donne Society Conference, Gulfport, Mississippi (February).
- 2003 “Finding Readers: Herbert’s Homeopathic Aims,” 38th International Congress of Medieval Studies; session: “George Herbert at Kalamazoo: Historical Readings of George Herbert,” sponsored by George Herbert Journal, Kalamazoo, Michigan (May).
- 2003 “The Siege of the Heart: Sidney, Southwell, and the Literary Battering Ram,” Christianity and Literature Conference, Seattle University, Seattle (April).
- 2003 “Macbeth and the Perils of Conjectur[ing]”; seminar: “Con-Founding the Senses in Shakespeare,” organized by Lowell Gallagher and Shankar Raman, Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting, Victoria, Canada (April).
- 2003 “The Steps to La Corona,” Eighteenth John Donne Society Conference, Gulfport, Mississippi (February).
- 2002 “Love at First Sight?: Shakespeare’s Portrayals of Immediate Love”; seminar: “Staging the Early Modern Senses,” organized by Leanore Lieblein and Wes Folkerth, Shakespeare Association of America annual meeting, Minneapolis (March).
- 2002 “W;t, the Holy Sonnets, and the Problem of Pain,” Seventeenth John Donne Society Conference in Gulfport, Mississippi (February).
- 2001 “The Rebellious Heart in John Donne’s Holy Sonnets,” Sixteenth John Donne Society Conference, Gulfport, Mississippi (February).
- 1999 “Edification and the Reader of Donne’s Divine Poems,” Fourteenth John Donne Society Conference, Gulfport, Mississippi (February).
- 1998 “Why ‘Ruinous Disorders’ Appear So ‘Ruinous’: The Creation of Chaos in King Lear,” Central Renaissance Conference, Kansas City, Missouri (April).

- 1998 “Tempered by the Image: Imagination and Affect in the Work of Southwell and Hopkins,” Fifth Annual St. Charles Borromeo Conference on Catholicism in Literature, Little Rock, Arkansas (April). (This talk received favorable mention in the National Catholic Reporter, May 22, 1998.)
- 1997 “Richard Crashaw’s Ascetic Eroticism,” Fifth Annual Meeting of the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies (“Early Modern Culture: 1450-1850”), Chapel

- 2007 “A Tale of Three Sequences: The Sequences of Donne’s Holy Sonnets and Their Path into Music,” Women’s University Club of Seattle, Seattle, Washington (February).
- 2005 “Melancholy, Maturation, and Music in Milton’s ‘L’Allegro’ and ‘Il Penseroso,’” Women’s University Club of Seattle, Seattle, Washington (October).
- 2004 “Meditation and Harmony in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: Donne, La Tour, and Musica Mundana,” Women’s University Club of Seattle, Seattle, Washington (December).
- 2004 “The Sister Arts in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: The Case of Alexander,” Women’s University Club of Seattle, Seattle, Washington (March).
- 2001 “The Collins Teaching Experience.” Collins Living Learning Center luncheon with University Division Advisors, Indiana University (October).

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2024 The 37th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2023 The 36th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2022 The John Donne Society Webinars (co-organizer)
- 2021 The John Donne Society Webinars (co-organizer)
- 2020 The 35th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2019 The 34th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2018 The 33rd Annual John Donne Conference (Lausanne, Switzerland)
- 2017 The 32nd Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2016 The 31st Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2015 Exploring the Renaissance: An International Conference, the 64th Meeting of the South-Central Renaissance Conference (Raleigh, North Carolina)
- 2015 The 30th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2014 The 29th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2013 The 28th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2012 The 27th Annual John Donne Conference (Leiden, The Netherlands)
- 2011 The 26th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2010 The 25th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2009 The 24th Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2008 The 23rd Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)
- 2007 The 22nd Annual John Donne Conference (Baton Rouge, Louisiana)

SERVICE: PROFESSIONAL

- President, John Donne Society (2023-present)
- First Vice President, John Donne Society (2020-2022)
- Second Vice President, John Donne Society (2019–2020)
- Executive Director, John Donne Society (2007–present)

Past President, South-Central Renaissance Conference (2017–2018)
President, South-Central Renaissance Conference (2016–2017)
Vice President, South-Central Renaissance Conference (2015–2016)
Program Chair, South-Central Renaissance Conference (2014–2015)
President, Andrew Marvell Society (2008–2010)
Planning Committee Member, George Herbert Society (2009–2011)
Judge, Washington State Book Awards (2007–2009)
Vice President, Andrew Marvell Society (2006–2008)
Treasurer, Andrew Marvell Society (2005–2006)
John Donne Society Executive Committee (2004–2006)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Academy of American Poets
Andrew Marvell Society
George Herbert Society
International Association of University Professors of English
International Network for the Study of Lyric
Irish Network Seattle
John Donne Society
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America
The Vaughan Association

SERVICE: SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

University Service Appointments

Director, University Honors Program (2012–2021)
Vice President, Academic Assembly (2013–2014)
Coordinator, Freshmen Seminar Initiative (2004–2011)

University Committees

Chair, University Honors Admissions Committee (2012–2016, 2017–2021)

Senior Synthesis Revitalization Committee (2004–2005)
Core Communication Committee (2003–2004)

Department of English

Judge for the Commercial/Professional Writing category of the Guy Lemmon Awards in Public Writing (1999)

Composition Topics Initiative (1997)

Professional Writing Consultant (mentored six writing instructors teaching ten sections of W231: Professional Writing, 1996)

Co-coordinator of the Renaissance Studies Reading Group (1995)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Seattle University

** = brand new courses added to the SU curriculum

ENGL 4320: John Milton Seminar**

ENGL 4150: John Donne Seminar**

ENGL 3450: Irish Literature

ENGL 3910: Chinese Poetry in Translation**

ENGL 3910: Ireland in Conflict**

ENGL 3350: The Renaissance Lyric**

ENGL 3100: Writers' Workshop in Ireland

ENGL 480: Heroism in Modern Film**

ENGL 416: Milton Seminar**

ENGL 415: Donne and His Critics**

ENGL 409: Advanced Fiction Writing

ENGL 393: Departmental Honors Seminar**

ENGL 393: Irish Literary Landscapes**

ENGL 393: Science Fiction**

ENGL 336: The Renaissance Lyric**

ENGL 334: Renaissance Drama (Topic: "The Sensational Restoration")**

ENGL 333: Intertextuality

ENGL 332: Texts in Context(s) (Sidney and Woolf)**, (Shakespeare and Milton)**

ENGL 330: Shakespeare

ENGL 313: Storytelling Principles**

ENGL 305: Writing Fiction

ENGL 301: Shakespeare in Context**

ENGL 301: The Poetry of Meditation**

ENGL 301: The Renaissance Lyric in Context**

ENGL 252: Readings in British Literature I

ENGL 120: Freshman Seminar (Topic: "Beauty in a Just World")**

ENGL 120: Introduction to Literature

ENGL 110: Freshman Seminar (Topic: "Alien Encounters")**

ENGL 110: College Writing: Inquiry and Argument

FILM 405: Great Directors: Spielberg**

FILM 335: Screenwriting I**

FILM 333: Script Analysis**

FILM 325: Science Fiction Cinema**

HONR 2300: The Rise of Science

HONR 2150: Writers in the Public Sphere**

HONR 2110: From Renaissance to Neoclassical Literature

HONR 1130: Medieval English and Continental Literature

HONR 1110: Ancient Literatures

HONR 211: Humanities Seminar: Renaissance Literature

UCOR 1400: Inquiry Seminar in the Humanities (Topic: “Mindfulness and Chinese Poetry”)**

Indiana University—Full-Time Instructor and Visiting Professor (2000–2002)

E302: Literatures in English, 1600–1800

L210: Collins Living Learning Center Topics: “Alien Encounters”

L205: Introduction to Poetry: “Lyric Voices”

L203: Introduction to Drama: “Conveying Character”

L202: Introduction to Literary Interpretation: “Critical Ways of Seeing”

Indiana University—Associate Instructor (1994–2000)

W231: Professional Writing

W170: Projects in Reading and Writing: “Fame and Infamy”

W131: Introduction to Composition: “The Technological Future”