

ELYSIA BALAVAGE

Guilford House 11112 Bellflower Rd Cleveland, OH 44106
Elysia.Balavage@case.edu 570-592-5843

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in English, The University of North Carolina – Greensboro, 2019.

Dissertation: “Annihilation and Utter Night: W. B. Yeats, T. S. Eliot, and a
Modern(ist) Old Nihilism”

M.A. in English, James Madison University, 2012.

B.A. in English (Literature Track), King’s College (Wilkes-Barre, PA), minor in Philosophy, magna cum
laude, 2010.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Anisfield-Wolf Fellow, Case Western Reserve University, Fall 2022-present.

Full-Time Lecturer, The University of North Carolina – Greensboro, Fall 2019-Spring 2022.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING AREAS

Transnational modernist studies; food studies; social justice writing and rhetoric; British and
anglophone literature after 1875; Irish studies; postcolonial studies; literature and philosophy;
working-class studies; digital humanities.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

“Orwell and Food.” In *George Orwell in Context*, ed. Nathan Waddell. Cambridge University Press,
forthcoming in Fall 2025.

“Class and Consumption: George Orwell and the Desecration of Bread in *The Road to Wigan Pier*.”
English Studies, 106.2 (January 2025), 168–184.

“‘Nothingness in All Directions’: Modernism, Sci-Fi, and Radiant Space.” *Modernism/Modernity Print
Plus*, Volume 6, Cycle 3 (16 May 2022).

“Divinity and Nihilism in W. B. Yeats’s *A Vision*.” *The Review of English Studies*, 73.310 (June 2022),
568-581.

“Illumination, Transformation, and Nihilism: T. S. Eliot’s Empty Spaces.” *Journal of Modern Literature*,
44.3 (Spring 2021), 35-48.

“‘I shall find the dark grow luminous’: W. B. Yeats, Destruction, and the Generative Void.” *Aigne:
Interdisciplinary Irish Studies* (Special Issue: “Crisis: Predicament and Potential”), 8.1 (Fall
2020), 47-66.

Book Reviews

Review of *Modernist Hellenism: Pound, Eliot, H.D., and the Translation of Greece* by Katerina
Stergiopoulou. *Arion: A Journal of Humanities and the Classics*. Forthcoming Summer 2025.

Review of *The Routledge Companion to Working Class Literature* by Ben Clarke. *English Studies*.
Forthcoming Summer 2025.

Review of *The Ministry of Truth: The Biography of George Orwell's 1984* by Dorian Lynskey. *George Orwell Studies*, 5.2 (Spring 2021), 166-68.

Encyclopedia Entries and Reports

"Report on the 44th Annual Meeting of the International T. S. Eliot Society," Spring Issue of *Time Present*, the International T. S. Eliot Society Newsletter, 15 Jan. 2024.

"Voices from Within: Writers in Residence," Case Western Reserve University Department of English Newsletter: December 2023," 13 Dec. 2023.

"Wells, H. G. (1866–1946)." *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Modernism*, Jan. 2021.

"Eliot and Pound in Summer 1919: A Holiday in France." Summer Issue of *Time Present*, the International T. S. Eliot Society Newsletter, July 2019.

Public Facing

"Rebellious Space and Radical Movement: The Dil Pickle Club of Tooker Alley," *Genealogies of Modernity*, 21 March 2024.

"Redacting and Reclaiming: Teaching Donika Kelly's *The Renunciations*," Educational Resources, *The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards*, 1 March 2023.

"The Übermensch and Overcoming Nihilism in *The Umbrella Academy*," *And Philosophy: The Blackwell Philosophy and Pop Culture Series*, 20 Oct. 2020.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

External

2022 Modernist Studies Association Travel Grant

2022 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute: "Making Modernism: Literature, Dance, and Visual Culture in Chicago, 1893-1955"

2019 Modernist Studies Association Travel Grant

2018 The International T. S. Eliot Society Fathman Young Scholar Award

2018 The T. S. Eliot International Summer School Fellowship

Internal

Case Western Reserve University

2024 Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Research Grant

2023 Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities Faculty Research Affiliate

The University of North Carolina – Greensboro

2019 Professional Development Funding – T. S. Eliot Society Conference

2019 Graduate School travel grant – Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900

2018 UNC-Greensboro Graduate School Summer Dissertation Research Fellowship

2018 Professional Development Funding for archival research

2017 Graduate School travel grant – T. S. Eliot Society Conference

2017 English Department LENSES travel grant – SAMLA Conference

2017 English Department LENSES travel grant – Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900

2016 English Department LENSES travel grant – Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- “Appetite: A Conversation with Dwight Garner,” The Cleveland Humanities Festival, Case Western Reserve University, 18 March 2025.
- “Precarity is Social Injustice,” MSA Caucus for Contingent Faculty and Independent Scholars, 14 March 2025 (via Zoom).
- “A Kafkaesque Diet: Munching through *The Metamorphosis*,” *Literary Cleveland Presents ‘Remembering Franz Kafka’*, Cuyahoga County Public Library, 9 Oct. 2024.
- “Systemic Degradation: Dirty Food and the Working-Class in Literature,” The Rowfant Club, Cleveland, OH, 27 Sept. 2023.
- “Class and Consumption: George Orwell and the Desecration of Bread,” *Speculation Speaker Series*, Case Western University Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, 14 Sept. 2023.

Select Conference Presentations

- “‘A Heap of Broken Images’: Fragmentation, Precarity, and Academic Labor,” The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, Nov. 2024.
- “Eliot and Cannibalism,” The International T. S. Eliot Society Annual Convention, Washington University, Sept. 2024.
- “Rebellious Space and Radical Movement in Chicago’s Dil Pickle Club,” The Space Between Society: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945 Annual Conference, Wright State University, June 2024.
- “What’s Eating T. S. Eliot? Discontented Consumption from *The March Hare* to *The Waste Land*,” The International T. S. Eliot Society Panel, The Midwest Modern Language Association Annual Conference, Cincinnati, OH, Nov. 2023.
- Roundtable, “In Network: Modernism, Professional Labor, and the Economy of Prestige,” The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, Oct. 2023.
- “Eliot Among the Shadows,” The International T. S. Eliot Society Annual Convention, Harvard University, Sept. 2023.
- “Digesting Lawrence: Food, Consumption, and the Working-Class in *Sons and Lovers*,” The D.H. Lawrence Society Panel: “Lawrence, Work, and the Working Class,” The Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, Jan. 2023.
- “Non-Environments and Marginalized Subjects in Jean Toomer’s *Cane* and Claude McKay’s *Harlem Shadows*,” The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Portland, OR, Oct. 2022.
- “George Orwell and the Desecration of Bread,” “Labor in the Space Between,” The Space Between Society: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945 Annual Conference, Case Western Reserve University, June 2022.
- “Emptiness and Emergence in the Poetry of H. D.,” “Between the Acts: A Digital MSA Conference,” April 2022.
- “Dissatisfied Diners: Eliot, Food, and Drink,” The International T. S. Eliot Society Annual Convention, Virtual via Zoom, Sept. 2021.

"On the Edge: Iterations of Empty Space in 'Becky' and *Borderline*," "Race in the Space Between," The Space Between Society: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945 Annual Conference, Virtual via Zoom, June 2021.

"Eliot's Fashionable Voices," The International T. S. Eliot Society Annual Convention, Virtual via Zoom, Sept. 2020.

"Food and Working-Class Bodies in Meridel Le Sueur's *Ripening* and George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*," The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture since 1900, The University of Louisville, Feb. 2020.

"Yeats, Disaster, and the Generative Void," The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Toronto, ON, Oct. 2019.

"Eliot and the Desert," The International T. S. Eliot Society Annual Convention, Washington University, Sept. 2019.

Other Conference Activities

Seminar Organizer and Leader, "Modernism and Nothing," The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, Brooklyn, NY, Oct. 2023.

Panel Organizer, "Modernist Migration and the Void: Emergence, Embodiment, and Multiplicity," "Between the Acts: A Digital MSA Conference," April 2022.

Panel Organizer, "Modernism, Destruction, and Illuminative Nothingness," The Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference, The University of Toronto, Oct. 2019.

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Anisfield-Wolf Fellow, Case Western Reserve University

USSY 295M: "Our Daily Bread: Food, Drink, and Social Justice" (Spring 2024; Fall 2024, Writing Intensive)

USSY 294W: University Seminar, "Reading and Writing About Social Justice" (Fall 2022-Fall 2024, Writing Intensive)

FSSO 153: First-Year Seminar, "Reading Social Justice: The Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards" (Fall 2022, Writing Intensive)

Full-time Lecturer, The University of North Carolina – Greensboro

ENG 101: College Writing I (Fall 2019-Fall 2021)

ENG 107: Introduction to Drama (Fall 2020)

ENG 108: Topics in British and American Literature, "Things Fall Apart: Literary Alienation" (Spring 2020)

ENG 140: Literature, Health, and Wellness (Fall 2021)

ENG 205: Literature and Sports (Fall 2021)

ENG 208: Topics in Global Literature, "Dread and Joy Around the World" (Spring 2021; Spring 2022)

ENG 215: Literature and Film, "'Being' on the Page and Screen" (Fall 2019, Writing Intensive)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Case Western Reserve University

Participant, "Teach Smarter, Not Harder: Designing for All Learners Faculty Session," Teaching and Learning Technologies Pedagogy Series, March 2025.
Presenter and Seminar Leader, "Teaching Social Justice in the STEM Classroom," Anisfield-Wolf Faculty Symposium, Aug. 2024.
Presenter and Seminar Leader, "Land and Labor Acknowledgments," Anisfield-Wolf Faculty Symposium, Aug. 2023.
Participant, SAGES Pedagogy Series, Fall 2022-present.
Presenter and Participant, Anisfield-Wolf Faculty Symposium, Jan. 2023.
Presenter and Seminar Leader, "Teaching Intersectionality," Anisfield-Wolf Faculty Symposium, Aug. 2022.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

External Reviewer, *English Studies*, 2024-present.
Statement of Endorsement, *To Murder and Create* by Ardythe Ashley, Warbler Press, 2023.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Case Western Reserve University

Faculty Advisor, Writers Writing Words (student creative writing organization), 2023-present.
Faculty Advisor, Writers in Residence CWRU (student organization teaching creative writing to incarcerated youth), 2023-present.
Pre-Major Academic Advisor, SAGES Program, 2022-present.

The University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Faculty Advisor, Articulate (BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ student slam poetry club), 2021-2022.
Member, Digital/Multimodal Pedagogy Teaching Development Group, 2018-2019.
Teaching Mentor, Department of English, 2015-2019.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

MLA: The Modern Language Association
MSA: The Modernist Studies Association
The International T. S. Eliot Society
The D. H. Lawrence Society of North America
The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945