

ELYSIA BALAVAGE

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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

Visiting Assistant Professor, Slippery Rock University, Fall 2025-present.

Anisfield-Wolf Fellow, Case Western Reserve University, Fall 2022-Spring 2025.

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

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Book Review Editor, *The Space Between: Literature and Culture 1914-1945*, Jan. 2026-present.

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND TEACHING AREAS

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

PUBLICATIONS

Articles and Book Chapters

“Too Progressive Not to Be Precarious: Chicago’s Dil Pickle Club,” *The Space Between: Literature and Culture 1914–1945* special issue on “Contingency, Precarity, and Jeopardy: Labor in the Space Between.” Forthcoming Nov. 2026.

“Orwell and Food.” In *George Orwell in Context*, ed. Nathan Waddell. Cambridge University Press, forthcoming Summer 2026.

“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.” *Aigine: 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.
- Review of *The Literature of Extreme Poverty in the Great Depression* by Robert Dale Parker. *Review of English Studies*. Forthcoming in 2026.
- Review of *The Routledge Companion to Working Class Literature* by Ben Clarke. *English Studies*, 106.8 (December 2025), 1359-1361.
- 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

- "One Must Not Imagine Contingent Faculty as Happy," Under Review at *Academe*.
- "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.

In Preparation

- Monograph, *Modernism and Hopeful Nihilism: Illumination in Nothing*. Under Review at Clemson University Press, "Seminal Modernisms" series.

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

- “Human Flesh, Consumption and Transformation: Cannibalism in the Work of T. S. Eliot,” Thomas Stearns Eliot: The Spiritual, Ethical, and Social Vision in His Life and Work, The Edinburgh International Centre for Spirituality and Peace, 17 Dec. 2025 (via Zoom).
- “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.

Conference Presentations (2020-Present)

- “‘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.

Other Conference Activities (2020-Present)

- 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.

COURSES DESIGNED AND TAUGHT

Visiting Assistant Professor, Slippery Rock University

- ENGL 102, "Critical Writing" (Fall 2025)
- ENGL 104, "Critical Reading" (Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

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; Spring 2022, Writing Intensive)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Slippery Rock University

Presenter, “Teaching Visual Narratives in Critical Reading,” Department Common Read Pedagogy Session, Oct. 2025.

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.

The University of North Carolina – Greensboro

Presenter, “Open-Educational Resources and Fair-Use Readings,” for UNCG Graduate Teaching Assistants and Lecturers, Aug. 2017.

Coordinator and Presenter, “The Business of Writing for Business,” for UNCG Graduate Teaching Assistants and Lecturers, Sept. 2016.

Coordinator and Presenter, “The Art of a Successful Peer Review,” for UNCG Graduate Teaching Assistants and Lecturers, Aug. 2016.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

External Reviewer, *The Space Between: Literature and Culture 1914–1945*, 2025-present.

External Reviewer, *English Studies*, 2024-present.

Statement of Endorsement, *To Murder and Create* by Ardythe Ashley, Warbler Press, 2023.

Mentorship Steering Committee, *The Space Between: Literature and Culture, 1914-1945*, Summer 2022-present.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Slippery Rock University

Member, Adjunct Committee, APSCUF, 2025-present
Member, Women's Consortium, 2025-present.
Member, Gender Studies Committee, 2025-present.
Reader, Banned Books Reading, Oct. 2025.

Case Western Reserve University

Faculty Advisor, Writers Writing Words (student creative writing organization), 2023-2025.
Faculty Advisor, Writers in Residence CWRU (student organization teaching creative writing to incarcerated youth), 2023-2025.
Pre-Major Academic Advisor, SAGES Program, 2022-2025.

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.
Chapter Contributor for In-House Textbook, "Academic Integrity: Promoting Intellectual Growth." *Rhetorical Approaches to College Writing*. Hayden-McNeil, 2018.
Co-director, Online Educational Resources Committee, 2017-2018.
Co-chair, English Graduate Student Association, 2015-2016.
Data Coordinator, Budget Committee for *Rhetorical Approaches to College Writing*, 2014-2015.

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