

# Laura Kasson Fiss

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## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Teaching Professor, Pavlis Honors College, Michigan Technological University, 2022-  
Assistant Director, Honors Pathway Program, 2019-  
Member, Graduate Faculty, 2014-  
Research Assistant Professor, Humanities, Michigan Technological University, 2021-22.  
Research Assistant Professor, Pavlis Honors College, MTU 2016-21  
Affiliated Research Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, MTU 2018-21  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Humanities, MTU, 2017-18  
Instructor, Humanities, MTU, 2014-17.  
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Writing Program, Davidson College, Spring 2014.  
Lecturer, University Writing Programs, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Fall 2013.  
Visiting Scholar, Department of English, Vassar College, 2011-13.  
Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Marist College, Fall 2012.  
Associate Instructor, Department of English, Indiana University, Bloomington, 2007-11.  
Head Tutor (2004-05), Peer Tutor, Vassar College Writing Center, 2002-05.

## EDUCATION

PhD in English, Minor in Victorian Studies, Indiana University, February 2013.  
COMMITTEE: Andrew H. Miller (chair), Joss Marsh, Ivan Kreilkamp, D. Rae Greiner.  
DISSERTATION: *Laughing with the Victorians: Humor and Interrupted Reading*.

MA in Text and Book, University of Birmingham (UK), December 2006.

Degree with Distinction.

DISSERTATION: "Public Readers: Charlotte Brontë and George Henry Lewes's Self-Representation as Readers"

AB in English and Music, Vassar College, May 2005.

General Honors, Honors in English, Honors in Music, Phi Beta Kappa.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Laura Kasson Fiss, *Three George Grossmiths Walk into a Theater: Comic Men from Public Readings to Musicals*. In progress.

Laura Kasson Fiss, *The Idler's Club: Humour and Mass Readership from Jerome K. Jerome to P. G. Wodehouse*. Edinburgh University Press, January 2023.

### Articles and Book Chapters

Lorelle A. Meadows, Maura Hollister, Mary Raber, and Laura Kasson Fiss, "GPA as a Product, Not a Measure, of Success," in [The Demonstrable Value of Honors Education: New Research Evidence](#), ed. Andrew Cognard-Black, National Collegiate Honors Council Monograph Series, 2019, pp. 115-149.

Andrew Fiss and Laura Kasson Fiss, “Laughing Out of Math Class: The Vassar *Mathematikado* and Nineteenth-Century Women’s Education.” *Configurations*, 27, no. 3, 2019, pp. 301-329.

- “Notable Writing” Citation in *Best Writing on Mathematics 2020* (Princeton UP)

Lorelle A. Meadows, Mary Raber, and Laura Kasson Fiss, “Innovation and Inclusion: Applying Design Thinking and Lean Startup in the Honors Context,” *Excellence, Innovation and Ingenuity in Honors Education*, ed. Graeme Harper, Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2019, pp. 79-97.

Laura Kasson Fiss, “Out With It, as the Subeditor Said to the Novel: Wellerisms and the Humor of Excerption.” *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 40, no. 1, 2017, pp. 228-37.

---. “The Idler’s Club: Humor and Sociability in the Age of New Journalism.” *Victorian Periodicals Review*, vol. 49, no. 3, 2016, pp. 415-30.

---. “Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book: Humor, Mediation and Distance in Carroll, Thackeray, and Stevenson.” *The Lion and the Unicorn*, vol. 38, no. 3, 2014, pp. 258-78.

---. “‘This Particularly Rapid, Unintelligible Patter’: Patter Songs and the Word-Music Relationship.” *The Cambridge Companion to Gilbert and Sullivan*, edited by David Eden and Meinhard Saremba, Cambridge UP, 2009, pp. 98-108.

- Reviewed by Helena Culliney in *The Journal of Victorian Culture*, vol. 16, no. 1, 2011, pp. 142-46, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13555502.2010.519547>.

### **Published, Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings**

Laura Kasson Fiss and Darnishia Slade-Morris, “Reflecting on Culture in an Immersion Experience: How to Prepare Students for the Unexpected,” 2022 American Society of Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition, June 2022.

<https://peer.asee.org/41399>

Laura Kasson Fiss, John Irwin, and Yin-Yin (Sarah) Tan, “S-STEM Student Reflections and IDP Process,” 2021 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, June 2021. <https://peer.asee.org/37693>

Laura Kasson Fiss, Lorelle A. Meadows, Mary Raber, Kari B. Henquinet, and Richard Berkey, “An Educational Framework to Promote Self-Authorship in Engineering Undergraduates,” 2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32058>

Michelle E. Jarvie-Eggart, Laura Kasson Fiss, and Karla Saari Kitalong. “Exploring the Relationship Between Communication Skills and Performance in First-Year Engineering,” 2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32815>

Nasser Alaraje, Lorelle A. Meadows, Laura Kasson Fiss, Susan L. Amato-Henderson, Guy C. Hembroff, Aleksandr Sergeev, Kellie H. Raffaelli, and John L. Irwin, “Board 3: Engineering Technology Scholars-IMProving Retention and Student Success (ETS-IMPRESS): First Year

Progress Report,” Paper presented at 2019 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Tampa, Florida, June 2019. <https://peer.asee.org/32317>

Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, Laura Kasson Fiss, and Karla Saari Kitalong, “Work-in-Progress: Comparing First Year Engineering Students’ Math and Verbal ACT scores and Performance in Introductory Engineering and Composition Courses,” *2018 FYEE Conference, Glassboro, New Jersey*, July 2018. <https://peer.asee.org/31389>

### **BOOK REVIEWS**

Laura Kasson Fiss, Review of *Music & the British Military in the Long Nineteenth Century*, by Trevor Herbert and Helen Barlow; *Music and Academia in Victorian Britain*, by Rosemary Golding; and *Music and Institutions in Nineteenth-Century Britain*, edited by Paul Rodmell. *Victorian Studies*, vol. 58, no. 2, 2016, pp. 356-59.

Laura Kasson Fiss, Review of *Victorian Comedy and Laughter*, edited by Louise Lee. *Victorian Studies*, in production.

### **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

#### **Funded**

PI, “Essential Education at Michigan Tech” Cornerstone Learning for Living Planning Grant from the Teagle Foundation and NEH. PIs: Laura Kasson Fiss, Marika Seigel, and Mary Raber. Award Amount: \$25,000. 2022-23

Co-PI, “Engineering Technology Scholars – IMProving REtention and Student Success (ETS-IMPRESS)” from NSF S-STEM. PI: John Irwin. Award amount: \$999,483. 2017-2023.

Co-PI, “General Education Reflection Prototype” from IDEAhub (MTU internal) Summer 2020.  
Senior Personnel, “CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service Program at Michigan Tech” from NSF CyberCorps. Award Amount: \$3,738,793. PI: Yu Cai. 2021-2026

Participating Faculty, “A Human-Centered Engineering Initiative” from NEH Humanities Connections: Planning. Award amount: \$34,999. PI: Marika Seigel. 2019-2020.

Evaluator, “Pucks and Guts” for the Michigan Humanities Council, 2017.

The History of Science Section of the British Science Association and the British History of Science Society, international travel support, 2017.

North American Victorian Studies Association Travel Grant, 2008.

IU English Department Travel Grant, 2007.

IU English Department First-Year Fellowship, 2006-07.

Vassar Maguire Fellowship for Study Abroad, 2005-06.

Kate Chittenden Memorial Scholarship for Summer Study, 2004.

### **SELECTED REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Laura Kasson Fiss, “‘Local Intelligence’ of a Public Reader: Currents of George Grossmith, Sr’s Tours,” Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, Caen (France), July 2023.

--, “George Grossmith’s Command Performance: Comic Masculinity in Public and Private,” Midwest Victorian Studies Association, March 2023.

--, "George Grossmith's Periodical Presence: From *Punch* to the Savoy Theatre and Beyond," Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, September 2022.

--, "George Grossmith's Comic Songs: Sheet Music and Amateur Performance in Victorian Britain," Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing, July 2022.

--, speaker/facilitator for "Writing Welcome: Recruitment as intentional invitation to inclusive spaces in graduate education," a pre-conference workshop, Conference on College Composition & Communication, March 2022.

Andrew Fiss, Laura Kasson Fiss, and Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, "The Paper for Practical Men: Transnational Constructions of Engineering Identities through Periodicals," History of Science Society, November 2021 (postponed from 2020).

Laura Kasson Fiss, Andrew Fiss, and Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, "'Pioneer of the Technical and Trade Press of the World': Mining Periodicals in the Holdings of Michigan Technological University," Research Society for Victorian Periodicals, September 2021 (postponed from 2020).

Laura Kasson Fiss, "Readers, Editors, Bookmakers: Creative Reading and Texts in Motion from Early to Modern" (roundtable), SHARP 2021: Moving Texts (Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing), July 2021.

---, "The Reflection Spine of an Honors Program," Conference on College Composition & Communication, April 2021.

---, "Laughing with and at the Drones: Fictional Clubs as an Inclusive Space for Readers," Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, May 2020. Conference canceled.

Laura Kasson Fiss and Michelle Jarvie-Eggart, "Engineers in and out of the First-Year Composition Classroom: High Academic Performance Across the Curriculum and the Pitfalls of Placing Out," Conference on College Composition & Communication, March 2020. Conference canceled.

Laura Kasson Fiss, "From Idlers to Drones: P. G. Wodehouse, Clubs, and Class," North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, October 2019.

Patricia Helsel, Libby Meyer, and Laura Kasson Fiss, "Unlocking and Promoting Creativity in All Disciplines," Upper Peninsula Teaching and Learning Conference, May 2019.

Laura Kasson Fiss, "J. M. Barrie and Unclubbability: The Politics of Social Awkwardness." Plenary Panel. Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2019.

Laura Kasson Fiss and Lorelle Meadows, "Reflection, Self-Authorship, and the Honors Experience," National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, November 2018.

Laura Kasson Fiss, "Recalling the Trenches from the Club Window: Contrasting Perspectives in Dorothy Sayers and P. G. Wodehouse." "Armistice & Aftermath: A World War One Symposium," Michigan Technological University, September 2018.

--- "The Bodies of the Idler's Club: A Quantitative Analysis of Column Contributors." "The Body and the Page," an international conference jointly hosted by the Research Society for Victorian Periodicals and the Victorian Studies Association of Western Canada, July 2018.

Lorelle Meadows, Mary Raber, and Laura Fiss, "Using Design Thinking to Rethink Your Honors Program," Workshop Presentation, National Collegiate Honors Council Annual Conference, November 2017.

Laura Kasson Fiss, "Paradox of Character: Humor and Realism in Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*." Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2017.

--- "Clubs for the Unclubbable: Humor and Literary Sociability among Doyle, Zangwill, and Others." North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2016.

--- "Contexts of the Newspaper Joke: The Wellerism and Scissors-and-Paste Journalism." Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Conference, September 2016.

--- "Reading Sam Weller through the Newspaper: Wellerisms and the Humor of Quotation." Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, April 2016.

--- "The Unnatural Club in Late-Victorian Light Humor: The Diogenes Club and Beyond." The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, March 2016.

--- "Club Chatter and Literary Sociability in the *Idler* Circle." Research Society for Victorian Periodicals Conference, September 2014.

--- "Clubs for Idlers: The Collective Energies of Jerome K. Jerome, Israel Zangwill, and J. M. Barrie." The Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, March 2014.

--- "Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book: Distance and Mediation in Victorian Reading." Victorians Institute, November 2013.

--- "The Tribulations of a Stock Character: Metatheatrical Humor and Characters' Suffering in Gilbert's *Sensation Novel* and *Ruddigore*." Modern Language Association Conference, January 2013.

--- "Imagining the Fireside: Networks of Reader Relationships in Victorian Children's Humor." North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, September 2012.

--- "'O For a Muse of Fire': What Does That Actually Mean?" *Shakespeare Connects* Conference, Grand Valley State University, MI, October 2009.

--- “The Sounds of Nonsense: Noise and Meaning in Gilbert and Sullivan’s ‘Nightmare Song.’” North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2008.

--- “Charlotte Brontë and George Henry Lewes’s Competing Readings of Jane Austen.” British Women Writers Conference, March 2008.

--- “Language as Vocal Pedagogy.” *Words and Notes in the Nineteenth Century* Conference, hosted by the Institute of Musical Research and the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies at the University of London, July 2007.

### **SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS, PUBLIC LECTURES AND INSTITUTES**

Participant, Reimagining General Education: A Cornerstone Institute. November 10-11, 2022.

Laura Kasson Fiss, Elizabeth Wahmhoff, Charles Wallace, Steven Walton, and Scott Marratto, “A Historian, a Rhetorician, a Philosopher, a Literary Critic, and a Computer Scientist Walk into a Classroom: Composition with Lots of Moving Parts (and Robots),” Rhetoric, Theory and Culture Colloquium #2: Teaching Collaboratively Across Campus, Michigan Technological University, November 2022.

Team Participant, AAC&U Institute on ePortfolios 2022-23.

Team Participant, AAC&U Institute on General Education and Assessment, June 2021.

Andrew Fiss and Laura Kasson Fiss, “Female ‘Mathematikados’: Parodying the Patriarchy in 19<sup>th</sup>-century STEMM Education.” British Science Festival, Brighton, September 2017.

Andrew Fiss and Laura Kasson Fiss, “Science Songs in Formal and Informal Education,” presentation to Teachers of Tomorrow, Michigan Technological University, April 2017.

Laura Kasson Fiss, “Clubs for the Unclubbable: Humor and Literary Sociability,” Tech Talks (Michigan Tech Research Forum), December, 2016.

--- “Feelings about Reading.” Public lecture at Portage District Library, part of programming for the Great Michigan Read through the Michigan Humanities Council, co-sponsored by the Copper Country Reading Council, November 2015.

--- “Women, Men, Babies, and Power in *Macbeth*.” Public lecture for the Rosza Center for the Performing Arts, Michigan Technological University, March 2015.

--- “The Idler’s Club: Humor and Gender in Jerome K. Jerome.” First Friday talk for the Women’s Studies Program, Vassar College, November 2012.

--- “Laughter by the Nursery Fireside: Humor in Victorian Children’s Literature.” Victorian Studies Tea, Vassar College, November 2011.

--- “Researching Charlotte Brontë’s Reading.” Lecture at Vassar College, invited by the Victorian Studies Program, November 2006.

### RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE

Featured in Alumni Corner of the Indiana University Bloomington English Department GSAC newsletter, November 2021.

Mills, Allison. “What If: Why Engineers Need Afrofuturism, Literature, and Composition 101.” *Tech Century* **26, no. 1** (2021)

Mills, Allison. “The Mathematikado: A Parody of a Parody.” *Michigan Tech News*, September 5, 2019. <https://www.mtu.edu/news/stories/2019/september/the-mathematikado-a-parody-of-a-parody.html>.

(Also reposted by *ACM Careers*, *Phys/Science X*, and Vassar’s *In the Media*.)

Rinkinen, Shannon. “Science with a Side of Parody.” Research in Brief, *Michigan Tech Research Magazine*, July 2018.

<https://www.mtu.edu/magazine/research/2018/stories/brief/>.

Bligh, Annabel, Gemma Ware, Miriam Frankel, and Stephen Harris. “17: Science by the Seaside.” Produced by The Conversation UK. *The Anthill*. September 13, 2017. Podcast, MP3 audio, 35:40. <https://theconversation.com/anthill-17-science-by-the-seaside-84008>.

Brassard, Jess. “May the Fourth: Science of Star Wars.” *Unscripted: Science and Engineering Research from Michigan Tech*, May 3, 2016.

<http://www.mtu.edu/unscripted/stories/2016/may/may-fourth-science-star-wars.html>.

### VISUAL AND PERFORMING ART

Dramaturg, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Roger Held. Planned for Spring 2020. Canceled. Contextual talk to cast.

Salon participant, performing “As someday it may happen that a college I may found,” from *The Mathematikado* (1886), North American Victorian Studies Association annual conference, October 2019.

Dramaturg, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Patricia Helsel. April 2018. Text coaching and program notes.

Dramaturg, *Fires in the Mirror* at the McArdle Theatre, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Roger Held. November 2017. Production research and lobby display.

Dramaturg, *West Side Story* at the Rozsa Center for Performing Arts, a Tech Theatre production, dir. Patricia Helsel. April 13-15, 2017. Supervised student work in program notes and lobby display.

Miss Temple in John Brougham’s melodrama adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, performed at the North American Victorian Studies Association Conference, November 2016.

With Lisa Johnson de Gordillo. “Come In, We’re Open.” Collaborative partnership and exhibit of works in progress jointly created by students in Literary Survey A (taught by LKF) and Sculpture (taught by LJG), March 2016.

With Lisa Johnson de Gordillo. “To Hear with Eyes.” Collaborative partnership and exhibit of student art jointly created by students in Literary Survey A (taught by LKF) and 2-D Design (taught by LJG), December 2015.

Rebecca Edwards, Laura Kasson Fiss, Andrew Fiss, and Peter Bunten. “Spirit of Freedom: Using Music to Teach Antislavery History.” New York State Council for the Social Studies Conference, March 2013.

## **TEACHING**

- Exceptional teaching evaluation score: top 10% of similarly sized sections with >50% response rates, spring 2022, fall 2021, spring 2021.
- Recognized on student survey as a faculty member who did an excellent job of transitioning from face-to-face instruction to remote learning, Spring 2020.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Michigan Technological University**

HON 2150 Pavlis Seminar I

HON 3150 Pavlis Seminar II

HU 2400 Introduction to Diversity Studies

HU 2503 Introduction to Literature

HU 2503 Literary Survey A

HU 2538 The British Experience in Literature

HU 3015 Advanced Composition

HU 3507 Critical Studies in Periods and Movements: The Victorian Era

HU 3513 Shakespeare

HU 3555 Modern and Contemporary British Literature

UN 1015 Composition (as a pilot under the Teagle/NEH grant, supervising a graduate teaching assistant)

### **Davidson College**

Writing 101 Writing in the Liberal Arts: Pushing at the Boundaries of the Book

### **UNC-Charlotte**

English 1101 Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts I

English 1102 Writing and Inquiry in Academic Contexts II

### **Marist College**

English 270 Classics of Western Literature

### **Indiana University**

English L-390 Children's Literature

English L-142 Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature 2: Celebrity

English L-142 Introduction to Writing and the Study of Literature 2: Generational Stories

English W-231 Professional Writing

English W-131 Elementary Composition

## **ADVISING**

### **Michigan Technological University**

#### **Honors Advisor**

**Doctoral Advisory Committee Member**, Laura Vidal Chiesa (2020- )

#### **Masters Advisory Committee Member**

Emily Simmons (2017-2018), "Accessing Library Space: Spatial Rhetorics from the U.S. to France and Back Again." Winner of the Nomination for the MS Thesis



Competition of the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools  
(MAGS/ProQuest) 2020.

Richard Ward (2016-2017), “The Visual and Performing Arts in the Technical  
Communication Classroom: Reinforcing the University’s Internal Community  
Literacy via Service-Learning.”

## **SERVICE**

### **Associations**

- Vice President, Midwest Victorian Studies Association, May 2022- (position continues as president, then past-president, each for a 2-year term)

### **University (Michigan Technological University)**

- University Senator, representing the Pavlis Honors College, March 2021-present.
  - Chair, Ad Hoc Committee to Evaluate the Timing of Senate Meetings, Fall 2022-present.
  - Member, Academic and Instructional Policy Committee, Fall 2021-Spring 2022.
- Leadership in IDEAhub, re-designing general education, 2019-present.
  - Interim Educational Innovation Strategist, Spring 2022.
  - Co-Chair, Implementation Committee for Essential Ed, 2021-22
  - Co-Lead, Assessment and Learning Goal Working Group, IDEA hub, 2021-22.
  - Member, Next Gen Gen Ed committee, IDEA hub 2019- present.
  - Participant in Tech Forward working group, “Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” spring 2019.
- Member, Steering Committee for Classroom Renovations, Fall 2022-present.
- Advisor for Registered Student Organization, Tiny Knitz, 2021-present.

### **College (Pavlis Honors College)**

- Chair, Curriculum and Assessment Committee, Pavlis Honors College, 2019-present.  
Member 2016-present.
- Member, Search Committee for Pathway Specialist, 2022.
- Chair, Search Committee for Educational Assessment Specialist, 2019.

### **Department (Humanities)**

- Member, Liberal Arts/English Committee, Michigan Technological University, 2014-15.

### **Department (Indiana University Bloomington: English)**

- Mentor to first-year graduate students, Indiana University Department of English, 2007-11.

### **National**

- Bibliography Committee of the Victorian Division of the Modern Language Association of America, 2007-12.

### **Conferences**

- Chaired/moderated sessions at several conferences, including NAVSA and INCS, and internal symposia.
- Served on organizing committees for graduate conferences at Indiana University 2010-11.

### **Community**

- Board Member, Temple Jacob, Hancock MI, 2015-present (Vice President 2015-17, President 2017-18, President Emerita 2018-present).

- Parent Advisory Group Member, Little Huskies Child Development Center, 2015-present.
- Musical Director, Dutchess County Anti-Slavery Singers, 2012-13.

### **TRAININGS**

- Social/Behavioral Research (IRB), refreshed 2020
- Leadership (Propositions): Spring 2020
- Online teaching (ED5101 Summer 2019)
- SafePlace Ally (Fall 2016; certification current)