MICHAEL BRYSON
Professor of English
Department of English
California State University, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff St.
Northridge, CA 91330
818-677-5695
michael.bryson@csun.edu
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3383-8101

PhD	**English**	Northwestern University	2001
MA	**English**	Truman State University	1996
BA	**English**	Truman State University	1994

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS (SCHOLARLY)

The Routledge Companion to Humanism and Literature (Ed.) 2022
Routledge.

The Humanist (Re)Turn: Reclaiming the Self in Literature 2019
Routledge.

Love and its Critics: From the Song of Songs to Shakespeare and Milton's Eden (with Arpi Movsesian) 2017
Open Book Publishers. Reprinted by Saint Philip Street Press, 2020.

The Atheist Milton 2012
Ashgate Press. Reprinted by Routledge, 2016.

The Tyranny of Heaven: Milton's Rejection of God as King 2004
U. Delaware Press.

BOOKS (POETRY)

The Suicide Café 2020
Inner Core of Rage Press.

JOURNAL ISSUES (EDITED)

Humanities, Special Issue: "Crossing Boundaries: Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities." 2026

Humanities, Special Issue: "Translation and Relocation: Literary Encounters East and West" 2021

ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

"**To Measure, or Be Measured Unto: What Is Humanism in the Face of Artificial Intelligence? Or: The Instructor Function."** 2026
Humanities 2026, 15(8), 116

"'Did Heaven Look On and Would Not Take Their Part?': Demonic Presence and Divine Absence in Marlowe's Doctor Faustus and Shakespeare's Macbeth." 2026
***Thinking Monstrosity in Western and Global Literatures and Creative Media*.** Ed. Nizar Zouidi. (Routledge, 2026, 116-141)

"Gilgamesh: The First Bildungsroman, or Portrait of the King Becoming a Man" in ***The Monarch and the (Non)Human in Literature and Arts: Western and Global Perspectives***. Ed. Nizar Zouidi. (Routledge, 2023, 65-87) 2023

"The Old Argument: Humanism and Anti-Humanism." 2022
Introduction to ***The Routledge Companion to Humanism and Literature*.** (Routledge, 2022, 1-8)

"Woman is the Measure of All Things: Authoritarianism and Anti-Humanism in the Criticism of Anglo-Saxon Poetry." ***The Routledge Companion to Humanism and Literature*.** 2022
(Routledge, 2022, 173-90)

"'The Quest for the Fiction of an Absolute': The Mystic's Movement from Ancient Sacrifice to Supreme Fiction in Wallace Stevens." *IJAH*, 6.2, 2020, 1-15. 2020

"Carpe Diem: Love, Resistance to Authority, and the Necessity of Choice in Andrew Marvell and Elizabeth Cary" 2018
Humanities 2018, 7(2), 61

"The Artist as Critic: Two Modern Musical Responses to Paradise Lost." 2017
Milton Quarterly, Vol. 51, No. 2, 2017, 146-52.

"On 'Sunday Morning'." 2013
Modern American Poetry. Eds. Bartholomew Brinkman and Cary Nelson, Framingham, MA: Framingham State University (2013).

"The Gnostic Milton: Salvation and Divine Similitude in *Paradise Regained*" 2012
The New Milton Criticism. Eds. Peter C. Herman and Elizabeth Sauer, Cambridge UP, 2012, 102-19.

"The Problem of God" 2012
Approaches to Teaching Paradise Lost. 2nd ed. Ed. Peter C. Herman. MLA Press. 2012, 76-83.

	"From Last Things to First: The Apophatic Vision of *Paradise Regained*" *Milton and the Visionary Mode: Essays on Prophecy and Violence*. Eds. Peter E. Medine and David V. Urban. Duquesne UP, 2010, 241-65.	2010
	"A Poem to the Unknown God: *Samson Agonistes* and Negative Theology" *Milton Quarterly*, March 2008, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2008, 22-43.	2008
	"The Mysterious Darkness of Unknowing: *Paradise Lost* and the God Beyond Names" *A Poem Written in Ten Books:* Paradise Lost *1667*, Eds. John Shawcross and Michael Lieb. Duquesne UP, 2007, 183-212.	2007
	"'His Tyranny Who Reigns': The Biblical Roots of Divine Kingship and Milton's Rejection of Heav'n's King" *Milton Studies* 43, pp. 111-144.	2004
	"Thomas Shadwell" *The Age of Milton: An Encyclopedia of Major 17th-Century British and American Authors*. Ed. Alan Hager. Greenwood Press, 2004, 287-91	2004
	"Dismemberment and Community: Sacrifice and the Communal Body in the Hebrew Scriptures" *Religion and Literature* 35.1 (Spring 2003), pp. 1-21.	2003
	"'That be far from thee': Divine Evil and Milton's Attempt to 'Justify the ways of God to men'" *Milton Quarterly*, May 2002, vol. 36, no. 2, pp. 87-105.	2002
	"The Horror is Us: Western Religious Memory and the Colonialist God in *Heart of Darkness*" *Henry Street* (9.1), Spring 2000, pp. 20-39.	2000

REVIEWS	**Timothy Rosendale, *Theology and Agency in Early Modern Literature.*** *Journal of British Studies* 58.2 (Winter 2019), 430-32.	2019
	Stephen Greenblatt, *The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve.* *Spenser Review* 48.2 (Spring-Summer 2018).	2018
	Gordon Teskey, *The Poetry of John Milton.* *Spenser Review* 45.3.15 (Winter 2016).	2016
	William Walker. *Antiformalist, Unrevolutionary, Illiberal Milton: Political Prose, 1644-1660.* *Milton Quarterly*, Vol. 49, No. 4, 2015, 275-79.	2015

	Stephen Dobranski, ed. *Milton in Context*. *Milton Quarterly*, volume 46 issue 1 (March 2012), 29-31.	2012
	Abraham Stoll, *Milton and Monotheism*. *Renaissance Quarterly*, volume 62 issue 4 (1 December 2009), 1391-1392.	2009
	Victoria Silver, *Imperfect Sense: The Predicament of Milton's Irony* and David Loewenstein, *Representing Revolution in Milton and his Contemporaries* *Religion and Literature* 37.3 (Autumn 2005) 127-36.	2005
WEBSITES	**John Milton: Background, Summary, and Analysis** http://www.michaelbryson.net/miltonweb/index.html Site dedicated to Milton's prose works in their historical contexts.	2000
SELECTED PRESENTATIONS	**"What Is Humanism in the Face of Artificial Intelligence?"** ***Crossing Boundaries: Transdisciplinarity in the Humanities.*** **MDPI Toronto Subject Workshop.**	2026
	Keynote Address—"Open Access Publishing and Digital Research: The Changing Landscape of Scholarship in the Internet Age" BUC Fifth International Conference. Technology, Language and Literature: Intersections and Convergences. Al Buraimi University College, Al Buraymi, Oman	2019
	"*Paradise Lost*: Love Against Tyranny in Eden, and the Authoritarianism of Critics." Renaissance Society of America	2018
	"An You Be Mine, I'll Give You to My Friend: The Dawn Song, Marriage, and the Authority of the Father in Romeo and Juliet and Paradise Lost" Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association	2015
	"The Gnostic Milton" Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies	2010
	"The Libertine Samson: *Samson Agonistes* and the Rakes of Restoration Drama" Renaissance Society of America	2006
	"From Last Things to First: The Apophatic Vision of *Paradise Regained*" Modern Language Association	2006

"*Samson Agonistes* And The 'Intimate Impulse': Negative Theology in Milton" Modern Language Association	2005
"Embarassed Into Silence: *Samson Agonistes* as Milton's Negative Theology" Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association	2005
"The Satanic Samson" Eighth International Milton Symposium	2005
"The Negation of God: *Samson Agonistes* and Negative Theology" Newberry Library Milton Seminar	2005
"*Samson Agonistes* and Negative Theology" Midwest Conference on Christianity and Literature, Notre Dame	2004
"Crossing Through Theory: The New Milton Criticism" American Comparative Literature Association	2003
"'Though ye rebel': The Motivation for Satan's Rebellion in *Paradise Lost*" Seventh Annual International Milton Symposium	2002
"To Prove that God is not the Devil": Kingship and Milton's Struggle to Re-Imagine God Yale Divinity School Religion and Literature Symposium Series	2002
"'That be far from thee': Divine Evil and Milton's Attempt to 'Justify the ways of God to men'" Renaissance Conference of Southern California	2001
"His Tyranny Who Reigns': The Biblical Roots of Divine Kingship and Milton's Rejection of "Heav'n's King" Modern Language Association	2000
"The Tyranny of Heav'n: Milton, Magistrates and the Rhetoric of Satan's Protestantism in *Paradise Lost*" Renaissance Society of America	1999
"Western Religious Memory and the Colonialist God in *Heart of Darkness*" Northern Illinois University Conference on Language and Literature	1998

EDITORIAL ROLES

Editor-in-Chief, Literature and the Humanities section, *Humanities*
Reviewer, *PMLA*
Reviewer, *Milton Quarterly*
Reviewer, *Spenser Review*
Reviewer, *Renaissance Quarterly*
Reviewer, *Religion and Literature*
Reviewer, *Journal of British Studies*
Reviewer, *Anthem Press*
Reviewer, *McGill-Queen's University Press*
Reviewer, *Routledge*

LANGUAGES

Reading competency in Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Occitan, Spanish, Italian, French, German

TEACHING

(COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL)

Professor of English 2014-
California State University, Northridge

Associate Professor of English 2009-2014
California State University, Northridge

Assistant Professor of English 2004-2009
California State University, Northridge

Designed, taught, and evaluated
Middle Eastern Literature (Senior Seminar)
Highways to Hell (Senior Seminar)
Studies in Shakespeare: Female Rage from Medea to Lady Macbeth (graduate)
Love and its Critics (graduate)
The Poet as Critic (graduate)
Renaissance Drama (graduate)
Shakespeare: Of Lovers and Tyrants (graduate)
Research Methods and Bibliography (graduate)
Milton's Gods (graduate)
Donne and Herbert (graduate)
Milton (undergraduate)
Bible as Literature (undergraduate)
Renaissance Drama (undergraduate)
Restoration Drama (undergraduate)
Shakespeare: Tragedy and its Comic Roots (undergraduate)

Shakespeare: History Plays (undergraduate)
Shakespeare: Problem Plays (undergraduate)
Shakespeare: Comedies (undergraduate)
Shakespeare: Fathers and Children (undergraduate)
17th Century Literature (undergraduate)
16th Century Literature (undergraduate)
Introduction to British Literature (undergraduate)
Introduction to Literature: Heroes and Antiheroes (undergraduate)
Writing About Literature (undergraduate)

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, ***DePaul University*** 2003-2004

Designed and taught courses in the department of English
Introducing Shakespeare (undergraduate)
Bible as Literature (undergraduate)

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, ***Northwestern University*** 2001-2003

Designed and taught courses in the departments of English and Religion
Topics in Religion: The Struggle with God (undergraduate)
Studies in 17th Century Literature (undergraduate)
Topics in Shakespeare: (undergraduate)
Studies in Theory and Criticism (undergraduate)
Introduction to Reading and Interpretation (undergraduate)

English Instructor 2001-2003
Truman College, City Colleges of Chicago

Designed and taught English 102, a research-writing course, focusing content on evaluating sources, and forming a concise argument, and English 101, an introductory course focusing on reading and writing in response to reading.

AWARDS

CSUN English Department Excellence in Teaching Award	2017-2018
CSUN English Department Excellence in Teaching Award	2016-2017
CSUN English Department Excellence in Teaching Award	2015-2016
CSUN College of Humanities Polished Apple Award	2007-2008
DePaul Multicultural Student Affairs Teaching Award	2003-2004

Online Teaching and Instructional Design

Certificate in Teaching Online Using QLT, 2022

CSU Academic Technology Services, Online Course Services Program

Designer/Instructor of Fully-Online-Asynchronous University Courses, 2020-Current

California State University, Northridge

Designed and taught multiple FOA sections of English 255 (Introduction to Literature), English 316 (Shakespeare), English 417 (Shakespeare).

Designer/Instructor of Fully-Online-Synchronous University Courses, 2020-2022

California State University, Northridge

Designed and taught multiple FOS sections of English 420 (Milton) and English 620 (Graduate-level Shakespeare).

Instructional Designer and Online Instructor, 2004-2019
Wyzant.com and Freelance

Created and delivered course materials for individuals and groups addressing high school and university work, standardized test preparation, corporate (HR) projects and industrial report requirements. Clients included high-school/university students and working professionals. Courses taught as FOA, FOS, and/or in-person.

Instructional Designer and In-House Online Instructor, 2000-2001
R.R Donnelly Corporation, Chicago

Worked with in-house design and instruction team on instructional videos and online classes for employees at

various levels, from production through management.

Instructional Design Consultant 2000-2001
Iowa State University – Professional Communication Online Project

Consulted on instructional and interface design issues with a team of professors and graduate students working to produce an extensive series of online Rhetoric and Professional Communication courses.

Web Designer/Producer 1996-2001
American Medical Association, Chicago

Independently designed and produced the AMA's Directory of Physicians Product Support web site. Performed update and maintenance tasks as needed.

Instructor, Content Developer, Instructional Designer 1999-2000
UNext.com

Wrote, co-designed, and served as instructor for two series of internet-delivered courses: one on Shakespeare and leadership, the other on web design, usability engineering, and e-commerce, both offered as part of a distance-learning MBA program.

Internet Design Consultant 1998-1999
Rauland-Borg Corporation

Researched, wrote, and presented a 45-page report in June of 1998 analyzing how Rauland-Borg could redesign its web site in order to consistently achieve higher rankings in search engine queries. Created asynchronous in-house training class to teach principles of SEO for web design. Produced monthly follow-up reports and analyses for a period of one year.

Researcher, Writer, Web Site Designer 1997
Northwestern University

Collaborated with Dr Lawrence Lipking of Northwestern University on prototype for the Norton Anthology of English Literature 18th-century literature

and culture site. Included interactive learning experiences for site users.

Researcher/Writer 1996
The Monument Project

Researched, compiled, and organized content for a Chicago-based nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting religious tolerance. Created interactive learning experiences for site users.

ACADEMIC MENTORSHIP

DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS (INTERNATIONAL)

External Examiner for Abishek Ghosal, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, India — 2022

SCHOLARSHIPS (CSUN)

Sponsor for Modje Taavon, Sally Casanova Pre-Doc Scholarship Recipient — 2018-2019

MA THESES (CSUN)

MA Thesis Chair for Cesar Osuna — 2018-2019
MA Thesis Chair for Karen Casady — 2018-2019
MA Thesis Chair for Modje Taavon — 2018-2019
MA Thesis Chair for Diana Shamiryan — 2010-2011
MA Thesis Chair for Katayoun Torabi — 2010-2011
MA Thesis Chair for Kathleen Reynolds — 2010-2011
MA Thesis Chair for Stephen Peluso — 2008-2009
MA Thesis Chair for Alexandra Dimakos — 2007-2008
MA Thesis Chair for Stacee Barcelata — 2005-2006

MA Thesis Reader for Ty Ung — 2012-2013
MA Thesis Reader for Morgan Mayreis — 2009-2010
MA Thesis Reader for Ripsime Ter-Kazaryan — 2009-2010
MA Thesis Reader for Jane Minogue — 2008-2009
MA Thesis Reader for Judith Saunders — 2008-2009
MA Thesis Reader for Christina DiSalvo — 2007-2008
MA Thesis Reader for Elana Fink — 2007-2008
MA Thesis Reader for Heather Penrod — 2007-2008
MA Thesis Reader for Elsa Yamamoto — 2006-2007

HONORS THESES

Honors Thesis Chair for Kelli Lynn Forsch — 2009-2010

	Honors Thesis Chair for Patrick Horn	2007-2008
	Honors Thesis Chair for Victoria Browne	2007-2008
	Honors Thesis Chair for Sean Macintyre	2006-2007
	Honors Thesis Chair for Virgile Borderies	2006-2007
	Honors Thesis Chair for Gene Hart	2005-2006

University Service

Tseng College Oman (BUC)-CSUN Partnership	2006-2024
Coordinator, Humanities Research Lab	2022-2026
Awards and Amenities Committee Chair	2020-2021
University Research and Grants Committee	2018-2021
Department Sabbatical and Peer Review Committee, Chair	2019-2020
External Review Ad Hoc Response Committee, Co-Chair	2018-2019
MA Thesis Pilot Program Committee, Co-Chair	2018-2019
Informal Department Research and Writing Support Group	2017-2019
Department Personnel Committee, Chair	2018-2019
Department Sabbatical and Peer Review Committee, Member	2018-2019
Department Personnel Committee, Chair	2016-2017
Department Sabbatical and Peer Review Committee, Member	2015-2016
Department Personnel Committee, Member	2014-2015
Department Personnel Committee, Member	2012-2013
Honors Program Director	2009-2012

Professional Memberships

Shakespeare Association of America
Milton Society of America
Modern Language Association
Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America
American Comparative Literature Association