

Abigail Heiniger, PhD

Associate Professor of English

Biography

Dr. Abigail Heiniger, Associate Professor of Literature and Languages and Department Chair, teaches literature and writing at LMU. She holds a BA in English and two MAs in English and Humanities from the University of Louisville, in Kentucky, and she has a Ph.D. in Literature from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Before coming to LMU, Dr. Heiniger taught literature, composition, gender studies, and fairy tales at Bluefield College, Lawrence Technological University, Wayne State University, and the University of Louisville. She enjoys bringing nineteenth-century advertisements and artifacts to class.

Teaching and Research Interests

Her field of study is medieval and early modern English literature; her research focuses on the post-medieval conception of the early Middle Ages.

Representative Publications and Presentations

Books:

- *Fairy-Tale and Folk Tale Cultures: Textbook*. Anne Duggan, Julie Kohler, and Abigail Heiniger, eds. Under contract with Routledge. 2028.
- *The Lost Slipper: Fairy-Tale Resistance to Coloniality, 1850 – 1950*. Wayne State Press. Under contract.
- [*Fairy-Tale Revivals in the Long Nineteenth Century: Writing Wonder in Transatlantic Ethnic Literary Revivals, 1850–1950*](#). Collection of primary texts. Volumes 1-2. Abigail Heiniger, ed. Routledge Press. 2024.
- [*Jane Eyre's Fairytale Legacy at Home and Abroad: Constructions and Deconstructions of National Identity*](#). Routledge Press. March 2016.

Recent Articles and Essays:

- “Breaking the Great Silence in Queen Mab: The Great Famine and Fairies.” *Women Writing Wonder*. Bloomsbury. 2027.
- A Marca, Pablo, Cristina Bacchilega, Abigail Heiniger, Mayako Murai, Veronica Schano, Elena Emma Sottilotto, and Kay Turner. “Restorying Fairy Tales and Fairy-Tale Studies: Conference Proceedings.” *Marvels and Tales*. 2027.
- “We the People”: *Telling the Story of the US 250th in Fairy Tales, Folklore, and Myth*. Special issue of *Humanities*, MDPI. Drs. Abigail Heiniger, Christine Jones, James Deutsch, and Liang Luo, eds. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/humanities/special_issues/OEHU7S891S. 2027.

- A Marca, Pablo, Cristina Bacchilega, Abigail Heiniger, Mayako Murai, Veronica Schano, Elena Emma Sottillotta, and Kay Turner. "Eight Approaches to Restorying Fairy Tales and Fairy-Tale Studies: A Dialogue." *Narrative Culture*. 2026.
- "The Magic of Patwa in *Bluebeard and Brer Anancy*: Colonial Oppression and the Transgressive Power of Language." *Marvels and Tales*. 2025.
- "The British Empire's Lost Slipper: Dangerous Irish Cinderellas." *Contemporary Fairy Tale Magic*, Lydia Brugué, ed. 2020.
- "Passing as the American Cinderella: Disenchanted Fairy Tales in the Writings of Hannah Crafts, Charles Chesnutt and Jessie Fauset." *Marvels and Tales* (2018): 32.2.
- "Hair, Death, and Memory: The Making of an American Relic." *Humanities*. (2015): 4. 334-52. doi:10.3390/h4030334. <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-0787/4/3/334/html>
- "'The Supreme Question': Gratifying the Loathly Lady in James Joyce's *Ulysses*." *James Joyce Quarterly*. (2013): 49.2.
- "Ragnok in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*: The Revenge of the Hrimthursar." *Journal of Ecocriticism* (2010): 3.1. <http://ojs.unbc.ca/index.php/joe/article/view/234>

Conference Presentations:

- "Fairy Tales, Fairy Lore, and Unspeakable Disruptions." American Folklore Society. 2026.
- "Name of the Helper: Fairy-Tale Ways of Knowing." Meta-Cognition International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2026.
- "'We the People' in Fairy Tales, Folklore, and Mythology." Modern Language Association. Chair. 2026.
- "Re-Storying Fairy-Tale Studies." American Folklore Society Convention. 2025
- "Cinderella Anne, Paranormal Emily, Astral Heroines Everywhere: L.M. Montgomery and the Fantastic." Virtual International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (VICFA). 2025.
- "AI and the Story of Two Grants: Speaking the Language of Skills, Competencies, and Literacies in the Age of AI." Invited presentation. MLA MAPS Leadership Institute. 2025.
- "*The Witch*: The Return of Bluebeard and Post-Colonial Reconciliation." International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2025.
- "Fairy-Tale Psychology in *The Brownies' Book* (1920-1921)." Dr. Chaka Ward-Hatcher, Dr. Lewis Hatcher, Dr. Abigail Heiniger, presenters. Round table discussion. International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2025.
- "Crossing the Global Storm in a Coffin: Fairy-Tale Endings for 'The Sponge Fisheries of the Bahamas'." American Folklore Society. 2024.
- "Playing in the Time of War: The Failure of Cinderella Pantomimes in the Great War." International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2024.
- "Wonder and Psychology: The New Uses of Enchantment." Round Table Presentation. International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2024.
- "Reproducing Fairy-Tale Truths in the British Caribbean: the British Bluebeard Legacy." British Women Writers Conference. 2024.

- “The Magic of Patwa in *Bluebeard and Brer Anancy*: Colonial Oppression and the Transgressive Power of Language.” Norm and Transgression in the Fairy-Tale Tradition: (Non)Normative Identities, Forms, and Writings. 2023.
- “‘It A Fi Wi’: Making It Ours in *Bluebeard and Brer Anancy* (1949).” International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2023.
- “Community and the Irish School Collection,” Folklore at Work. Modern Language Association (MLA). San Francisco, CA. 2023.
- “Sinéad de Valera’s Fairy-Tale Ireland: Loathly Lady as Decolonizer of Ireland.” Children’s Literature Association. Atlanta, Georgia. 2022.
- “The All-Woman Sister-Lover: Sovranty Hag’s Afterlife as Hairy Rucky (The Irish Cinderella You Never Knew).” International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts. 2022.
- “Play and Politics in *The Brownie Book*, 1920-1921.” Children’s Literature Association. Virtual 2021.
- “Breaking the Great Silence in *Queen Mab*: The Great Famine and Fairies.” International Conferences for the Fantastic in the Arts. Virtual March 2021.

LMU and other Professional Service

- Modern Language Association (MLA) delegate-elect. 2026-2030.
- International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts (IAFA), Fairy Tales and Folk Narratives, Division Head. 2025 – 2028.
- Modern Language Association (MLA) Executive Committee for Folklore, Myth, and Fairy Tale. 2022 – 2027. Chair 2025.
- Faculty Mentor. Office of Research, Grants, and Sponsored Programs (ORGSP), Lincoln Memorial University. 2024-25.
- Reviewer for *American Journal of Folklore*. 2021 – Present.
- Reviewer for *Tulsa Studies in Women’s Literature*. 2020 – Present.
- Reviewer for *Atlantis: Atlantis. Journal of the Spanish Association for Anglo-American Studies*. 2019-Present.
- Reviewer for *Marvels and Tales*. 2019-Present.