

# Colten R. Biro

ABD | Saint Louis University | [colten.biro@slu.edu](mailto:colten.biro@slu.edu) | [coltenbiro.com](http://coltenbiro.com)

## Education

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**PhD Candidate in English Literature**, Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri | 2020 - Present

Dissertation Title: “Liberalizing Wonder: How Nineteenth-Century Liberal Cognitive Practices Inspired the Golden Age of Children’s Literature”

Dissertation Committee: Anne Stiles (Chair), Phyllis Weliver, and Ellen Crowell

Defense planned for May 2024.

**Secondary Specializations:** History of Children’s Literature; Golden Age Children’s Literature; Digital Humanities & Archives; Educational Theory; Intellectual & Philosophical Histories in Literature

**Master of Arts in English**, Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri | **Thesis:** “Worlds of Dangerous Possibility: The Land of *Faërie*’s Perilous Imagination within *Harry Potter* and *The Magicians*”

**Philosophy & Letters: Graduate Degree**, Saint Louis University: St. Louis, Missouri | **Thesis:** “Virtuous Men and Women for Others: Recapturing the Jesuit Mission of Virtue Formation as Found in the *Ratio Studiorum* (1599)”

**Bachelor of Science**, Spring Hill College: Mobile, Alabama | **Majors:** English, Political Science

## Selected Research

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“John O’Malley as a Guide for *Eloquentia Perfecta*, Community-Engaged Work, and Graduate Education.”  
Co-authored article with Allen Brizee and Stephanie Hurter Brizee. *Jesuit Higher Education: A Journal*.  
Vol. 11: No. 2, 2022. <https://doi.org/10.53309/2164-7666.1422>

“The Indemonstrable Monster: Shelley’s Sublime Demogorgon in *Prometheus Unbound* (1820)” | Currently being revised and resubmitted at the editor’s request for the *Keats-Shelley Journal*.

“The Liberalism of *A Little Princess* (1905) and the Downfall of the Liberal Empire” | Currently under review at *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*.

“Visual Rhetoric: Making Meaning Via Visuals: Chapter 1.” *A Visual Rhetoric Field Guide*, ed. Sheila Coursey, et al. Saint Louis University, 2022.

“1619 – 2023: Tracing Systemic Racism in Saint Louis and Missouri.” Co-authored with Allen Brizee and Stephanie Hurter Brizee. *The Saint Louis Story: Learning & Living Racial Justice*. Summer 2023.

The Saint Louis Story: Learning & Living Racial Justice | Pilot Site Published Fall 2023.

- This is a digital/public humanities and civic engagement project on the history of slavery and systemic racism in St. Louis, Missouri. <https://www.thesaintlouisstory.org>

## Selected Research Grants & Awards

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### Competitive Research Grants

- Beaumont Scholarship Research Award | Co-Principal Investigator with Dr. Allen Brizee | Summer 2023 | \$8,000.00
- Brennan Research Fellowship Award | Summer 2023 | \$1,000.00
- Georgia K. Johnston Summer Research Award | Summer 2023 | \$2,500.00.
- SLU Compass Lab: Writing Grant to Fund Publication of *Saint Louis University's Visual Rhetoric Field Guide to Eloquentia Perfecta* | Summer 2022 | \$3,000.00.

### Service Awards

- Saint Louis University Graduate Teaching Award | *A University-wide recognition awarded to a single graduate-student instructor each year for innovative & outstanding teaching in the classroom* | AY 2022-2023
- Joe Weixlmann Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Service | *Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to the Department of English* | AY 2022-2023

## Selected Presentations

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- “Fickle Formal Fantasies of Nonsense: *Phantasmagoria* (1869) and the Personal Journals of Lewis Carroll” | *Textual Revolutions in English Research*, hosted by the Department of English at Saint Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri. *Forthcoming: December 6, 2023.*
- “The Liberalism of *A Little Princess* (1905) and the Downfall of the Liberal Empire” | Interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies Conference, Knoxville, Tennessee. April 16, 2023.
- “Lewis Carroll’s Queens, Duchesses, & Bounded Liberalism: Liberal Educational Reforms & Conservative Children’s Authors” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Topeka, Kansas. March 25, 2023.
- “The Invisibility of Personal Liberty in H. G. Wells’s *The Invisible Man* (1897)” | Midwest Victorian Studies Association Conference, Richmond, Indiana. May 7, 2022.
- “Reading Tennyson’s *In Memoriam of A.H.H. (1850)* as a Method for Processing the Traumas of the COVID-19 Pandemic” | *27<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Research Symposium*, St. Louis, Missouri. April 30, 2021. [Awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Conference Presentation in the Category of Humanities Research].

## Selected Teaching: Instructor of Record

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English 2250: *Weaponizing the Child: The Politics & Social Power of Children’s Literature*

English 2350: *The Bad, The Brooding, & The Byronic Hero*

English 2930: *Wonder-ous Worlds & Alternate [Un]Realities*

English 2750: *Dreamscapes, Nightmares, & the Imagination*

English 4000: Business & Professional Writing

English 1900: Advanced Strategies of Rhetoric: *Multiple Sections & Themes (2017-2023)*

English 1500: The Process of Composition: *Finding Your Voice in Academic Writing*