

Philip Steer Curriculum Vitae

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Research profile: [Humanities Commons](https://www.humanitiescommons.org/)

Appointments

Associate Professor of English, Massey University (2021-)
Senior Lecturer in English, Massey University (2016-20)
Lecturer in English, Massey University (2010-15)
Assistant Professor in English, Nanyang Technological University (2009-2010)

Education

Ph.D., English, Duke University (2004-9)

Publications

Book

Settler Colonialism in Victorian Literature: Economics and Political Identity in the Networks of Empire. Cambridge University Press, 2020. [\[link\]](#)

Edited Volume

Ecological Form: System and Aesthetics in the Age of Empire. Co-edited with Nathan K. Hensley. Fordham University Press, 2019. [\[link\]](#)

Select Articles

“The Culture of Erosion: Settler Colonialism, Geological Agency, and New Zealand Literature, 1930s-50s.” *Journal of Commonwealth Literature*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2023, pp. 610-626. [\[link\]](#)

“The Climates of the Victorian Novel: Seasons, Weather, and Regional Fiction in Britain and Australia.” *PMLA*, vol. 136, no. 3, 2021, pp. 370-385. [\[link\]](#)

“The Historians, the Literary Critics, and the Victorian Settler Empire.” *Literature Compass*, vol. 15, no. 5, 2018. [\[link\]](#)

“Gold and Greater Britain: Jevons, Trollope, and Settler Colonialism.” *Victorian Studies*, vol. 58, no. 3, 2016, pp. 436-463. [\[link\]](#)

“Romances of Uneven Development: Spatiality, Trade, and Form in Robert Louis Stevenson’s Pacific Novels.” *Victorian Literature and Culture*, vol. 43, no. 2, 2015, pp. 343-356. [\[link\]](#)

Select Essays & Chapters

“Narrating Migration in the Settler Colonies: From Systematic Colonization to the Climate Refugee.” *The Palgrave Handbook of European Migration in Literature and Culture*. Edited by Charlotte Sussman and Corina Stan. Palgrave, 2024, pp. 19-35. [\[link\]](#)

“Australia.” *Oxford Bibliographies in Victorian Literature*. Edited by Lisa Rodensky. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

“Introduction: Ecological Formalism, or, Love in the Ruins.” With Nathan K. Hensley. *Ecological Form: System and Aesthetics in the Age of Empire*. Co-edited with Nathan K. Hensley. Fordham University Press, 2019, pp. 1-17. [\[link\]](#)

“Signatures of the Carboniferous: The Literary Forms of Coal.” With Nathan K. Hensley. *Ecological Form: System and Aesthetics in the Age of Empire*. Co-edited with Nathan K. Hensley. Fordham University Press, 2019, pp. 63-82. [\[link\]](#)

“Modernism and Māoritanga: Re-Reading the Cultural Politics of Modernist Appropriation in *the bone people*.” *Modernism, Postcolonialism, and Globalism: Anglophone Literature, 1950 to the Present*. Ed. Richard Begam and Michael Valdez Moses. Oxford University Press, 2019, pp. 277-294. [\[link\]](#)

“On Systematic Colonization and the Culture of Settler Colonialism: Edward Gibbon Wakefield’s *A Letter from Sydney* (1829).” *BRANCH: Britain, Representation and Nineteenth-Century History*. [\[link\]](#)

“Colonial Ecologies: Guthrie-Smith’s *Tutira* and Writing the Settled Environment.” *A History of New Zealand Literature*, edited by Mark Williams, Cambridge University Press, 2016, pp. 83-97. [\[link\]](#)

Grants

Principal Investigator, *Settler Literature and Environmental Change in Colonial New Zealand and Australia*, Marsden Fund Standard Grant (2020-23). NZ\$657,000.

Principal Investigator, *Realism, Romance, and the Settler Colonies: Literary Form, Imperial Territory and Political Economy, 1829-1915*, Marsden Fund Fast-Start Grant (2012-14). NZ\$345,000.

Fellowships

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (2021)

Visiting Research Fellowship, School of Literature, Art and Media, The University of Sydney (April-May 2017)

Select Achievements & Awards

Donald Gray Prize for best essay published in the field of Victorian Studies in 2021, North American Victorian Studies Association (2022)

Massey University Research Medal – Early Career (2014)

Fulbright Graduate Student Award: Fulbright New Zealand (2004)

Medal for Academic Excellence: Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (2003)

Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

Select Invited Talks

“The Culture of Erosion: Deforestation and New Zealand’s Settler Literature, 1930s-50s.” Department of English, University of California, Santa Barbara. 12 November 2019.

“Literary ‘Climate Modelling’ and Nineteenth-Century Australian Pastoralism.” Department of English, University of Sydney. 3 May 2017.

“Narrating Space and Time in the Victorian Novel: *North and South* and *Tess of the D’Urbervilles*.” Department of English, Georgetown University. 8 November 2016.

“Colonial Debt, British Identity, and Victorian Literature.” Department of English, Brandeis University. 7 November 2016.

Seminars and Conference Panels

Seminar convenor, “Victorian Studies and Settler Colonialism.” North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. Vancouver [Online]. 7 March, 2022.

Organiser, with Nathan K. Hensley, “Ecology, System, Empire.” Two linked panels at North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. Hawai‘i. July, 2015.

Select Conference Presentations

“A ‘sweet especial rural scene’? Nature, Culture, and Agriculture in the 1870s.” Vcologies Panel, EVENT 2024 [Online]. 26 January, 2024.

“Deforestation, Colonial Poetry, and Environmental Knowledge: “The Big Kauri, Waiotahi Creek.” North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. Vancouver [Online]. 5 March, 2022.

“‘The Forest Temples of New Zealand’: Romanticism as Environmental Knowledge in the Settler Public Sphere.” Romantic Studies Association of Australasia. La Trobe University. 9-11 December, 2021.

“The Bad Form of the Australian River: The Production of Environmental Knowledge and Value in Henry Lawson.” Roundtable on Empire and Form. North American Studies Association [NAVSA]. October, 2018.

“Was such a change in the seasons credible?: Climate Extremes, Climate Knowledge, and the Victorian Novel.” Vcologies. University of Houston. September, 2017.

“Colonial Bildung and Metropolitan Sociality: The Mark System, Urania Cottage, and *Great Expectations*.” North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. Phoenix. 2-5 November 2016.

“Signatures of the Carboniferous: The Literary Forms of Coal.” With Nathan K. Hensley. Vcologies. University of California, Davis. 16-17 September 2016.

“Ecology and Epic in the Settler Colony.” North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. Honolulu. 9-12 July 2015.

“Australian Gold and British Authors: The 1850s Gold Rushes, the Anglo-World, and the Reordering of the Victorian Novel and Political Economy.” North American Conference on British Studies [NACBS]. Portland, Oregon. 8-10 November 2013.

“Narrating the ‘Romance of Business’: Literary and Trading Networks in Late Stevenson.” North American Victorian Studies Association [NAVSA]. University of Madison-Wisconsin. 27-30 September 2012.