

# Tess J Given

 | imyourparasite.com

## Area of Research

Feminist Science Studies; Black Studies; Trans and Queer Studies; Eighteenth Century Novel; Science/Speculative Fiction; Critical Theory; Posthumanisms; History of the Novel; Cultural Studies

## Area of Interest

Young Adult Literature; Queer History and Historiography; Utopian Studies; Film and Visual Studies; Queer, Cult, and Underground Film; Field Formation of Women and Gender Studies; Esoteric and Occult Studies; Monster and Horror Studies; Performance Studies

## Education

Ph.D. in English | May 2026 | Indiana University, Bloomington IN

Dissertation Title: *The Novel Parasite: Character Before, In, and After Subjectivity*

Defended with Distinction April 27, 2026

M.A. English Literature | 2019 | University of Kentucky, Lexington KY

B.A. English and Biology, with Honors | 2015 | Grinnell College, Grinnell IA

## Publications

### *Refereed Publications*

Co-editor, *Esoteric Inhumanisms*. with Rebekah Sheldon and Nathan Snaza. [2027]  
[Forthcoming from Duke University Press]

“You’re the (W)hole: Parasitic Hermeneutics and Reading Against Reading.” 2026  
*Parasitical Logic in Culture and Society* edited by Peter Hitchcock  
Bloomsbury

“Fantasy Maps and Projective Fictions” 2025  
*Unsettling Sexuality: Eighteenth-Century Queer Horizons*, ed. Shelby Johnson & Jeremy Chow  
Delaware University Press  
Winner of the 2026 George E. Haggerty Prize in LGBTQ+ Studies in Eighteenth-Century Scholarship from the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

### *Book Reviews, Blog Publications, and Public Writing*

“Don’t Get Too Cozy: What We Lose When the Weird Gets Cute” 2026  
By Rebekah Sheldon, Tess Given, Sam Chirtel, and Brianna Best  
The LA Review of Books ([link](#))

*Between Shadow and Noise: Sensation, Situatedness, and the Undisciplined* by Amber Musser 2025  
(Duke University Press)  
College Art Association Reviews ([link](#))

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| “Promises and Paradoxes of a Lab” by Tess Given, Milo Hicks, Tyler Kneiss, et. al.<br>Published by Michelle Warren<br><i>Remix The Manuscript: A Chronicle of Digital Experiments</i> blog, Dartmouth University | 2020 |
| <i>The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America</i> by Greta LaFleur (Johns Hopkins University Press)<br><i>Antipode Online: A Journal of Radical Geography</i>                                             | 2019 |

## Awards

### *Awarded Writing*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| “Working Girls: The Labors of Cyborg Pleasure”<br>The Karma Lochrie Award for Best Essay in Gender and Sexuality Studies<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                    | 2022 |
| “The Trans Uncanny and Vertiginous Bodies”<br>First Place Winner of the Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities Graduate Essay Prize<br>Center for Theoretical Inquiry in the Humanities, Indiana University | 2022 |

### *Service and Scholarship Awards*

|                                                                                                                               |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship for Underrepresented Students<br>The Graduate School, Indiana University                     | 2025-2026 |
| J. Albert Robbins Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in American Literature<br>English Department, Indiana University     | 2024      |
| Susan C. Thrasher Graduate Travel Award<br>English Department, Indiana University                                             | 2024      |
| Louise McNutt Fellowship Recipient<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                  | 2023-2024 |
| English Department Nominee<br>Lieber Memorial Associate Instructor Award<br>English Department, Indiana University            | 2022      |
| Excellence in Writing Center Consultancy Award<br>Writing, Rhetoric, and Digital Studies Department<br>University of Kentucky | 2018      |

## Conference Presentations and Public Scholarship

### *Professional and Field Conferences*

|                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| “Weird Tolerance: How Queer is the New Qweird?”<br>Special Session: <i>The New Qweird: Queer People are (in the) Weird</i><br>Science Fiction Research Association Annual Meeting<br>Rochester, NY | August 2025  |
| “ <i>Dhalgren</i> : The Parasitic Erotics of a Long, Hard Novel”<br>The Sturgeon Symposium: In Honor of Samuel Delany<br>Lawrence, KS                                                              | October 2024 |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <p>“Artificial Babbling and Real Nonsense”<br/> Science Studies Caucus Roundtable<br/> American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)<br/> Toronto, ON</p>                                                                                                                     | April 2024     |
| <p>“Less and More Than (W)hole: On Parasitic Strategies”<br/> <i>Parasites! Parasites! Parasites!</i> Stream<br/> American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA)<br/> Montreal, QC</p>                                                                                              | March 2024     |
| <p>“The Unthinkable Trans Provincial”<br/> Forum on Literary Criticism<br/> Modern Language Association (MLA)<br/> Philadelphia, PA</p>                                                                                                                                                 | January 2024   |
| <p>“Fantasy Maps and Projective Fictions”<br/> Queer Studies Caucus Panel<br/> American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS)<br/> St. Louis, MO</p>                                                                                                                           | March 2023     |
| <p>“Working Girls: The Labors of Cyborg Pleasure”<br/> Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA)<br/> Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD</p>                                                                                                                                    | March 2022     |
| <p>“Apocalyptic Fragility”<br/> Northeast Modern Language Association (NeMLA)<br/> Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD</p>                                                                                                                                                           | March 2022     |
| <p>“Conducting Speculative Energy in a Short Story, an 18th Century Utopian Novel,<br/> and a Ghost Town in Northern Ontario”<br/> With Milo Hicks and Thomas Provost<br/> Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA)<br/> University of Michigan, Ann Arbor MI (virtual)</p> | September 2021 |
| <p>“Fantasy Mapping: 18th Century Fantasy Writing and Creation of Sexual<br/> Infrastructure”<br/> Annual English Graduate Student Advisory Committee Conference<br/> Indiana University, Bloomington IN</p>                                                                            | April 2021     |
| <p>“Ars Arkhe: Or, Please Read This” Roundtable Presentation<br/> Medieval Studies Institute Spring Symposium<br/> Indiana University, Bloomington IN</p>                                                                                                                               | March 2020     |
| <p>“Leaving Masculinity Be-Hind Him: Marie de France’s Guigemar and New<br/> Masculinity”<br/> English Graduate Student Organization Symposium<br/> University of Kentucky, Lexington KY</p>                                                                                            | April 2018     |
| <p>“From Auto-Affective Phallusies to Transnational Activities”<br/> Global Conference on Persons and Sexualities<br/> Montreal, QC</p>                                                                                                                                                 | March 2014     |

*Public-Facing, Pedagogical, and Informal Presentations*

|                                                                                                                                           |            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <p>“Parasites: Novel, but Not New!”<br/> Pecha Kucha Lecture Night<br/> The Center for Eighteenth Century Studies, Indiana University</p> | April 2025 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|

The Bishop Bar, Bloomington IN

“Planetary Futures: Rebekah Sheldon and Tess Given”

February 2025

Big Talk with Michael Glab

WRFL Community Radio

Bloomington IN

Interview with Margaret Killjoy

February 2024

“Culture Nights Presents: Queer Methods” Lecture Series

Cultural Studies Program, Indiana University

The Bishop Bar, Bloomington IN

“The New Qweird”

InConJunction: A Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention Annual Meeting

July 2023

Indianapolis, IN

“Sticking Out in the Classroom”

April 2020\*

Queer Studies Conference

University of North Carolina, Ashville

\*Cancelled due to Covid-19

“Cyborgs versus Automata: Breaking Down Organic (De)Composition.”

March 2018

Composition Program Graduate Conference

University of Cincinnati

Cincinnati, OH

## Teaching Appointments

Associate Instructor of Record:

2019-2025

Introduction to Fiction (L204):

- “*After the Ending: Stories of What Happens After it’s Over*”

Projects in Reading and Writing (W170):

- “*Ain’t So Bad: Can Dystopias be Hopeful?*”
- “*Could This Get Any Worse?: Looking for Hope in Dystopias*”
- “*That’s DOCTOR to You: What Makes Science Mad?*”

Analytical Reading, Writing, and Inquiry (W131):

- “*What Makes My Body Me?*”
- “*What Happens to Our Bodies when Our Lives are Online?*”
- “*You Are what You Eat: Food and Identity in Culture*”

English Department, Indiana University

Teaching Assistant

F2024

Critical Approaches to the Arts and Humanities (COLL103)

- “*Young Adult Dystopias and Apocalypses*”

College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University

Associate Instructor of Record:

2018-2019

Intro to Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies I (WRD110)

Intro to Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies II (WRD111)

Writing, Rhetoric and Digital Studies Department, University of Kentucky

## Department and University Service

|                                                                                                                            |           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Program Administrator<br>Cultural Studies Program, Indiana University                                                      | 2022-2025 |
| Graduate Liaison to the Faculty Belonging and Community Committee (Formerly DEI)<br>English Department, Indiana University | 2024-2025 |
| Assistant Director of Composition<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                | 2020-2022 |
| Vice President of MA Affairs, English Graduate Student Organization<br>English Department, University of Kentucky          | 2018-2019 |

## Pedagogical Mentoring and Professional Development

|                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Invited Presenter, “How to: Write Conference Abstracts”<br>Professionalization Workshop Series<br>English Graduate Student Advisory Committee<br>English Department, Indiana University                   | January 2025   |
| Organizer and Co-Presenter, “Teaching with AI: Strategies and Concerns”<br>Pedagogical Priorities Lecture Series<br>English Graduate Student Advisory Committee<br>English Department, Indiana University | September 2024 |
| Invited Speaker “Grading Strategies and Inclusive Design”<br>Pedagogical Priorities Lecture Series<br>English Graduate Student Advisory Committee<br>English Department, Indiana University               | February 2024  |
| Contributor “Efficient Assessment Design and Grading Strategy Booklet”<br>Composition Program<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                                   |                |
| Peer Advocate<br>Fellowship Contract Renegotiations<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                                                                             | September 2023 |
| Invited Presenter, “Designing a W170 from Scratch”<br>Composition Course Design Colloquium<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                                      | December 2022  |
| Senior Fellow and Peer Mentor<br>Writing Course Design Institute and Intensive Writing Workshop<br>English Department and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University             | Summer 2022    |
| Co-Editor “Instructor Spotlight Series”<br>Composition Program<br>English Department, Indiana University                                                                                                  | Spring 2022    |
| Junior Fellow<br>Writing Course Design<br>English Department and the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning, Indiana University                                                                      | Summer 2021    |

### Professional Associations

- Modern Language Association
- American Society for Comparative Literature
- Science Fiction Research Association
- American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies
- Society for Literature, Science and the Arts

### References

- Dr. Rebekah Sheldon ([rsheldon@iu.edu](mailto:rsheldon@iu.edu))
- Dr. Jesse Molesworth ([jmoleswo@iu.edu](mailto:jmoleswo@iu.edu))
- Dr. Walton Muyumba ([wmuyumba@iu.edu](mailto:wmuyumba@iu.edu))