

NCSA 2019 President's Award

Kate Faber Oestreich

Associate Professor of Literature, Writing, and New Media, Coastal Carolina University

I am very pleased to give my first NCSA President's Award to someone as deserving as today's recipient. This individual has been a member of NCSA for years and has contributed to our community through conference presentations, committee work, and officer responsibilities. She has not only done an exceptional job fulfilling the duties of her positions but has also had the foresight to develop new systems and opportunities for the Association. She is dedicated to NCSA, always cheerful and efficient, and has quickly become invaluable to us as we continue to modernize our digital presence. I am delighted to recognize the hard work of Kate Faber Oestreich, Associate Professor of Literature, Writing, and New Media at Coastal Carolina University.

Kate earned her B.A. in English with a minor in Women's Studies at The Ohio State University and continued on to receive an M.A. and Ph.D. from that institution. Her research focuses on English literature of the long nineteenth century, with specific areas of interest in digital storytelling and adaptation, new media, feminism, cultural materialism, and sartorial semiotics. Her research has appeared in the *Victorians Institute Journal*, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*, *The CEA Critic*, *ARIEL*, and the edited collection *Straight Writ Queer*. In 2018, she co-authored a book with Jennifer Camden entitled *Transmedia Storytelling: Pemberley Digital's Adaptations of Jane Austen and Mary Shelley*, published by Cambridge Scholars. Her NCSA conference presentations likewise reflect an interest in the intersection of nineteenth-century literature and its more contemporary afterlives: she has presented, for example on such topics as "Written Fidelity / Photographic Falsities: The 19th-Century Material World in Virginia Woolf's *Orlando*" and "Modern Vision of Nineteenth Century Vistas: The Autobiography of Jane Eyre." Kate balances her active scholarly agenda with a range of other interests and activities: she enjoys knitting, cross-stitching, and binge-watching the *Outlander* series. She is a superfan of *The Great British Baking Show* and has been experimenting with meat pies and puddings. She has a six-year-old daughter who loves gymnastics, and a nine-year-old son who loves soccer, but she would never consider herself a gymnastics- or soccer-mom. As her husband Joe Oestreich puts it—and is quite fitting for a nineteenth-century scholar—she is more of a Laura-Ingalls-Wilder-mom.

In her research and her home life, then, Kate bridges the nineteenth- and twenty-first centuries. It should come as no surprise, then, that Kate has gravitated towards NCSA's web committee. She took the initial idea of our blog, *19 Cents*, and developed it, from a digital alternative to our former newsletter into a regularly published series of interviews with NCSA members. Thanks to Kate and her forty-nine contributions to the blog since 2015, *19 Cents* now attests to the vibrancy of the Association. Kate has also been instrumental in engaging members and other nineteenth-century scholars via social media: she started our Twitter account and ran it for a year, all the while posting regularly. Those of us familiar with NCSA's website know that it is a complex site, and Kate has helped the Association tremendously over the past several years by digging into the coding of the site, problem solving when issues come up, and saving us endless calls to web developers. She overhauled the back end of our registration process, and I have come to rely on her for quick and effective website solutions. Consistently positive and effective, Kate has been absolutely instrumental to the Association over the past few years as we have grown and modernized. Kate's vision and energy have allowed us to expand and engage the NCSA community across many digital fronts, and it is my pleasure to recognize her contributions today with the NCSA President's Award.

Susan E. Cook
NCSA President