

**KAREN SWANN**

Morris Professor of Rhetoric, Emerita  
English Department  
Williams College

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**Education:**

Cornell University (1976-83):

Ph. D. in English Literature, received August 1983.

M. A. in English Literature, received August 1979.

Oberlin College (1971-75):

B. A. with Highest Honors in English, 1975.

Research interests: British romantic-era literature, including romantic poetry, British colonial literature, and the literature of natural history; poetics; eco-poetics; critical theory; contemporary poetry.

**Employment:**

2017-2019: Visiting Professor of English, Bard Microcollege Holyoke

2013-2016: Associate Dean, Office of Institutional Diversity and Equity, Williams College.

1984-2017: English Department, Williams College, Williamstown, MA. Rank: Professor of English

1983-84: Assistant Professor of English, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.

**Selected Publications:**

“John Clare: the sonnet ‘ill at rest.’” *The Wordsworth Circle*. Summer 2021.

“Coleridge’s Later Poetry.” *The New Cambridge Companion to Coleridge*, ed. Tim Fulford (Cambridge UP, 2021).

“The Butter Bump, a Magpie, John Clare.” *Romanticism on the Net* (online), Summer 2020.

*Lives of the Dead Poets: Keats, Shelley, Coleridge* (Fordham University Press, LitZ series, 2018).

“The Mask of Keats.” *Romantic Circles Praxis Series* (online), special issue on “Minimal Romanticism,” ed. David L. Clark and Jacques Khalip. Spring 2016.

- “Teaching *Jerusalem*.” *European Romantic Review*, ed. Jonathan Mulrooney 25:3 (June 2014), 397-402.
- “Blake’s *Jerusalem*: Friendship with Albion.” *Blackwell’s Companion to British Romanticism*, ed. Charles Mahoney. Blackwell’s, 2011.
- “Shelley’s Pod People.” *Romantic Praxis* (online). Winter 2005.
- “*Endymion*’s Beautiful Dreamers.” *The Cambridge Companion to Keats*, ed. Susan Wolfson. Cambridge UP, 2001.
- “The Strange Time of Reading.” *European Romantic Review* 9:2 (1998).
- “‘Martha’s name’: the Scandalous Case of ‘The Thorn.’” *Dwelling in Possibility: Essays in Gender, Genre, and Poetry*, ed. Maera Schrieber and Johanna Prins. Cornell UP, 1998.
- “Public Transport: English Romantic Experiments in Sensationalism.” *ANQ* 6: 2&3 (April, July 1993).
- “Suffering and Sensation in *The Ruined Cottage*.” *Publications of the Modern Language Association*. January, 1991; rept. in Halmi, Nicholas (ed.) *Wordsworth’s Poetry and Prose*. New York, NY: Norton, 2014.
- “The Sublime and the Vulgar.” *College English* 52 (January 1990).
- “Teaching *Christabel*.” *Approaches to Teaching Coleridge*, ed. Richard Matlack. *Publications of Modern Language Association*, 1990.
- “Public Transport: Adventuring on Wordsworth’s Salisbury Plain.” *ELH* 55 (Winter 1988).
- “Harassing the Muse.” *Romanticism and Feminism*, ed. Anne Mellor. Indiana UP, 1987.
- “Literary Gentlemen and Lovely Ladies: the Debate on the Character of *Christabel*.” *ELH* 52 (Spring 1985). Rept. in *Romantic Poetry: Recent Revisionary Criticism*, ed. Karl Kroeber and Gene Ruoff (Rutgers UP, 1993); in *Romanticism*, ed. Cynthia Chase (Longman’s, 1994); and in *Coleridge, Keats, and Shelley*, ed. Peter Kitson (St. Martin’s, 1996).
- “*Christabel*: the Wandering Mother and the Enigma of Form.” *Studies in Romanticism* 23 (Winter 1984). Rept. in *Romanticism: A Critical Reader*, ed. Duncan Wu (Blackwell’s, 1995).

### **Selected Papers:**

- “‘subtle and volatile’: Keats’s *Angelus*.” *1820: Aesthetics, Politics, and the Legacies of Romanticism*. Conference organized by the Keats-Shelley Association of America, Boston, October 2021.

- “The Sonnet ‘ill at rest’.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Chicago, August 2019.
- “Clare’s Aural History.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Providence, June, 2018.
- “Tracing Keats.” Invited public lecture and seminar, Cogut Center for Romantic Studies, Brown University, November 2-3 2016.
- Master class on Blake’s *Jerusalem*. North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Boston, August 2013.
- “The Mask of Keats.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. Boston, August 2013.
- “Posthumous Affection: The Legacies of Keats and Shelley.” Modern Language Association Convention. Boston, January 2013.
- “*Adonais* and the Catastrophe of the Dead Child.” International Conference on Romanticism. Phoenix, November 2012.
- “Coleridge the Talker.” Plenary address, Coleridge Conference. Cannington, England. August, 2012.
- “Friendship with Albion.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism. University of Toronto, August 2008.
- “Late Coleridge.” Invited lecture at Princeton University, Spring 2006.
- “Coleridge’s Work of the Negative.” Modern Language Association Convention, Philadelphia, December 2004.
- “Work without Hope.” “Uncontainable Romanticism.” Cornell University, December 2004.
- “Thinking about Things that don’t Matter.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Seattle, Summer 2003.
- “Shelley’s Pod People.” Harvard Center for the Humanities, Fall 2003.
- “Keats’s Afterlife.” Invited lecture at Bowdoin College, Spring 2002.
- “Keats’s Beautiful Dreamers.” Modern Language Association Convention, Washington, December 2000.
- “Shelley’s Exquisite Corpus.” Invited lecture at Vanderbilt University, October 2006.
- “Relics.” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism, Phoenix, September 2000.
- “Shelley’s Bones.” Invited lecture, Cambridge University, June 2000.

“Shelley’s Bones.” Invited lecture, Cornell University, April 2000.

“The Strange time of Reading,” North American Society for the Study of Romanticism,  
Toronto, 1997.

**Recent courses taught:**

British Romantic Poetry  
William Blake  
New Poetry  
Colonial Subjects  
Romantic Nature  
Romanticism and Modernism  
Witnessing

**Selected Williams College Activities:**

Associate Dean for Institutional Diversity and Equity, 2013-2016.  
Chair, Affirmative Action Advisory Committee, 2013-2016.  
Chair, Committee on Diversity and Community, 2015-16.  
Member, Diversity Action Research Team, 2013-16.  
Member, Affirmative Action Committee, 2012-2013.  
Member, Committee on Diversity and Community, 2013-2015.  
Representative of Office of Strategic Planning and Institutional Diversity, tenure appeal  
assistance, 2012-2013  
Chair, English Department, 2004-07.  
Chair, Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2001-02.  
Chair, Committee on Educational Policy, 1996-97; member, 1995-96.  
Member, Campus Committee on Race Relations, 1994-97.  
Ad hoc Faculty committee for U. S. Latina/o Studies, 1993-94.  
Chair, Women’s Studies Program, 1990-91.

**Professional Memberships:**

Modern Language Association of America  
North American Society for the Study of Romanticism  
Keats-Shelley Society of America  
International Conference on Romanticism