




# Mary L. Sellers

Associate Teaching Professor of English,  
CAS, American Studies, and Folklore

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## Education

### Doctor of Philosophy (American Studies)

The Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg  
August 2020

Dissertation: "E.D.E.N. Southworth, Storyteller"  
Committee Chair: Simon J. Bronner, Ph.D.

### Master of Arts (American Studies)

The Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg  
August 2015

Thesis: "A Good Name Is Better than Great Riches:  
The Reputation of Mary Baker Eddy"

### Bachelor of Arts (English)

Minor in American Studies

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park  
May 1990

## Resident Teaching Experience

### Associate Teaching Professor

The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA  
2015 to present

- American Studies 170N: Introduction to Folklore
- English 15: Rhetoric and Composition
- English 105: American Popular Culture and Folklife
- English 202A: Writing in the Social Sciences
- English 202B (Honors): Writing in the Humanities
- English 202C: Technical Writing
- Communication, Arts, and Sciences (CAS) 100A: Effective Speech

### Adjunct English Professor

Cedarville University, Cedarville, OH  
1998 to 2000

- English 1400: Freshman Composition

## Certifications

### Design and Teaching

Penn State Global,  
Experiential Digital Global  
Engagement, 2022

### Introduction to Accessibility

Smeal College of Business,  
The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2022

### Online Course Authoring

The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2020

### The Learner and Learning

The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2020

### Foundations for Online Teaching

The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2019

### Instructional Practice

The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2019

### Folklore and Ethnography

The Pennsylvania State  
University, 2016

## ***Online Teaching Experience***

**Associate Teaching Professor**, The Pennsylvania State University: University Park, Harrisburg, and World Campus  
2016 to present

- English 15: Rhetoric and Composition
- English 15S: Rhetoric and Composition with First-Year Seminar
- English 105: American Popular Culture and Folklife
- English 202A: Writing in the Social Sciences
- English 202C: Technical Writing
- American Studies 100: Introduction to American Studies
- American Studies 105: American Popular Culture and Folklife
- American Studies 140Y: Religion in American Life and Thought
- American Studies 196: Introduction to Folklore
- OL 2050: Essentials of Online Teaching for Graduate Students

**Instructor**, Pennsylvania Homeschoolers, Kittanning, PA  
2002 to 2009

- Advanced Placement Language and Composition

## ***Grants***

**Microgrant**, Penn State Office of General Education, November 2022

- Funding provided to purchase supplies for student encouragement and engagement to improve general learning outcomes of English 202B.

**Faculty Partner**, Experiential Digital Global Engagement (EDGE), January 2022-  
November 2022

- Developed a course module with Dr. Maria Lukanina, Associate Professor in the School of World Politics at Moscow State University, to be implemented in Fall 2022 in conjunction with CAS 100A

## ***Supervised Student Publications***

Martin, Megan. 2019. "Magic: The Obsession." *New Errands: The Undergraduate Journal of American Studies* 6 (2).

Dennis, Julia. 2018. "Muggles Practicing Magic: A Digital Ethnography of Harry Potter and the Sacred Text Podcast." *New Errands: The Undergraduate Journal of American Studies* 5 (2).

Rosenthal, Michael, Christopher Palmieri, and Mitchell Wooten. 2018. "Fantasy Football: Is It All Touchdowns and Victories?" *New Errands: The Undergraduate Journal of American Studies* 5 (2).

## ***Honor's Thesis Supervision***

Condrack, Tiana. (in progress). "Using Disability to Study the Works of Hans Christian Andersen." *The Pennsylvania State University. Co-supervisor.*

## *Awards*

### **Excellence in Online Teaching, Lecturer**

The Pennsylvania State University English Department, 2020

### **Excellence in Teaching, Lecturer**

The Pennsylvania State University English Department, 2019

### **Richard Reuss Prize for Most Outstanding Graduate Paper in Folklore and History**

American Folklore Society, Folklore and History Section, 2018

### **Simon J. Bronner Award for Most Outstanding Graduate Student Paper**

Eastern American Studies Association, 2017

## *Departmental Service*

### **Assistant, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, 2021 to present**

- Prepare syllabus and instructional materials for new English teaching faculty and graduate students
- Supervise undergraduate interns
- Assist with weekly training sessions for new faculty
- Plan and execute week-long training course for incoming teaching faculty and graduate students

### **Mentor, First-Year Composition Instructors, 2019 to 2021**

- Assist new Penn State instructors and graduate students with their transition to teaching first-year composition.
- Meet weekly with mentees to discuss grading, classroom management, lesson planning, and other concerns.
- Observe mentee teaching and provide verbal and written feedback.

### **Member, English Department Teaching Faculty Advisory Committee, 2019 to 2022, Co-Chair, 2021 to 2022**

- Advocate for issues concerning non-tenure line faculty in the English Department including compensation and mentoring
- Organize "Faculty Lounge" monthly meetings for continuing education

### **Member, College of Liberal Arts Teaching Faculty Advisory Committee, 2020 to 2022, Chair, 2021 to 2022**

- Advocate for issues concerning teaching faculty in the College of Liberal Arts
- Meet with the Dean and other college representatives to ensure that teaching faculty concerns are addressed

### **Project Coordinator, Penn State Writes Initiative, 2018 to 2020**

- Worked with Program in Writing and Rhetoric director, Cheryl Glenn, to conduct a study on the impact of class size and student perceptions of success in first-year writing courses
- Led meetings of the participating instructors

## ***Publications***

### ***Book Chapters***

Sellers, Mary L. 2019. "Folklore and Folklife of Age Groups and Aging." In *The Oxford Handbook of American Folklore and Folklife Studies*. Edited by Simon J. Bronner. Oxford University Press.

### ***Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles***

Sellers, Mary L. 2018. "A Revolutionary Legend: Charlotte Temple as an Urban Legend." *The Folklore Historian* 35 (1): 7-24.

Sellers, Mary L. 2015. "Faith and Fellowship: The Function of a Prayer Meeting at a Baptist Church." *Midwestern Folklore* 41 (2): 67-77.

### ***Encyclopedia Articles***

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Brothers Who Followed the Sun, an Iroquois Legend" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Corn Hero" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "The Circle of Life and the Clambake" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Creation Myth of the Tewa" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Marching Band Culture" in *Youth Cultures in America* edited by Simon J. Bronner and Cindy Dell Clark. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, LLC.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Tweens" in *Youth Cultures in America* edited by Simon J. Bronner and Cindy Dell Clark. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, LLC.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Water Jar Boy, a Tewa Legend" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA.

Sellers, Mary L. 2016. "Yehasuri" in *American Myths, Legends, and Tall Tales: An Encyclopedia of American Folklore* edited by Christopher R. Fee and Jeffrey B. Webb ABC-CLIO Santa Barbara, CA.

## ***Book Reviews***

Sellers, Mary L. (To Appear 2022). "Midwestern Strange by B.J. Hollars (Review)." *Cultural Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Forum on Folklore and Popular Culture*.

Sellers, Mary L. (2022). "Critical Perspectives on Teaching in the Southern United States ed. by Tori K. Flint and Natalie Keefer (Review)." *The Journal of Folklore and Education* 9.

Sellers, Mary L. Sellers. 2021. "The Fairy Tale World ed. by Andrew Teverson (Review)." *Marvels & Tales* 35 (2).

Sellers, Mary L. 2020. "Teaching Fairy Tales ed. by Nancy L. Canepa (Review)." *Marvels & Tales* 31 (1): 167-169.

Sellers, Mary. 2017. "The Cambridge Companion to Fairy Tales Ed. by Maria Tatar (Review)." *Marvels & Tales* 31 (1): 167-169.

Sellers, Mary. 2017. "The Edinburgh Critical Edition of the Selected Writings of Andrew Lang edited by Andrew Teverson, Alexandra Warwick, and Leigh Wilson (Review)." *Marvels & Tales* 31 (2): 419-421.

## ***Selected Talks***

American Folklore Society, October 13, 2022  
Tulsa, OK

"FYC Meets Folklore": Exploring Identity and Rhetoric Through Definition"

Conference on College Composition and Communication, April 9, 2021

Online

"Retention as Belonging"

American Folklore Society, October 20, 2018

Buffalo, NY

"Irvin Park: The Center of the Community on the Edge of Town"

American Folklore Society, October 21, 2017

Minneapolis, MN

"A Revolutionary Legend: Charlotte Temple as an Urban Legend"

American Folklore Society, October 22, 2016

Miami, FL

"The Search for Peace: An Expression of Community, Family, and Faith in a Small Pennsylvania Town"

American Studies Association (Invited Speaker), November 11, 2017

Chicago, IL

"Pink or Blue? Uncovering the Baby Gender Reveal Party"

Eastern American Studies Association, March 28, 2015

Rowan University, Glassboro, NJ

“Go Ye Into All the World: The Marketing Strategies of Mary Baker Eddy”

Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference,

April 1, 2015

New Orleans, LA

“Literary Yard Art: How Castoff Books Create Community”