

# DENNIS WILSON WISE

dwwise@email.arizona.edu | www.denniswilsonwise.net | Cell: 629-333-9683

---

## Education

**Ph.D., English**, Middle Tennessee State University 2017  
Specialties: 20<sup>th</sup> century Transatlantic Literature (British and American)

Dissertation: *Rage and Recognition in Middle-earth: The Political Conflict of Ancient and Modern in J. R. R. Tolkien*

My dissertation examines how fantasy literature—J. R. R. Tolkien especially—develops a strong sense of historical consciousness that sheds light on the philosophical and social differences between political regimes across history. Although ensconced in a liberal democracy, Tolkien and *The Lord of the Rings* provides an in-depth analysis of *thumos*, the idea of spiritedness first analyzed by Plato and which is undergoing a resurgence in contemporary political theory.

Director(s): Dr. David Lavery (English), Dr. Becky King (English).

Committee: Dr. Robb McDaniel (international relations), Dr. Ted Sherman (English)

**M.A., English**, Ohio State University 2008  
Thesis: “Ontological Bifurcation: Consciousness and Mind in *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant*.” Directed by Dr. David Herman.

**B.A., English, History, Philosophy**, Kent State University. *Summa cum laude*. 2006  
Thesis: “Stephen R. Donaldson and his Apotheosis of the Existential Prototype.” Directed by Dr. Donald M. Hassler.

## Academic Positions

2017- – **Lecturer**, University of Arizona  
2016-17 **Writing Fellow**, College of Graduate Studies, Middle Tennessee State U.  
2012-16 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, Middle Tennessee State University  
2006-08 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, The Ohio State University

## Publications

### *Peer Reviewed Publications*

2018. “Paul Edwin Zimmer’s Alliterative Style: A Metrical Legacy of J. R. R. Tolkien and Poul Anderson.” *MYTHLORE*, vol. 38, no. 1. FORTHCOMING.
2018. “The Domestic Male within the Pale of Globalization: The Postmodern Transformation of Tolkien’s Bard the Bowman.” *Comparing Jackson’s The Hobbit Films to Tolkien’s Novel: Text into Film*, edited by Janice M. Bogstad, McFarland. FORTHCOMING.
2017. “Unraveling *The Hobbit*’s Strange Publication History: A Look at Possible Worlds, Modality, and Accessibility Relations.” *Subcreation: Worldbuilding in the Fantastic*. Spec. Issue of *FASTITOCALON*, vol. 7, no. 1 & 2, pp. 121-35.
2017. “J. R. R. Tolkien and the 1954 Nomination of E. M. Forster for the Nobel Prize in Literature.” *MYTHLORE*, vol. 36, no. 1, pp. 143-65.
2016. “Harken Not to Wild Beasts: Between Rage and Eloquence in Saruman and Thrasymachus.” *JOURNAL OF TOLKIEN RESEARCH*, vol. 3, no. 2, pp. 1-32.

*Peer Reviewed Publications (continued)*

2016. "Book of the Lost Narrator: Re-Reading *The Silmarillion* as a Unified Text." *TOLKIEN STUDIES*, vol. 13, pp. 101-24.
2014. "Classical Poetry and Modern Political Philosophy: Spenser and Machiavelli in *A View of the State of Ireland*." *SCIENTIA ET HUMANITAS*, vol. 4, pp. 1-20.

*Non-Peer Reviewed Publications*

2019. "L. Frank Baum and PYRZQXGL: Or, How to Do Things with (Magic) Words." *Baum Bugle*. FORTHCOMING.
2018. "Delving into Nome Man's Land: Two Traditions in Baum and Tolkien." *Baum Bugle*. FORTHCOMING.
2018. "Identity, Time, and Faerie in *Pig Tale* and *The Inn at Corbies' Caww*: An Unexpected Convergence of Realms." *A Wilderness of Dragons: Essays in Honor of Verlyn Flieger*, edited by John D. Rateliff. FORTHCOMING.
2008. "Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Social Critique: Stephen R. Donaldson's Gap into Genre." *New Boundaries in Political Science Fiction*, edited by Donald M. Hassler and Clyde Wilcox, U of South Carolina P, pp. 290-98.

*Book Reviews*

2018. *Okja* (film), directed by Bong Joon-Ho. *SCIENCE FICTION FILM AND TELEVISION*. FORTHCOMING.
2018. *The Return of the Ring*, volumes 1 & 2, edited by Lynn Forest-Hill. *JOURNAL OF TOLKIEN RESEARCH*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 1-14.
2017. *Alfred Bester*, by Jad Smith. *JOURNAL OF THE FANTASTIC IN THE ARTS*, vol. 29, no. 2, pp. 332-35.
2017. *The Invention of Angela Carter: A Biography*, by Edmund Gordon. *MYTHLORE*, vol. 36, no. 1, pp. 235-39.
2016. *A Secret Vice: Tolkien on Invented Languages*, edited by Dimitra Fimi and Andrew Higgins. *JOURNAL OF THE FANTASTIC IN THE ARTS*, vol. 27, no. 3, pp. 549-52.
2016. *Wizards vs. Muggles: Essays on Identity in the Harry Potter Universe*, edited by Christopher E. Bell. *MYTHLORE*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 154-60.
2016. *The Evolution of Modern Fantasy: From Antiquarianism to the Ballantine Adult Fantasy Series*, by Jamie Williamson. *FAFNIR: THE NORDIC JOURNAL OF SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY RESEARCH*, vol. 3, no. 3, pp. 72-73.

*Encyclopedia Articles*

2019. (1) "Stephen R. Donaldson"; (2) "*The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant the Unbeliever*." *The Literary Encyclopedia*, www.litencyc.com. IN-PROGRESS.
2019. "Donaldson's Amnion and the Dangers of a Posthuman Future." *Aliens in Popular Culture: A Guide to Visitors from Outer Space* by Michael M. Levy, edited by Farah Mendlesohn, Greenwood P. FORTHCOMING.

*Non-Academic Writing*

- "How the Writers Have Pushed MLB Too Far with Biogenesis." *It's Pronounced Lajaway*, 22 Aug 2013.
- "Masculinity, Reading, and *Twilight*." *As It Ought to Be*, 9 July 2013.
- "Review of *The Historical Novel in Nineteenth-Century Europe: Representations of Reality in History and Fiction*, by Brian Hamnett." *Historical Novel Review*, no. 63, February 2013.

## Conferences & Presentations

*Conferences* — a \* denotes eventual publication after revision or currently under review

2019. (forthcoming). **International Medieval Congress (IMC)**. “A Straussian Approach to Tolkien’s Medievalism: The Conflict between Ancient and Modern.” *Uni. of Leeds, England*.
- Also invited to participate in a round table discussion: “New Voices and New Topics in Tolkien Scholarship”
2018. **53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies**. “‘Sing, Muse, the Wrath of Boromir, Denethor’s Son’: *Thumos* and *Lofgeornost* in J.R.R. Tolkien.” *Kalamazoo, MI*.
- 2018.\* **International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA)**. “Gender Violence and Feminist Thought in Stephen R. Donaldson’s ‘Reave the Just.’” *Orlando, FL*.
2017. **International Conference for the Fantastic in the Arts (ICFA)**. “The Art of Writing in Glen Cook’s Black Company Series: A Meditation on Historiography.” *Orlando, FL*.
2015. **South Central MLA Conference**. “Wallace Stevens and the Poetry of the Last Man.” *Nashville, TN*.
- 2015.\* **Tolkien Seminar**. “Book of the Lost Narrator: Rhetoric and Esotericism in Tolkien.” *University of Leeds, England*.
2014. **International Writing Centers Association Conference (ICWA)**. “Tutoring Praxis and Composition Pedagogy—Ah, but I Repeat Myself” with Tatiana Silvas. *Orlando, FL*.
- 2014.\* **U. of Georgia EGO Conference**. “The Ideological Norms of *The Silmarillion*’s Aristocratic Narrator.” Also the panel organizer for the following: “The Anxiety of Historical Change: Novels and the Fear of the Future.” *Athens, GA*.
- 2012.\* **Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Conference**. “Machiavelli, Immoralism, and the Late Epic Fantasy of Glen Cook.” *Pittsburgh, PA*.

### *Presentations*

2017. “Leo Strauss and J. R. R. Tolkien: A Literary and Political Examination of the Conflict between Ancient and Modern” – *MTSU EGSO Graduate Research Symposium*. Accepted for presentation by panel of department faculty judges.
2017. “Rage and Recognition in Middle-earth” – poster presentation, *MTSU Scholars Week*
2014. “Multiculturalism and Historical Fiction: The Re-Consecration of Tenochtitlan’s Great Pyramid” – *MTSU EGSO Graduate Research Symposium*. Accepted for presentation by panel of department faculty judges.
2013. “One Suggestion for a Less Ideological Classroom” – *MTSU CompExpo*
2006. “Theodicy and the Existential Prototype in Stephen R. Donaldson” – poster presentation, *Kent State Honors Colloquium*

## Awards, Honors, & Scholarships

### *Awards & Honors*

2017. MTSU Scholars Week (\$200, 2<sup>nd</sup> place), College of Liberal Arts – *MTSU*
2017. EGSO Graduate Research Symposium (\$100, 3<sup>rd</sup> place) – *MTSU*
2016. Richard C. and Virginia Peck Award (\$1000) – *MTSU*. Faculty-nominated award for excellence in graduate work; department’s highest honor.
2015. William Wolfe Graduate Writing Award (\$500) – *MTSU*

- 2014. Dean's Distinguished Essay Award (\$75), *Scientia et Humanitas* vol. 4, University Honors College – *MTSU*
- 2013. William Wolfe Graduate Writing Award (\$500) – *MTSU*
- 2006. Distinguished Student Award – *Kent State*
- 2006. DuBois Critical Writing Award (\$250) – *Kent State*

### *Fellowships, Scholarships, & Travel Grants*

- 2016-17 Provost's Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$11,000) – *MTSU*. One of three awarded university-wide for the academic year.
- 2012-16 Four Conference Travel Grants (average: \$500) – *MTSU*
- 2016 Wilma J. Crawford Honors Scholarship – *Kent State* (undergrad)
- 2003-06 Adult Learner Scholarship (annual average: \$1000) – *Kent State* (undergrad)

## Teaching: Courses Taught & Experience —26 sections of 8 different courses

### *Literature*

- ENGL 160D2 (U of A): Nonhuman Subjects: Monsters, Aliens, Ghosts, and Others – 1 section
- ENGL 2030 (MTSU): The Experience of Literature – 1 section
- ENGL 152 (Ohio State): Writing and Reading (literature based) – 1 section

### *Composition*

- ENGL 102 (U of A): First-Year Composition II – 3 sections
- ENGL 101 (U of A): First-Year Composition I – 7 sections, including 2 sections online
- ENGL 1020 (MTSU): Research and Argumentative Writing – 4 sections
- ENGL 1010 (MTSU): Expository Writing (w/ multimodal component) – 4 sections
- ENGL 151 (Ohio State): Writing and Rhetoric I – 5 sections

### *Related Teaching Experience*

- 2016. Invited week-long guest lecturer on John Steinbeck for ENGL 3320: TWENTIETH-CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE – *MTSU*. Invited for familiarity with subject matter.
- 2015. Ran studio sessions for ENGL 1009: INTRODUCTION TO UNIVERSITY WRITING – *MTSU*.
- 2012-14. **Writing Consultant & Tutor**, University Writing Center – *MTSU*

## Academic Service

### *Department Service*

- 2018. **Hiring committee**: WPA Assistant Writing Director – *U of Arizona*
- 2017. **APR Committee** (Annual Performance Review) – *U of Arizona*
- 2015-16. **President**: English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO) – *MTSU*
- 2015. **Symposium Organizer**: English Graduate Research Symposium – *MTSU*
- 2015-16. Organizer: MTSU Graduate Student Book Club – *MTSU*
- 2015. Workshop leader: “Composing Peer Reviews for an Academic Journal” – *MTSU*
- 2015. Judge—General Education Awards (categories: ENGL 1010 & 1020) – *MTSU*
- 2014-15. Events Coordinator: English Graduate Student Organization (EGSO) – *MTSU*
- 2014. Workshop facilitator: Central Magnet [High] School Writing Center – *MTSU*

- 2012-14. Campus Events Committee: MTSU Writing Center – *MTSU*  
 2013. Workshop leader (twice): Saturday Morning Workshop Series (Writing Process & Citations) – *MTSU*

### *University Service*

2017. Editor in chief: *Scientia et Humanitas: A Peer-Reviewed Journal of Student Research* – *MTSU* (University Honors College)  
 2016. Associate editor: *Scientia et Humanitas* – *MTSU*  
 2014-15. Social Sciences Section editor, *Scientia et Humanitas* – *MTSU*

### *Editorial Field Service*

- 2018-—. Reviews editor: *Fafnir: Nordic Journal of Science Fiction and Fantasy Research*.  
 N/A Peer Reviewer on journal articles for *Fafnir: Nordic Journal of SFF Research*, & *Extrapolation*

### *General Field Service*

2018. Volunteer Judge—the Mythopoetic Society Award for two categories: *Inkling Studies & Myth and Fantasy Studies*  
 2017. Volunteer Judge—the Mythopoetic Society Award for two categories: *Inkling Studies & Myth and Fantasy Studies*

## *Professionalism*

### *Professional Memberships*

- International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts  
 Modern Language Association  
 Mythopoeic Society  
 Tolkien Society  
 Omnicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honor Society)

### *Professional Development*

2018. Certificate: *Leader in Classroom Diversity & Inclusion* (four completed workshops)  
 2018. Certificate: *Teaching Online* (2-week online mini-workshop)  
 2015. Peck Composition Series: Seminar and workshop with *Elizabeth Wardle*.  
 2014. Peck Composition Series: Seminar and workshop with *Cheryl Ball*.  
 2013. Peck Composition Series: Seminar and workshop with *Andrea Lunsford*.

### *Related Professional Experience*

2016. Copy editor & proofreader for *University of Solitude* [*Univerzita Samoty*] by Matej Valuch. Translated by Martina G. Wise, Amazon Publishing, 2016.  
 2010-—. Freelance editor: copyediting & proofreading for academic articles, dissertations, book proposals, bibliographies, academic monographs, etc.