

Reading Matters

Vol. 40 No. 4

December 2025

PUBLICATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, “This Beautiful Confusion” (poem). *The Atlantic*, 26 Nov. 2025: <https://www.theatlantic.com/books/2025/11/poem-traci-brimhall-this-beautiful-confusion/685012/>

“Video Ergo Sum” (poem). *Missouri Review*, 17 Nov. 2025: <https://missourireview.com/video-ergo-sum-by-traci-brimhall/>

“Autoerotics as Alt-Text,” “Color Theory,” “The Dream Temple of Asclepius,” “Extraction of the Stone of Madness as Alt-Text,” “Portrait Gallery as Alt-Text” and “Wings of the Triptych as Alt-Text” (poems). *The Big Other*, 12 Nov. 2025: <https://bigother.com/2025/11/12/six-poems-by-traci-brimhall/>

“Dead of Night,” “Every Circle is a Portal,” and “Smoke Carries a Wish to the Heavens” (poems). *American Poetry Review*, vol. 54, no. 6, 2025, p. 27.

“Love Poem without a Drop of Hyperbole” (poem). *A Century of Poetry in The New Yorker: 1925-2025*. Edited by Kevin Young, Knopf, 2025, p. 384.

• **Phillip Marzluf**, “The Execution of George Grant: Violence and Masculinity on the Mongolian Frontier.” *Inner Asia*, vol. 27, no. 2, 2025, pp. 314-335.

“Plagiarism and Travel Writing: Mabel Waln Smith’s *Land of Swift-Running Horses* and the Idealisation of

Primitiveness.” *Studies in Travel Writing*, 10 Oct. 2025: doi.org/10.1080/13645145.2025.2554057.

• **Ania Payne**, “The Sound You Never Forget.” *Community Literacy Journal*, vol. 19, no. 2, 9 Nov. 2025: <https://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/communityliteracy/vol19/iss2/9/>

PRESENTATIONS

• **Traci Brimhall**, *Eat Your Words* Event, Lenexa Arts Council, Lenexa, KS. 20 Nov. 2025.

Reading from *Love Prodigal*, Trinity College, Hartford, CT. 18 Nov. 2025.

Reading from *Kansas Matters*, Books and Brews, Council Grove, KS. 10 Nov. 2025.

Reading from *Eat Your Words*, Salina Arts Center, Salina, KS. 9 Nov. 2025.

• **Gregory Eiselein**, “The Stoicism of Alcott’s Artists.” *Society for the Study of American Women Writers Conference*. Philadelphia, PA. 6 Nov. 2025.

• **Mary Kohn**, with Jill Hornung-Heeke and Cathy Mages (Spearville Township Library), Mary Schartz (community volunteer), Alex Peck, Audrey Poulsin, and Graham Baijnauth (College Interns), Marcella Shirai and Cashen Padilla (High School interns), “Creating Spearville’s Community History Website Reveal.” *Southwind at Spearville*. Spearville, KS. 15 Nov. 2025.

“Using Oral Histories in the Classroom” (invited talk). *K-State Rural Innovation Academy for Teaching Enrichment*. Manhattan, KS. 13 Nov. 2025.

“The Lost Towns Project and Work of the Chapman Center” (invited talk). *Riley County Genealogical Society*. Manhattan, KS. 16 Nov. 2025.

With Kim Westcott, Dakota Boyles, and Steven Walsh, “Making Museum Internships Work: Collaborating with Students and Universities” (panel). *Kansas Museums Association*. Great Bend, KS. 20 Nov. 2025.

• **Anne Longmuir**, “Epistolary Fictions: Authorial Persona and Narrative Form in Elizabeth Gaskell’s Correspondence and Periodical Fiction.” *Letters and Literature 1500-2025*, 6 Nov. 2025. Online.

• **Anuja Madan**, “Muscular Hindu Nationalism and Vedic Modernity in Comic Book Retellings of the Ramayana” (invited talk). *TEAS (Transformation, Equity, Access, Sense of Belonging Project) Speaker Series*. University of Connecticut. Hartford, CT. 2 Dec 2025. Online.

• **Philip Nel**, “Kate Feiffer in conversation with Aria Ungerer” (moderator). *Blunderbuss!: Exploring the Legacy of Tomi Ungerer*. The Rabbit hOle. Kansas City, MO. 15 Nov. 2025.

“DEI Is Not a Slur: Book Bans, Bullies, and Bigotry” (invited talk). *Kansas Library Association Conference*. Manhattan, KS. 7 Nov. 2025.

- **Karin Westman**, “Understanding Budget Models” (workshop leader). *Planning Strategically When There's No Time to Plan* (Session 3). Association of Departments of English. 11 Nov. 2025. Online.
- **Friday, 20 February** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Reading by Shastri Akella
- **Monday, 23 February** 3:30-4:30 p.m. An Introduction to the MA Project and Thesis

AWARDS

- **Miracle Okpala** (MA '26) won *Touchstone's* Debut Prize in Poetry for her poem “half tooth.”
- **Faezeh Rostami** (MA '26) was awarded the 2025 K-State Alumni Association International Scholarship.

FEATURED IN MEDIA

- **Traci Brimhall**, The New Yorker: Poetry Podcast with Kevin Young, New York, NY, 26 Nov. 2025.

Reading Matters is a monthly publication of the Department of English, ECS Building, 1612 Steam Place, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS 66506-6501. Editors: Philip Nel, Karin Westman, and Josh Allen. The deadline for the next issue of *Reading Matters* is **January 30, 2026** at 5 p.m. Central Time. Please send your news to Philip Nel via email at <philnel@ksu.edu>. Thank you.

NEWS FROM ALUMNI

- **Heather Etelamaki** (BA '12 and MA '15) published a new short story "Marilyn at the End of the World" (YA fiction) in Black Fox Literary Magazine (issue no. 29, pp. 26-47).
- **Jonathan Lamb** (BA '04) published *How the World Became a Book in Shakespeare's England* (Cambridge UP, 2025).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Friday, 6 February** 3:30-4:45 p.m. Spotlight on Faculty (UGAC)
- **Wednesday, 11 February** 3:30-4:30 p.m. Department Colloquium, Graduate Literature Symposium
- **Thursday, 12 February** 4:00-5:00 p.m. Lecture by Judy Jacobs
- **Friday, 13 February** 3:30-5:00 p.m. Cultural Studies Mini-Seminar III
- **Wednesday, 18 February** 3:30-5:00 p.m. Career Seminar