The Final Oral Examination for the degree of
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
(Department of English)

Luke R. J. Maynard
2004 University of Western Ontario MA
2003 Huron University College BA (Hons)

“Shadow and Voice: The Vampire’s Debt to Secular Modernity”

Friday, December 6, 2013
12:00 pm
Clearihue building, room C316

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Robert Miles, Department of English, UVic (Supervisor)
Dr. Eric Miller, Department of English, UVic (Member)
Dr. G. Kim Blank, Department of English, UVic (Member)
Dr. Hélène Cazes, Department of French, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Jerrold E. Hogle, Department of English, University of Arizona

Chair of Oral Examination:
Dr. Alexandra D’Arcy, Department of Linguistics, UVic

Abstract

The past few years have seen a renewed critical interest in the vampires and vampirism of English literature, owing both to their growing influence in popular culture and a more inclusive reordering of the literary canon. Much of this recent work has typically approached vampirism through a psychoanalytic lens inherited from Gothic criticism, characterized by a dependence on Freud, Lacan, and Foucault, and often by a model of crisis in which these supernatural figures of terror are supposed to symbolize cultural anxieties with varying degrees of historicity.

This dissertation builds upon the narrative of secularization set out in Charles Taylor’s recent work, A Secular Age, to answer the need for a new and alternative narrative of what function the vampire serves within English literature, and how it came to prominence there. The literary history of vampirism is reconsidered in light of the new sociological observations made by Taylor, hinging upon two key methodological principles: first, that Taylor’s new secularization narrative has the potential to reshape the way we think of literature in general and our literary relationship to the supernatural in particular; and second, that the fiction generated during this period of upheaval has much more to tell us about secularization, broadening our understanding of the ideological shifts and changing relationships to the supernatural that brought forth this uniquely modern monster in literature.

Awards, Scholarships, Fellowships

2009 Shortlisted (departmental selection) nominee for the Andy Farquharson Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Victoria
2004-2008 UVic Doctoral Fellowship, University of Victoria
2003-2004 Canada Graduate Scholarship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada
2003-2004 Graduate Tuition Scholarship, University of Western Ontario
1999-2003 Colonel Ibbitson Leonard National Scholarship, Huron University Collete
Presentations


Publications


