

Re-envisioning Research in Undergraduate Humanities Courses and Beyond

WCU Faculty Forum

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Course-based Undergraduate Research at WCU

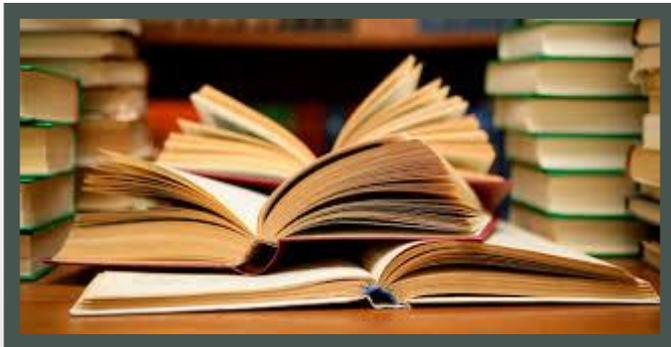
Dr. Eleanor F. Shevlin, Department of English

October 3, 2019

Traditional Humanities Undergraduate Research Projects

Conventional Description of Research Papers in the Humanities

- Research papers at the undergraduate level in higher education usually take one of two forms: a paper providing coherently organized information about a specific topic or a paper presenting and supporting a specific, often controversial, claim about the topic. (Indiana University, School of Liberal Arts, <http://liberalarts.iupui.edu/uwc/>)



An ENG 400 Seminar:

Novels, Magazines, and Newspapers: The New Media of the Eighteenth Century



**Daniel Defoe
Henry Fielding
Eliza Haywood**

**Canonical writers
who were novelists
and journalists**

A Novel Born from News: *The News-paper Wedding (1774)*



The masthead for the Wednesday,
29 July 1772 issue of
The Daily Advertiser

The Advertisement

near St. Ann's Church, Soho, shall be duly answered. Honour and Secrecy may be depended upon.

MARRIAGE, a serious Proposal. A Lady who has a real Fortune of 4000l. and 40l. per Annum, South-Sea Annuities, who about two Years ago lost a worthy Husband, is again disposed to enter into the Married State, if she can find a Man to her Mind. She is on Terms of the strictest Honour, and expects honourable and candid Treatment; and that the most profound Secrecy will be observed. Any Person of Credit and Character, whether in or out of Trade, may address a Line to J. S. to be left to Mr. Rilly's, Bookseller, in Curzon Street, May-Barr, and a speedy Answer shall be sent. No Objection to a Country Life.

WANTED, a sober diligent Person to take the Ma-

The responses generated by the ad formed the bulk of the material for Volume I and some content for Volume II of *The Newspaper Wedding*.

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ESTC System No.	006001290
ESTC Citation No.	N11125
Title	● <u>The news-paper wedding; or, an advertisement for a husband. A novel; founded on incidents which arose in consequence of an advertisement that appeared in the Daily advertiser of July 29, 1772. Including a number of original letters on the subject of love and marriage...</u>
Publisher/year	● <u>London : printed for R. Snagg, 1774.</u>
Physical descr.	2v. ; 12°.
Copies - Brit.Isles	● <u>Oxford University, Bodleian Library</u>
Copies - N.America	● <u>Brown University John Hay Library</u>
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Broadview Press Editions: Models to Emulate

Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* as Illustration

Introduction

Henry Fielding: A Brief

Chronology

Fielding's Times: A Brief

Chronology

A Note on the Text

Joseph Andrews

Preface

Contents

Book I

Book II

Book III

Book IV

Appendix A: Social History of
the Times

Appendix B: *Pamela* and
Shamela

Appendix C: Other Works of
Influence by Other Writers

Appendix D: Other Related
Writings by Fielding

Appendix E: History of the
Publication

Appendix F: Early Reception
Select Bibliography

Course's External WordPress Site: Depository for Collaborative and Individual Work



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The Annotations

Page 1·Gallantry n.-Gallants collectively; gentry, fashionable people. Obs. (*OED*).

Page 2 “Marriage, a serious proposal” might allude to Mary Astell’s *A Serious Proposal to the Ladies* (1694).

“It costs four phillings in the *Middlesex Journal*, and three phillings in the *Daily Advertiser*.”-In this section the author is discussing the cost of printing the original advertisement for a husband in two periodicals including the *Middlesex Journal*, a publication supporting politician John Wilkes, and the *Daily Advertiser*, a periodical that was designed to be circulated daily throughout coffee houses and contain the latest advertisements. (Burney Database and *OED*).

Shilling-A form English of currency that equaled one twentieth (1/20) of a pound of sterling. One shilling equaled twelve pence, and in today’s currency puts the cost of advertising in the *Middlesex Journal* at about four dollars and in the *Daily Advertiser* at about three dollars. (*OED*).

Page 3·“A real fortune of £4000” which is equivalent to £612000 or \$873,394.38 with today’s inflation. (<http://inflation.stephenmorley.org/>)·“£40 per annum South-Sea Annuities”-the author is referring to the amount of money she receives per year as a result of her investment in the South-Sea Company. The South Sea Company was established in 1711 by Harley, Earl of Oxford, in order to trade with colonies in South America. However, the company was unsuccessful leading to a crash of the market in which stock fraud amongst other issues, were finally revealed. (“South Sea Company Bubble.” *Webster’s New World Finance and Investment Dictionary*. Ed. Barbara Etzel, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2003. *Credo Reference*. Web. 12 Apr. 2016.)

Annotations -- continued

Page 4 “...no objection to Country Life” Country Life n.-Rural life, esp. as distinct from that of the town or city. Also: the lifestyle or pursuits (such as riding, hunting, fishing, etc.) regarded as typical of landed gentry. By mentioning that she is willing to live in the country, the author is explaining that she is willing to live out of the city and into the surrounding rural area (*OED*).

Page 6 “Crane Inn in Edgware-” The property of a man named Mr. John Wiblin. The property included the Crane Inn, a dwelling house divided into four tenements on west side of Turnpike Road near the Edgware Gate, and a substantial dwelling house on west side of town of Edgware near the Crane Inn. (The National Archives, 1784

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/e3734ab5-35c2-4606-852c-4e3b3ab07808>)

Page 7 “The Poft Comes to Edgware Wednefdays, Frydays and Sundays.” The mail is delivered three days a week to Edgware.

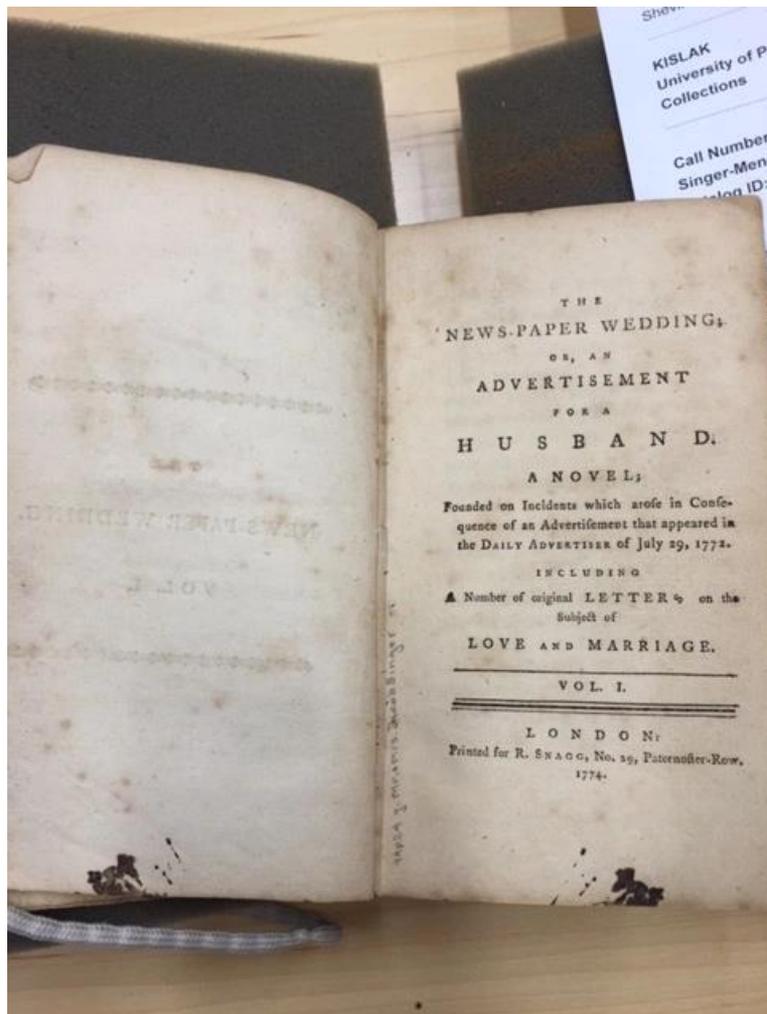
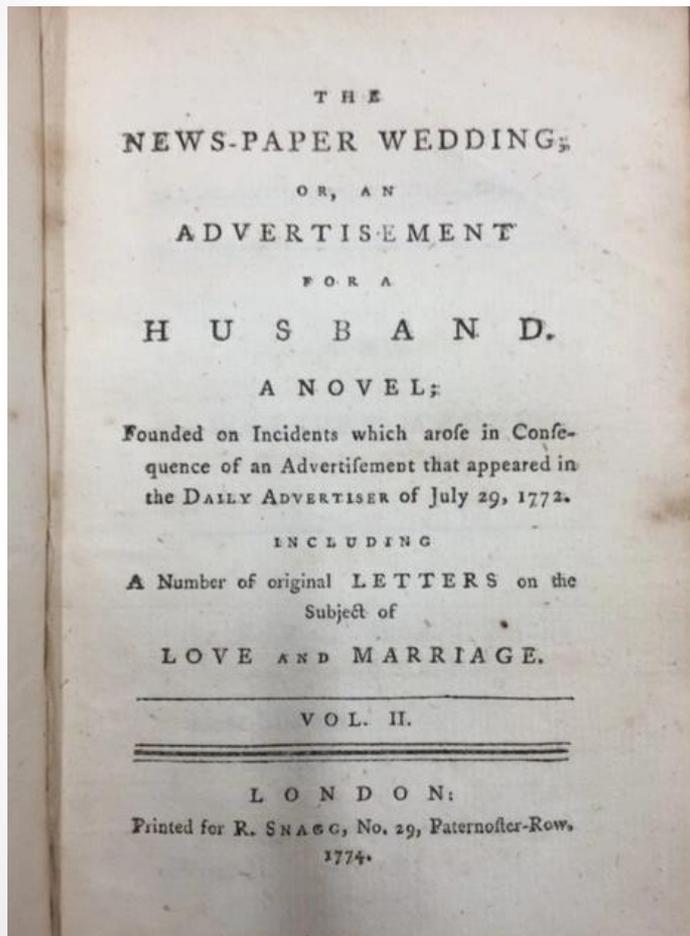
Éclaircissement n. -A clearing up or revelation of what is obscure or unknown; an explanation (*OED*).

Page 9 “...of a different complexion,” Complexion n.-Constitution or habit of mind, disposition, temperament; ‘nature’. Obs (*OED*). The author of the letter is talking not about his skin color, but of his personality, and temperament when he writes this phrase.

Contextual Essays

- **Rachel Cavotta**, On Fashion
- **Alecc Costanzi**, On History
- **Alexis Daley**, On the Novel's Publication History and 18th-Century Publishing
- **Rachel Ezrin**, On a Linguistic Consideration of the Novel
- **Bob Gillinger**, On the Law and Novel's Legal Preoccupations
- **Rebecca Gilroy**, On Marriage
- **Shadeen Holmes**, On the Epistolary form, with Pertinent Comments on Letters and Courtship
- **Jocelyn Jany**, On the Novel's Use of Quakers and Other Non-Conformist Religions
- **Emily Lagaza**, On Courtship
- **Megan Monachino**, On Class and Occupations
- **Rachel K. Perrego**, On Religious Allusions
- **Ryan Turner**, On Advertisements as an 18th-Century Practice

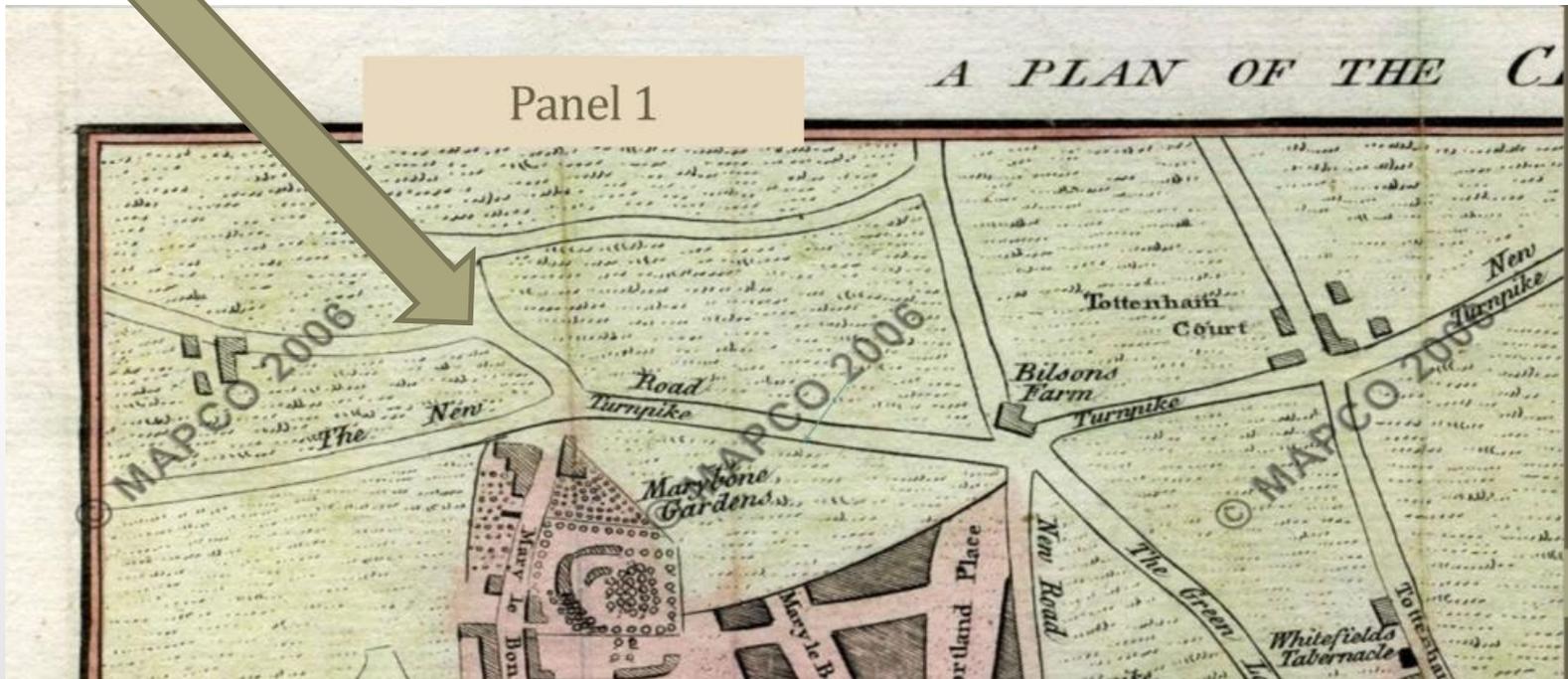
University of Pennsylvania Field Trip: Digital Images of *The News-paper Wedding*



Mapping the Novel

Marybone (Marylebone)-a housing area containing a prominent cricket club (Olsen). Visitors would come to see the Marylebone Pleasure Gardens where people could socialize and have a good time (Bucholz, Ward 201). These gardens were an outdoor venue for concerts and other entertainments which were very popular amongst the wealthy in the eighteenth century. For an admission fee, one could wander the gardens, take in a concert, and browse a hall filled with all kinds of catered foods and deserts.

Marylebone Gardens—
Vol. I, p. 137



About

This site reflects the collaborative and individual work of students in **ENG 400: Novels, Newspapers, and Magazines as New Media** at West Chester University of Pennsylvania during the spring 2016 semester. Work included examinations of a copy of *The News-Paper Wedding; or an Advertisement for a Husband*, other novels published in 1774, and best-selling works such as Richardson's *Pamela* and Haywood's *The History of Miss Betsy Thoughtless* in the Singer-Mendenhall Collection at the University of Pennsylvania's Van Pelt Library to experience and assess the material features of these 18th-century works.

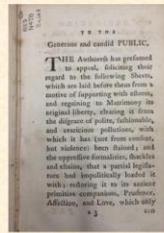
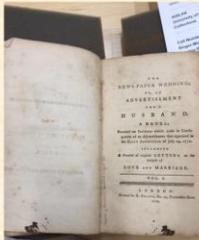
Next Step: Students Present at Conferences

Eighteenth-Century New Media and Linguistic Innovation: Analyzing Language Usage within *The News-Paper Wedding*. Rachel Ezrin, English and Russian



Abstract

This interdisciplinary project examines the ways that eighteenth-century new media—novels and newspapers—employed linguistic variations and dialects to convey, probe, and critique cultural and ethnic stereotypes. Specifically, it examines the novel *The News-Paper Wedding* and its use of newspaper classified ads to form its narrative. Analyzing the various letter-writers' responses to ads for a husband demonstrate how language and typography are employed to both reinforce and question ethnic stereotypes. While my training in languages and linguistics informed this work, this study also benefits from my work in print and digital cultures.



Methodology

This paper analyzed the syntax, grammar, and spelling of several different letters to the author. Each letter was specifically chosen to represent a different ethnicity or class. Each letter was matched to linguistic features and stereotypes of the time. Spelling and grammar were matched to higher and lower class accents in 18th century England. Eventually, each letter was traced back to a place of origin, including: France, Tothill-Fields, Bridewell, Ireland, and Scotland.

Analysis

DEAR MADAM,
THIS is Sent with my Dewtey and Tender Affect to you hopin as the few loines will not be of aney frunt to your pur Pofel that you have mad I ham A purfon of a Credit abley family and Can have the beft of Ca- racter for a sober and Indurtrus Man

The word “aney” or “any” falls in line with the Scottish pronunciation of the long e, commonly represented as /e/, and exchanges it with the “ey” sound, the closest to modern pronunciation being the “ey” sound in words such as “hey”

“...pur Pofel that you have mad I ham A purfon of a Credit abley family and Can have the best of Ca- racter for a sober and Indurtrus Man Tho I lay et I nows...”
When read aloud, these lines seem to imitate someone with either an Irish or Scottish accent. The pronunciation was likely over exaggerated for humor’s sake.

Findings

These letters give us many textual clues about who these bachelors are and from where they come—clues that contemporary readers would certainly recognize. That the dialects are often overly exaggerated is for effect and often humorously intended. Thus, these epistolary texts may not accurately reflect the actual linguistics of the time period.



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