



Dr. Jen Hill

Jen Hill is Associate Professor of English at the University of Nevada, Reno. She attended Stanford University, majoring in English and French literatures, before receiving an M.F.A. in creative writing and her M.A. and her Ph.D. in literature from Cornell University. A recipient of the Alan Bible Teaching Excellence Award and F. Donald Tibbitts Distinguished Teaching Award, Dr. Hill was recognized for her research by the American Council of Learned Societies with

a Frederick Burkhardt Award in 2009. She recently spent a year in residency at the Newberry Library in Chicago investigating the history of meteorology and climate science and its relation to nineteenth-century British literature and culture.

Weather matters: climate, and global geographies in victorian Britain

Our recent experiences of the effects of global warming have highlighted “climate” as a flashpoint for discussion about ecology and globalization. But this is not at all new. At the height of British imperial expansion, climate debates raged: Did different climates require different constitutions—both bodily and governmental? Or, since everyone experiences weather as the local effect of a global climate system, was that evidence of—radical for the day—possible racial and cultural equality? Dr. Hill’s talk will show how climate became a shared, defining, and potentially volatile factor in discussions and discourses of race, geography, natural history, and British identity in the nineteenth century.

6:00 to 6:45 pm – Hors d’oeuvres

6:45 to 7:15 pm – Program

7:15 to 8:30 pm – Open Discussion

Your early response to confirm your attendance is appreciated. Please contact Robyn Powers at 784-6873 or rpowers@unr.edu, or Stuart Golder at 784-1222 or sgolder@unr.edu.

For directions, please see the map on the next page.