

ANNA L. PEAK

CV of Failures

Degree programs I did not get into

- 2003 Rejected by Cornell and Johns Hopkins for their Ph.D. programs
- 2003 Did not apply to more Ph.D. programs as applications cost money and I couldn't afford to
- 2003 Did not apply to more Ph.D. programs because many of the more elite ones required that you come in more or less fluent in at least two languages — something my college training did not provide
- 1998 I was homeschooled / unschooled and the vast majority of colleges would not accept an application from me, or they would but they required me to take up to eight SAT II subject tests at \$80 per test, which I could not afford. Further, I only applied to colleges with no application fees as I could not afford those fees (I paid for everything myself) and was embarrassed to ask for fee waivers

Academic positions and fellowships I did not get

- 2010-present Approximately 150 faculty jobs I have applied for, most without ever hearing back
- 2003-present No faculty at my institution would write letters for me in application for any fellowships. "You won't get it anyway, with a degree from Temple!"

Awards and scholarships I did not get

- 2003-present See immediately above
- 2003-present As non-tenure-track faculty, I am not eligible for the vast majority of awards at any of the institutions at which I have taught

Paper rejections from academic journals

Rejected by *Victorian Literature and Culture*, *Nineteenth-Century Literature*, *Victorian Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century Gender Studies*. Comments were minimal, snarky, and made clear that my work had not been read.

Research funding I did not get

As non-tenure-track faculty, I am not eligible for research funding

Conference papers I haven't given

Numerous papers for conferences from which I have had to withdraw due to lack of money

Conferences I haven't been able to attend and network at

Almost all of them! As an adjunct / NTT, I can't afford to go to most conferences and I have usually not been eligible for funding

It doesn't matter anyway — as I am contingent faculty, most T/TT faculty don't wish to speak with me. I have had T/TT faculty literally turn their backs on me in the middle of conversation the moment they learned I was non-tenure track

Courses I have had taken away from me

Numerous times I have had courses taken away from me and given to T/TT faculty instead

Service I have been criticized for or during

All of it