

BRIAN M. WATSON

www.brimwats.com

bmwatson1989@gmail.com

Education

- 2025 (expected) **Doctor of Philosophy Library, Archival, and Information Studies**
Dissertation focus: Linked Data, Digital Archives, Sexuality History and Nomenclature
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada
- 2018 – 2020 **Master of Library Science**, *Archives & Digital Humanities*
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA
- 2012 – 2013 **Master of Art**, History and Culture *summa cum laude*
Drew University, Madison, NJ, USA
- 2007 – 2011 **Bachelors of Art**, English and **Bachelors of Art**, History *magna cum laude*
Keene State College, Keene, NH, USA

Honors & Awards

- 2020 Carnegie-Whitney Grant (American Library Association) for www.histsex.com
- 2020 LD4 Conference Travel and Workshop award.
- 2020 Diversity & Inclusion Scholarship, Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, ACRL
- 2020 IU Janice Kilner Egloff Scholarship
- 2020 Digital Pedagogy Lab Fellow
- 2020 ArchivesUnleashed/Columbia University Libraries Datathon Award
- 2019-20 Kinsey Institute Graduate Fellow
- 2019-20 IU Margaret Griffin Coffin Fellow
- 2019 Association of College and Research Libraries Women and Gender Studies Student Fellow
- 2018-19 IU May Copeland Fellow
- 2019 American Library Association Student Fellow
- 2014 Drew University: David Kohn Thesis Award

Professional Experience

- 2020 – Current **Teaching Assistant — Dr. Julia Bullard.**
[LIBR 509: Foundations of Resource Description & Knowledge Organization](#)
- Teaching assistant for Julia Bullard for a University of British Columbia School of Library, Archival, and Information Studies
 - Course description: Serves as an introduction to issues in organization of information and documents including: analysis of intellectual and physical characteristics of documents; principles and practice in surrogate creation, including standards and selection of metadata elements; theory of classification, including semantic relationships and facet analysis; creation of controlled vocabularies; and display and arrangement.
- 2019 – Current **HistSex—a peer-reviewed open access history resource.**
Director; Project Director (50 Years On, Many Years Past: Nonfictions of Sexuality)
- Founded by me in 2019, HistSex (a common abbreviation for 'History of Sexuality' is open access, freely-available, peer reviewed interdisciplinary, interinstitutional, and international resource for information on the history of sexuality.
 - The first resource released to the public is *50 Years On, Many Years Past: Nonfictions of Sexuality*, which aims to collect a bibliography ranked for

audience reading level, and sortable by topic, time, and place focusing on queer sexuality from 1969 to the present.

- As part of the latter project, I direct and oversee the work of nearly two dozen individuals, mostly PhD. candidates in the history of sexuality and associated fields, but also includes well as librarians, archivists, a professor and professional volunteers.

2018 – 2020

Kinsey Institute Library and Special Collections

Graduate Assistant; Intern (Controlled Vocabulary Revision)

- Worked on several different collections at the Kinsey, including traditional, audiovisual, and born-digital collections. Highlights include the unarchiving, rehousing, digitizing, and error-checking the 20,000 item Print Media Response Collection; the reorganization of the Michael R. Perelman collection; the processing, cataloging, and organization of the Crossdressing Publications Collection, and more. Created finding aids for several collections.
- Helped manage a 100,000+ item digital library, including audio, video, and image items, both digitized and born-digital. This required extensive use of a variety of systems, both in-house and commercial.
- Completed the transformation of the Kinsey Institute's internal thesaurus Sexual Nomenclature from an ANSI-standard thesaurus into SKOS-enabled linked data vocabulary. Revision and updating of terms is ongoing.
- Helped in initial conversations with a number of donors that resulted in the curation and depositing of new materials into the. Built, developed and deposited collections of other scarce and endangered material, including born-digital material

2019 – Current

American Psychological Association, Div44, CNM Taskforce

Archivist-Historian, Executive Board.

- Serving on the executive board, working closely with co-leads Dr. Heath Schechinger and Dr. Amy Moors to document and preserve the work of 100+ professionals at 50 universities worldwide into the Kenneth R. Haslam Collection on Polyamory at the Kinsey Institute. Required significant education on archival practices and federal regulations (FERPA, HIPAA ,and others). Also manage the taskforces' KO and archiving workflows.
- Additional work includes
 - (1) working with Dr. Schechinger to increase the funding, awareness and donation to the Haslam Collection by financial and material donors.
 - (2) the construction of a taxonomy and controlled vocabulary for hundreds of items of CNM literature to be used by researchers, educators, and clinicians.

2019 – Current

Researcher: Classifying, Documenting, and Preserving Human Sexuality

Dr. Marika Cifor, Dr. Robert D. Montoya

- Prepared literature and archival collection reviews. The research is a multi-disciplinary project involving archival studies, knowledge organization, and history, the third of which is my focus and contribution. My contributions to

the research have grown out of my own research into the history of the classification and organization of sexualities in Western contexts between Hirschfield and Kinsey.

- The purpose of the project is examining the historical and contemporary collection, classification, and description practices pertaining to human sexuality materials in the Kinsey Institute. The work of the Institute has had a profound, but under examined impact on the classifications of bodies, sex, and sexuality across information contexts.

2019 – Current **Encoder: *The Algernon Charles Swinburne Project***

Dr. John Walsh

- XML-TEI Encoding of Swinburne’s letters and essays. This project is funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities grant.

2019 **Researcher: “*The Price of Admission*” GLAMs and Internship Diversity**

Dr. Marika Cifor

- Undertook a large literature review of all the available information on GLAM internships and diversity, and then prepared data on nearly 400 institutions of higher education in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere.
- The purpose of this project was examination of the lack of diversity in GLAM institutions, which are overwhelmingly white. This data was used for “The Cost of Entry” (see below) and is the focus of a grant proposal.

2018 – 2019 **Scholarly Communications, Indiana University Libraries**

Open Access Graduate Assistant

- Worked on several major projects within the Scholarly Communications department and among other Indiana University school units. This includes projects such as the management and understanding of the institutional DSpace repository, blogging, preparing educational materials, administrating Open Journal Systems for Open Access Journals.
- Contributed towards the promotion, event planning and development of the department.
- Developed a social media strategy for the promotion of Scholarly Communications work including blogging, podcasts, and videos on Twitter and other platforms. Also helped in the management and distribution of departmental email accounts and email newsletters.

2012 – 2019 **CFO, Moderator, Podcast Host, AskHistorians**

- Helped in the establishment of AskHistorians as the largest academic public history forum with nearly 1MM subscribers, 20MM monthly pageviews, and 20-30,000 monthly podcast listeners and financial supporters.
- Received recognition from the AHA and NCPH and collaborated with the Library of Congress and other institutions.

2015 – 2018 **Adjunct Professor, New England College**

- Taught American History, Essay Writing, and Democracy to freshman, sophomores, and juniors.
- Used class and internet participation, outside engagement in teaching 20-30 pupils.

- Instructed on a variety of topics, including creative poetry, freshman composition, and literature classes.

2013 – 2018 **International Researcher & Author**

- Researched and wrote a book on the development of censorship and obscenity, which went on to win several awards, was featured on the Conan O'Brien show, and inspired a number of interviews, articles and more.
- Spent nearly seven months abroad conducting international research and engaging in negotiations for access to restricted material

2015 – 2016 **Historical Researcher and Cataloger, Noblespirit**

- Provided research and information for company that sought to disrupt the usual antique store model by selling directly to consumers.
- Supervised a team of 20 photographers and listers.

Advisory Boards & Professional Memberships

Advisory Boards:

- Homosaurus LGBTQ+ Linked Data Vocabulary
- The Kenneth R. Haslam Collection On Polyamory
- Peer Reviewer: American College of Physicians' *Bedside Rounds* Podcast.

Professional Memberships

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ISKO: Int'l Soc. for Knowledge Organization • SAA: Society of American Archivists • ACA: Association of Canadian Archivists • InULA: Indiana University Librarians Association | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHA: American Historical Association • SHARP: Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing • SCMS: Society for Cinema & Media Studies (Libraries and Archives & Adult Film History Scholarly Interest Groups) |
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Honor Societies:

Sigma Tau Delta (ΣΤΔ) English, Phi Alpha Theta (ΦΑΘ) History, Order of Omega Greek, National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS)

Proficiencies

GLAMS-specific

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archiving—paper, photo, born-digital • Archival software, EAD • Oral Histories (recording & editing) • Metadata—crosswalking and original • Dublin Core • Controlled vocabularies • SKOS, RDF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge organization • Development of finding aids • MARC • Open source software • Open Access • Social media management (reddit, Twitter, Facebook, Canva, Wordpress) |
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Digital & Software

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Omeka & Scalar • Microsoft Office • Online collaborative applications (Google Doc suite, Prezi, etc.) • Educational software (Blackboard, Moodle, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oxygen XML • Adobe Creative Suite (Creative Cloud, Acrobat, InDesign) • Audacity • Ubuntu Linux (proficient, server and desktop) |
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Languages

- French (reading and writing)
- XML (intermediate)
- Ruby on Rails (intermediate)
- LAMP (intermediate)
- Python & HTML (basic to intermediate)
- SQL (beginner), MySQL (proficient), NOSQL (proficient).

Professional Presentations & Appearances

Workshops Led

- *Workshopping Queeries: Linked Data Vocabularies and Ethical Cataloging*" (with Clair Kronk); workshop presented at the LD4 Conference about how to use Homosaurus and the Gender, Sex, and Sexual Orientation Ontology.
<https://ld42020.sched.com/event/cjKm/workshopping-queeries-linked-data-vocabularies-and-ethical-cataloging>
- *Queer Linked Data: Approaches, Vocabularies, and Perspectives*: class taught at the 2020 Digital Pedagogy Lab: <https://www.digitalpedagogylib.com/session/queer-linked-data-approaches-vocabularies-and-perspectives/> (to be presented 2021).

Non-conference Professional

- *Stonewall: The 50-Year Commemoration Collection*. Presented at the 2020 ArchivesUnleashed/Columbia University Libraries Datathon. (Digitally due to COVID-19): <https://archivesunleashed.org/images/NY-project-stonewall.pdf>
- *Subjects in Chains: Linked Data Vocabularies and Sexual Liberation*. Presented at the Digital Humanities Forum at the University of Kansas.
- *Queer as Data: Linked Data and Minoritized Digital Archives*. Presented at Indiana University Library's Digital Brown Bag Series: <https://scholarworks.iu.edu/dspace/handle/2022/23729>

Conference Presentations

- Rare Books and Manuscripts (RBMS): 2020: "The Power of New Voices: Sexual Nomenclature, Homosaurus, and Ethical Cataloging" (to be presented 2021).
- ARCHIVES*RECORDS: Panel on *Invisible Minorities and Oral Histories* (with Derek S Webb, jessamyn swan, Melissa Madera and Mel Leverich) and *HistSex: This is the History of Sexuality*. (both presented digitally due to COVID-19): <https://archives2020.sched.com/event/dNkv/diverse-sexuality-gender-section-womens-collections-section>
- "Critical Cataloging: Part 1" Presentation to The Visual Resources Association's Equitable Action Committee. <http://vraweb.org/about/committees/equitableaction/> (click on community hour notes)
- 2020 LD4 Conference on Linked Data in Libraries
- American Historical Association, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020.
- SHARP, Amherst MA, 2019
- National Council on Public History 2017
- Dean Hopper Graduate Student Conference, 2016

Broadcast & Podcast Appearances:

- Broadcast: *Conan O'Brien*. WBUR Boston iLAB: "Boston's Combat Zone, a History."
- Podcasts: *The AskHistorians Podcast*, American College of Physicians' *Bedside Rounds*, WBUR's *Endless Thread*, Gimlet's *Every Little Thing*. WBUR Boston, *The Manwhore Podcast: A Sex Positive Quest for Love*, New Hampshire Public Radio, Greg and the Morning Buzz.

In Progress & Published Work

Digital Projects in Progress

- **50 Years On, Many Years Past: Nonfictions of Sexuality:** A digital bibliography of histories of sexuality, funded by an ALA Carnegie-Whitney Grant: www.histsex.com
- **Erotic Platforms – Ethics, Representation, and Consequences** (working title) a digital collaboratory with kirstyn seanor (Western University) and Ellen Mitchell (University of California, Los Angeles). This project, which is only in its beginning stages, hopes to develop a method that can be used to critically examine, qualify, and evaluate digital platforms and media that focus on sex, sexuality, and sexual representation.

Forthcoming Work:

- **Utopian Potentiality: Histories of Polyamory and Non-Monogamy** (with Sarah Stein-Lubrano). Forthcoming article in *The Archives of Sexual Behavior*, Special Issue on polyamory. We present the results of an investigation into the biographies, letters and archives of approximately 50 well-known figures in Western intellectual and artistic history in the post-Enlightenment era. In this article, biographies and partners of Virginia Woolf, Max Weber, Edna St. Vincent Millay, William Moulton Marston, Erwin Schrodinger, and Victor Hugo are mentioned. While some of these non-monogamous relationships are well-known, much of the evidence of their existence has been ignored, misrecognized, or intentionally obscured. The results of this survey demonstrate that contemporary patterns of non-monogamies are deeply rooted in historical precedence.
- **Mind the Gap: Sexology and Library of Congress Classification of Erotica, Pornography, Families and Children.** Forthcoming article in special issue of *Social Text* edited by Joan Lubin and Jeanne Vacchario. This article begins with the observation that books on pornography and children are shelved next to each other in academic libraries, despite the fact that Western culture strives to separate the two as much as possible. Rather than see this as a ‘glitch,’ this article argues that it is actually a ‘feature’ of the history of sexuality, sexual representation and the cultural construction of ‘children’ as a separate category of existence. Drawing upon recent work by historians of sexuality and classification, this article shifts away from Foucauldian models, instead proposing a ‘palimpsestic process’ of sexuality and argues that the paired classification originates in the sixteenth century Council of Trent.

Published Works, Books:

- **Annals of Pornographie: How Porn became ‘Bad.’** Popular history book focusing on the development of obscenity, erotica, and pornography from the Renaissance to Hollywood. Resulted in authorial appearance on Conan O’Brien and a number of interviews.

Published Works, Reviews:

- **“Rogue Performances: A Review of Abigail De Kosnik’s Rogue Archives: Digital Cultural Memory and Media Fandom (MIT Press, 2016).”**
<http://digitalhumanities.org/dhq/vol/14/1/000446/000446.html>
- **“Homosaurus and the Digital Transgender Archive.”** *American Archivist Reviews* (blog):
<https://reviews.americanarchivist.org/2019/06/18/homosaurus-and-digital-transgender-archive/>

- **“Bias and Inclusivity in Metadata.”** (A Report on Julie Hardesty’s Presentation to Indiana University Bloomington). *Archival Outlook*, no. July/August (2019): <https://mydigitalpublication.com/publication/?i=601234&p=1&pp=1&view=issueViewer>.
- **Review: Bodies of Information: Intersectional Feminism and the Digital Humanities: Elizabeth Losh and Jacqueline Wernimont, Editors.** For *American Archivist*. <https://doi.org/10.17723/0360-9081-82.2.634>
- **Review: Ethical Questions in Name Authority Control, edited by Jane Sandberg.** *Cataloging and Classification Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639374.2019.1673524>
- **Review: Archives by Andrew Lison, Marcel Mars, Tomislav Medak, and Rick Prelinger.** For *American Archivist*. <https://doi.org/10.17723/0360-9081-83.1.187>

Published Works, Essays:

- ***A Finding Aid to the Pornographic Imaginary: Implications of Amateur Classifications on/by reddit’s NSFW411.*** Porn Studies <https://doi.org/10.1080/23268743.2020.1830590> The goal of this article is to ‘bring’ reddit and its user communities into porn and information studies and to argue that its unique features offer insights and has implications for both fields. After an explanation of reddit, this paper extends the work of Keilty and Leazer, into a different erotic community: reddit’s /r/NSFW411. I argue the categories used on ‘traditional’ pornographic ‘tube’ sites are potentially oppressive and limiting, and examine various aspects of an individually-created naïve pornographic taxonomy with folksonomic elements. Finally, I demonstrate how the interplay between reddit, NSFW411, and this system identifies ‘gaps’ between erotic representation and users’ desires, thereby encouraging the creation of a new erotic communities. While unending proliferation and chaotic tagging is often identified as a weakness of folksonomies, I conclude that in this case, it is a strength, as reddit’s ease of community-creation allows self-definition and community to marginalized sexual identities.
- **“Linking Them Together by Means of Casual Laws:” The Use of Linked Data Vocabularies and in Enhancing Archival Cataloging and Description in Digital Environments.** Chapter in *The Handbook of Archival Practice*, edited by Patricia C. Franks.
- **“There was Sex but no Sexuality*.” Critical Cataloging and the Classification of Asexuality in LCSH.** *Cataloging & Classification Quarterly* <https://doi.org/10.1080/01639374.2020.1796876>
- ***Queer Beginnings: From Fanzines to Rule 34*** (with Bobby Derie). In *Representing Kink: Fringe Sexuality and Textuality in Literature, Digital Narrative and Popular Culture*. Edited by Sara K. Howe and Susan E. Cook, 67–81. Lanham, Maryland: Lexington Books, 2019. Discusses the history and intersections between of fan fiction and queer culture.
- ***Hellfire and Cannibals: 18th and 19th Century Erotic Reading Groups and Their Manuscripts.*** Chapter in *The Edinburgh History of Reading: Subversive Readers*. Edited by Jonathan Rose: <https://edinburghuniversitypress.com/book-the-edinburgh-history-of-reading-19310.html>.
- ***The New Censorship: Anti-sexuality Groups and Library Freedom.*** Reviewing every issue of “Censorship Dateline” in the Newsletter on Intellectual Freedom and Journal of Intellectual Freedom and Privacy alongside ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom’s annual reports on censorship and the EBSCO ban in Utah, this article considers reasons for the significant rise in the targeting of libraries by individual anti-sexuality activists. Then the author considers what can be applied from the history of anti-sexuality censorship campaigns and offers possible plans for librarians. <https://doi.org/10.5860/jifp.v4i4.7177>

Articles in Progress:

- **“Bad boys wear panties:” Empathy, Radical Empathy and Cross-Dressed Archival Naming:** A reflective research article on how libraries and archives have dealt with trans* and crossdressing names, as well as the my choices in cataloging individual’s names in the Kinsey Institute Library’s Crossdressing Publications Collection. Choosing to engage in “radical empathy” and counterpower, I chose to write an authors preferred USENET screennames rather than their ‘birth’ or ‘legal’ names into a finding aid and catalog, and I reflect on that decision in order to ‘uncover’ the effects and affects in of empathy archival practice.
- **Blue Laws, Blue Books: E. Haldeman-Julius & American Sexual Knowledge before Kinsey:** a book history-focused paper that examines the underexamined Haldemann-Julius company and their sexological publications.

Books in Progress:

- **Grasping Towards Pornotopia: The Myth of the Sexual Revolution** (working title): an examination of the creation of popular understandings of sex and sexuality in the West between the end of WWI and the beginning of the Reagan Era. The project questions the usual chronology and concept of the Sexual Revolution as a concept.
- **Utopian Potentiality: A History of Polyamory** (with Sarah Stein-Lubrano). This work in progress proposes to excavate the history of polyamory and nonmonogamy by reexamining the biographies and histories of 100 Western cultural figures.

Other Published Work:

- **Society, Vice, and Suppression: The Historical Creation of Pornography in England, 1750-1850.** Submitted and accepted for Drew University’s Masters of Arts in History and Culture. <https://walter.drew.edu/ETD/MA/2013/Watson/>
- **“The Victorian with a Secret”** and **“A Poison More Deadly’: Defining Obscenity in the West”** for *NOTCHES Blog: (Re)Marks on the History of Sexuality*—a peer-reviewed, collaborative and international history of sexuality blog.
- **Crossdressing Crossculture: Shakespeare, Calderon de la Barca, Catalina Erauso, Mary Frith and the Theaters of Golden Age Madrid and Tudor-Stuart London.** Published in *Metamorphosis*:
<https://metamorphosis.coplac.org/index.php/metamorphosis/article/view/140>

Professional Blogging and Interviews:

Articles for the ALA’s Office of Intellectual Freedom:

- [National Center on Sexual Exploitation’s Dirty Dozen Censorship](#)
- [“Actions Shutting Down Information and Freedom – Interior’s Attack on FOIA“](#)
- [Happy Birthday to the Marquis De Sade!](#)
- [The Past & Future of Free Collecting with Liana Zhou, Kinsey Institute](#)
- [An Interview With Snowden Becker. “Keeping the Pieces:” Police Work and Documentation](#)

Articles for ALA’s American Libraries

- [Intellectual Freedom 101](#)
- [Still Chilling: Censorship Beyond Banned Books](#)

- [A Library Privacy Primer](#)

Articles for Indiana University's Scholarly Communications:

- [Using Podcasts and Videos for Scholarly Communication](#)
- [PDQT and Open Access — Dissertation Publishing](#)
- [cOAlition S: The Future of Research](#)
- [Open Access Week](#)

Others:

- [“The Raunchy World of Edmund Curll.”](#) A Covent Garden Gilflurt's Guide to Life Edited by Catherine Curzon.
- [HistoryGal Interview with Brian M. Watson.](#) Interview by Nicola Lambert.
- Clutterbuck-Cook, Anna. [“Book Review: Annals of Pornographie.”](#)
- [Reddit Moderator Has MA in History of Porn](#)
- [Porn Historian Brian Watson Explains Balloon Porn, 17th-Century Dildos in Reddit AMA.](#)
- Sex-Ed articles for Pornhub.com's Sexual Wellness Center: 'History of the Dildo', 'History of the Condom', 'When and why did masturbation become an issue?', 'How did Porn become Porn?', 'Where did the ideas of homosexuality and heterosexuality come from?'

Service

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| 2019 – Current | <p>President, American Library Association IUB Student Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President for the IUB ALA Student Chapter. Lead the executive board and help organize events, correspond with larger student body, and work with department administration. |
| 2019 – Current | <p>Secretary, Society of American Archivists, IUB Student Chapter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary for IUB-SAA Student Chapter. |
| 2018 – 2019 | <p>Treasurer, Nothing Is Binary (Indiana University Bloomington)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer for the IUB graduate, undergraduate and faculty queer student group. Ran the budget for and aided the president in administrative matters. |
| 2014 – 2019 | <p>Various, Delta Nu Psi Upsilon Alumni Association (Keene, NH)</p> <p><i>As President and Founder (April 2014 – March 2016)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrote constitution and established as a nonprofit in New Hampshire and the United States, included nonprofit and management experience. <p><i>As Treasurer (March 2016 – May 2019)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managed a \$5000 budget, fundraising, scholarship disbursements of the chapter's nonprofit arm. |
| 2012 – 2013 | <p>Founding Member, History of Ideas Club (Drew University)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won “Dean's Award for Student Club of the Year.” |
| 2009 – 2012 | <p>President, Delta Nu Gender Inclusive Chapter, Psi Upsilon Fraternity</p> |

As President (Fall 2010 – Spring 2011)

- Oversaw the largest membership increase in ten years.
- Balanced and managed a \$10,000 annual budget and over 50 members.
- Awarded by the national chapter for achievements.

As Vice President (Fall 2009 – Fall 2010)

- Restructured the organization by rewriting the constitution and membership process.
- Served on Community Service and Academic committees as chairperson