

Board Director biography



Joel Faflak

Professor of English, Western University

Treasurer

Joel Faflak is Professor of English at Western University, where he was founding Director of the School for Advanced Studies in the Arts and Humanities (2012-17). His teaching and research interests are nineteenth-century literature, culture, and philosophy; psychoanalysis; contemporary theory; and leadership. At 23, Faflak got fed up during his Masters degree and left university to start his own retail food business. He returned to complete his PhD from Western in 1998 and won a SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship to CUNY Graduate Centre in NYC (1998-2000) and took his first full-time position in the Department of English and Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University (2000-2004), where he served as Chair of the Graduate Studies Program and co-Director of the Joint PhD Program in English and Theatre Studies with the University of Guelph. In 2004 he returned as a full-time faculty member in the Department of English at Western, where he was made Full Professor in 2013. He is a member of the Graduate Faculty for both the Department of English and the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism. He is also Visiting Professor at Victoria College, University of Toronto (2016 to present).

Faflak is author of *Romantic Psychoanalysis* (2008); co-author of *Revelation and Knowledge* (2011); editor of De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* (2009); and editor or co-editor of eleven volumes, most recently *The Handbook to Romanticism Studies* (2012), *Romanticism and the Emotions* (2014), *The Public Intellectual and the Culture of Hope* (2013), and *Romanticism and Evolution* (2018). He is currently working on two further volumes, *Blake: Modernity and Disaster* (under contract, forthcoming 2020) and *Romanticism and Consciousness 2.0*, and two monographs: one on Romantic psychiatry, the other on utopianism in film musicals, both related to what he calls the psychopathology of happiness. Faflak co-edits a book series on Affect, Theory, Criticism for Palgrave-MacMillan and from 2010-16 was North American Editor (Romanticism) for the global online journal *Literature Compass*. He has twice been keynote speaker at the Undergraduate Awards Global Summit in Dublin (2015, 2016), and served as Chair of the Literature Panel for the UA in 2016 and 2017.

Faflak is the recipient of three consecutive SSHRC Standard Research Grants, four ASPP grants, two SSHRC conference grants, as well as the Governor General's Gold Medal for Research Excellence (2000) and Polanyi Prize for Literature (2001). At Western he has been named Faculty Scholar (2013-2015) and been awarded the Edward G. Pleva Award for Teaching Excellence, Western's highest teaching honour. Besides courses that speak to his specific research interests, Faflak also teaches courses on culture, leadership, creativity, and madness – not necessarily in that order. As teacher, mentor, and Director of SASAH, the



first Canadian Humanities undergraduate program to combine scholarly study with community-engaged learning, community service, and internship experience, he is passionately committed to helping both undergraduate and graduate students find the most productive and fulfilling path from Arts and Humanities to 'the real world.



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