

Dr. Valerie Lynn Schrader

Professor Tenure-Line

Communication Arts and Sciences

Title of your research project.

Public Memory in the Television Series Outlander

Description of research. Please provide a few sentences that explain the question and the methods employed in this research project.

Using rhetorical criticism as a research method, *Public Memory and the Television Series Outlander* examines how public memory is created in the first four seasons of the popular television show *Outlander*. In this book, Valerie Lynn Schrader discusses the connections between documented history and the series, noting where *Outlander's* depiction of events aligns with documented history and where it does not, as well as how public memory is created through the use of music, language, directorial and performance choices, and mise-en-scène elements like filming location, props, and costumes. Schrader also explores the impact that *Outlander* has had on Scottish tourism (known as the “*Outlander effect*”) and reflects on whether other filming locations or depicted locations may experience a similar effect as *Outlander's* settings move from Scotland to other areas of the world. Furthermore, Schrader suggests that the creation of public memory through the television series encourages audiences to learn about history and reflect on current issues that are brought to light through that public memory.

Did this project include Penn State students as researchers?

No

If yes to the above question, please state where it was published.

Lexington Books (the monograph imprint of the peer-reviewed academic press Rowman and Littlefield)

What problem do you address with your research?

The book explores how public memory is created throughout the television series - I focus on both the history and the mise-en-scene/performative elements in the show.