

# Ashley Hales

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## Profile

Ashley Hales holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Her academic interests lie at the intersection of story, culture, faith and philosophy, with a particular emphasis on sympathy, place-making, institutional cultures, and literary genre.

Ashley is the author of two faith-based books: *Finding Holy in the Suburbs: Living Faithfully in the Land of Too Much* and *A Spacious Life: Trading Hustle and Hurry for the Goodness of Limits*. Ashley lives with her husband, Bryce, and their four children.

Having moved around the American West and the UK, she loves speaking, writing, and teaching about a theology of place, spiritual practices, sympathy and genre, and the art of a graceful sentence.

## Education

University of Edinburgh – Ph.D. English, 2013  
Dissertation title: Sympathy and Transatlantic Literature: Place, Genre, and Emigration 1770-1850  
Dissertation Supervisors: Susan Manning and Andrew Taylor  
Dissertation Examiners: Bob Lawson-Peebles (Exeter), Robert Irvine (Edinburgh)

University of Edinburgh — M.Sc. Nation, Writing, and Culture, 2004, awarded with distinction

Dissertation Title: 'Brilliant landscapes of a dream': Travellers' empirical, artistic and literary constructions of landscape

Westmont College — B.A. English, Magna Cum Laude, 2002

## Experience

### Speaker + Writer – 2013 to present

Ashley has spoken to church groups, in college chapels, and conferences both in leading workshops or to several hundred in attendance at the local and national level, including denominational conferences and with The Gospel Coalition's Women's Training Network.

Her writing has been featured in such places as *Books & Culture*, *Christianity Today*, *The Gospel Coalition*, and *inTouch Magazine*. She authored *Finding Holy in the Suburbs: Living Faithfully in the Land of Too Much* (IVP) and contributed to *Everbloom* (Paraclete) and *Dating During the Apocalypse* (Cru Press). More info can be found at [aahales.com](http://aahales.com).

### Freelance Editor + Writing Coach — 2003-present

In freelance work, Ashley edits grammar, style, organization, developmental content for writers, as well as graduate-level comprehensive exams and dissertations for students.

Current editorial work includes work for guest writers, for authors, and for local businesses: including copywriting, copyediting, and website brand development.

### English Instructor, Providence Christian College — 2006-2008

Duties included: teaching lower and upper division courses in composition, communication, literature and literary criticism, as well as developing curriculum; and additional work in administrative capacities for the Academic Skills Center

### Research Assistant (Edinburgh, UK) — 2004-2006

Assisted editors for *Edinburgh History of Scottish Literature* (EUP 2006) in proofreading, indexing, reference-checking,

organizational coordination, working with contributors and other research tasks as needed.

Assisted editors in gathering selections for publication as well as discussing the appropriateness of articles for publication, and general editorial assistance for *Transatlantic Literary Studies: A Reader* (EUP 2007).

#### Tutor, American Literature (Edinburgh, UK) – 2005-2006

Lead weekly tutorials for student groups of second-year undergraduate students in American literature. Sought to facilitate connections between lectures on theory, context and literature and further students' writing and critical reading abilities.

### Academic Accolades

Conference papers presented at academic conferences in the UK, Greece, Ireland, and California (2003-2007)

Several book reviews and original articles published in academic periodicals such as *Symbiosis*, *American Studies Today*, *Atlantikos*, and the *Journal of American Studies*.

Awarded Universities UK scholarship for overseas research students while studying in the UK

### Selected Published Work

#### Books

*Finding Holy in the Suburbs: Living Faithfully in the Land of Too Much*, InterVarsity Press, 2018.

*A Spacious Life: Trading Hustle and Hurry for the Goodness of Limits* (forthcoming 2021)

Contributor to:  
*Everbloom: Stories of Deeply Rooted and Transformed Lives*, Paraclete Press, 2017.

*Dating During the Apocalypse*, CruPress, 2016.

Selected reviews:

What We Lose When Hymnbooks Disappear, *Christianity Today*

Waiting Time isn't Wasted Time, *Christianity Today*

Coming Clean and Evangelical Testimony, *Books & Culture*

The Squatters Next Door: A History of American Shantytowns  
*Books & Culture*

Mommy Guilt, Work, and The Role of Women: Review of Beaty's  
A Woman's Place *Englewood Review of Books*

Is Mrs. Maisel so Marvelous? *Christ and Pop Culture*

Selected articles:

How our Bodies Believe, *inTouch Magazine*

God's Call to a Reluctant Suburbanite, *Christianity Today*

The Kingdom of God is Like a Sticky Movie Theater Floor and a  
Neighborhood Concert, *Christ and Pop Culture*

Church Planting in the Land of Desire, *The Gospel Coalition*

Writing Saved me from Drowning and Other Tales of Creativity,  
*Fathom Magazine*

Why Reading Fiction is Good for the Soul, *The Well*

Selected academic writing:

"Walter Scott's Jews and how they Shaped the Nation," *Beyond the Anchoring Grounds: More Crosscurrents in Irish and Scottish Studies*. Ed. Shane Alcobia-Murphy, et al. Belfast: Cló Olscoil na Banríona, 2005. 130-5.

"Was it proper to watch him at a distance?": spectatorship, sympathy and Atlantic migration in *Edgar Huntly*," *Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations*, 10.2 (Oct 2006): 133-146.

Review of Anna Brickhouse's *Transamerican Literary Relations and the Nineteenth-Century Public Sphere* (Cambridge University Press, 2004) *Journal of American Studies* 40.2 (April 2006): 167.

Review of Richard Brantley's *Experience and Faith, the late-Romantic Imagination of Emily Dickinson* (Routledge, 2004) *Symbiosis: A Journal of Anglo-American Literary Relations*, published online 18 March 2006 and in *Symbiosis* 10.1.

## Awards

Evangelical Press Association, 2nd place in Evangelism category, "Judea, Suburbia, and the Ends of the Earth," *Christianity Today*, November 2019.