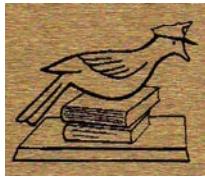


The Mystery and Detective Fiction Area of the Popular Culture Association



PRESS RELEASE

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For further information, please contact Dr. Rachel Schaffer, Chair, Dove Award Committee, Mystery and Detective Fiction Area, Popular Culture Association (rschaffer@msubillings.edu or 406-657-2954).

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen, Ph.D., Receives the 2021 George N. Dove Award for Contributions to the Study of Mystery and Crime Fiction

Rosemary Erickson Johnsen, Professor of English, Associate Provost, and Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois, has been selected to receive the 2021 Dove Award. Since 1986, the Popular Culture Association's Mystery and Detective Fiction Area has awarded the distinction for outstanding contributions to the serious study of mystery, detective, and crime fiction to a scholar whose research significantly moves the understanding and appreciation of the genre forward. The award is named for George N. Dove, one of the Area's early members, a past president of the Popular Culture Association, and author of significant presentations, articles, and books on detective fiction, especially the police procedural.

The 2021 Dove Award recognizes Johnsen's more than two decades of contributions to scholarly research in crime fiction studies, including Irish, Scandinavian, and historical crime fiction, as well as the teaching of crime fiction. She is the author of *Contemporary Feminist Historical Crime Fiction*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2006, and numerous journal articles and book chapters, including a chapter in the Edgar Award nominated collection *Guilt Rules All: Irish Mystery, Detective, and Crime Fiction* (2020). She is the guest editor of a special issue of *Clues: A Journal of Detection* on historical crime fiction to appear in 2022, for which she is also writing the introduction. Her reviews of scholarly works have appeared in *Clues*, *The Journal of Popular Culture*, *Scandinavian Studies*, and other publications. She is a regular presenter of scholarly papers at conferences in the US and UK, and she has served on the editorial board of *The Journal of Popular Culture* since 2008.

Johnsen's scholarly activities in the mystery genre also extend to the public sphere. Her public-facing writing on the genre has appeared in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Mystery Tribune*, and other outlets. She has been an invited speaker and lecturer for a variety of events; of special note is her work as a guest scholar for four productions at Chicago's Tony Award-winning Lookingglass Theatre, for which she delivered pre-show lectures and participated in post-performance discussions. Johnsen's nominator for the Dove Award highlighted her work on the pedagogy of teaching crime fiction as especially valuable in helping to keep scholarship in the genre alive and thriving. Johnsen says that "crime fiction combines suspenseful narrative with rich circumstantial detail, an ideal combination for exploration of society—both its everyday reality and its darker corners—and so studying the genre rewards scholars, students, and general audiences."