DATA MODEL: Distant Reading Mennonite Writing, Critical Texts

Rationale (Framework)

This dataset is an attempt to compile an exhaustive, searchable dataset of literary criticism pertaining to Mennonite Literature, written in English up to and including the year 2020.

The project understands "Mennonite literary criticism" to be writing that includes an informed critical discussion about: a Mennonite literary text and / or author; OR about Mennonites and literature more generally, including commentary on Mennonite literature as a body of texts or as a field of study. Importantly, Mennonite literary criticism is *not* to be understood to include all literary criticism by Mennonite authors, regardless of its subject.[1]

The dataset includes mostly formal scholarly literary analysis, defined by Abrams as "studies concerned with defining, classifying, analysing, interpreting, and evaluating works of literature," and draws primarily from the conventional scholarly publishing ventures such as peer-reviewed academic journals and edited collections. It also includes some informed critical engagements with Mennonite literary concerns in venues and forms adjacent to conventional academic scholarship, including several entries of interviews and commentary from established personal websites (such as *Mennotoba*), and short commentaries on literature from early church periodicals.

Unlike the literature dataset, which does not catalogue individual stories or poems, the criticism dataset does include individual journal essays, book chapters, encyclopaedia entries, and so on, as well as books, edited collections, and special journal issues.

The following work has been excluded:
- literary reviews
- informal blog posts
- audio and/ or video materials, such as radio programming or podcasts
- video recordings of lectures or conference presentations
- Published personal reflections, or author commentary on process (except where they demonstrate a clear critical engagement with Mennonite literature)

Sources
This dataset draws part of its sample from the existing Mennonite/s Writing bibliographies, as well as from related bibliographical work, most notably in *Mennonite Life* and *Mennonite Quarterly Review*.

---

[1] This is in marked contrast to common understandings of Mennonite literature, which often includes all creative writing by Mennonite authors, regardless of its subject matter. For a discussion of how "Mennonite author" and "literature" are defined in this project, see data model set for literature.

Additional entries were added through the team's substantial research efforts, including extensive library database searches, in consultation with librarians, at the following Mennonite institutions across North America:
- Conrad Grebel University College (Milton Good Library)
- Goshen College (Harold and Wilma Good Library)
- Canadian Mennonite University Library
- Fresno Pacific University (Hiebert Library)
- Eastern Mennonite University (Sadie Hartzler Library)
- Bethel College Library

Original research included surveying works cited bibliographies from edited collections, essays, and books in the field, and a careful cataloguing of critical publications in established Mennonite academic journals, magazines, and encyclopaedias, including but not limited to:
- *Conrad Grebel Review*
- *Festival Quarterly*
- *Global Anabaptist and Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*
- *Journal of Mennonite Studies*
- *Journal of Mennonite Writing*
- *Mennonite Life*
- *Mennonite Quarterly Review*
- *Mennonot*
- *Rhubarb*

It also included the cataloguing of more general Mennonite publications, including but not limited to:
- *Arena*
- *Christian Writers Fellowship*
- *Gospel Herald*
- *Herald of Truth*
- *The Mennonite*

Data was also drawn from [Worldcat](#) and [VIAF (Virtual International Authority File)](#)

Project Note
The DRMW Project team includes Dr. Robert Zacharias (Principal Investigator, York University), with PhD students Kyle Gerbrant (University of Waterloo) and Marion Tempest Grant (York University).

The DRMW Project datasets are a work in progress. DRMW 1.0, the first published draft of the dataset, was completed in December 2023. We anticipate periodic updates that incorporate the feedback of others in the field, as we move the project toward a comprehensive and exhaustive dataset. As such, we invite feedback to the project from its users, including omissions or corrections. Please send feedback to rzach@yorku.ca, using the subject heading "DRMW Dataset."

Data Model
Use MLA as a reference for formatting data.

Data
Restricted: Typically will be a drop down menu, needs consistent formatting of entries to help with data visualisations and queries.

Unrestricted: Will typically be more unique entries. Titles should always be unique entries. However, there will be repetition of some entries in the cases of *A_Citizenship, P_Venue*, *P_Publisher, P_Location 1, P_Location 2, P_Location 3, P_Type.*

FIELD	DATA	DESCRIPTION
Title	Unrestricted	Title of the Text Format: Written in full, words beginning with a capital letter
A_Name	Unrestricted	Author(s) of the text; Editor(s) of the Text Use the name they published with as opposed to only birth names. In cases where authors have published under multiple names - both with and without middle initials, for example - these names have been standardized to their most common usage to ensure that all entries appear in search results Default contribution type is author. If the person's contribution is not an author, list their contribution type using the following formats: ● Translator = (trans.) ● Editor = (ed.) ● Artist/ Illustrator [if they receive authorial credit] = (illus.) ● Photographer [if they receive authorial credit] = (photo.) ● Chairman = (chairman) Format: Written in full, names beginning with a capital letter. If the authors are married, related, or share a last name, the complete names of both authors must be included

		Format: (Solo Entry): *Lastname, Firstname* Format: (Multiple Entry): *Lastname, Firstname and Firstname Lastname* Format (Solo Entry with Role): *Lastname, Firstname (role)* Format (Multiple Entry with Roles): *Lastname, Firstname (role) and Firstname Lastname (role)*
A_Gender	Restricted	Gender (not biological sex) of author(s) / editor(s) where known Format: All capital letters. Drop down menu. A red triangle will appear in the upper right hand corner of a cell if data has been improperly entered

W	*Woman*
M	*Man*
GN	*Gender Neutral*
MU_W	*Multiple Authors Women*
MU_M	*Multiple Authors Men*
MU_MIX	*Multiple Authors Multiple Genders*
MU_U	*Multiple Authors with Unknown Genders*
U	*Unknown*
I	*Institution*

A_Citizenship	Restricted solo entry of one citizenship unless there are multiple authors	Determined by the author's last (before death) citizenship (not residency). In some cases, this will not be the citizenship with which they were born Only one entry per node If gender is "I" (Institution) nationality is determined by the country in which the institution is established

		"Unknown" if the author's nationality is unknown If multiple authors, list in alphabetical order Format: Written in full, words beginning with a capital letter
P_Date	Unrestricted	The year that the text was published. Exclude the day and month. In cases where exact date is required, such as many online publications, place day and month in Notes field If there are multiple versions of publication, record the earliest publication date in this section. Notable subsequent publication dates may be included in the "Notes" section at the end of the data set
P_Decade	Restricted	The year that the text was published rounded down to the lowest decade Example: 2017 = 2010 Format: Drop down menu. A red triangle will appear in the upper right-hand corner of a cell if data has been improperly entered.
P_Container	Unrestricted	Venue where an essay, interview, or piece of commentary was first published, such as the academic journal, website, newspaper, or a collection of essays.
Publisher	Unrestricted	Name of the Original Publisher Format: Written in full, capitalizations as it was published
P_Location 1	Unrestricted	City of Publisher (of Venue: *Book* or *Journal*) Format: Written in full, words beginning with a capital letter
P_Location 2	Unrestricted	Province/ State/ Region of Publisher (of Venue: *Book* or *Journal*) Format: Written in full, words beginning with

		a capital letter
P_Location 3	Unrestricted	Country of Publisher (of Venue: *Book* or *Journal*) Format: Written in full, words beginning with a capital letter
P_Type	Restricted; ● Anthology ● Anthology Entry ● Bibliographic List ● Book ● Book Chapter ● Blog Post ● Collection ● Conference Proceedings ● Dissertation ● Encyclopedia Entry ● Journal Article ● Magazine ● Newspaper Article ● Tributes	Select the publication type that best fits the critical work Note: For the most part, populating this field reflects how the item is cataloged within academic institutions/ library datasets. <u>Qualifying the genres:</u> ● Anthology: A published collection of poems, short stories, or criticism featuring or analyzing Mennonite literature; works brought together in a critical way; previous published material ● Anthology Entry: A critical entry in a published collection of poems, short stories, or criticism featuring or analyzing Mennonite literature; a work part of a collection brought together in a critical way; previous published material ● Bibliographic List: A list of criticism or literary works that collects the topics based on a theme, etc. ● Book: A scholarly book on the topic of an aspect of Mennonite literature; new material, non-previously published material ● Book Chapter: A scholarly book chapter on an aspect of Mennonite literature ● Blog Post: reflective or analytical blog post with a focus on an aspect of Mennonite literature, criticism, or analysis ● Collection*:* An edited collection of essays ● Conference Proceedings: Non-peer reviewed collection of presentations at a conference; may also include

		reflections on a conference or a panel ● Dissertation: includes both M.A. and Ph.D. work ● Encyclopedia Entry: short descriptive account of a relevant concern published in an encyclopedia ● Journal Article: an article published in a scholarly academic publication, physical or digital publications) ● Magazine Article: An article included in a popular [i.e. non-academic] publication, including physical or digital publications ● Newspaper Article:An article included in a recognized newspaper, online or paper ● Tributes: a published statement honouring the contributions of key figure in the field. Tributes may be included in journals, magazines, or even collected in short anthologies.) Format: Drop down menu. A red triangle will appear in the upper right-hand corner of a cell if data has been improperly entered
Pagination	Unrestricted	Pagination for a work within a larger publication
Editor of Anthology	Unrestricted	Name of the person(s) who edited the venue (such as special journal issue or collection title) Format: Written in full, words beginning with a capital letter
Interviewer	Unrestricted	The person conducting the interview
Journal Vol. and No. (vol.no)	Unrestricted	Vol. and no. of journal Format: *volume number. issue number* If no issue number, then: *volume number*
Notes	Unrestricted	Additional relevant information, including day and month for online publications; notable reprint information; and more