

Aaron W. Kitch

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Literature, University of Chicago (2002)

M.A., English Literature, University of Colorado, Boulder (1997)

B.A., English and Philosophy, Yale College (1994)
Distinction in English; Distinction in Philosophy

English Literature Certificate, Exeter College, Oxford University (1993)

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of English, Bowdoin College	2009 – present
Assistant Professor of English, Bowdoin College	2002 – 2009
Instructor, University of Chicago	1999 – 2001
Instructor, University of Colorado (Boulder)	1996 – 1997

PEER-REVIEWED BOOKS

Shakespeare's Theater of Nature: Science, Religion, and the Orders of Mimesis in Early Modern Europe (London: Palgrave, forthcoming) (397 pp. in mss.)

Shakespeare's Theater of Nature argues that Shakespeare's plays center nature as a source of knowledge, pleasure, and representation, not as nostalgic longing for a vanishing pastoral landscape but rather in conversation with wide-ranging and overlapping debates in classical, medieval, and early modern theology and natural philosophy. Nature was increasingly understood as a structure of mimesis in and of itself, shaping Shakespeare's own experiments with words, objects, and images as tools of dramatic representation. This study situates numerous plays by Shakespeare and others in response to earlier traditions of drama that also derived their mimetic capacity from modes of natural philosophy and theology.

Rethinking Science and Religion in Early Modern England, a co-edited volume of essays on science and religion edited with Jennifer Rust (St. Louis University) featuring contributions by Pavneet Aulakh, Amy Cooper, Jacqueline Cowan, Margaret Ferguson, Sarah Keleher, Peter Remien, Mingna Chen, and Jonathan Sawday. (London: Bloomsbury, under contract).

Political Economy and the States of Literature in Early Modern England (Burlington: Ashgate, 2009; rpt. Routledge, 2016)

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

Monsters and Minions: Making Race with Animals in Early Modern England (book in proposal stage for the “RaceB4Race” series edited by Ayanna Thompson at the University of Pennsylvania Press)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Idolatry, Sexuality, and Protestant Theatricality in *Two Gentlemen of Verona*,” *Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 34 (2021): 81-101.

“Shakespeare’s ‘Monstrous State’: Divination, Typology, and the Book of Nature in *Julius Caesar*,” *Modern Philology* 118.3 (2021): 340-63.

“William Gilbert’s Magnetic Philosophy and the History of Sexuality,” *Configurations* 28.2 (2020): 181-209.

“The ‘Ingendered’ Stone: The Ripley Scrolls and the Generative Science of Alchemy,” *Huntington Library Quarterly* 78:1 (2015): 87-125

“Shylock’s Sacred Nation: Trade, Religion, and the Jewish Denizen in Marlowe’s *Jew of Malta* and Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*,” *Shakespeare Quarterly* 59 (2009): 131-55.

“The Character of Credit and the Problem of Belief in Middleton’s City Comedies,” *Studies in English Literature* 47, no. 2 (Spring 2007): 403–26.

“The Golden Muse: Protestantism, Mercantilism, and the Uses of Ovid in Marlowe’s *Hero and Leander*,” *Religion and Literature* 38.3 (Autumn 2006): 157-76.

“Medwall’s ‘Condycion’: *Fulgens and Lucrece* and the New Tudor Drama” *Cahiers élisabéthains* 68 (2005): 1-8.

“Bastards and Broadides in *The Winter’s Tale*,” *Renaissance Drama* 30 (2001): 43-71.

PEER-REVIEWED CHAPTERS IN EDITED ANTHOLOGIES

“Hamlet’s Soul: Science, Religion, and Subjectivity,” in *Rethinking Science and Religion in Early Modern England*, ed Jennifer Rust and Aaron Kitch (London: Bloomsbury, forthcoming).

“Some Versions of Enchanted Materialism: Bennett, Paracelsus, Hobbes, and *Hamlet*,” in *Enchantments and Dis-Enchantments in Early Modern England*, ed. Nick Davis and Nandini Das (London: Routledge, 2017), pp. 72-87.

“Shylock’s Sacred Nation,” in *Shakespeare: The Comedies*, ed. Harold Bloom (New York: Bloom’s Literary Criticism, 2009).

“Printing Bastards: Monstrous Birth Broad­sides in Early Modern England,” in *Parenting and Printing in Early Modern England*, ed. Douglas Brooks (Burlington: Ashgate, 2005), pp. 221-36.

NON PEER-REVIEWED CHAPTERS IN ANTHOLOGIES

“Literature and Political Economy,” in *The Palgrave Handbook of Philosophy and Literature*, ed. Barry Stocker and Michael Mack (London: Palgrave, 2018), 623-43.

“The City’s Money: Made, Lost, Stolen, Lent, Invested,” in *Thomas Middleton in Context*, ed. Suzanne Gossett (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011)

PUBLIC-FACING SCHOLARSHIP

“The Secret History of Magnets: Finding the Human(ities) in the History of Science,” *The Bowdoin Magazine* 90.1 (Fall 2018): 30-33.

BOOK REVIEWS

Group review of Jane Everingham Nelson, *Shakespeare and “Religio Mentis”: A Study of Christian Hermetism in Four Plays* (Leiden: Brill, 2022); Martina Zamparo, *Alchemy, Paracelsiansim, and Shakespeare’s “The Winter’s Tale”* (London: Palgrave MacMillan, 2022); and Katherine Calloway, *Literature and Natural Theology in Early Modern England* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023) for *The Journal of Religion* (forthcoming)

Review of Andrew Wallace, *The Presence of Rome in Medieval and Early Modern Britain: Texts, Artefacts, and Beliefs* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020), for *Modern Philology* 118.2 (2020) (<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/713339>).

Review of Katherine Eggert, *Disknowledge: Literature, Alchemy, and the End of Humanism in Renaissance England* (Philadelphia: University of Philadelphia Press, 2015), for *Modern Philology* 114 (2017): E257-9.

Review of Bradley Ryner, *Performing Economic Thought: English Drama and Mercantile Writing, 1600-1642* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013), for *Renaissance Studies* 29 (2015): 482-3.

Review of Margaret Healy, *Shakespeare, Alchemy, and the Creative Imagination* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011) for *Modern Philology* 111 (2014): E319-22.

Review of Paul Kleber Monod, *Solomon's Secret Arts: The Occult in the Age of Enlightenment* (Yale University Press, 2013), for the *Huntington Library Quarterly* 76.1 (2013): 441-44.

Review of Julia Reinhard Lupton, *Citizen-Saints: Shakespeare and Political Theology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005), for *Upstart Crow*, vol. 29 (2010)

Review of *The Martin Marprelate Tracts: A Modern and Annotated Edition*, ed. Joseph L. Black (Cambridge University Press, 2008), for *Renaissance Quarterly* 62 (Summer, 2009): 584-5.

Review of Valerie Forman, *Tragicomic Redemptions: Global Economies and the Early Modern English Stage* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008), for *Shakespeare Quarterly* 61 (2010): 607-9.

Review of Blair Hoxby, *Mammon's Music: Literature and Economics in the Age of Milton* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002), for the *Journal of Early Modern History* (2007).

Review of Julie Crawford, *Marvelous Protestantism: Monstrous Births in Post-Reformation England* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005), for *Shakespeare Yearbook* (2007).

Review of Christopher Kendrick, *Utopia, Carnival, and Commonwealth in Renaissance England* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2004), for *English Studies in Canada* (2006).

AWARDS

Bowdoin Faculty Leave Supplement Award (2005-06, 2012-13, 2018-19, 2024-25)

Dibner Long-Term Fellowship in the History of Science at the Huntington Library (2012-13)

Getty Short-Term Institute Research Grant for the History of Science (2012)

Fletcher Family Faculty Development Award, Bowdoin College (2007, 2014, 2023)

Francis Bacon Research Short-Term Fellowship, Huntington Library (2005-06)

Short-Term Research Fellowship, Newberry Library (2005-06)

New Course Development Award, Bowdoin College (2004, 2015)

Franke Institute for the Humanities Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago (2001-2)

Norman Maclean Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago (2000 – 2001)

GRANTS

Grant Co-ordinator, Mellon Humanities Initiative to develop course clusters.
Bowdoin College (2012-14)

Mellon Foundation grant (\$11,500) to organize ongoing seminar series for faculty in
Medieval and Renaissance studies from Bowdoin, Colby, and Bates (2008).

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

“Shakespeare in the Temple” Conference at Garrick’s Temple, United Kingdom
Moderator and introduction for Hugh Grady (April 23, 2019)

“Fleshy Words, Protean Images: Idolatrous Attraction in Two Gentlemen of Verona,”
Change and Exchange Conference at the Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences
and Humanities (CRASSH), Cambridge University, Cambridge, England
(April 26-9, 2016)

“Shakespeare’s Racial Imagination”
Friends of Bowdoin, Bowdoin College (October 20, 2016)

“Finding Shakespeare in the First Folio”
“The First Folio” tour sponsored by the Folger Library
Portland Public Library, Portland, ME (March 31, 2016)

“Finding Shakespeare in the First Folio” (with Abbie Killeen)
Bowdoin College Library (March 29, 2016)

“The Matter with Hamlet,” Renaissance Workshop
The University of Chicago, Chicago, IL (February 25, 2013)

“Queer Matter: Science and Sexuality in the English Renaissance,” inaugural lecture for the
“Science before Science” series in the Medieval and Early Modern Studies colloquium,
Bowdoin College (November 5th, 2013)

“Alchemical Sexualities” in the “Food for Thought” series at the Huntington Library, San
Marino, California (January 24, 2013)

Guest Lecture on “Alchemy and the History of Sexuality”
Occidental College, Eagle Rock, California (November 30, 2012)

Respondent, “Service Relations in Early Modern England,” Shakespeare
Association of America, Boston, MA (April 7 – 12, 2012)

Chair, “Sidney’s Elizabeth, Montgomerie’s Rosnard, and the Heart of Middleton,
Renaissance Society of America, Los Angeles, CA (March 19-21, 2009)

CONFERENCE AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

- Member, “Rethinking *King Lear*” (dir. Laurie Shannon)
Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, MA (April 2025)
- Member, “New Objects in Critical Race Studies” seminar (dir. Miles Grier)
Shakespeare Association of America, Portland, OR (April 10-13, 2024)
- Organizer, “Representing Medicine in Early Modern England” panel
Modern Language Association meeting, Philadelphia, PA (January 7, 2024)
- Seminar Leader of “Reconsidering Science and Religion in Early Modern England” seminar
Shakespeare Association of America, Minneapolis, MN (March 30, 2023)
- “‘Wholesome Medicine’: The Medical Soul in Tyndale (and Shakespeare)”
“Shakespeare and Health” seminar, Shakespeare Association of America,
Jacksonville, FL (April 7, 2022)
- Member, “Activist Shakespeare” seminar, Shakespeare Association of America
Virtual conference (April 4, 2021)
- Seminar Leader of “Shakespeare’s Divination,” Shakespeare Association of America,
Austin, TX (held virtually) (April 17, 2020)
- “‘Some Monstrous State’: Divination, Politics, and Typology in *Julius Caesar*”
“Occult Agents in Shakespeare” seminar, Shakespeare Association of America,
Washington, D.C. (April 19, 2019)
- “Shakespeare’s Social Being,” Shakespeare Association of America
Los Angeles, CA (March 27, 2018)
- “Hamlet’s Unctuous Matter.” “Materializing Religion” panel at the Shakespeare
Association of America in New Orleans (March 24-27, 2016)
- “Enchanted Materialism Revisited: Hobbes, Paracelsus, Hamlet,”
“Disenchantments / Re-enchantments” panel at Shakespeare Association of America, St.
Louis, MO (April 10-13, 2014)
- “Alchemy and Sexuality in Early Modern Europe,” Huntington Fellows roundtable, San
Marino, California (November 15th, 2012)
- “Atomic Love: Marlowe and the Erotics of Epicurean Materialism”
Shakespeare Association of America, Seattle, WA (April 7 – 10, 2011)
- “Eco-Calvin,” “Nature and Human Nature in Early Modern England” panel at the

- Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Dallas, TX (October 22 – 25, 2009)
- Co-organizer of seminar, “Religion and Economics in Shakespeare’s England,”
Shakespeare Association of America, Dallas, TX (March 15 – 17, 2008)
- “Mimetic Rivalry: Jonson’s Late Masques and the Civic Pageants of Munday,
Middleton, and Dekker,” Modern Language Association, Chicago, IL (December 28, 2007)
- “Aesthetics and Renaissance Historicisms: Afterimages of Empirical Life”
Renaissance Society of America, Miami (March 25 – 27, 2007)
- “The Politics of Female Desire in English Erotic Poetry, 1588 – 1603”
Arizona Center for Renaissance Studies Conference (February 15 – 17, 2007)
- “The Uses of Mammon: Mercantilism and Protestantism in Renaissance Literature,”
Faculty seminar series, Bowdoin College (October 18, 2006)
- “The Royal Exchange: Protestant and Economic Nationalism in Elizabethan England,”
Medieval and Renaissance Faculty Seminar, Bowdoin College (September 27, 2006)
- Shylock’s ‘Sacred Nation’: Political Theology in Marlowe’s *Jew of Malta* and
Shakespeare’s *Merchant of Venice*,” Shakespeare Association of America,
Bermuda (March 17 – 19, 2005)
- “Believing in Middleton: Credit Economies in the City Comedies”
Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Orlando, FL (November 17-21, 2004)
- “Henry Medwall and the New ‘Condycion’ of Tudor Drama”
Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans (April 7-11, 2004)
- “The Gutenberg Galaxy Revisited: Print, Drama, and the English Reformation”
Faculty Workshop, Bowdoin College (November 13, 2003)
- “Paper Stages: John Rastell’s Adaptation of Fernando de Rojas’s *Celestina* for the
English Stage,” Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing
(SHARP) panel, Renaissance Society of America, Toronto (March 27-29, 2003)
- “The Stationers’ Company and the Regulation of the Broadside Ballad, 1557-1585,”
Midwest Modern Language Association, Cleveland, OH (November 1- 3, 2001)
- “The News at Court: Jonson’s Late Masques”
Center for Renaissance Studies, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL (June 7 - 9, 2001)
- “‘The Well-Spoken Nobody’: The Printed Broadside and Early Modern Literacy”
Modern Language Association, Washington, D.C. (December 27, 2000)

“Timely Matter: The Sixteenth–Century Broadside Ballad”
Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, New Orleans, LA

(November 17, 2000)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AT BOWDOIN (2002 – 2023)

First-Year Seminars: “Shakespeare’s Afterlives,” “The Canonical Cannibal,”
“Literature and Utopia,” “Literature and Metamorphosis,” “American
Dreamers”

1000 and 1100-level courses: “Introduction to Drama,” “Shakespeare on Film,”
“English Composition,” “The Art and Power of Conversation”

2000-level courses: “Shakespeare’s Tragedies,” “Renaissance Drama,”
“Renaissance Sexualities,” “Shakespeare’s Comedies,” “Shakespeare and
Politics,” “Remaking Shakespeare”

2000-level seminars: “Race in the Renaissance,” “Renaissance Sexualities,”
“Embodying the Renaissance”

3000-level seminars: “The Work of Literature in the Age of Mechanical
Reproduction,” “The Epistemology of Pleasure,” “The Arts of Science in the
English Renaissance”

SERVICE

Member, Search Committee for the Dean of Students (2024)

Member, Board of Directors, Tedford Housing (Brunswick) (2024 – 27)

BASE advisor (2023 – 24)

Faculty representative, Beyond Bowdoin Trustee Committee (2023 – 24)

Faculty advisor, Baxter House (2020 – 2024)

Member, Curriculum and Educational Policy Committee (2019 – 2023)

Chair, Department of English (2013 – 2017)

Faculty advisor, Ladd House (2018 – 2020)

Faculty representative to the Trustee Committee on Academic Affairs (2019-20)

Co-Organizer, Medieval and Renaissance Faculty Colloquium (2003 – 2015)

Member, Faculty Development Committee (2017 – 19)

Advisor for College House Selection (2016 – 20)

Member, Search Committee for Associate Dean of Students, Bowdoin (2017 - 18)

Member, Search Committee for Associate Librarian, Bowdoin (2017- 18)

Faculty Advisor, Baxter House (2014 – 17)

Member, Search Committee for Director of Writing at the Baldwin Center (2014)

Member, Trustee Committee on Development (2013 – 18)

Member, Trustee Committee on Student Life (2013 – 14)

Member, Search Committee for Vice President of Development (2011)

Chair, Lectures and Concerts Committee (2010 – 13)

Faculty advisor, Quinby House (2009 – 12)

Member, CBB Mellon Steering Committee (2009 – 10)

Member, “Blue TARP” committee (2008 – 2010)

Member, Art Museum Executive Committee (2009 – 2012)

Member, Governance and Faculty Affairs Committee (2007 – 2009)

Associate Director of Residential Life search committee (2009)

Faculty Representative to the Trustees (2007 – 08)

Member, Working Group on Intellectual Life (2007 – 08)

Member, Appeals Committee (2004 – 2006)

Member, First-Year Seminar Committee (2004 – 2005)

Member, Judicial Board (2003 – 2005)

EDITORIAL WORK

Managing Editor, *Modern Philology* journal (Chicago) (2000 – 02)

Editorial Assistant, University of Chicago Press (1998 – 2000)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association (2002 – present)

Shakespeare Association of America (2004 – present)

Renaissance Society of America (2006 – 2017)