

EMILY VASILIAUSKAS

English Department
Williams College
26 Hopkins Hall Drive, Stetson Hall
Williamstown, MA 01267

109 Southworth Street
Williamstown, MA 01267
(609) 613-6293
ev2@williams.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Williams College

Assistant Professor of English, 2015-present

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D., English and Humanities, 2015

Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship (awarded to top graduate student in the humanities)

Warburg Institute

M.A. (with distinction), Cultural and Intellectual History, 1300-1650, 2009

Marshall Scholar

University of Cambridge, Trinity College

M.Phil. (distinction-level), Criticism and Culture, 2008

Marshall Scholar

Harvard University

A.B. (*summa cum laude*), Literature, 2007

Captain Jonathan Fay Prize (awarded for best undergraduate thesis)

BOOK PROJECT

The Skull in the Mirror: Aesthetics in the Age of Shakespeare (under review at Oxford University Press)

Aesthetics, which has come to entail the systematic and self-conscious understanding of art as a distinctive category of human activity, is generally considered to be an invention of the eighteenth century. Earlier art, according to this narrative, remained too deeply embedded within religion and state politics for it to be capable of defining a purpose of its own. Even Renaissance humanism, often taken to be a proto-aesthetic discourse, reinforces the instrumentality of art by defending its moral and pedagogical functions. *The Skull in the Mirror: Aesthetics in the Age of Shakespeare* shows that lurking behind this insistence on art's usefulness is a persistent anxiety over its uselessness. The possibility that art might, in fact, be an unjustifiable waste of time served as the basis of a version of aesthetic autonomy distinctive to the Renaissance.

PUBLICATIONS

“On the Way to Lyric,” solicited for *Lyric Speculation*, ed. Kimberly Johnson and Ryan Netzley (in progress)

“*Antony and Cleopatra* and the Art of Dying,” *Studies in Philology* 117 (2020), 488-519

Review of *The Insistence of Art: Aesthetic Philosophy after Early Modernity*, ed. Paul A. Kottman, *Renaissance Quarterly* 71 (2018), 1166-67

“Mortal Knowledge: *Akrasia* in English Renaissance Tragedy,” in *Politics and Aesthetics in European Baroque and Classicist Tragedy*, ed. Jan Bloemendal and Nigel Smith (Leiden: Brill, 2016), 221-38

“The Outmodedness of Shakespeare’s Sonnets,” *ELH* 82 (2015), 759-87

“All’s Well That Ends,” *The Cambridge Quarterly* 44 (2015), 171-77

“Immortal Beloved,” *The Cambridge Quarterly* 42 (2013), 79-87

LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Caliban’s Theater,” *SAA*, Denver, April 2020 (seminar conducted remotely due to COVID-19)

“The Defense of Poetry and the Love of Literature,” *RSA*, Philadelphia, April 2020 (conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

Invited Roundtable on “Historical Sensation,” *RSA*, Philadelphia April 2020 (conference cancelled due to COVID-19)

“The Secret Life of Statues,” *Transformations: A Conference for Leonard Barkan*, Princeton University, May 2019

“The Matter of Indifference: Vain Aesthetics in the Protestant Reformation,” *RSA*, Toronto, March 2019

“Being Finite in Shakespeare,” *MLA*, Chicago, January 2019

“*Antony and Cleopatra* and the Art of Dying,” Invited Speaker, University of Chicago, September 2017

“*Antony and Cleopatra* and the Art of Dying,” *ACLA*, Utrecht, July 2017

“*Antony and Cleopatra* and Affective Capture,” *SAA*, Atlanta, April 2017

“Death in Public: Donne’s Exposure,” *RSA*, Boston, April 2016

“*Akrasia* and Revenge Tragedy,” *The Fifth International Spenser Society Conference*, Dublin, June 2015

- “Ben Jonson, Survivor,” Invited Speaker, Williams College, January 2015
- Also delivered at Southern Illinois University Carbondale (January 2015) and the United States Military Academy (February 2015)
- “The Ethics and Economics of Posthumous Publication,” *MLA*, Vancouver, January 2015
- “Ben Jonson, Survivor,” *SAA*, St. Louis, April 2014
- “The Outmodedness of Shakespeare's Sonnets,” *RSA*, New York, March 2014
- “Immortality | Afterlife,” *Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities Workshop*, Princeton University, November 2012
- “Lear's Will,” *Renaissance Borders*, Princeton University, April 2012
- “Renaissance Humanism and the Voices of the Dead in *Hamlet*,” *RSA*, Washington DC, March 2012
- “Andrew Marvell's New Medievalism,” *Andrew Marvell and the Sense of Place*, Princeton University, June 2011
- “Second Hell': Protestant Purgatories in *The Spanish Tragedy*,” *NeMLA*, Rutgers University, April 2011
- “Visual Culture, Visions, and the Example of Julian of Norwich,” *Visual Cultures in Early Modern Europe*, University of Oxford, March 2011
- “Hieronymus Fabricius of Aquapendente's *De brutorum loquela*,” *Animals and Humans in the Culture of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*, Barnard College, December 2010
- “Reading Contradiction, Forgery, and Silence in Saint Teresa of Avila,” *Women and the Sacred in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods*, Bangor University, June 2008

OTHER AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Oakley Center Fellowship, 2018-19
- Herbert H. Lehman Fellowship, 2018-19
- Hellman Fellowship, 2017-18
- Francis Bacon Foundation Fellowship, Huntington Library, 2015
- Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities Fellowship, Princeton University, 2012-13
- Hyde Fellowship, Princeton University, 2012
- Distinction on General Examinations, Princeton University, 2011
- Brewer Hall Poetry Prize, University of Cambridge, 2008
- Bowdoin Prize for English Composition, Harvard University, 2007
- Thomas Temple Hoopes Prize, Harvard University, 2007
- Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard University, 2006

Joan Gray Untermeyer Poetry Prize, Harvard University, 2006

TEACHING

Assistant Professor

English 12: Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, Williams College
English 107: Temptation, Williams College
English 201: Shakespeare, Williams College
English 228: Renaissance: Self and World, Williams College
English 303: Shakespeare and Jonson: Renaissance Rivals, Williams College
English 319: The Literary Afterlife, Williams College
English 337: The Social Life of Renaissance Poetry, Williams College
English 374: Mysticism: Vision, Writing, History, Williams College
English 493: Honors Colloquium, Williams College

Lead Instructor

English 325: Milton, Princeton University (with Nigel Smith)
English 203: The Dialogue, Albert C. Wagner Youth Correctional Facility, (with Eduardo Lerro and Sara Vantournhout)

Preceptor

English 200: Introduction to English Literature, 14th to 18th Century, Princeton University

HONORS THESIS ADVISING

Robert Delfeld, *With God on Our Side: John Milton's Literary Soteriology*, English Department, Williams College, 2019-20

Jerry Li, *Moral Didacticism and Transcendence: Elizabeth and Her Bodies in The Faerie Queene*, English Department, Williams College, 2017-18

- currently a graduate student in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University

Apurva Tandon, *How to Do Things with Suicide*, English Department, Williams College, 2016-17

- awarded Highest Honors
- currently a PhD candidate in English at the University of Pennsylvania

INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Elected representative, Faculty Steering Committee, Williams College 2020-22

Division I Faculty Representative, Phi Beta Kappa, 2019-present

Member, English Department Curriculum Committee, Williams College, 2019-20

Member, Beinecke Nomination Committee, Williams College, 2019

Mock Interviewer, Fellowships Office, Williams College, 2019

Panelist, Graduate School in English, Williams College, 2019

Interviewer, Ruchman Fellowship, Williams College, 2019

Panel organizer, "The Aesthetic in Early Modern England," *RSA*, Toronto, 2019
Elected representative, Committee on Educational Affairs, Williams College, 2017-18
Member, English Department Curriculum Committee, Williams College, 2017-18
Panelist, Graduate School in English, 2017
Peer reviewer, *Early Modern Literary Studies*, 2017
Panel moderator, *Ecologies, Agents, Terrains*, Clark Art Institute, 2017
Panel moderator, *Reading for Pleasure: Romance Fiction in the International Marketplace*, Williams College, 2017
Convener, "New Directions in Formalist Criticism," Oakley Center, Williams College, 2016-17
Convener, English Department Class of 1960 Scholars, Williams College, 2016-17
Member, Faculty Seminar on the Teaching of Writing, Williams College, 2016-17
Member, English Department Programming Committee, Williams College, 2016-17
Member, English Department Search Committee, Williams College, 2016-17
Member, Chapin Library Committee, Williams College, 2016-17
Member, Library Committee, Williams College, 2016-17
Panel organizer, "The Economics of Renaissance Personhood," *MLA*, Vancouver, 2015
Panel organizer, "Near-Death Experience in the Renaissance," *RSA*, New York, 2014
Member, Committee for the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Princeton University, 2014
Panel organizer, "Death and Dying in Late Medieval and Early Modern England," *RSA*, Washington DC, 2012
Convener, English Renaissance Colloquium, Princeton University, 2010-12
President, Graduate Action Committee, Princeton University, 2010-11
Member, Working Group on Graduate Issues, Princeton University, 2010-11
Member, Curricular Review, Harvard University, 2004-05

LANGUAGES

Latin (proficient in classical, medieval, and neo-Latin)
German (reading)
Attic Greek (rudimentary)
French (rudimentary)
Italian (rudimentary)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Comparative Literature Association
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America