

EMILY VASILIAUSKAS

English Department
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Williams College

Associate Professor of English, July 2021-present
Assistant Professor of English, July 2015-June 2021

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 revision 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

“Do but encave yourself: A Response to ‘Companionable Spaces,’” forthcoming in *Spenser Studies* 37 (2023)

“On the Way to Lyric,” *Lyric Temporalities*, ed. Kimberly Johnson and Ryan Netzley (Toronto: U of Toronto P, forthcoming)

“*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: *Akasia* 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

“On the Way to Lyric,” English Renaissance Colloquium, Harvard University, November 2022

“Metaphor as Historical Activity and Historical Ontology,” *The Renaissance Project*, Pomona College, June 2022

“Made You Look,” *RSA*, Dublin, April 2022 (session cancelled due to COVID-19)

“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 346: Literary History: Shakespeare, Dickinson, Celan, Knausgaard, Williams College
English 374T: 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

Ella Napack (in progress)
Homer Winston (in progress)
Sofie Jones, *A Tomb of One's Own: The Female Subject in Late Medieval Anchoritic Writing*, English Department, Williams College, 2021-22
Lara Meintjes, *One Wide Expanse: Absence and the Manifestation of the Imagination*, English Department, Williams College, 2021-22

- awarded Highest Honors

- currently a PhD candidate in English at the University of California at Berkeley
- Cassidy Pawul, *The Tragedies of King Lear and The Faerie Queene: A Thesis in Three Acts (of Violence)*, English Department, Williams College, 2021-22
- 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
- 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

Chair, Faculty Steering Committee, Williams College, 2022-23

Chair, English Department Curriculum Committee, Williams College, 2021-22

Panel organizer, "Literature Among the Disciplines," *RSA*, Dublin, 2022

Member, English Department Search Committee, Williams College, 2021

Elected representative, Committee on Educational Affairs, Williams College, 2021-23 (stepped down in 2022 due to election to Faculty Steering Committee)

Elected representative, Faculty Steering Committee, Williams College, 2020-22 (stepped down in 2021 due to maternity leave)

Director, English Department Honors Program, 2019-23

Division I Faculty Representative, Phi Beta Kappa, 2019-22

Member, English Department Curriculum Committee, Williams College, 2019-21

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