

## COLBY GORDON

Bryn Mawr College  
101 N. Merion Ave.  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine, 2013

M.A., Comparative Literature, University of California, Irvine, 2009

B.A., English and History, University of Kansas, 2007

### EMPLOYMENT

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Associate Professor, English, Bryn Mawr College, 2024 – present

Assistant Professor, English, Bryn Mawr College, 2016 - 2024

### MONOGRAPHS

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*Glorious Bodies: Trans Theology and Renaissance Literature*. University of Chicago Press, September 2024.

*The Trans Debate and the Jewish Question*. In progress.

### SPECIAL ISSUES EDITED

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“Trans Spenser.” Co-edited with Simone Chess and Debapriya Sarkar. In progress.

“Trans Milton.” Co-edited with Urvashi Chakravarty and Ari Friedlander. In progress.

“Early Modern Trans Studies.” Special issue of *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 19.4 (Fall 2019). Ed. Colby Gordon, Simone Chess, and Will Fisher.

### PUBLICATIONS

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“Afterword.” *Queer Shakespeare*. Ed. Goran Stanivukovic. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Bloomsbury Publishing, 2025.

“Lyly’s Trans Style: Euphuistic Natures in *Galatea*.” *Early Modern Trans Drama*. Ed. Simone Chess and Sawyer Kemp. ACMRS Press, 2025.

“Trans Theology.” *Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Religion*. Ed. Will Stockton. Forthcoming, Routledge, 2026.

“Gender.” *Oxford Handbook of Intersectionality in Early Modern English Literature*. Ed. Urvashi Chakravarty. Solicited.

“Hew.” In *Logomotives: Words That Change the World, 1400-1700*. Ed. Marjorie Rubright and Stephen Spiess, pgs. 210-222. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2025.

“‘The Sign You Must Not Touch’: Trans Confession and Lyric Obscurity in John Donne.” *postmedieval* 11.2 (2020): 195-203.

“Violent Delights and Violent Ends”: Fidelity and Technicity in *Westworld* and *Romeo and Juliet*.” *Shakespeare and Adaptation*. Ed. Julia Reinhard Lupton, pgs. 137-159. Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2022.

“Abortive Hedgehogs: Prodigies and Trans Animality in *The Duchess of Malfi*.” *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 19.4 (Fall 2019): 206-226.

“A Woman’s Prick: Trans Technogenesis in Sonnet 20.” *Shakespeare/Sex*, 268-289. Ed. Jennifer Drouin. New York: Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2020.

“‘A Diversity of Sounds, All Horrible’: The Political Aesthetics of *The Tempest*’s Soundscapes.” *Early Modern Political Aesthetics*, 241-265. Ed. Christopher Pye. Chicago: Northwestern UP, 2020.

“Introduction: Early Modern Trans Studies.” Co-authored with Simone Chess and Will Fisher. *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 19.4 (Fall 2019): 1-25.

“Two Doors: Breaking the Home in *Semayne’s Case* and *Comedy of Errors*.” *Renaissance Personhood: Materiality, Taxonomy, Process*, 62-83. Ed. Kevin Curran. Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP, 2019.

“Candied Cleopatra: The Cute Aesthetics of Shakespeare’s Political Theology.” *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 16.3 (2016): 30-45.

“Shakespearean Futurity: Soft Cities in *Antony and Cleopatra*.” *postmedieval* 6.4 (December 2015): 1-10.

“Shakespeare by Design: A Flight of Concepts.” *English Studies* 94.3 (2013): 259-277, Special Issue on Shakespeare and Theory. Coauthored with Julia Lupton.

- Reprinted in *Shakespeare and the Future of Theory*, ed. Francois-Xavier Gleyzon and Johann Gregory (New York: Routledge, 2015).

Introduction: "Eric Santner and *The Royal Remains*." *Journal for Cultural and Religious Theory* 12.1 (2012) Co-edited with Julia Lupton.

"Bread God, Blood God: Wonderhosts and Early Encounters with Secularization." *Genre* 44.2 (Summer 2011): 105-128.

## REVIEWS

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Review: Lorenz, Philip. *The Tears of Sovereignty: Perspectives of Power in Renaissance Drama*. New York: Fordham UP, 2013.

"Impossible People, Queer Futures: Dean Spade and Critical Trans Politics," review of Dean Spade's *Normal Life*. *Postmodern Culture* 22.3 (May 2013).

"Enclosure and Exposure: Reviewing the Emergence of the Scene in Early Modern Studies." *Journal for Cultural Research* (2012).

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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Innovative Article Award for "A Woman's Prick: Trans Technogenesis in Sonnet 20." Shakespeare Association of America, 2022.

Helen Taft Manning Endowed Chair in British History, 2018-2021

Mellon Seed Grant for Tri-Co Working Group on Early Cultures (2018, 2019)

Bryn Mawr Faculty Grant (2017)

Belgian American Educational Foundation, 6 month fellowship at Ghent University (2011)

Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel; summer dissertation fellowship (2011)

Social Science Research Council; dissertation prospectus development grant (2010)

UC Irvine Humanities Center Grant for research in Berlin (2010).

## INVITED LECTURES

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“Shylock and the Trans Debate.” Hudson Strode Program in Renaissance Studies. University of Alabama. March 3, 2025.

“Tarry, Jew: Trans Temporality and Shylock’s Case.” Yale. March 26, 2024.

“A Pound of Flesh: The Trans Debate and the Jewish Question.” Johns Hopkins University. March 13, 2024.

“Fear of a Trans Renaissance.” Northwestern. Feb. 29, 2024.

“The Case of Mary Frith.” Marshall Grossman Lecture Series. University of Maryland, College Park. Sept. 15, 2023.

“Fear of a Trans Renaissance.” Columbia Shakespeare Seminar. Columbia University. April 14, 2023.

“Trans Natures in John Lyly’s *Galatea*.” Hendrix College. The 2023 Robert and Lillian Drake Lecture. April 5, 2023.

“A Pound of Flesh: Transphobia and Antisemitism from Shakespeare to the Present.” Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality’s LGBTQ Speaker Series, University of Chicago. March 1, 2022.

“Man in Hew: Shakespeare’s Trans Philology.” London Shakespeare Seminar. Oct. 11, 2021. Held online.

“Samson, The Transgender Craze: Milton and the Legal Histories of Transphobia.” University of Sussex, April 21, 2021.

“Globalist Shakespeare.” Public lecture organized by Bryn Mawr College’s Shakespeare Performance Troupe. March 6, 2021.

“‘Inglorious, Unemployed:’ Trans/Crip Conjunctions and the Law of Maims in *Samson Agonistes*.” Princeton Renaissance Colloquium. (Rescheduled from March 2020).

“Trans Mayhem in *Samson Agonistes*.” University of Toronto. Dec. 4, 2020.

“Trans Mayhem: Debility and Consensual Cutting in *Samson Agonistes*.” Macalaster College, Feb. 15, 2020.

## INVITED WORKSHOPS

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“How to Pick an Academic Fight.” Pre-circulated paper with discussion for Yale, Early Modern Studies Group. March 27, 2024.

“Trans Natures in *Galatea*.” Pre-circulated paper with discussion for Wesleyan Renaissance Seminar. November 2023.

“Egg Theory’s Early Modern Style.” Pre-circulated paper with discussion for Renaissance Workshop, University of Chicago. Feb. 28, 2022.

“John Donne’s Trans Corpses.” Pre-circulated paper with discussion, University of Iowa. Nov. 19, 2021.

“A Woman’s Prick: Trans Technogenesis in Sonnet 20.” Pre-circulated paper with discussion for the University of Pennsylvania Medieval and Renaissance Workgroup. March 18, 2018.

## GUEST TEACHING

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Guest speaker, seminar on “Theological and Religious Perspectives in Bioethics.” Harvard Medical School. November 18, 2024.

Guest speaker, grad seminar on “Queer Theory.” University of Mississippi. October 31, 2024.

Gues speaker, seminar on “Fictions of Race.” University of Maryland. September 17, 2024.

Guest speaker, seminar on Milton. University of Connecticut. April 17, 2024.

Guest speaker, seminar on “Historicizing Early Modern Sexualities.” Wesleyan College, Nov. 2023.

Guest speaker, seminar on British literature, Macalaster College. March 11, 2022.

Guest speaker, Chicago Area Early Modern Colloquium, session on Early Modern Trans Studies. Held online. May 7, 2021.

Guest speaker, grad seminar on Experimental Critical Theory, UCLA. May 13, 2021.

Guest speaker, grad seminar on *The Queer Renaissance*, University of Toronto. Dec. 2, 2020.

Guest speaker, seminar on *The Roaring Girl*, University of Toledo. Nov. 12, 2020.

Guest speaker, grad seminar on *Early Modern Biopolitics*, University of Mississippi. Nov. 4, 2020.

Guest speaker, seminar on *Non-Binary Gender on the Renaissance Stage*, Wellesley College. May 2, 2019.

Guest speaker, grad seminar on *Early Modern Trans\* Historicities* at the CUNY Graduate Center. April 17, 2018.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

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“Like: John Donne’s Autogynephiliac Sapho.” Early Modern Trans Studies Conference III. Boston. March 2025.

“Tarry, Jew: Shylock’s Razor and the Trans Temporality of Criminal Wounding.” Shakespeare Association of America. Boston, MA. March, 2025.

“Trans Tone.” Modern Language Association conference. New Orleans, LA. January 11, 2025.

“Late to the Party.” American Historical Association conference. New York, NY. January 5, 2025.

“What Likeness Begets: The Trans Poetics of Donne’s “Sapho to Philaenis.” EmoTrans Sexualities Conference. University of Michigan. Nov. 9-10, 2024.

“The Cis Sainthood of Joan of Arc.” 2<sup>nd</sup> International Trans Studies Conference. Northwestern. Chicago, IL. Sept. 4-8, 2024.

“State of the Field: Early Modern Trans Studies.” UPenn Early Modern Studies Graduate Conference. April, 2024.

“Teaching Trans Spenser.” Guest speaker for International Spenser Society’s Inclusive Pedagogy Initiative. Dec. 14, 2023.

“Lyly’s Trans Style: Euphuistic Natures in *Galatea*.” Early Modern Trans Drama Conference. Wayne State University. Detroit, MI. Oct. 14, 2023.

Respondent, “Intersectional Animality.” Shakespeare Association of America. Minneapolis, MN. March 30-31, 2023.

"The Obscure Sex of the Philistines: *Samson Agonistes*, Trans Time, and Racial Blanking." Conference on “Queer Premodernisms and Queer of Color Critique.” University of Chicago. Feb. 17-18, 2023.

“A Trans Crux.” Early Modern Trans Studies Conference. Bryn Mawr College. Philadelphia, PA. Nov. 3-5, 2023.

“Trans Shakespeare.” Roundtable, Shakespeare Association of America. Held via Zoom, May 12, 2022.

“Pricked Out.” Panel on “Transgender Shakespeares” at *Alternative Epistemologies* Festival, University College London’s Institute for Advanced Studies. Held online. May 4, 2021.

“The Flower of Palestine: Milton’s Trans Philistines.” Seminar on Queer-Race-Global. Shakespeare Society of America. Held online. April 1, 2021.

“Tender Balls: Sissification in *Samson Agonistes*.” Conference on “Masculinities in the Premodern World: Continuities, Change, and Contradiction.” Held online. Nov. 13-15, 2020.

“Man in Hew: Trans Philology in Sonnet 20.” Seminar on “New Philologies.” Shakespeare Association of America. Held online. April 15-18, 2020.

“How To Make A Trans Life: The Case of Mary Frith.” Invited speaker for “Intersecting the Sexual: Modes of Early Modern Embodiment.” Folger Library, Nov. 14-16, 2019.

“Abortive Hedgehogs: Prodigies and Trans Animality in *The Duchess of Malfi*.” Conference on Early Modern Trans Studies. Bryn Mawr College, April 2019.

“A Woman’s Prick: Trans Technogenesis in Sonnet 20.” Plenary panel on Shakespeare and Transgender Theory. Shakespeare Association of America. Washington, DC. April, 2019.

“‘Even During War with the Turks:’ Shakespeare, the School of Salamanca, and the Sanctity of the Home.” Scientiae. Minneapolis, May 16-19, 2018.

“Two Doors: Distributed Personhood in *The Comedy of Errors* and *Semayne’s Case*,” Shakespeare Association of America. Los Angeles, March 2018.

“Melting the Stone: *Imago Dei* and Trans Prosthetics in Shakespeare’s Sonnets.” Modern Language Association convention. New York, January 2018.

“Abortive Hedgehogs: Creaturely Life and Trans Prosthetics in Shakespeare and Webster,” seminar on Trans\*Historicities at Shakespeare Association of America. Atlanta. April 2017.

“Candied Cleopatra.” Presented on “Cute Shakespeares” panel at ‘BABEL on the Beach: Precariousness, Risk, Forms of Life, Affinity, and Play at the Edges of the World.’ UC Santa Barbara. October 2014.

“Discandying Rome: Soft Cities in *Antony and Cleopatra*.” Presented at Early Cultures Graduate Conference. UC Irvine. April 2013.

“Shakespearean Futurism.” Invited paper for BABEL Workgroup. UC Irvine. April 2013.

“‘A Diversity of Sounds, All Horrible’: Acoustic Ecologies and Audio Slavery in *The Tempest*.” Modern Language Association convention. Boston, MA. January 2013.

“The Psychogeography of Shakespeare’s Third Landscapes.” Presented at “Urban Speculation, Contested Geographies,” October 2012.

“Going Rogue in Shakespeare’s Cryptoforests.” Presented at Early Cultures Graduate Conference, April 2012.

“Garden Cities and Suburban States of Nature.” Presented at “Conversations with Etienne Balibar,” Feb. 2012

“Bread God, Blood God: Mandatory Fictions in Late Medieval Eucharistic Piety.” Presented at Early Cultures Graduate Conference on “Legal Fictions,” Nov. 2009.

## **EVENTS ORGANIZED**

Early Modern Trans Studies IV. Spring 2026. Co-organized with Simone Chess, Miles Grier, and Greta LaFleur.

Early Modern Trans Studies III. Boston University. March 23-25, 2025. Co-organized with Simone Chess and Micah Goodrich.

Early Modern Trans Archives. Newberry Library. January 17, 2025.

Early Modern Trans Studies and Sexuality. University of Michigan. Nov. 8-9, 2024. Co-organized with Simone Chess, Sawyer Kemp, and Joseph Gamble.

Early Modern Global Trans Studies. Folger Symposium. Co-organized with Simone Chess, Will Fisher, and Melissa Sanchez. Folger Shakespeare Library. May 18-20, 2023.

Early Modern Trans Studies Conference II. Bryn Mawr College, Nov. 3-5, 2022.

Early Modern Trans Studies Conference. Bryn Mawr College, April 25-26, 2019.

“Neighborliness and the Coroner’s Inquest in Domestic Tragedies.” Talk by Penelope Geng, Macalester College. Annual Lecture, Tri-Co Premodern Cultures Working Group. April 15, 2019.

Early Cultures Graduate Conference on “Place and Displacement in Early Cultures.” Co-organized with Chris Dearnier. April 2013. Keynote: Drew Daniel, Johns Hopkins University.

“Secularism and Secularization,” March 2013. Convened as part of the Social Science Research Council’s “Dissertation Prospectus Development Fellowship,” following workshops in San Diego and Philadelphia.



“Urban Speculation, Contested Geographies.” Co-organized with Ameeth Vijay. Oct. 2012  
Keynote: Karen Tongson, USC.

“Conversations with Etienne Balibar.” Co-organized with Ameeth Vijay, Tim Wong, Sharareh Bennett, Nasser Mufti, Robert Wood, Annette Rubado. Feb. 2012.

Early Cultures Graduate Conference on “Legal Fictions.” Co-organized with Robin Stewart, Alex Perkins. Nov. 2009. Keynote: Laurie Shannon, Northwestern.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Weird Poems* (Fall 2023).

100-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Methods* (Spring 2019, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Spring 2024)

200-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Early Modern Trans Studies* (Fall 2018, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024)

300-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Early Modern Erotic Poetry* (Spring 2018, Spring 2023)

200-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Islam and Europe in Premodern Literature* (Fall 2017)

300-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Global Shakespeare* (Spring 2017, Spring 2018)

300-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College

*Early Modern Crime* (Fall 2016, Spring 2019, Spring 2021)

200-level course, English dept., Bryn Mawr College.

Emily Balch Seminars: *Terror and Sick* (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2021)

First-year seminar, Bryn Mawr College.

*Global Shakespeare* (Summer 2015)

Upper-division Shakespeare seminar, English dept., UC Irvine.

*Shakespeare and Criminology* (Spring and Fall semesters, 2014)

Writing and research course for the Criminology and Criminal Justice department at California State University, Long Beach.

*Introduction to British Literature*, (Fall quarter, 2010).

Teaching assistant for upper-level early British literature survey course for English dept., UC Irvine.

*Design Fictions* (Winter quarter, 2010)

Teaching assistant for upper-division course, cross-listed with English and Literary Journalism, UC Irvine.

*Gods, Heroes, and the Heroic Tradition* (Fall quarter, 2009, Winter and Spring quarters, 2010)

Teaching assistant for introductory lecture course in Classics.

*Critical Reading and Rhetoric* (Fall 2008-Spring 2016)

Introductory composition course, Writing program, UC Irvine.

*Fundamentals of Composition* (Summers 2009-2016)

Online section of entry-level composition course, Writing program, UC Irvine.

#### DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBER

- Sandra Goldstein-Lehnert, “Trans Materiality,” CUNY. Completion expected 2026.
- Alice Fulmer, “An Intersectional Model of Transfeminist Disability for the *Canterbury Tales*’ Confessional Pilgrims.” UC Santa Barbara. Completion expected 2027.

#### SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

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- Editorial Board Member, *Exemplaria* (2024-2028).
- Program Committee, Shakespeare Association of America, 2022-2023
- Editorial Board Member, *Anthem Studies in Renaissance Literature and Culture*, 2017-present
- Reader reports for *postmedieval*, *Exemplaria*, *Religions*, *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, *Renaissance Quarterly*
- Delegate to the MLA Assembly for “LGBTQ In The Profession,” 2022-2024

#### ACADEMIC SERVICE

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- Committee on Endowed Lectures, 2022-present
- Committee on UG Awards and Fellowships, 2017-2019
- Session Leader, Quarantine Reading Group for Students and Alums, Summer 2020
- Speaker, Mellon Mays Event, Dec. 5, 2018
- Co-Convener, Tri-Co Premodern Cultures Group, 2018
- Major Exploration Workshop facilitator, Feb. 2017
- Gender and Sexuality Studies steering committee member, Bryn Mawr College, 2016-present
- Hiring Committee Member and Interviewer, African-American Literature Search, 2023
- Hiring Committee Member (Bryn Mawr Representative), Haverford Music Search, 2022
- Hiring Committee Member, Film Search, 2022
- Hiring Committee Member and Interviewer, Children’s Literature Search, 2017
- Hiring Committee Member, African-American Poetics Search, 2016