Travis D. Williams

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University of Rhode Island

Kingston, RI 02881 USA

Academic Appointment

University of Rhode Island, Department of English.

Associate Professor, 2013-present. Tenured 1 July 2013.

Assistant Professor, 2006-13.

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, English, 2006.

Dissertation: “*Ethos* and *Enargeia*: Literary and Rhetorical Strategies of Early Modern Mathematics.”

M.Phil. Oxford University, English Studies, 1998. Distinction.

Thesis: “Children in Shakespeare.”

B.A. University of California, Berkeley, English, 1996. Highest Honors.

Minor: Mathematics.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

“*King Lear*, Without the Mathematics: From Reading Mathematics to Reading Mathematically.” In *The* *Palgrave Handbook of Literature and Mathematics*, ed. Robert Tubbs, Alice Jenkins, Nina Engelhardt. 399-418. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2021.

“Unspeakable Creation: Writing in *Paradise Lost* and Early Modern Mathematics.” *Philological Quarterly*, special issue “Imagining Early Modern Scientific Forms,” ed. Jenny Mann and Debapriya Sarkar, 98:1-2 (2019): 181-200.

“Recent Performance and Critical Interpretations.” In *Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare, ed. F. H. Mares, 3rd edition, New Cambridge Shakespeare. 49-65. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018.

“Mathematical *Enargeia*: The Rhetoric of Early Modern Mathematical Notation.” *Rhetorica: A Journal of the History of Rhetoric* 34:2 (2016): 163-211.  
Winner of the *Rhetorica* Prize, awarded by the International Society for the History of Rhetoric for the best article published in the journal in 2015 and 2016.

“The Dialogue of Early Modern Mathematical Subjectivity.” *Configurations: A Journal of Literature, Science, and Technology* 21:1 (2013): 53-84.

“Procrustean Marxism and Subjective Rigor: Early Modern Arithmetic and Its Readers.” In *“Raw Data” Is an Oxymoron*. Edited by Lisa Gitelman. 41-59. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2013.

“The Earliest English Printed Arithmetic Books.” *The Library: The Transactions of the Bibliographical Society* ser. 7, 13:2 (2012): 164-84.

“The *Bourn* Identity: *Hamlet* and the French of Montaigne’s *Essais*.” *Notes and Queries* 58:2 (2011): 254-58.

Peer-Reviewed Edited Collection

*Shakespeare Up Close: Reading Early Modern Texts*. Co-edited by Travis D. Williams, Russ McDonald, and Nicholas D. Nace. London: Arden Shakespeare, 2012. Includes:

• “Introduction.” Co-written by Travis D. Williams, Russ McDonald, and Nicholas D. Nace. xix-xxxv, 333.

• “The Story of O: Reading Letters in the Prologue to *Henry V*.” By Travis D. Williams. 9-16, 334-35.

• 38 more essays by 39 authors.

Reviewed in:

• *American Theatre* 30:8 (2013): 138-39, at p. 139.

• *Around the Globe: The Magazine of Shakespeare’s Globe* 54 (2013): 48-49.

• *Huffington Post*, 28 October 2013, huffingtonpost.co.uk/annie-martirosyan/shakespeare-another-gem-from-bloomsbury\_b\_4168640.html.

• *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500-1900* 54:2 (2014): 475-514, at pp. 475, 485-86.

• *Shakespeare Quarterly* 66:3 (2015): 335-37.

• *Shakespeare Survey* 67 (2014): 456-98, at pp. 464-66.

• *The Stage*, 6 December 2012: 14.

• *Teaching Shakespeare* 3 (2013): 2.

Book (in progress)

*Literature and Mathematics: The Writing Arts in the Age of Shakespeare*.

Reviews

*Close Reading without Readings: Essays on Shakespeare and Others*, by Stephen Booth (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2015). *Modern Philology* 115:2 (2017): E99-E101.

*Anamorphosis in Early Modern Literature: Mediation and Affect*, by Jen E. Boyle (Burlington: Ashgate, 2010). *Notes and Queries* 63:1 (2016): 128-30.

*The Machine in the Text: Science and Literature in the Age of Shakespeare and Galileo*, by Howard Marchitello (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011). *Notes and Queries* 60:2 (2013): 313-15.

*Playing Dirty: Sexuality and Waste in Early Modern Comedy*, by Will Stockton (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2011). *Psychoanalysis, Culture & Society* 17:1 (2012): 104-7.

Public Writing

“Lessons in Pandemic Survival, or How Shakespeare Became a Superstar.” *University of Rhode Island Magazine* 3:2 (2021): 15.

“Shakespeare as Fan Fiction.” *Fifteeneightyfour* (Cambridge University Press). http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2019/01/shakespeare-as-fan-fiction/. 16 January 2019.

Invited Lectures and Presentations

“Hamlet and Euclid: Those Amazing Twins.” Shakespearean Studies Seminar, Harvard University, March 2021.

“Hamlet and Euclid: Those Amazing Twins.” URI Center for the Humanities Brown Bag Lunch Talk, December 2020.

“*A Midsummer Night’s Dream*.” Scholars in Conversation. University of South Dakota and the South Dakota Shakespeare Festival, Vermillion, June 2019.

“The Spaces of *Hamlet*.” Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, April 2017.

“Failures and Successes of Spatial Imagination: *Hamlet* and Early Modern Mathematics.” Mathematics/Computer Science Colloquium, Providence College, March 2016.

“*Much Ado About Nothing.*” Panel presentation at a post-production audience discussion of the URI Theatre’s production, April 2013.

“The St. Crispin’s Day Speech in *Henry V*.” East Greenwich High School, Rhode Island, February 2013.

“Hyperbolic Multiplication: Rhetoric, Law, and the Female Mathematician in *The Merchant of Venice*.” Shakespearean Studies Seminar, Harvard University, February 2013.

“Homoerotic Indirection and Shakespeare’s Child Characters.” English Department Faculty Colloquium, URI, September 2011.

“Narrative Arithmetic, National Identity, and Early Modern Pleasure Reading.” Center for the Humanities, URI, December 2010.

“Procrustean Marxism: Early Modern Arithmetic and Its Readers.” English Department Faculty Colloquium, URI Providence Campus, November 2009.

“*The Merchant of Venice*.” Panel presentation at a post-production audience discussion of the URI Theatre’s production, April 2009.

Panels and Sessions Organized

“Mathematics and *Poiesis* in the Long Renaissance.” Seminar organized for the Renaissance Society of America Conference, Toronto, 17-19 March 2019.

“Emerging Approaches: Methodologies in Mathematics and the Humanities.” Roundtable organized for the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, Tempe, AZ, November 2017.

“Evidence in Early Modern Drama Studies.” Seminar organized and led for the Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, St. Louis, April 2014.

Conference Papers and Other Presentations

“Shakespeare’s Role in the Recuperation of Islamic Voices in Early Modern Histories of Mathematics.” Seminar: Science without Shakespeare. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Online, April 2021.

“Invisible Writing: The Ethics of Stage Letters in *King Lear*.” Seminar: Invisible Presences: Detecting the Unseen in Renaissance Drama. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, April 2019.

“Mathematics as *Poietic* Art: Early Modern Evidence and Consequences.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, Toronto, March 2019.

“Unspeakable Creation: Writing in *Paradise Lost* and Early Modern Mathematics.” Beyond Words: The Unknowable and the Unutterable in Early Modernity, Centre for Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, University of York, United Kingdom, June 2018.

“Book Proposal [*Literature and Mathematics: The Writing Arts in the Age of Shakespeare*].” Participant in the Workshop “Writing, Shaping, and Publishing the Scholarly Book.” Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, March 2018.

“Race, Color, Genre: The Recent Screen History of *Much Ado About Nothing*.” *Much Ado About Nothing* in Performance, Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University, Sweden, June 2017.

“Second-Guessing Cordelia: Ethics, Arithmetic, and Imagination in *King Lear*.” Seminar: Cognition in the Early Modern Period. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Atlanta, April 2017.

“Mental Inscription and Invisible Signs in Early Modern Romance and Mathematics.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, Chicago, April 2017.

“Writing the Unspeakable in *Paradise Lost* and Early Modern Mathematics.” Seminar: Imagining Scientific Form. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, New Orleans, March 2016.

“Imagination, and Reading the Third Dimension in Early Modern Geometry.” Joint Conference of the British Society for the History of Mathematics and the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics, Mathematical Association of America MathFest, Washington, DC, August 2015.

“Failure of the Imagination in the First Player’s Speech.” Seminar: Fiction in Shakespeare. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Vancouver, April 2015.

“Linguistic Nationalism and Euclidean Geometry in Early Modern England.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, New York, March, 2014.

“Managing Notational White in Early Modern Printed Mathematics.” Printed Mathematics in the Early Modern World, All Souls College, Oxford University, December 2013.

“Hyperbolic Multiplication: Rhetoric, Law, and the Female Mathematician in *The Merchant of Venice*.” Seminar: Shakespeare and the Making of Knowledge, Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, March 2013.

“Printing the Third Dimension in the Renaissance.” Modern Language Association Convention, Boston, January 2013.

“*Brave New World* as Shakespeare Metacriticism.” Seminar: The Past, Present, and Future of Shakespeare Studies, Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston, April 2012.

“Inventing Rigor in the Dialogue of Early Modern Mathematics.” Joint Conference of the British Society for the History of Mathematics and the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics, Trinity College, Dublin, July 2011.

“Inventing Rigor in the Dialogue of Self-Taught Early Modern Mathematics.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, Montreal, March 2011.

Participant in the Workshop “Close Readings without Readings.” Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2010.

“Mathematical Tales: The Failure of Narrative in Early Modern Arithmetic.” Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Conference, Portland, Maine, November 2007.

“Mathematical *Enargeia*: The Rhetoric of Early Modern Mathematical Notation.” Varieties of Cultural History: Theory and Practice in the Cultural Histories of Medicine, Science, Literature and the Arts, University of Aberdeen, July 2007.

“Courtly Identity and Early Modern Mathematics: Hyperbolical Multiplication in *The Merchant of Venice*.” History of Science Society Conference, Vancouver, November 2006.

“*Enargeia* and Early Modern Mathematical Notation.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, San Francisco, March 2006.

“Humanism and Rigor in Sixteenth-Century Mathematics.” The Renaissance Conference of Northern California, University of California, Berkeley, May 2004.

“Jupiter, Ganymede, and the Divided Subjectivity of Shakespeare’s Dramatic Children.” The Renaissance Society of America Conference, New York, April 2004.

“Humanist Dialogue and the Interrogation of Authority in Early Modern Mathematics.” The Conference for the Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies, Newport Beach, California, October 2003.

“Anti-Antitheatricalism and the Shakespearean Child Character.” Shakespeare’s Children / Children’s Shakespeares: The Centre for Research in Renaissance Studies Annual Conference, University of Surrey, Roehampton, London, October 2003.

“Rhetorics of Translation in Early Sixteenth-Century French and English Arithmetics.” The Culture of Books: Birth and Transformations of the Reader from the Late Middle Ages to the Dawn of the Modern Period, University of California, Berkeley, April 2002.

“Jonson’s *Every Man Out of His Humour*: A Dramatic Structure for Social Debate.” The International Center for Advanced Theater Studies, University of Helsinki, August 2000.

“Shakespeare’s Dramatic Children and Homoerotic Indirection.” The Northern California Renaissance Conference, California State University, Chico, May 2000.

“The Medieval Heritage of Shakespeare’s Children.” The Thirty-Third International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 1998.

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

*Rhetorica* Prize, 2017, International Society for the History of Rhetoric, for the best article published in *Rhetorica* in 2015 and 2016.

Council for Research Career Enhancement Grants, URI, 2007, 2010, 2017.

Center for the Humanities Research Grants, URI, 2007, 2009, 2017.

Faculty Development Funds, Office of the Provost, URI, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 (declined).

Hope and Heritage Conference Grants, URI, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020 (declined).

Center for the Humanities Faculty Sabbatical Fellowship, URI, 2014.

Conference Grant, All Souls College, Oxford University, 2013.

Sabbatical Leave, URI, 2013-14.

Subvention Grant, Center for the Humanities, URI, 2011, declined.

Junior Scholar Fellowship, Center for the Humanities, URI, 2010.

Rare Book School Scholarship, University of Virginia, 2009.

Folger Shakespeare Library Short-Term Fellowship, Washington, DC, 2007.

Davis Foundation Outcomes Assessment Mini-Grant, URI, 2007.

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley, 2005.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2004.

Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2004-06.

Mabelle McLeod Lewis Memorial Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2003-04.

Chancellor’s Dissertation-Year Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2003-04, declined.

Office for History of Science and Technology Grants, UC Berkeley, 2001, 2002.

English Department Graduate Fellowships, UC Berkeley, 2000, 2001-02.

UC Berkeley Summer Mellon Fellowship, 2001.

Taussig Memorial Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 2000-01.

Conference Grant, University of Helsinki, Finland, 2000.

Phi Beta Kappa Fellowship, UC Berkeley, 1999.

Humanities Research Grant, UC Berkeley, 1999-2000.

Matthew Arnold Memorial Prize, Oxford University, 1997.

Overseas Research Scholarship, Oxford University, 1996-98.

Phi Beta Kappa, UC Berkeley, 1995.

University of California Regents’ Scholar, 1992-96.

Edward Frank Kraft Scholarship, UC Berkeley, 1993.

Teaching

University of Rhode Island.

Undergraduate.

ENG 201 Principles of Literary Study, F 2015, S 2016.

ENG 263H (Honors) Introduction to Literary Genres: The Poem, S 2011.

ENG 280 Introduction to Shakespeare, Su 2006, F 2006, S 2008, F 2008, F 2010, F 2011, S 2013, S 2015.

ENG 280H (Honors) Introduction to Shakespeare, S 2020.

ENG 333 The Sensuous Sentence: Grammar for Grammarphobes, F 2020, S 2022 (planned).

ENG 350 Literary Theory and Criticism, F 2018.

ENG 355 Literature and the Sciences, S 2007.

ENG 373 British Literature of the Renaissance: Christopher Marlowe, F 2008.

ENG 381 Medieval and Renaissance Topics: Renaissance Lyric, F 2007.

ENG 382 Medieval and Renaissance Authors: Chaucer and Jonson, F 2006.

ENG 382 Medieval and Renaissance Authors: John Donne, S 2009.

ENG 382 Topics in Renaissance Literature: Renaissance Prose, F 2015.

ENG 472 Shakespeare, S 2007, F 2007, S 2009, S 2010, S 2012, F 2014, F 2016, F 2017, F 2019.

ENG 478 Medieval Authors: Geoffrey Chaucer, F 2012, S 2019.

ENG 479 Renaissance Authors: John Milton, F 2011, S 2015, S 2018, S 2021.

HPR 202A/L Honors Colloquium: Lying and Backstabbing: Civility and Politics in Shakespeare’s Day, S 2016.

HPR 312 Honors Tutorial in Literature: Science and Drama, F 2009.

URI 101 Planning for Academic Success, F 2017, F 2018.

Graduate.

ENG 550 Studies in British Texts Before 1700, S 2008.

ENG 550 Studies in British Texts Before 1700: Shakespeare, F 2009.

ENG 605 Seminar in Genres: Renaissance Lyric, S 2011, F 2021 (planned).

ENG 610 Seminar in Historical Periods: *Hamlet*: A Cultural Biography, F 2014.

ENG 615 Seminar in Authors: Shakespeare, S 2017.

University of California, Berkeley.

Graduate Student Instructor: Composition, Shakespeare, Medieval and Renaissance Literature, 2000-03.

Assistant Director for *As You Like It*, English 117T: Shakespeare in the Theater, S 2006.

Graduate Supervision

Major Professor.

Danielle Sanfilippo, Ph.D., S 2020.

Susan Chakmakian, M.A., S 2018 (non-thesis).

Megan Crowley, M.A, S 2012 (non-thesis).

Zinovia Canale, M.A., Su 2011 (non-thesis).

Donald Rodrigues, M.A., Su 2011 (thesis).

Karen Deutsch Lustig, M.A., S 2007 (thesis).

Committee Member.

Youngji Cho, Ph.D., core committee, expected S 2022.

Andrew Merecicky, Ph.D., core committee, expected S 2021.

Nilton Gomes, Ph.D., core committee, expected F 2021.

Ashton Foley-Schramm, Ph.D., outer committee, S 2020.

Kara Watts, Ph.D., core committee, S 2019.

Anna Bennett, M.A. (History), defense chair, S 2015.

Elizabeth Pitts, M.A., S 2012 (non-thesis).

Jacob Nelson, M.A., S 2011 (non-thesis).

Beau La Rhee, Ph.D., qualifying exams, 2007-08.

Service

University of Rhode Island.

University and College of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty Senator, F 2015-S 2018.

President’s Faculty Senate Awards Selection Committee, S 2021.

Academic Summit (January 2019) Planning Committee, S 2018-F 2018.

Ad Hoc Chair’s Training Committee (Faculty Senate), 2018.

Joint Committee on Academic Planning, F 2017-S 2018.

Graduate Council, S 2021.

Special Committee on Curriculum, Su-F 2020.

General Education Committee, F 2014-S 2018, F 2017-S 2018 (chair).

General Education Humanities Outcome Approval Panel, S 2015-S 2016 (chair).

NEH Next Generation Humanities Ph.D. Collaboration/Program Development Committee, F 2016-S 2017.

Humanities at Work in the World, coordinator, S 2016-S 2017.

A&S Ethnic Studies Ad Hoc Committee, Su 2018-S 2019.

Department Chair Search Committee (Theatre), Convener and Chair, F 2017.

Complete College America Task Force, Su 2016-S 2017.

Constitution, By-laws, and University Manual Committee, F 2015-S 2017.

Academic Plan Task Force, Su 2015.

Academic Support for High Achieving Students Committee, F 2014-S 2015.

Common Core Standards Steering Committee, English representative, F 2012.

University College, Freshman Academic Advisor, F 2009-S 2013.

URI Open House/Information Fair/Welcome Day, English representative, 2007-10, 2016, 2018.

Phi Beta Kappa, President, F 2014-S 2018.

Phi Beta Kappa, Members-in-Course Committee, S 2007-S 2013, S 2015-S 2019, S 2021.

Phi Beta Kappa, Treasurer, Su 2008-S 2013.

English Department.

Department Chair, F 2016-present.

Academic Program Review Committee, F 2014-S 2015.

Executive Committee, F 2008-S 2013, F 2015-present.

Long-Range Planning Committee, F 2008-S 2013.

Department Chair Search Committee, S 2010.

Grade Appeal Committee, S 2009.

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies and Academic Advisor, F 2009-S 2013.

Curriculum Committee, F 2009-S 2011 (ad hoc), F 2012-S 2013 (chair), F 2014-S 2016 (chair).

RIBOE Articulation Meeting, S 2010, S 2012, S 2017.

Faculty Search Committee (Contemporary U.S. Ethnic; chair), F 2016-S 2017.

Faculty Search Committee (18th-C. British), F 2010-S 2011.

Faculty Search Committee (Medieval), F 2007-S 2008.

Faculty Search Committee (VAP, Medieval), S 2007.

Graduate Awards Committee, S 2012-S 2013.

Job Placement Committee, F 2010-S 2013 (ad hoc).

Graduate Student Creative Writing Prize Judge, S 2020 (chair).

Short Fiction Prize Judge, S 2018 (chair).

Critical Essay Prize Judge, S 2008, S 2010 (chair), S 2011, S 2012, S 2016 (chair), S 2017-S 2020.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Website, F 2010-S 2011.

Outcomes Assessment Project, Trial Run Investigator, S 2007.

Extramural.

A Moveable Feast of Ideas. 4 book discussions led at Rhode Island public libraries in 2017.

First Folio! The Book That Gave Us Shakespeare, Brown University, affiliated local scholar and coordinator of teacher outreach, S 2016.

National Shakespeare Competition, South County Section Judge, S 2009, S 2013.

Profession.

Review Panel, Division of Public Programs, National Endowment for the Humanities, F 2018.

Peer Reviewer for *Shakespeare Quarterly*, *College Literature*, Bedford/St. Martins, and *Configurations*.

Memberships.  
Modern Language Association.  
Renaissance Society of America.  
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts.  
Shakespeare Association of America.  
British Society for the History of Mathematics.

Languages

Excellent French: read, written, and spoken.

Proficient Italian, Latin, and Old English.

Basic Hungarian.