

DENNIS AUSTIN BRITTON

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EDUCATION

- 2007: Ph.D. English, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Major Field: Early Modern English Literature
Minor Field: Latin Literature and Language
2000: M.A. English, University of Wisconsin-Madison
1998: B.A. English, University of Southern California

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2013-Present: Associate Professor, Department of English, University of New Hampshire

2018-Present: Faculty Fellow, UNH Summer Institute in Public Humanities, Center for the Humanities, University of New Hampshire

Summer 2019-present: Faculty, Bread Loaf School of English, Middlebury College

2013-2016 & 2017-2018: Faculty Fellow, Office of the Senior Vice Provost for Engagement and Academic Outreach

2007-2013: Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of New Hampshire

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS and HONORS (selected)

Faculty Research Fellowship, UNH Center for the Humanities, Spring 2019

Emerging Scholar, selected as one of “12 standout scholars, under age 40, who are making their mark in the academy,” *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, 2014

Teaching Excellence Award, College of Liberal Arts, University of New Hampshire, 2013

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2012-13

RESEARCH and TEACHING INTERESTS

Early modern English literature, especially Shakespeare and Spenser; epic and romance; Reformation theology; Africana studies; critical race theory; affect; source study

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Shakespeare and Pity: Feeling Human Difference on the Early Modern Stage
(in preparation)

Reforming Ethiopia: African-Anglo Relations in Protestant England (in preparation)

Rethinking Shakespeare Source Study: Audiences, Authors, and Digital Technologies.
Ed. Dennis Austin Britton and Melissa Walter. New York: Routledge, 2018. (Reviewed
in *Renaissance Quarterly*).

Becoming Christian: Race, Reformation, and Early Modern English Romance. New
York: Fordham University Press, 2014. (Reviewed in *Modern Philology*, *Renaissance
and Reformation / Renaissance et Réforme*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *SEL*, *Spenser
Review*, and *The Sixteenth Century Journal*)

Journal Special Issue

“Spenser and Race.” Ed. Dennis Austin Britton and Kimberly Anne Coles. *Spenser
Studies* 35 (2021).

Essays

“A Genealogy of Race: Word Usage, Meaning, and Concept.” *The Cultural History of
Race*. Volume 4 (1550-1760). Ed. Nicolas Hudson. Oxford: Bloomsbury. (in press)

“Flesh and Blood: Race and Religion in *The Merchant of Venice*.” *The Cambridge
Companion to Shakespeare and Race*. Ed. Ayanna Thompson. Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press. (in press)

“Beyond the Pale,” *Spenser Review* 50.1.5 (Winter 2020). Co-authored with Kimberly
Anne Coles.

“Ain’t She a Shakespearean: Truth, Giovanni, and Shakespeare.” *Early Modern Black
Diaspora Studies*. Ed. Miles Grier, Nicholas Jones, and Cassandra Smith. New York:
Palgrave, 2018. 223-28.

“Contaminatio, Race, and Pity in *Othello*.” *Rethinking Shakespeare Source Study: Authors, Audiences, and Digital Technologies*. Ed. Dennis Austin Britton and Melissa Walter. New York: Routledge, 2018. 46-64.

“From the *Knight’s Tale* to *The Two Noble Kinsmen*: Rethinking Race, Class, and Whiteness in Romance.” In the special issue “Making Race Matter in the Middle Ages.” *Postmedieval* 6 (2015): 64-78.

“Re-‘turning’ *Othello*: Transformative and Restorative Romance.” *ELH* 78 (2011): 27-50.

“Allegory and Difference in Raleigh and de Bry: Reading and Seeing the *Discoverie*.” In the special issue “Theodor de Bry’s Voyages to the New and Old Worlds.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 41 (2011): 117-36.

“Islam, Race, and Political Legitimacy in Raleigh’s *The Life and Death of Mahomet*.” *Early Modern England and Islamic Worlds*. Ed. Bernadette Andrea and Linda McJannet. New York: Palgrave, 2011. 43-64.

“Muslim Conversion and Circumcision as Theater.” *Religion and Drama in Early Modern England*. Ed. Jane Hwang Degenhardt and Elizabeth Williamson. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2011. 71-86.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Fairfax, Edward.” *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature*. Ed. Garrett Sullivan and Alan Stewart. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012. 329-31.

“Tourneur, Cyril.” *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of English Renaissance Literature*. Ed. Garrett Sullivan and Alan Stewart. Oxford: Blackwell, 2012. 960-62.

Digital Platforms

Lecture Streams. *Othello*. Ed. Lauren Shohet. Luminary Digital Media, 2013.

Review Essays

“Histories and temporalities past, present, and future.” *Postmedieval* 10 (2019): 111-26.

“Recent Studies of Race in English Renaissance Literature.” *English Literary Renaissance* 45 (2015): 459-78.

Book Reviews

Ramey, Lynn T. *Black Legacies: Race and the European Middle Ages*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2014. In *College Language Association Journal* 60 (2016): 156-59.

Sabine Schülting, Sabine Lucia Müller, and Ralf Hertel, eds. *Early Modern Encounters with the Islamic East: Performing Cultures*. Burlington, VT: Ashgate Publishing, 2012. In *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 15 (2014): 132-37.

Christopher M. Armitage, ed. *Literary and Visual Raleigh*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2013. In *Spenser Review* 44.2.39 (2014).

CONFERENCES, LECTURES and PRESENTATIONS (selected)

* Denotes invited lectures and presentations

*Keynote lecture, Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern English Studies, September 2021.

*Invited Panelist, "Race, Place and Religion in Early Modern History," The Globe Theatre, May 2020 (canceled)

*"Desiring Othello: Race, Pity, and Petrarchism," a lecture given at the Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 2019.

* "Race *after* the Reformation," a paper presented at "Race and Periodization: a #RaceB4Race Symposium," Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies & The Folger Shakespeare Library," September 2019.

* Invited seminar leader, "Shakespeare, Race, and Genre," British Shakespeare Association, July 2019.

"Pitiful Darkness and Desirable Whiteness in Petrarch and Sidney," a paper presented to the seminar "Race and/as Affect," Shakespeare Association of America, April 2019.

* Invited panelist, Teaching Shakespeare and Race Symposium, Lafayette College, March 2019.

"Teaching Shakespeare, Teaching Race," a paper to be presented at the panel "Teaching Race, Gender, Sexuality, and Disability in Early Modern Text," Sixteenth Century Society Conference, November 2018.

"Race, Nation, and Pity in *Titus Andronicus*," a paper presented on the panel "Affect on the Shakespearean Stage," British Shakespeare Association, June 2018.

“Desiring Othello: Race, Petrarchism, and Pity,” a paper presented to the seminar “Queer Affect,” Shakespeare Association of America, March 2018.

Participant on the roundtable “Teaching Race,” Renaissance Society of America, March 2018.

* “Shakespeare and the Privileges of Being Pitiful,” The Carlton Lecture, Department of English, Bates College, February 2018.

* “Race, Allegory, and the Poetics of Difference in *The Faerie Queene*,” guest seminar leader at the colloquium, “Race, Gender, and Early Modern Studies,” Folger Shakespeare Library, November 2017.

* “Reforming Ethiopia: from *Kebra Nagast* to Protestant England,” a lecture given at the workshop, “Africans in the Reformation,” Princeton Theological Seminary, October 2017.

“Ain’t She a Shakespearean?: Lessons from Nikki Giovanni on Shakespeare,” a paper presented at a plenary roundtable, “The Color of Membership,” Shakespeare Association of America, March 2017.

*“Pity and Difference in *Titus Andronicus*,” a lecture delivered at the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, The Ohio State University, March 2017.

*“Pitiful Difference in *Titus Andronicus*,” a lecture delivered at the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, The Huntington Library, February 2017.

“Race and...,” a seminar lead at the Shakespeare Association of America, March 2016.

“Black Shakespeare: Lucy Negro and the Sexuality of Skin Color in the Sonnets and *Measure for Measure*,” a paper presented at the panel “Blackening the Books of Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton in Africanist Tongues,” College Language Association, March 2016.

* “White Ethiopians and Black Christians: Reimagining Prester John and His Kingdom in Early Modern England,” a lecture given at the Department of English, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, March 2015.

“Emotions, Race, and Genre in *The Battle of Alcazar*,” a paper presented to the seminar “Brothers and Others in Early Modern England.” Shakespeare Association of America, April 2014.

“Colonizing Pity: Las Casas and *The Tempest*,” a paper presented at the panel “Spanish Shakespeares.” Modern Language Association of America, January 2014.

*Reproducing Christians: Sex, Race, and Theology on the Early Modern English Stage,”

a lecture given at the Department of English, Temple University, April 2013.

“Shakespeare and New Source Study,” a seminar co-lead with Melissa Walter at the Shakespeare Association of America, March 2013.

* “Global Shakespeare,” a lecture given as part of the Philadelphia Shakespeare Theatre’s “Connoisseur Shakespeare Lecture Series,” The Barnes Foundation, November 2012.

“Sanctifying Romance: Converting the Islamic Self in Harington’s *Orlando Furioso*,” a paper presented at the panel “Bad Romance: Reading, Race, and Religion in Early Modern English Romance.” Modern Language Association of America, January 2012.

“Race, Faith, and Infidel Conversion in Reformation England,” a paper presented at the panel “Tales of Turning: Conversion Narratives in Early Modern England.” Sixteenth-Century Society Conference, October 2011.

“Turks Turned Protestant in Early Modern England,” a paper presented at the panel “Muslim Conversions to Christianity,” Conversion Narratives Conference at the University of York, UK, June 2011.

“Turning Christian: Muslim to Christian Conversion in Early Modern England,” a paper presented to the seminar “The Ungodly in Early Modern England,” Shakespeare Association of America, April 2011.

* “Romance Conversion on the Early Modern Stage,” a paper given at the Harvard Shakespeare Seminar, Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard, March 2011.

COURSES TAUGHT

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Graduate

English 964: Loving and Hating Romance in Early Modern England

English 958: Shakespeare Now

Shakespeare and the Early Modern Mediterranean

Shakespeare, Genre, and the Romance Tradition

English 925: Introduction to Graduate Studies

Undergraduate

English 787: English Major Seminar: Nationhood and Nationalism in Shakespeare’s
England

English Major Seminar: Shakespeare’s Library

English Major Seminar: Tragedy
English 758: Shakespeare and Race
Shakespearean Tragedy
English 657: Shakespeare
English 693: The Epic Tradition
English 513: Survey of British Literature II: Age of Revolutions: From Shakespeare to
Austen
English 512: Survey of British Literature I: The Age of Heroes: From Beowulf to
Shakespeare.
English 419: Writing about Literature
English 415: Religion and Literature

BREALOAF SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

Graduate

English 7203: Romance in Early Modern England
English 7270: Shakespeare and Race

SERVICE

The Profession

Trustee, Shakespeare Association of America, 2020-2023.
Chair, Diversity Grant Committee, Renaissance Society of America, 2019-2020.
Diversity Grant Committee, Renaissance Society of America, 2018-2019
Program Committee, 2020 annual meeting of Shakespeare Association of America,
2018-2019.
Executive Committee, International Spenser Society, 2016-2018.
Long-term Fellowship Selection Committee, Folger Shakespeare Library, January 2017.
Educational Programs Review Panelist, National Endowment for the Humanities, May
2012.
Editorial board for *Strode Studies in Early Modern Literature and Culture*
(University of Alabama Press) and *Exemplaria*
Manuscript reviewer for Fordham University Press, Notre Dame University Press,
Routledge, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, *English Literary Renaissance*, *Explorations in
Renaissance Literature*, *Religion and Literature*, *Philological Quarterly*, *Shakespeare
Quarterly*

The State of New Hampshire

Board Vice President, Black Heritage Trail of New Hampshire, 2017-present
Board of Directors, New Hampshire Humanities, 2016-present
Discussion Leader, "The New Generation Faculty: Expectations and Desires," 2012 New

Hampshire Statewide Summit: *Making Excellence Inclusive: Building Engaged Higher Education Learning Communities*, April 20, 2012

University of New Hampshire

Racial Climate Task Force, 2017-2018.
Discovery Program Committee, 2011-2012
President's Commission on the Status of People of Color, 2009-2012
Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Planning Committee, 2007-2010

College of Liberal Arts

Review Committee, UNH Center for the Humanities, 2018-2019
Search Committee for UNH College of Liberal Arts Dean, 2015-2016
Enrollments Committee, 2014-2015
Executive Committee, Spring 2008

Department of English

Diversity Committee, 2018-2019
Convener, Literature Faculty Committee, 2015-2017
Director, UNH Cambridge Program, 2014-2017
Chair, Medieval Search Committee, 2014-2015
Coordinator, Shakespeare Birthday Celebration, 2012-2014
Diversity Committee, 2011-2012
Lecturer Search Committee, Spring 2010 & Spring 2011
Coordinator, First Fridays and In-Progress Scholarship Speakers Series, 2008-2010
Graduate Committee, 2008-2009
Poetry Search Committee, 2007-08
Library Committee, 2007-2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Spenser Society
Modern Language Association
Shakespeare Association of America
Sixteenth Century Society
Renaissance Society of America