

LEAH WHITTINGTON

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## Academic Employment

2019– Professor, Department of English, Harvard University  
2016–2019 John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, Department of English,  
Harvard University  
2012–2016 Assistant Professor, Department of English, Harvard University  
2011–2012 Mellon Research Fellow, Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities

## Education

2011 Ph.D., Princeton University, Department of Comparative Literature  
2008 M.A., Princeton University, Department of Comparative Literature  
2002 B.A., Harvard University, *summa cum laude*, English and Classics

## Publications

### Books

#### In Progress

*Antiquity Made Whole: Completion and the Classical Past in Renaissance Literary Culture*. Under contract with Johns Hopkins University Press.

*Latin Novels of the Quattrocento* (co-edited with Emily O'Brien). Under contract with Harvard University Press for the *I Tatti Renaissance Library*.

2016 *Renaissance Suppliants: Poetry, Antiquity, Reconciliation*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Reviews: *Translation and Literature* 26:1 (2017) 95–100; *Review of English Studies* 68.286 (2017): 804–806; *Spenser Review* 47.2.33 (2017); *Milton Quarterly* 51.2 (2017): 132–38; *Bryn Mawr Classical Review* (2017); *Modern Philology* 115.3 (2018); *Modern Language Review* 112.4 (2017): 981–82; *SEL: Studies in English Literature* 58.1 (2018): 248–49, 264; *Cahiers Élisabéthains: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies* 95.1 (2018): 121–24; *Renaissance Quarterly* 71.3 (2018): 1182–84.

### Articles and Book Chapters

2020 “The Mutilated Text.” In Alexandra Gillespie and Deidre Lynch (eds.), *The Unfinished Book* (Oxford Twenty-First Century Approaches to Literature). Oxford University Press.

- 2019 “Creative Criticism,” (co-authored with Joe Moshenska), *Spenser Review* 49.3 (Fall 2019).
- 2018 “Qui succederet operi: Completing the Unfinished in Maffeo Vegio’s *Supplementum Aeneidos*.” In Jane Tylus (ed.), *Unfinished Renaissances*, a special issue of *I Tatti Studies in the Italian Renaissance* 21.2 (2018): 1-29.
- 2017 “Shakespeare’s Grammar: Latin, Literacy, and the Vernacular.” In Sean Keilen and Nick Moskovakis (eds.), *Routledge Research Companion to Shakespeare and Classical Literature*, 78–106. London and New York: Routledge, 2017.
- 2017 “Shakespeare and the Greeks: Theatricality and Performance from Plutarch’s *Lives* to *Coriolanus*.” In *Classical Receptions Journal* 9.1 (2017): 120–143 (Special Issue: Tanya Pollard and Tania Demetriou, eds., “Homer and Greek Tragedy in Early Modern England’s Theaters”).
- 2014 “Milton’s Poetics of Supplication,” *Milton Studies* 55 (2014): 113–145. Winner of the James Holly Hanford Award presented by the Milton Society of America for the most distinguished essay on John Milton published in 2014.
- 2014 “Shakespeare’s Vergil: Empathy and *The Tempest*.” In Patrick Gray and John Cox (eds.), *Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics*, 98–120. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- 2012 “John Hales’ Funeral Oration for Thomas Bodley: An Edited Translation” (with Daniel Blank), *Bodleian Library Record* 25:2 (2012): 144–182.
- 2010 “Vergil’s Nisus and the Language of Self-Sacrifice in *Paradise Lost*,” *Modern Philology* 107.4 (2010): 588–606.

### Reviews and Essays

- 2021 Review of Jonathan Bate, *How the Classics Made Shakespeare* (Princeton University Press, 2019). *Modern Philology* 119.2 (2021).
- 2015 Review of David Quint, *Inside Paradise Lost: Reading the Designs of Milton’s Epic* (Princeton University Press, 2014). *Cambridge Quarterly* 44.2 (2015): 177–184.
- 2015 “Wallowing and Getting Lost: Reading Spenser with Heather James.” Editor’s Choice in *The Spenser Review* 44.3 (2015).
- 2014 Review of Anthony Welch, *The Renaissance Epic and the Oral Past* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2012). *Modern Philology* 111.4 (2014): 391–394.

### **Public Presentations**

#### Conference Papers and Invited Talks(\*)

- 2022 “The Body of the Poet: Ennius’ *Annales* in Renaissance Scholarship,” Renaissance Society of America, Dublin, March 30-April 2, 2022.
- 2021 Core Talk: Vergil’s *Aeneid*, Columbia University, November 8, 2021.\*
- 2020 “Imperfect Forms: Milton and the Unfinished in *Poems 1645*,” Renaissance Graduate Seminar, Cambridge University, November 17, 2020.\*
- 2020 “Texts in Transition” (with Ann Blair, Laura Muir, and Jen Thum), Harvard Art Museums, November 13, 2020.\*
- 2020 “Books and Bodies from Antiquity to the Renaissance: Histories of the Mutilated Text,” Receptions of Latin Literature Group, Princeton Interdisciplinary Program in the Humanities, November 9, 2020.\*
- 2020 “*Lacer et disceptus*: Materiality and Textual Loss,” Memory and Materiality in Early Modern England, Columbia University, March 7, 2020.\*
- 2020 “Incomplete Milton,” Newberry Milton Seminar, Chicago, February 8, 2020.\*
- 2020 “Completion and Superfluity in *Hero and Leander*,” Renaissance Worldmaking Workshop, Stanford University, January 21, 2020.\*
- 2019 “Close Calls with Oblivion,” Dunster House Senior Common Room, Harvard University, November 12, 2019.\*
- 2019 “Chaucer Increased: Textual Expansion in Spenser’s *Squire’s Tale* Supplement,” Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, March 17-19, 2019.
- 2019 “Embedded Utterances: Petrarch and Ennius,” Classical Quotation Workshop, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, March 15, 2019.\*
- 2018 “Floods of Ink”: Completion and Excess in Chapman’s *Hero and Leander*, University of Toronto, November 21, 2018.
- 2018 “Making Antiquity Whole: Renaissance Completions of Classical Fragments,” Columbia University Seminar in Classical Civilization, October 18, 2018.\*
- 2018 “Complete Works: Renaissance Supplements and the Fulfillment of Classical Antiquity,” Charles S. Singleton Distinguished Lectures, Center for the Study of Premodern Europe, Johns Hopkins University, October 8-10, 2018.\*
- 2018 “Supplements After Derrida,” Postclassicism Graduate Workshop, Harvard University, May 7, 2018.\*
- 2018 “Milton’s Fragments,” Canada Milton Seminar, University of Toronto, April 20-21, 2018.\*

- 2018 “Philology as Continuation,” Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, March 22-24, 2018.
- 2017 “Petrarch and Byzantium,” The Invention of Byzantine Studies in Early Modern Europe Conference, Harvard University, October 26-27, 2017.\*
- 2017 “Beyond the End: The Poetics of Epic Continuations,” Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, March 30-April 1, 2017.
- 2016 “Humanism, Philology, and Texts without Ends,” University of Chicago Renaissance Workshop, November 14, 2016.\*
- 2016 “Grammatical Theater: Latinity and Anti-Latinity on the Shakespearean Stage,” Renaissance Society of America, Boston, March 31-April 1, 2016.
- 2016 “Greek Drama and the Early Modern Stage: Text and Performance from Plutarch to Shakespeare,” University of California-Davis, January 12, 2016.\*
- 2016 “Closeness and Distance in Classical Reception: Renaissance Supplements and Continuations,” Society for Classical Studies Conference, San Francisco, January 6-9, 2016.\*
- 2015 “Pity, Mercy, and Desire: Supplication and Erotic Psychology in Petrarch’s *Africa* and *Rime Sparse*,” Yale Renaissance Colloquium, Yale University, December 4, 2015.\*
- 2015 “Performing the Past: Shakespeare and Classical Literature from Humanist Schoolroom to Early Modern Stage,” 2015 Classical Legacy Endowment Lecture and Residency, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, November 11-13, 2015.\*
- 2015 “‘Reviving Labours Lost’: Chaucerian Supplement in Book IV of the *Faerie Queene*,” International Spenser Society Conference, Dublin, June 2015.
- 2015 “Bended Knees and Hands Held Up: Compassion and Gesture,” Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, March 26-28, 2015.
- 2015 Respondent, “Response and Responsibility,” Postclassicism Workshop, Princeton University, January 9-10, 2015.
- 2014 Roundtable discussant, “How to Read the *Faerie Queene*,” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, New Orleans, October 2014.
- 2014 “‘Shrill-voiced suppliants’: Ritual, Constraint, and Coercion in *Richard II*,” Columbia Shakespeare Seminar, Columbia University, November 14, 2014.\*
- 2014 “Plutarch in Performance: Greek Tragedy and Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*,” Greek Texts and Early Modern Drama Conference, University of York, July 2014.
- 2014 “Compassion in the Classroom or What Shakespeare Learned from Vergil,” Association of

- Literary Scholars, Critics, and Writers Conference, Bloomington IN, April 2014.
- 2014 “‘In Suing Long to Bide’: Pleading and the Epic Tradition in *The Faerie Queene*,” Renaissance Society of America, New York, March 27-29, 2014.
- 2013 “Spenser Reading Chaucer Reading Statius: Stasian Closure from Epic to Pastoral,” Stasian Receptions, Princeton University, October 19-20, 2013.\*
- 2013 “Shakespeare’s *Coriolanus*, Plutarch, and Greek Tragedy,” Shakespeare Association of America, Toronto, March 2013.
- 2012 “Poetic Voice in the *Aeneid*,” Cambridge University, Faculty of Classics, May 2012.\*
- 2012 “Supplementing the Classics: George Chapman’s Continuation of Marlowe’s *Hero and Leander*,” Renaissance Society of America, Washington, D.C., March 22-24, 2012.
- 2011 “Odysseus the Suppliant,” The Many Worlds of the *Odyssey* Conference, Columbia University, September 2011.\*
- 2010 “Shakespeare’s Vergil: Clemency and *The Tempest*,” Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics Conference, Yale University, October 2010.
- 2010 “‘Thy suppliant I beg, and clasp thy knees’: Begging for Pardon in *Paradise Lost*,” Classical Receptions Seminar, University of Bristol, July 2010.\*
- 2010 “Petrarch’s Historical Romance: Sophonisba and Massinissa in *Africa* Book 5,” Renaissance Society of America, Venice, April 8-10, 2010.
- 2009 Respondent, “Reception and Translation,” The Culture of Translation in Early Modern England and France Conference, St. John’s College, Oxford University, October 2009.
- 2009 “Raffaello Volterrano’s Latin *Odyssey* and Renaissance Literary Imitation,” Renaissance Society of America, Los Angeles, March 19-21, 2009.
- 2009 “Petrarch’s *Africa* and the Truth Claims of Poetry,” American Philological Association, Philadelphia, January 8-11, 2009.

### Conferences and Panels Organized

Co-Organizer (with Gordon Teskey), Northeast Milton Seminar, Harvard University, February 4, 2022.

Co-Organizer (with Kathryn Murphy), Oxford-Harvard Early Modern Graduate Workshop, February 26, 2021.

Co-Organizer (with Gordon Teskey), Northeast Milton Seminar, Harvard University, September 25, 2020.

Co-Organizer (with Jeff Dolven, Bradin Cormack, William West, and Jerry Passannante), “Transformations: A Conference for Leonard Barkan,” Princeton University, May 9-10, 2019.

Panel Organizer (with Joe Moshenska), “Pleasure and Interpretation in Shakespeare and Spenser,” Shakespeare Association of America, April 2019.

Panel Organizer (with Dennis Looney), “Doctus Cantus: The Latin Poetry of Ludovico Ariosto,” Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, March 22-24, 2018.

Co-organizer (with Ann Blair), Radcliffe Exploratory Seminar, “Continuity and Continuation,” Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, May 2017.

Co-organizer (with Sean Keilen and Nick Moschovakis), “Shakespeare and Classical Literature: A Research Conference,” Harvard University, April 2015.

Panel Organizer (with Katherine Ibbett), “The Compassionate Renaissance: Fellow-Feeling in Shakespeare and His Contemporaries,” Renaissance Society of America, Berlin, March 2015.

Co-organizer (with Kathy Eden, Charles McNamara, and Stephen Baker), “The Long Reach of Antiquity: A Graduate and Postdoctoral Conference,” Columbia University, May 2011.

### **Fellowships, Awards, and Grants**

- 2022 Loeb Classical Library Foundation Fellowship
- 2022 National Humanities Center Fellowship, 2022-23 (declined)
- 2022 Villa I Tatti Year Fellowship, 2022-23 (declined)
- 2020 Alpha Iota Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Harvard University
- 2019 Provostial Fund for the Arts and Humanities, Harvard University
- 2017 Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research, Harvard University
- 2017 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Fellowship (2017–2018)
- 2017 Huntington Library Long Term Fellowship, 2017–2018 (declined)
- 2017 New York Public Library Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers Fellowship, 2017–2018 (declined)
- 2017 Villa I Tatti Year Fellowship, 2017–2018 (declined)
- 2016 Roslyn Abramson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Harvard University
- 2015 Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research, Harvard University
- 2015 Elson Family Arts Initiative Fund, Harvard University
- 2014 Anne and Jim Rothenberg Fund for Humanities Research, Harvard University
- 2011 Andrew W. Mellon Research Fellowship, Columbia Society of Fellows in the Humanities, Columbia University, 2011-2012
- 2011 Junior Research Fellowship, Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University, 2011–2014 (declined)
- 2011 Junior Research Fellowship, Christ Church College, Oxford University, 2011–2014 (declined)
- 2010 ACLS/Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2010–2011
- 2009 Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honoric Fellowship, Princeton University, 2009–2010
- 2009 Princeton-Oxford Exchange Fellowship, Merton College, Oxford University, 2009–2010

- 2006 Joseph E. Croft \*73 Fellowship, Princeton University, 2006–2010
- 2005 William G. Bowen Merit Fellowship, Princeton University, 2005–2006
- 2005 Mary Cross Summer Research Fellowship, Princeton University, Summer 2005
- 2004 NEH Summer Seminar Participant Grant: Petrarch and Provence (led by Ronald G. Witt)
- 2002 David Clark Taggart Prize for Latin Oration, Harvard University
- 2002 Bowdoin Prize for English Composition, Harvard University
- 2001 Bowdoin Prize for Latin Prose Composition, Harvard University

## **Teaching and Advising**

### Courses: Harvard University

#### *Undergraduate*

- Epic from Homer to Star Wars, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018, Spring 2022
- Global Shakespeare, Spring 2020
- John Milton, Fall 2015
- English Literature in the Sixteenth Century, Fall 2012
- Shakespeare's Rome, Spring 2013, Fall 2015
- Renaissance Metamorphoses, Spring 2013
- Spenser's *Faerie Queene* and the Renaissance Imagination, Fall 2013
- HUM10: Humanities Colloquium, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2022
- Texts in Transition (Program in General Education), Fall 2019, Fall 2020

#### *Graduate*

- English Literature and the Continental Renaissance (graduate seminar), Fall 2014, Fall 2019
- Texts, Fragments, and Reconstructions (graduate seminar), Fall 2018

### Courses: Columbia University

- Vergil's *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, Spring 2012
- Literature Humanities: Masterpieces of Western Literature and Philosophy, Fall 2011

### Advising: Harvard University

#### *Undergraduate Theses*

- Mikaela Ritchie, English, "Shakespeare's Legal Ladies: Examining Gender and the Law in Three of Shakespeare's Tragicomedies" (2020-21)
- Caroline Engelmayer, Classics, "Seneca's *Phoenissae* and its Renaissance Reception" (2019-20). \*Hoopes Prize Winner 2020.
- Ellis Yeo, English, "Love's Grief Work: Reading Ancient Greece in the AIDS Elegies of Paul Monette and James Merrill" (2019-20)
- William Dingee, Classics, "Petronius in the 1920s: Eliot, Fitzgerald and the Invention of the Modern Arbiter" (2014-15) \*Hoopes Prize Winner 2015.
- Lanier Walker, English, "Sonnetearing in Shakespeare's Plays" (2013-14)
- Victoria Black, History and Literature, "Beggars and Fools in Early Modern Literature" (2013-14)

#### *Graduate Dissertation Committees*

Seth Herbst, English, “Milton and Music” (PhD, 2015), Assistant Professor of English, United States Military Academy, West Point.

Rebecca Miller Brown, Classics, “The Roman Odysseus” (PhD, 2015), Assistant Director, Graduate Student Programming, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University

Craig Plunges, English, “Vanishing Points: Perspectival Metaphysics in the English Renaissance (PhD, 2016), Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor of English, University of Southern Mississippi

Misha Teramura, “Shakespeare and Chaucer: Influence and Authority on the Renaissance Stage” (PhD, 2016), Assistant Professor of English, University of Toronto

Maria Devlin McNair, English, “Ethics and Renaissance Comedy,” (PhD, 2017), Course Producer for Lyceum and Creator of Shakespeare for All

Aparna Chaudhuri, English, “Wilfull Submission: A Study of Obedience in the Middle Ages” (PhD, 2019), Assistant Professor of English, Ashoka University

Elizabeth Weckhurst, English, “Milton’s Causes” (PhD, 2020)

Hudson Vincent, Comparative Literature, “The English Baroque: Style in Early Modern Poetry and Performance” (PhD, 2020), Preceptor, Expository Writing Program, Harvard University

David Nee, English, “Shakespeare’s Simple Forms,” (PhD, 2021), Preceptor, Expository Writing Program, Harvard University

William Porter, English, “The State of Nature in Renaissance England: Writing the Origins of Culture, 1492-1620” (PhD, 2021)

Bailey Sincox, English, “Representing Female Revenge” (in progress), Princeton Society of Fellows

Nicholas Utzig, English, “Returned Soldiers on the Early English Stage” (in progress)

Kelly Rafey McCay, History, “Early Modern Language and Writing Systems) (in progress)

## **University and Department Service**

### Harvard University

#### **English Department**

Search Committee Member, Poetry, Department of English, 2018–2019

Search Committee Member, Medieval British Literature, Department of English, 2016–2017

Search Committee Member, Post45 British & Diasporic Anglophone Fiction, Department of English, 2015–2016

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of English, 2015–2016, 2020-2021

Co-Founder (with Beth Blum), LitLab

Co-Director, Placement Seminar, Department of English 2012–2013, 2013–2014

Member, Undergraduate Steering Committee, Department of English, 2012–2013, 2013 (fall), 2015–2016, 2018–2019, 2019–2020

Member, Graduate Steering Committee, Department of English, 2014 (fall)

Member, Graduate General Exams & Mock Interview Committee, Department of English, 2012–2013, 2014 (fall), 2018–2019

Member, Graduate Language Exams Committee, Department of English, 2013–2014, 2014–2015, 2015-2016, 2018–2019

#### **Arts & Humanities Division**

Member, The Humanities Project Curriculum Working Group: Subcommittee for Humanities 1 and Framework Courses, Division of Arts and Humanities, Spring 2013.



Member, Committee on Undergraduate Curricular Initiative in the Humanities, Division of Arts and Humanities, 2019-20.

Member, Search Advisory Committee for Director of Mahindra Humanities Center, 2019-20.

### **Faculty of Arts and Sciences**

Member, Commencement Parts Committee, 2018-19, 2019-20.

### Princeton University

Associate Director, Behrman Undergraduate Society of Fellows, Council of the Humanities, 2009–2011.

### **Professional and Academic Service**

Associate Editor, *I Tatti Renaissance Library*, Harvard University Press.

Volumes supervised and edited:

*The Battle of Lepanto* (Sarah Spence, Elizabeth Wright, and Andrew Lemons, ITRL61, 2014).

*Ugolino Verino. Fiammetta and Paradise* (Allan M. Wilson, ITRL69, 2016)

*The Latin Poems of Ludovico Ariosto* (Dennis Looney and Mark Possanza, ITRL84, 2018)

*Navagero and Flaminio* (Allan M. Wilson, ITRL, 2022)

Peer Reviewer, *Oxford University Press*, *PMLA*, *Modern Philology*, *Review of English Studies*, *Renaissance Quarterly*, *Milton Quarterly*, *Spenser Studies*, *Classical Receptions Journal*, *International Journal of the Classical Tradition*, *Dumbarton Oaks Studies*, *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*