**Rhema Hokama**

Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Singapore University of Technology and Design

8 Somapah Road #04-101 • Singapore 487372

+65 8616 0610 • [rhema\_hokama@sutd.edu.sg](mailto:rhema_hokama@sutd.edu.sg)

Academic Employment

2016­– Assistant Professor of English literature (tenure track), Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS), Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)

Education

PhD, Harvard University, English language and literature, 2015

MA, Harvard University, English language and literature, 2013

MSt, University of Oxford,English literature: 1550-1780, highest distinction, 2010

BA, University of Chicago, English and classical studies, college and departmental honors, 2009

Research & Teaching Expertise

Early modern British poetry; sixteenth- and seventeenth-century European religious history; British Reformation studies; images, iconoclasm, and idolatry; English literature before 1800; gender and sexuality studies; global Shakespeares; creole and dialect literatures

Publications

Book

*The Reformation of Desire: Poetry, Prayer, and Devotional Performance from Shakespeare to Milton*

(Under invited revision for Oxford University Press)

Refereed Journal Articles

“‘Wanton child’: Fantasies of infanticide, abortion, and monstrous birth in Mary Wroth’s *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*,” *SEL Studies in English Literature 1500–1900* 62.2 (forthcoming spring 2022).

“‘Loves halowed temple’: Erotic sacramentalism and reformed devotion in John Donne’s ‘To his Mistress going to bed,’” *Modern Philology* 119.2 (2021): 248–75.

“Shakespeare in Hawai‘i: Puritans, Missionaries, and Language Trouble in a Hawaiian Pidgin Translation of *Twelfth Night*,” *Multicultural Shakespeare* 18 (2018): 57-77.

“Praying in Paradise: Recasting Milton’s Iconoclasm in *Paradise Lost*,” *Milton Studies* 54 (2013): 161-180.

“Love’s Rites: Performing Prayer in Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*,” *Shakespeare Quarterly* 62.2 (2012): 199-223.

Book Review

Review of Daniel R. Gibbons, *Conflicts of Devotion: Liturgical Poetics in Sixteenth- and Seventeenth-Century England* (Notre Dame, 2017), *Parergon* 34.2 (2017): 207-08.

Works in Progress

*Cosmopolitan identity and the English Reformation, from More to Shakespeare* (second book project in progress)

In progress and under review: articles manuscripts on (1) Shakespeare’s *King John* and the English church homilies; (2) gender and literary heritage in Sidney’s *Astrophil and Stella*; (3) William Blake’s reception of Milton’s *Paradise Lost* (4) materiality and corporeal morality in Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*

Public Talks

Invited Talks

“The Text and Its World: Shakespeare’s *The Merchant of Venice*,” School of the Arts (SOTA), Singapore (TBD Spring 2022)

“‘Not of an age but for all time’: Shakespeare and Global Adaptation,” Integrated Programme Schools, Ministry of Education, Singapore (August 5, 2021)

“Pleasure as Human Good: Turks, Jews, and Christians in the English Heresy Wars,” Institute for World Literatures and Cultures, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Tsinghua University, Beijing (November 7, 2019)

More’s *Utopia* and the Smart City, University Scholars Programme, National University of Singapore (September 2020)

Conference Papers & Presentations

“Turks, Jews, and Lutherans: Religious Identity and National Inclusion in More and Tyndale's Heresy Wars,” *Strangers & Neighbors: Hostility and Hospitality in Late Medieval/Early Modern Contexts*, London Global Gateway/University of Notre Dame (May 20–22, 2022)

“Religious Nonconformity and Cosmopolitan Identity: Radical Protestant Dissenters and a Late Medieval Arabic Text,” Renaissance Society of America, Dublin (March 30–April 2, 2022)

“Reading global literature in early modern Europe: How a late medieval Arabic tale came to colonial America and the Dutch Republic,” Humanities research colloquium, Singapore University of Technology and Design (October 22, 2021)

“Turks, Jews, and Lutherans: Temporal Law and Moral Agency in More and Tyndale’s Heresy Debates,” Renaissance Society of America, virtual conference (April 13­­–15, 20–23, 2021)

“Turks, Jews, and Lutherans: Temporal Law and Moral Agency in More and Tyndale’s Heresy Debates,” Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia (April 2–4, 2020—online paper presentation due to Covid)

“Shakespeare at Scale: Teaching natural language processing and corpus text analysis in the humanities classroom,” Singapore University of Technology and Design (October 23, 2019)

“‘Loves due Rites’: Milton, Joseph Hall, and the Protestant Poetics of *Paradise Lost*,” Early Modern Authorship: Papers in Memory of Barbara Lewalski, Renaissance Society of America, Toronto (March 17–19, 2019)

“Robert Herrick and Joseph Hall’s Extemporal Devotion: Prayer, Ceremony, and Desire in *Hesperides*,” Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Sydney (February 5–8, 2019)

“Devotion, Desire, and the Body in Post-Reformation English Poetry,” Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans (March 22–24, 2018)

“Shakespeare in Hawai‘i: Puritans, Missionaries, and Language Trouble in a Hawaiian Pidgin Translation of *Twelfth Night,*” Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawai‘i (November 10–12, 2017)

“Memory, Mental Images, and Reformed Devotion: Breaking and Making Images in William Perkins’s *A Golden Chaine* and John Donne’s *Holy Sonnets*,” Remembering the Reformation: Arts and Humanities Research Council Conference, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, UK (September 7–9, 2017)

“The Matter of Desire: Gender Mobility and Lyric Exchange in the Sonnets of Mary Wroth and Philip Sidney,” Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, University of Wellington (February 7–10, 2017)

“Shakespeare in Hawai‘i: Linguistic Mobility and Local Identity in a Hawaiian Pidgin translation of *Twelfth Night*,” Asian Shakespeare Association, New Delhi (December 1–3, 2016)

“Greville’s Iconoclastic Desire: Eros and Devotion in *Caelica*,”The International Sidney Society sponsored session,Renaissance Society of America,Humboldt Universität, Berlin (March 26–28, 2015)

“Mary Wroth’s Claustrophobia: Entombment in *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*,” Transforming Places and Transcending Spaces in English Women’s Writing, Northeast Modern Language Association, Susquehanna University, Harrisburg, PA (April 3–6, 2014)

“Positioning Images of Election in Donne’s *Holy Sonnets*,” Special Session: Positioning the Line in Renaissance Poetry, American Comparative Literature Association: Global Positioning Systems, University of Toronto (April 4-7, 2013)

“Imagining More’s *Utopia*,” Guest lecture, “Arrivals: Beowulf to Milton” (with Prof. James Simpson), Harvard University (March 30, 2013)

“(Re)Crucifying Christ in Donne’s Divine Poems,”Renaissance Colloquium, Harvard University (April 19, 2012)

“Lapsed Memory: Praying and Remembering in Milton’s *Paradise Lost*,”Memory Remains, Northeastern University, Boston (March 30–April 1, 2012)

“Love’s Rites: Performing Prayer in Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*,”Renaissance Colloquium,Harvard University (March 23, 2011)

“Proprieties of Disobedience in the *Troublesome Raigne* and Shakespeare’s *King John*,” Shakespeare and Renaissance Ethics, Yale University (October 1–2, 2010)

“Spectators on Stage: Fiction-Making and the Theatrical Self in *King Lear*,” Mis/Appropriation,University of Oxford, June 2010

“The Performance of Prayer in Shakespeare’s *Sonnets*,” The Early Modern Conference, University of Oxford (May 19, 2010)

Conferences & Panels Organized

Chair, “Thomas More on Polemics, Utopian Religion, Sin, and Salvation,” Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia (April 2–4, 2020)

Co-organizer, “Working with different kinds of ‘text’ in the digital humanities,” Keynotes by Donald Sturgeon (Harvard) and Amlan Das Gupta (Jadavpur University), Singapore University of Technology and Design, March 18–19, 2019

Chair, Panel on Literature and the City, “Humanities and the City,” Singapore University of Technology and Design, December 5, 2017

Co-organizer, “World Literature and Global Core Texts,” Keynotes by David Damrosch (Harvard) and Deborah Martinsen (Columbia), Singapore University of Technology and Design, June 26–27, 2017

Poster Presentation

Co-author with Erica Zimmer (MIT) and Diana Henderson (MIT), “How to do things with Shakespeare: Advancing Literary-Linguistic Education at Scale,” Stephen A. Schwarzman College of Computing, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 26–28, 2019

Fellowships & Awards

Visiting Fellow, English Department, Ghent University, Belgium, May 2021­–August 2021

Startup Research Grant ($100,000 SGD), Singapore University of Technology and Design, 2016–2020

RSA/Kress Travel Grant, Renaissance Society of America/Samuel H. Kress Foundation, 2019

Tsinghua-Michigan Society of Fellows ($140,000 USD), Tsinghua University (Beijing)/ University of Michigan, 2016–2019 (declined)

Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowship (university-wide), Harvard University, 2014–2015

Dexter Travel Grants, English Department, Harvard University, 2010–2015

Northeast Modern Language Association Graduate Award, NeMLA, 2014

Highest Distinction, “Performing Prayer in Shakespeare’s Sonnets,” University of Oxford, 2010

Degree of Distinction, University of Oxford, 2010

Nicholson Senior Essay Prize in British Studies, University of Chicago, 2009

English Language and Literature Departmental Honors, University of Chicago, 2009

College Honors, University of Chicago, 2009

Metcalf Fellow, University of Chicago, 2008

Collegiate Fellow, University of Chicago, 2008–2009, 2007–2008

Dean’s List, University of Chicago, 2005–2009

National Merit Scholar, University of Chicago, 2005–2009

Teaching

Singapore University of Technology and Design (as sole instructor)

Lyric Poetry

Spring 2021 (online due to Covid) – 4.8/5.0

Fall 2020 ­(online due to Covid) – 4.8/5.0, 4.7/5.0

Fall 2019 – 4.9/5.0

Spring 2019 – 4.9/5.0, 4.8/5.0

Global Shakespeares

Fall 2020 (online due to Covid) ­– 4.9/5.0, 4.7/5.0

Spring 2019 – 4.9/5.0, 4.9/5.0

Spring 2018 – 4.75/5.0, 4.92/5.0

Spring 2017 – 4.9/5.0

Satan and His Afterlives: from the Bible to Milton to the Contemporary Novel

Spring 2021 (online due to Covid) – 4.8/5.0

Spring 2018 - 4.88/5.0, 5.0/5.0

Spring 2017 – 4.8/5.0

Global Humanities: Literature, Philosophy, and Ethics (two sections each term)

Fall 2021 (online due to Covid) –

World Texts and Interpretations (two sections each term)

Fall 2019 (faculty course lead) – 4.8/5.0

Fall 2018 – 4.48/5.0, 4.52/5.0

Fall 2017 – 4.87/5.0

Fall 2016 – 4.95/5.0

Harvard (As Head Teaching Fellow)

Shakespeare after Hamlet (with Gordon Teskey, Spring 2016)

Harvard (As Teaching Fellow)

Shakespearean Tragedy (with Stephen Greenblatt, Spring 2014)

Shakespeare’s Later Plays (with Marjorie Garber, Fall 2013)

Arrivals: British literature from Beowulf to Milton (with James Simpson, Spring 2013)

Science Fiction (with Stephanie Burt, Fall 2012)

University of chicago (as instructor)

Wanxiang Ambassadors Program (Beijing, Hangzhou, and Shanghai | June – August 2016)

I directed a summer study abroad program for 40 undergraduate students, with a focus on cultural exchange, Mandarin language immersion, and clean energy technology

Research & Editorial Work

Research and editorial correspondence for W. W. Norton’s *Norton Shakespeare*, third ed. (September 2015) and digital learning portal (February 2016) | April 2012–August 2015

I wrote and revised footnotes, glosses, headnotes, bibliography, and textual notes for “Comedy of Errors” and “King Lear” (Q, F, and conflated texts); and wrote and developed content for new online learning portal for *Norton Shakespeare* anthology

Professional Service

At SUTD & in Singapore

HASS representative, Advisory Committee for Library and Information Services (ACLIS), Fall 2021–present

Member, Digital Humanities departmental minor committee, Fall 2021–present

Faculty course lead, World Texts and Literature (Humanities first-year core class), Fall 2019

Member, Student Exchange Programs committee, 2017–present

Academic advisor to 100 undergraduate students, 2016–present

Undergraduate admissions: Application review, student interviews, & report writing, 2017–2018 cycle; 2018–2019 cycle; 2019–2020 cycle

Student Wellness Committee, 2019–present

External reader, AI Singapore, National Research Foundation, Prime Minister’s Office Singapore, 2017–2018

Member, Undergraduate program committee, SUTD, 2016–2017

Member, Operations and budget committee, SUTD, 2016–2017

Member, Library acquisition committee, SUTD, 2016–2017

At Harvard & Chicago

Co-Coordinator, Harvard Renaissance Colloquium, 2012–2013

Representative, Harvard English Department Graduate Advisory Committee, 2010–2012

Fellowship application reader (literature, journalism, & LGBT/human rights), University of Chicago, 2015

Professional Affiliations

Member, Renaissance Society of America, 2012–

Member, Modern Language Association, 2012–

Member, American Comparative Literature Association, 2012–

Member, Northeast Modern Language Association, 2013–

Member, Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association, 2017–

Member, Asian Shakespeare Association, 2016–

Member, Australian & New Zealand Association for Medieval & Early Modern Studies, 2016–

Languages

Attic Greek and Latin (professional reading comprehension)

French (professional reading comprehension and basic conversational)

Dutch (elementary)

Hawaiian pidgin (native proficiency)

References

Prof. Stephen Greenblatt

John Cogan University Professor of the Humanities

Harvard University English Department

Prof. James Simpson

Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Professor of English Literature

Harvard University English Department

Prof. Gordon Teskey

Francis Lee Higginson Professor of English Literature

Harvard University English Department