



Tempe, Arizona
January 18-19,
2019

“Ignoring or disparaging race will not make it go away as a question for our...time. We thus have set our sights on the next decade, using 2025 as a landmark by which to measure subsequent progress toward establishing the field of early modern race studies with a stronger foundation through a wide spectrum of social issues, a broader scholarly framework, a larger academic audience, and deeper public engagement.”

Peter Erickson & Kim F. Hall

Shakespeare Quarterly

Spring 2016

ABOUT

ACMRS

The Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (ACMRS) was established in 1981 by the Arizona Board of Regents as a state-wide, tri-university research unit that bridges the intellectual communities at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University, and the University of Arizona. Located centrally on the campus of Arizona State University, ACMRS is charged with coordinating and stimulating interdisciplinary research about medieval and early modern literature and culture.

Our mission is to enable and promote the most expansive, creative, and daring scholarship in medieval and renaissance studies. We do this not only by fostering a vibrant intellectual community for the faculty at our three universities, but also by publishing forward-looking, vanguard research through our in-house press. ACMRS promotes work that is historically grounded and theoretically expansive, with the aim of advancing dialogues that reach into the present moment and point us to different, more inclusive, futures. Moreover, we develop projects that explore complex topics in an accessible manner so as to reach as wide an audience as possible. In keeping with the ASU charter, we believe that our success in realizing this vision for pre-modern scholarship should be judged not by whom we exclude, but whom we include, and how they succeed.

RACE BEFORE RACE 2

Washington D.C.

September 5th - 7th, 2019

In partnership with the Folger Shakespeare Library, we are excited to bring the Race before Race symposium to our nation's capital.

Please join us at the Folger Shakespeare Library and the Arizona State University Barrett & O'Connor Washington Center for the second edition of the Race before Race symposium.

Stay in touch with us at acmrs.org and the Folger Shakespeare Library at folger.edu for information about registration, speakers, and more.

SCHEDULE

Friday

- 9:00 am - 9:45 am** — **Registration and coffee**
- 9:45 am - 10:00 am** — **Welcome**
*Ayanna Thompson, Director,
Arizona Center for Medieval &
Renaissance Studies*
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am** — **Dorothy Kim**
“The Politics and Myth of the
Medieval Pre-Racial”
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am** — **Patricia Akhimie**
“Racial Markers: Discourse and
the Body”
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** — **Noémie Ndiaye**
“Racecraft: Theatre, Performance,
and Race-making in Early Modern
Europe”
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm** — **Lunch break**
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm** — **Seeta Chaganti &
Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh**
“Antiracist Time, Antiracist
Space: Activism for Early Period
Academics”
- 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm** — **Cord J. Whitaker**
Symposium Respondent

SCHEDULE

Saturday

- 9:00 am - 9:45 am** — **Registration and coffee**
- 9:45 am - 10:00 am** — **Welcome**
Jeffrey J. Cohen, *Dean of Humanities, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*
- 10:00 am - 10:45 am** — **Urvashi Chakravarty**
“Enslaving the Future: Race and Bondage in Early Modern England”
- 11:00 am - 11:45 am** — **Kim F. Hall**
“History, Pleasure, Identification: The Case of Early Modern Food Studies”
- 12:00 pm - 12:45 pm** — **Jonathan Hsy**
“New Rhetorics of Difference in Academic Writing (Past and Present)”
- 12:45 pm - 2:00 pm** — **Lunch break**
- 2:00 pm - 2:45 pm** — **David Sterling Brown**
“A Seat at the Table: Desegregated Discourse”
- 3:00 pm - 3:45 pm** — **Carla María Thomas**
“How to Begin Embodying Anti-Racist Whiteness in Premodern Studies”
- 4:00 pm - 4:30 pm** — **Farah Karim-Cooper**
Symposium Respondent
- 4:30 pm - 5:00 pm** — **Closing Remarks**

MEET THE

Speakers

Patricia Akhimie is an associate professor of English at Rutgers University-Newark. She is the author of *Shakespeare and the Cultivation of Difference: Race and Conduct in the Early Modern World* (Routledge 2018), and co-editor of *Travel and Travail: Early Modern Women, English Drama, and the Wider World* (University of Nebraska Press). Her research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Folger Shakespeare Library, the Ford Foundation, and the John Carter Brown Library.

Patricia Akhimie



David Sterling Brown is an assistant professor of English at Binghamton University, SUNY. His research focuses on domesticity, race, blackness, whiteness, and gender. He is currently working on a monograph that examines black domestic matters in Shakespearean drama and has started drafting a second book project that aims to reframe how we think about racial “otherness” in Shakespearean drama. In addition to being a member of Phi Beta Kappa, a 2013-2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Scholar, and a 2016-2018 Duke University SITPA Scholar, David was the first Trinity College (CT) alumnus to hold the Ann Plato Fellowship.

David Sterling Brown



Seeta Chaganti is a professor of English at UC Davis. Her first book was *The Medieval Poetics of the Reliquary* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008). Her second book, *Strange Footing* (Chicago, 2018) proposes a new method of reenacting medieval dance that draws upon experiences of watching contemporary dance. She has begun work on a third book, entitled “White Incipit,” which argues that medieval lyric and narrative poetic forms enable the instantiation of whiteness as a privileged racial category in Western Europe. She is also engaged in a collaborative project with Dr. Gabrielle Nevitt (Dept. of Neurobiology, UC Davis) which explores Anglophone poetic form through the lenses of animal studies and avian ethology.

Seeta Chaganti



Urvashi Chakravarty is an assistant professor of English at George Mason University. Her articles appear in *English Literary Renaissance*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, and the collection *Queering Childhood in Early Modern English Drama and Culture*, and she is currently completing a book manuscript titled *Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude and Free Service in Early Modern England*. She researches and teaches on early modern race studies, queer studies, and slavery and servitude in early modern England and the Atlantic world.

Kim F. Hall is the Lucyle Hook Professor of English and Professor of Africana Studies at Barnard College. She is the author of *Things of Darkness: Economies of Race and Gender in Early Modern England*, *Othello: Texts and Contexts*, and *The Sweet Taste of Empire: Sugar, Gender and Material Culture in Seventeenth Century England* (UPenn Press). In 2016, *Diverse Issues in Higher Education* named her one of “25 Women Making a Difference in Higher Education and Beyond.” Her current book project, *‘Othello Was My Grandfather’: Shakespeare and Race in the African Diaspora*, has received funding from the NEH, the National Humanities Center and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Urvashi Chakravarty



Kim F. Hall



Jonathan Hsy is an associate professor of English at George Washington University, and his work explores the intersections of language, technology, and the body. His current book project entitled *The Unfamiliar Body: Disability and Autobiography, Then and Now* examines writing by medieval authors who self-identified as blind or deaf. Author of *Trading Tongues: Merchants, Multilingualism, and Medieval Literature*, Hsy is co-editing Bloomsbury's *Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages*. His publications on translation, media, and embodied difference have appeared in *Cambridge Companion to the Body in Literature*, *Early Modern Women Journal*, *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, *Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies*, *Literature Compass*, *New Medieval Literatures*, *PMLA*, and *postmedieval*.

Jonathan Hsy



Farah Karim-Cooper oversees the Higher Education programme in Globe Education and leads research and scholarship at Shakespeare's Globe. She is the Visiting Research Fellow at King's College London and directs the Globe component of the King's/Globe joint MA in Shakespeare Studies. She is the author of many books, most recently *The Hand on the Shakespearean Stage: Gesture, Touch and the Spectacle of Dismemberment* (Arden/Bloomsbury, 2016) and *Titus Andronicus: The State of Play* (Bloomsbury/Arden, 2018).

Farah Karim-Cooper



Dorothy Kim teaches Medieval Literature at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on race, gender, digital humanities, medieval women's literary cultures, medievalism, Jewish/Christian difference, book history, digital media, and the alt-right. She was a 2013-2014 Fellow at the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute of Advanced Judaic Studies where she drafted a monograph entitled *Jewish/Christian Entanglements: Ancrene Wisse and its Material Worlds* which is forthcoming from the University of Toronto press. She also has two books, *The Alt-Medieval: Digital Whiteness and Medieval Studies* and *Decolonize the Middle Ages*, forthcoming with ArcPress. She has received fellowships from the SSHRC, Ford Foundation, Fulbright, and Mellon.

Dorothy Kim



Noémie Ndiaye is an assistant professor of English and Comparative Literature at Carnegie Mellon University. She works on early modern European theatre, with a primary focus on performances of race and gender. She has published articles in *Renaissance Drama* and *Early Theatre*, and she has essays forthcoming in *The Companion to Theatre and Performance Historiography* (Routledge), *The Cultural History of Race in the Reformation and Enlightenment, 1550-1760* (Bloomsbury Press), and *Transnational Networks in Early Modern Drama* (Manchester University Press). She is currently at work on her first monograph, tentatively entitled *Racecraft: Early Modern Repertoires of Blackness*—it is based on her doctoral dissertation, which won the Shakespeare Association of America's J. Leeds Barroll Dissertation Prize for 2018.

Noémie Ndiaye



Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh is a PhD candidate at the University of California, Berkeley in the Department of English Language & Literature. Before starting her PhD, Shokoofeh received an Mphil from the University of Oxford. As a founding member and current leader in the Medievalists of Color organization, Shokoofeh commits her time and energy to activist work in academia and the field of medieval studies. Most recently, she co-led the first Whiteness Workshop at The International Congress on Medieval Studies in 2017. Shokoofeh has won several teaching and mentorship awards at UC Berkeley. Her dissertation, tentatively titled *The Muslim Prism* explores the entanglement of race, faith, and ethnicity in the Muslim body in late medieval and early modern literature.

Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh



Carla María Thomas is an assistant professor of English at Florida Atlantic University where she teaches medieval literature, interpretation of poetry, and history of the English language. She's currently working on a book that traces the development of an accentual verse form used in medieval English devotional poetry that takes into consideration the multilingual cultural milieu of the late twelfth and thirteenth centuries in England. Her other works in progress include an essay on decolonizing the medieval English literature classroom, a digital edition of the extant copies of *Poema Morale*, and the first modern English translation of the *Ormulum*. She has received awards from the Medieval Academy of America, the International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, La Fondazione Museo del Tesoro del Duomo e Archivio Capitolare (Vercelli, Italy), and more.

Carla María Thomas



Cord J. Whitaker is an associate professor at Wellesley College, where he writes, researches, and teaches medieval English literature and the history of race. He is the author of *Black Metaphors: Modern Racism / Medieval Race-Thinking*, forthcoming from the University of Pennsylvania Press in August 2019. The book argues that the late medieval Christian reception of classical rhetoric directs the process by which blackness and whiteness become metaphors for sin and purity in English writing. The recipient of numerous fellowships and awards, Dr. Whitaker regularly speaks and writes on race, literature, rhetoric, and politics. He has presented and published in venues ranging from the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America to the publications of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's Institute for Global Affairs.

Cord J. Whitaker



ABOUT THE

Venue

All events will be held in the Carson Ballroom of Old Main on the ASU Tempe Campus.

400 E. Tyler Mall | Tempe, Arizona 85287

Transportation

For those who are able, we encourage traveling via the Valley Metro Rail “lightrail” system, an efficient above-ground publictrain that costs \$2 USD per ride, or \$4 per day. The ASU Tempe campus is located a half mile from the train’s Veteran’s Way/College Ave. stop, offering an affordable and eco-friendly (not to mention traffic free) alternative to driving in Tempe.

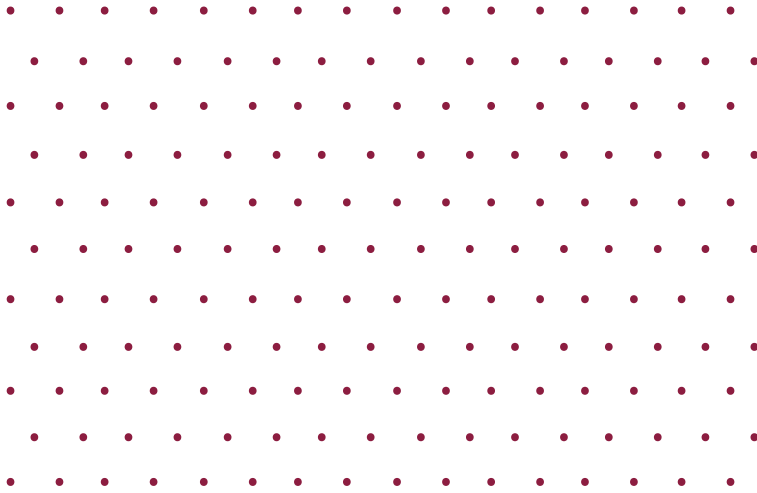
Manuscript display

Friday, January 18th

In partnership with ASU Libraries, ACMRS is excited to host a small display of medieval and early-modern manuscripts, including the newly acquired 1680 ‘Neptuno alegórico,’ by premiere poet Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

#RaceB4Race

acmrs.org



Arizona Center
for Medieval &
Renaissance Studies

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