

HABIB  
GREENE

RaceB4Race®

HALL  
MORRISON

LANGLAND

MARLOWE

SHAKESPEARE

CHAUCE

DE PIZAN

education

January 2021



“ I read once, passingly, about a man named Shakespeare...  
[who] put it in the mouth of Hamlet...‘To be or not to be.’ He was  
in doubt about something—whether it was ‘nobler in the mind’ of  
man ‘to suffer / The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune’—  
moderation—‘Or to take up arms against a sea of troubles /  
And, by opposing, end them.’ And I go for that. If you take up arms,  
you’ll end it, but if you sit around and wait for the one who’s in power  
to make up his mind that he should end it, you’ll be waiting a long  
time. And in my opinion, the young generation of whites, blacks,  
browns, whatever else there is, you’re living at a time of extremism,  
a time of revolution, a time when there’s got to be a change.

malcolm x

Oxford debate, 1964

# about education

The fourth RaceB4Race symposium will focus on “Education” because it sits at the heart of our attempts to rebuild premodern studies within an actively antiracist framework. Our ten speakers will interrogate how we teach our fields, why we teach our fields, and whom we implicitly and explicitly include and exclude in the process. For if we remember that Stuart Hall was dissuaded from becoming a medievalist and Toni Morrison an early modernist, then we must face the force of education’s push and pull with BIPOC students.

## RaceB4Race

RaceB4Race is an ongoing conference series and professional network community by and for scholars of color working on issues of race in premodern literature, history, and culture. RaceB4Race centers the expertise, perspectives, and sociopolitical interests of BIPOC scholars, whose work seeks to expand critical race theory.

Bridging many traditional disciplinary divides, RaceB4Race not only creates innovative

scholarly dialogues, but also fosters social change within premodern studies as a whole.

RaceB4Race is brought to life by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in partnership with The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Division of Humanities at Arizona State University. RaceB4Race is underwritten by the Hitz Foundation.

[Learn more about RaceB4Race here.](#)

to live tweet these sessions, use #RaceB4Race

# 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.

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 premodern scholarship should be judged not by whom we exclude, but whom we include, and how they succeed.

You can find our website at [www.acmrs.asu.edu](http://www.acmrs.asu.edu).

Patricia Akhimie (Rutgers University, Newark)  
David Sterling Brown (Binghamton University)  
Seeta Chaganti (University of California, Davis)  
Urvashi Chakravarty (University of Toronto)  
Kim F. Hall (Barnard College)  
Jonathan Hsy (George Washington University)  
Farah Karim-Cooper (Shakespeare’s Globe)  
Dorothy Kim (Brandeis University)  
Noémie Ndiaye (University of Chicago)  
Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh (University of California, Berkeley)  
Scott Manning Stevens (Syracuse University)  
Carla María Thomas (Florida Atlantic University)  
Ayanna Thompson (Arizona State University)  
Cord Whitaker (Wellesley College)

our  
board  
the RaceB4Race executive board

## conference schedule

10:00 am–11:00 am MST — Coffee talk: Publishing with Ayanna Thompson

4:00 pm–6:00 pm MST — Introductory remarks — Ayanna Thompson

**Ian Smith**

Racial Literacy: A Reckoning

**Adrienne Merritt**

Feirefiz, White Legacies, and Interraciality:  
Teaching German Studies While Black in America

Q&A moderated by Kim F. Hall

# 20

## wednesday

10:00 am–11:00 am MST — Coffee talk: Scholar Activists with Seeta Chaganti

4:00 pm–6:00 pm MST — Presentations

**Tarrell R. Campbell**

Lines of Flight Denied: Delimited Points of  
Entry within the Academy

**Mariam A. Galarrita**

Getting Out of the Footnote:  
Racial Trauma and Education

Q&A moderated by Jonathan Hsy

# 21

## thursday



conference schedule

10:00 am – 11:00 am MST — Coffee talk: Public-facing Scholarship with Geoffrey Way

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm MST — Presentations

**Eric L. De Barros**

Who Shot Romeo? And How Can We Stop the Bleeding?: Shakespeare for Social Justice in Urban America

**Brenna Duperron**

From Both Our Eyes: Red Reading Medieval Texts

**Ambereen Dadabhoy**

All Our Othellos: Reading Race through Teaching Editions of the Play

Q&A moderated by Scott Manning Stevens

22

friday

10:00 am – 11:00 am MST — Coffee talk: Keeping Focused during Challenging Times with Farah Karim-Cooper

1:00 pm – 3:15 pm MST — Presentations

**Andrea Achi**

The Global Turn in Medieval Exhibitions: Diversifying Medieval Studies through Curatorial Practice and Critical Race Art History

**Nedda Mehdizadeh**

Teaching the Travail of Writing: Authority, Empire, and Racial Formation in the (Pre)modern

**Barbara Bordalejo**

Non-Zero-Sum: Diverse Knowledge Perspectives In Academia

Q&A moderated by Shokoofeh Rajabzadeh

Closing Remarks — Jeffrey Jerome Cohen

23

saturday

speakers

# Andrea Myers Achi

Andrea Myers Achi specializes in late antique and Byzantine art, manuscript studies, and late Roman ceramics. She received her bachelor's degree in ancient studies from Barnard College and her doctorate in the History of Art from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Since joining the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2018 as Assistant Curator, she has co-curated the exhibitions *Arts and Peoples of Kharga Oasis* and *Crossroads: Power and Piety*. Her current projects include writing on the monastic economy in medieval Egypt, exploring translations of Byzantine art and culture by local and foreign artists working in Africa from the fourth through fifteenth centuries, and curating medieval northeast African art through the lens of critical race theory. In addition to her art historical research and curatorial work, Achi is an archaeological ceramicist and has been involved with numerous excavations in Egypt and Italy.







speakers

# Barbara Bordalejo

Barbara Bordalejo is a textual critic, editor and digital humanist with a background in English literature. She is the director of the Canterbury Tales Project ([www.canterburytalesproject.org](http://www.canterburytalesproject.org)), and has worked at four universities on two continents.

She has edited Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Darwin's *Origin of Species* and has collaborated in the creation of editions of Dante's *Commedia*, Boccaccio's *Teseida* and 15th Century Castillian Cancioneros. She worked with Aengus Ward (University of Birmingham) in an Electronic Edition and Research Environment of the Estoria de Espanna and with Peter Robinson (University of Saskatchewan) in the Textual Communities Project, a tool for transcribing, collating and publishing texts. Her most recent publication is the CantApp: General Prologue, an edition of the *Canterbury Tales* for mobile devices.



speakers

# Tarrell R. Campbell

Tarrell R. Campbell is a native of St. Louis, Missouri. In addition to teaching courses on rhetoric and literatures, he works with several online and local organizations as a copywriter, editor, and content publisher. He received the bachelor of arts in history with a specialization in Middle Eastern literatures from Stanford University. Tarrell was awarded a master of arts in teaching from Webster University and master of English and the master of historical studies degrees, respectively, from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. In 2018, Campbell received the doctoral degree in English, with particular focus on African American Literatures and Medieval Studies, from Saint Louis University. Beyond work, Tarrell runs, bikes, and thoroughly enjoys a multitude of digital media platforms. He has been married to his beautiful wife, Karrousel, since 2007 and lives in the North St. Louis City area with their three cats – Smokey, Craig, and Aoife Grace.





speakers

# Ambereen Dadabhoy

Ambereen Dadabhoy is an assistant professor of literature at Harvey Mudd College. Her research focuses on cross-cultural encounters in the early modern Mediterranean and race and religion in early modern English drama. She investigates the various discourses that construct and reinforce human difference and how they are mobilized in the global imperial projects that characterize much of the early modern period. Ambereen's work also seeks to bridge the past to the present to illustrate how early modern racial and religious discourses and their prejudices manifest in our own contemporary moment. Currently, she is working on a project that explores early modern anti-blackness from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic. She has published two articles on teaching premodern race, "Skin in the Game: Teaching Race in Early Modern Literature," (2020) and "The Moor of America: The Approaching the Crisis of Race and Religion in the Renaissance and the Twenty-First Century," (2014).





speakers

# Eric L. De Barros

Eric L. De Barros is an assistant professor of English at Old Dominion University specializing in early modern British literature and Shakespeare. His research centers on the politics of embodied subjectivity in early modern literary and educational texts. He has authored several articles, and his main book project, "Shakespeare and the Pedagogy of Sexual Violence," endeavors to re-think Shakespeare as a socially and politically responsive educational theorist. In that spirit, over a 20-year period, he has developed and taught a range of cross-historical, politically responsive courses: such as, "The Politics of Shakespearean Expression"; "Shakespeare and the Pedagogy of Sexual Violence"; "Autobiographies of Black Masculinity"; "Literature, Subjectivity, and the 'Age of Discovery'"; and "Stuck on Stupid, or Why Trump Won: Early Modern Education and the Enduring Problem of Anti-Intellectualism."





speakers

# Brenna Duperron

Brenna Duperron is a PhD candidate in English Literature with Dalhousie University. Her doctoral project, entitled "Fear Not the Language of the World: Red Reading Literacy in *The Book of Margery Kempe*," argues that heretofore analyses of *The Book of Margery Kempe* have suffered from a Western, colonial approach which privileges literacy; her project uses *etuaptmumk*, or Mi'kmaq two-eyed seeing, to provide a more holistic reading of Margery Kempe grounded in non-colonial, non-binary Indigenous approaches to orality and literacy.

To date, she has presented early findings at the International Medieval Conference, the Atlantic Medieval and Early Modern Group, the Atlantic Medieval Association's conferences and the Modern Language Association. In the upcoming year, her work on red reading pre-contact texts as an act of reconciliation and resurgence will be featured in a special issue of *ELN* and in *Exemplaria*.

speakers

# Mariam A. Galarrita

Mariam A. Galarrita is a PhD candidate in the English department at University of California, Riverside. Her research focuses on early modern global encounters, displaced subjects and objects, and race. Her dissertation, tentatively titled “Imagining Asia: Race, Techno-Orientalism, and Early Modern Literature,” focuses on early modern English race technologies and racemaking prompted by England’s global encounters and exchange. She is also founder and director of the Race and the Premodern Period Speaker Series.







speakers

# Nedda Mehdizadeh

Nedda Mehdizadeh is a continuing lecturer in writing programs at the University of California, Los Angeles. Her research and pedagogical interests center on early modern transnational encounter, particularly between Persia's Safavid natives and their English visitors, as well as Shakespeare, Critical Race Studies, and Critical Diversity Studies. She is currently working on her first monograph, "Translating Persia in Early Modern English Writing," portions of which have been published in edited collections, including her forthcoming chapter "Robert Sherley and the Persian Habit." She has won research and teaching fellowships, such as UCLA's Mellon-funded EPIC program which gives educators the opportunity to develop inclusive curriculum. Her article "Othello in Harlem: Transforming Theater in Djanet Sears's Harlem Duet," published in the special issue of *Shakespeare and Black America* for the *Journal of American Studies*, was inspired by conversations in the classroom.



speakers

# Adrienne Merritt

Adrienne Merritt holds a PhD from University of California, Berkeley in German and currently teaches at St. Olaf College as visiting assistant professor in German. The central focus of her research is the intersection between identity and cultural production and the ways in which the reader or viewer conceptualizes cultural artifacts through their own perspectives and lived experiences. In particular, she centers her research on marginalized voices in literature, art, and film from the medieval period to the present, pairing these works with queer and genre theories, interdisciplinary foci (e.g. environmental studies, critical race theory, history, etc.). Throughout her dissertation, the impact of time and the temporal positionality of both reader and writer held a central role in both textual production and the depiction of memory (as well as word tense). Her current research project is a series of article-length pieces on genre theory and queer phenomenology, which she intends to develop into the theoretical basis for her subsequent research project on the question of Afro-German identity, hip hop, and poetics.



speakers

# Ian Smith

Ian Smith is the Richard and Joan Sell Professor in the Humanities at Lafayette College in the department of English, where he teaches courses in Shakespeare and early modern drama, early modern and critical race studies, and sexuality. He is the author of *Race and Rhetoric in the Renaissance: Barbarian Errors* (2009) and collaborator on *Othello Re-imagined in Sepia* (2012). His work on Shakespeare and early modern drama has been published in several anthologies and journals. He is currently completing a book on Shakespeare, reading, and race titled *Black Shakespeare*.





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