

Valerie C. Billing, Ph.D.

Curriculum vitae

Central College	812 University St.	(217) 898-1855
English Department	Pella, IA 50219	billingv@central.edu

EDUCATION

- 2014 Ph.D. English, University of California, Davis
2010 M.A. English, University of California, Davis
2007 B.A. English, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017–present Central College, Pella, IA
Assistant Professor of English
2014–2017 Knox College, Galesburg, IL
Visiting Assistant Professor of English

MONOGRAPH PRÉCIS

“Size Matters: The Erotics of Stature in Early Modern English Literature and Culture” argues that literary depictions of physical size are central to understanding early modern erotics, especially in relation to gender, social status, and age. Size, frequently represented as fluid and performable, functions as a category that both male and female figures manipulate in order to meet various sexual, social, and artistic ends. In particular, size provides a productive lens through which to investigate the queer erotics of large female figures in early modern texts.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2019 “Antichrists, Pope Lovers, and Atheists: The Politics of Elizabeth I’s *Christian Prayers and Meditations*.” *The Image of Elizabeth I in Early Modern Spain*, edited by Esther Fernández Rodríguez and Eduardo Olid Guerrero, University of Nebraska Press.
2017 “Sexuality and Queerness on the Early Modern Stage.” *A New Companion to Renaissance Drama*, edited by Thomas Hopper and Arthur Kinney, Blackwell, 2017, pp. 443-455.
2017 “The Queer Language of Size in *Love’s Labour’s Lost*.” *Queer Shakespeare: Desire and Sexuality*, edited by Goran Stanivukovic, Bloomsbury, 2017, pp. 107-122.
2017 “The Queer Erotics of Size in Shakespeare’s *Venus and Adonis*.” *Shakespeare Studies*, vol. XLV, 2017, pp. 131-136.
2014 “Female Spectators and the Erotics of the Diminutive in *Epicoene* and *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*.” *Renaissance Drama*, vol. 42, no. 1, 2014, pp. 1-28.

- 2011 "Treble Marriage: Margaret Cavendish, William Newcastle, and Collaborative Authorship." *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*, vol. 11, no. 2, 2011, pp. 94-122.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2014 Andrew W. Mellon Research Initiative in Early Modern Studies Research-Teaching Fellowship
 2013 UC Davis Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
 UC Davis & Humanities Graduate Research Award
 2012 Andrew W. Mellon Research Initiative in Early Modern Studies Summer Fellowship
 UC Davis English Department Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship
 2011 Bilinski Educational Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (2011-2013)

INVITED TALK

- 2016 "Shakespeare and Queer Studies." Roundtable discussion at the Ambrose Women for Social Justice Annual Conference, "Shakespeare and Social Justice." St. Ambrose University, Davenport, IA. Sept. 27.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2018 "Queering Large Mothers in Early Modern English City Comedy." Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA. Mar. 21-24.
 2017 "Gender and Disability in Webster's *The Duchess of Malfi*." Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. Mar. 30-Apr. 1.
 2016 "The Queer Erotics of Size in Shakespeare's *Venus and Adonis*." Shakespeare Association of America NextGenPlen Plenary Session, chaired by Heather James. New Orleans, LA. Mar. 24-27.
 2009 "'Our Wits join as in Matrimony': Marriage and Literary Collaboration in the Life Writing of Margaret Cavendish." Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies (GEMCS) conference. Dallas, TX. Oct. 22-25.

Seminar Papers

- 2018 "Queer Orientation toward the Large Mother in Brome's *The New Academy*." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Mario DiGangi. Los Angeles, CA. Mar. 28-31.
 2017 "Resisting Binaries in *Twelfth Night*." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Simone Chess and Will Fisher. Atlanta, GA. Apr. 5-8.

- 2015 "The Queer Language of Size in *Love's Labour's Lost*." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Goran Stanivukovic. Vancouver, BC. Apr. 2–5.
- 2014 "Queering Venus: Desire for the Diminutive in *Venus and Adonis*." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Simone Chess and Melissa Jones. St. Louis, MO. Apr. 10–13.
- 2013 "Size, Gender, and Politics in Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Christina Luckyj. Toronto, Canada. Mar. 28–31.
- 2012 "Elizabeth I, Lyly's *Endymion*, and Royal Performances of Size." Shakespeare Association of America seminar led by Naomi Liebler. Boston, MA. Apr. 5–8.

Session Organized

- 2012 "The Maternal Body and Its Boundaries." Seminar co-organized for the "Attending to Early Modern Women" conference meeting of the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women. University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. June 21–24.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2018 "Fairies, Amazons, and Ship-Women: Size in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*." Keynote talk, Chairs' Conference at Central College, Pella, IA, Sept. 22.
- 2018 "Water as Metaphor: Gender and Royal Authority in Elizabeth I and Shakespeare." Faculty Lecture Series at Central College, Pella, IA, Feb. 19.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Central College (2017–present)

Literature by Women (Fall 2018)

A lower-division course that surveys Anglo-American women's writing from the Renaissance to the present.

Reading Poetry (Fall 2018)

A lower-division course that introduces students to techniques for approaching and analyzing poetry. Emphasis on Renaissance forms and poets.

Intersections: Shakespeare Remixed (Fall 2018)

An interdisciplinary seminar required of all first-year students. My section of this course combines an introduction to college and the liberal arts, common across all sections, with an in-depth focus on Shakespeare's *Othello* and the ways modern artists continue to use the play to think through concerns such as racism, nationalism, and violence against women.

Shakespeare (Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

An upper-division course required for English majors that introduces students to the four major dramatic genres in which Shakespeare wrote as well as to current debates in Shakespeare scholarship. Emphasis on research and on a final performance project.

LGBTQ+ Literature (Spring 2018)

A lower-division course that introduces students to LGBTQ+ literature through novels, poetry, memoir, essays, drama, and scholarship in LGBT and Queer studies.

The Literary Imagination: Literature and Disability (Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)

A first-year writing-intensive course focused on reading and writing skills. Readings include poetry, drama, and short fiction focused on the theme of disability.

British Literature 1, Anglo-Saxon–1680 (Fall 2017)

A lower-division survey course covering *Beowulf* to *Paradise Lost*, including medieval and early modern poetry, drama, and prose.

World Literature 1, Bronze Age–Early Modern Period (Fall 2017)

An upper-division writing-intensive course covering readings from the ancient Babylonian *Enuma Elish* through the early modern period and spanning Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and the New World. Emphasis on research.

Knox College (2014–2017)

Literature and Power: Queer Literature (Spring 2015, Winter 2016, Spring 2017)

An intermediate course that traces a genealogy of what we might today call Queer or LGBTQ literature. Readings include poetry, drama, short fiction, and novels from the sixteenth to the twenty-first century. Satisfies the campus-wide Diversity requirement.

Introduction to Literature: Literature and Disability (Winter 2015, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017)

A first-year course focused on close reading and writing skills. Readings include poetry, drama, short fiction, and a novel focused on the theme of disability.

Introduction to Shakespeare (Fall 2015, Winter 2017)

A lower-division course that introduces students to Shakespeare in five genres: comedy, tragedy, history, romance, and lyric poetry. Emphasizes poetic craft and performance.

Milton (Winter 2017)

An upper-division course covering Milton's lyric poetry, dramatic masque, political tracts, and the complete text of *Paradise Lost*, especially pursuing questions of poetic and political authority, art, religion, and gender in Milton's writing.

English Literature I, Anglo Saxon–1700 (Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016)

A lower-division survey course covering *Beowulf* to *Paradise Lost*, including medieval and early modern poetry, drama, and prose.

Shakespeare: Comedies and Histories (Fall 2014, Fall 2016)

An upper-division course focusing on queer approaches to Shakespeare's early plays, with an emphasis on performance, adaptation, and research.

Renaissance Literature: Performing the Body on the Early Modern Stage (Spring 2016)

An upper-division topics course examining gender, age, physical stature, and social status through the lens of performance in drama by Shakespeare's contemporaries.

Shakespeare: Tragedies and Romances (Winter 2016)

An upper-division course focusing on gender and race in Shakespeare's later plays, with an emphasis on performance, adaptation, and research.

Senior Honors Thesis Advising (Spring 2015 through Spring 2016)

Student project titled "The Makings of a Man: Masculinity in Shakespeare's Second Historical Tetralogy" (completed and defended in May 2016)

University of California, Davis (2008–2012)

Introduction to Literature (Winter 2012, Spring 2012)

An introductory literature and writing course for non-majors; poetry, drama, and prose from the middle ages to the twenty-first century; focus on the conventions of academic writing.

Expository Writing (Fall 2008, Winter 2009, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Winter 2010)

A writing course with a focus on argument, organization, and research; readings designed to provoke discussion about otherness, diversity, and inclusion.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Modern Language Association

Delegate Assembly Representative, Shakespeare Forum (2017-2020)

Book Review

2016 *Thinking Sex with the Early Moderns* by Valerie Traub, reviewed for *Philological Quarterly* vol. 95, no. 2, 2016, pp. 303-307.

Manuscript Reviews

2018 Monograph review for Routledge

2015 Article review for *Modern Philology*

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Central College

Faculty Development Committee (2018-present)

Faculty Co-Editor of *The Writing Anthology*, a publication of student scholarship (2018-present)

Strategic Planning Committee on The Changing Student Demographic (2017-2018)

Subgroup leader for The Changing Student Demographic subcommittee on International Students (2017)

Global Café Working Group (2017-2018)

Knox College

“Shakespeare and Cervantes: Celebrating 400 Years.” Co-organized an interdisciplinary event celebrating Shakespeare and Cervantes with student paper presentations, performances, and readings. (April 2016 and April 2017)

Senior Honors Thesis Reader: Third reader for an honors thesis titled “‘All the World to Nothing’: Inferring the World and Character of King Richard III” (Sept. 2016–May 2017)

Organized career-oriented flash talk for Knox College Institute Day (2015 and 2016)

Undergraduate Academic Advising (January 2016–present)

University of California, Davis

Academic Senate Committee for Undergraduate Instruction and Program Review (2012–2014)

English Department Faculty Seminar and Special Events Committee (2012–2013)

Assistant to the Editors, *Eighteenth-Century Studies* (September 2009–June 2010)

Early Modern Research Cluster Co-coordinator (2008–2010)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Modern Language Association

Renaissance Society of America

Shakespeare Association of America

Society for the Study of Early Modern Women

REFERENCES

Gina Bloom, Professor of English and Department Chair

University of California, Davis

gbloom@ucdavis.edu

(530) 574-3727

Frances E. Dolan, Distinguished Professor of English

University of California, Davis

fdolan@ucdavis.edu

(530) 400-9603

Margaret W. Ferguson, Distinguished Professor of English Emerita

University of California, Davis

mwferguson@ucdavis.edu

(530) 750-1954

Will Fisher, Professor of English
CUNY Graduate Center and Lehman College
william.fisher@lehman.cuny.edu
(718) 960-8361

Ari Friedlander, Assistant Professor of English
University of Mississippi
ari@olemiss.edu
(662) 915-7674

Lori K. Schroeder, Provost and Dean of the College
Franklin College
lschroeder@franklincollege.edu
(317) 738-8017