

# DISCIPLINE & INTERDISCIPLINARITY



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2020**

Ohio State MRGSA Annual Symposium



THE OHIO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

**PRESENTED BY THE MEDIEVAL & RENAISSANCE STUDIES  
GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

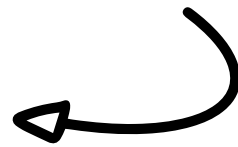


**Interdisciplinarity** is fundamentally and productively transgressive; it challenges us to reflect on the questions and forms of analysis that typically dictate field-specific thought. Interdisciplinarity, both as theory and as critical practice, is of special importance to fields within the humanities and social sciences. Dame Gillian Beer argues that interdisciplinarity fosters the transformation of ideas and the destabilisation of knowledge, and thus helps to “uncover problems disguised by the scope of established disciplines” (*Open Fields* 115). However, the trend toward interdisciplinarity is also, in part, a response to the current crisis in higher education, as scholars across the curriculum work to articulate their value in the face of the neoliberalization of our institutions and “discipline” in the form of eroding budgets, increasing workloads, and the adjunctification of our faculties.

The Ohio State University’s 7th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Symposium, therefore, invites submissions that consider discipline and interdisciplinarity, as concept or practice, in relation to the subfields within medieval and early modern studies.

***Join the virtual conference here***

**LINK**



# ACCESS & RESOURCES

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## ***How-To: Joining a Zoom Meeting***

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-meeting>

## ***Guide: Screensharing a PPT Presentation on Zoom***

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/203395347-Screen-sharing-a-PowerPoint-presentation>

## ***Accessibility***

### *Support Resources*

- Help Articles: <https://resourcecenter.odee.osu.edu/carmenzoom>
- Non-Discrimination Notice: <https://go.osu.edu/nondiscrimination-notice>
- Privacy Statement: <https://osu.edu/privacy>

### *Contact CarmenZoom Support*

- Phone: 614-688-4357 (HELP)
- Email: [carmenzoom@osu.edu](mailto:carmenzoom@osu.edu)
- Accessibility Help Line: 614-292-5000

# REQUESTING ACCOMMODATIONS

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It is our primary goal that we provide equal access and functional digital accessibility that is perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust to those who need it. We plan to circulate access copies for panelist presentations, but if you are in need of digital or other accommodations, please contact the MRGSA Vice President Tori Dikeman at [mrgsaosu@gmail.com](mailto:mrgsaosu@gmail.com). We ask that accommodation requests be sent 10 days prior to the conference so we can make any and all necessary arrangements.



# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## PANEL 1

9.30 – 10.45am

### QUEERING LANGUAGE, QUEERING GENRE

*Christian Williams (The Ohio State University)*

“Is it Not Strange?": A reconsideration of Marriage as Anything but Normal in Shakespeare's Time and Text"

*Orit Klein Vartsky (Tel Aviv University)*

"Critique of the Courtly Class in the Clerk's Tale of Griselda"

## PANEL 2

11.00 – 12.30pm

### THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF MEDIEVAL MANUSCRIPT STUDIES

*Matt Hunter (Florida State University)*

"Food, Forgotten: An Historiographical Investigation of Medieval English Food Studies"

*Joshua Michael (The Ohio State University)*

"Saint Edward in Context: Disciplinary Crossroads at a Crossroads of English History"

*Britt Boler Hunter (Florida State University)*

"Reconstituting the Medieval Miscellany: How Interdisciplinarity Engenders Understanding of Multi-Text Manuscript Production"

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (CONT.)

## ROUNDTABLE

12.45 – 2.00pm

### BRIDGING THE ACADEMIC/PUBLIC GAP

In our break after panel 2, grab lunch and join us for a roundtable discussion on bridging the academic/public gap, be that applying for alt-ac opportunities or just engaging Academic Twitter to find opportunities and a wider community.

- Dr. Mira A. Kafantaris, Senior Lecturer, Ohio State University  
Department of English
- Dr. Carmen M. Meza, Assistant Director, Towson University Writing  
Center
- Dr. Erin K. Wagner, Assistant Professor, SUNY Delhi
- Dr. Colleen Kennedy, Publicist, Shakespeare Theatre Company

## PANEL 3

2.15 – 3.45pm

### RETHINKING PERIODIZATION: TEACHING AND READING PRACTICES

*Res Northcraft (University of Toledo)*

“Political Occasions’: Reading the Transgender in Old Norse Kings”

*Allison Gose (UNC Chapel Hill)*

“Interdisciplinarity in Practice: Teaching the Body in Premodern Europe”

*Anna Balaguer (University of Minnesota)*

“Deleuze’s Approach to Early Modern Thought as a Model for Interpreting Ancient Historical Texts”

# VIRTUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE (CONT.)

KEYNOTE

4.00 – 5.30pm



***Mark but This Fungi:  
Legibility, Interdisciplinarity, and Labor***

*Dr. Joshua Calhoun*

*Associate Professor of English  
University of Wisconsin, Madison*

How do we read the other forms of life that exist on and within a book—not just the metaphorical life forms such as that of the eponymous bloodsucking insect in John Donne’s “The Flea,” but also the material, microbial forms that persist on the page? This talk argues for the value of exploring book microbiomes and of making them more legible, but it also attends to the real, experiential, disciplinary challenges of that task. The work of interdisciplinary collaboration, like the work of close reading book fungi, is translational, so the latter part of this talk attends to the interpersonal and intellectual joys of collaborative scholarship as well as to the pitfalls and potential frustrations of such work.

**Joshua Calhoun**, Associate Professor of English and Faculty Affiliate with the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, specializes in Shakespeare, 16th- & 17th-century poetry, the history of media, and the environmental humanities. His work has been published in *PMLA*, *Shakespeare Studies*, and *Environmental Philosophy*. His first book, *The Nature of the Page: Poetry, Papermaking, and the Ecology of Texts in Renaissance England* (UPenn Press, 2020), explores the ecopoetic interplay between literary ideas and the physical forms they are made to take as paper texts. Calhoun is also the co-founder of *Holding History*, a mentorship-driven public engagement project that involves hands-on training in book making and archival research.

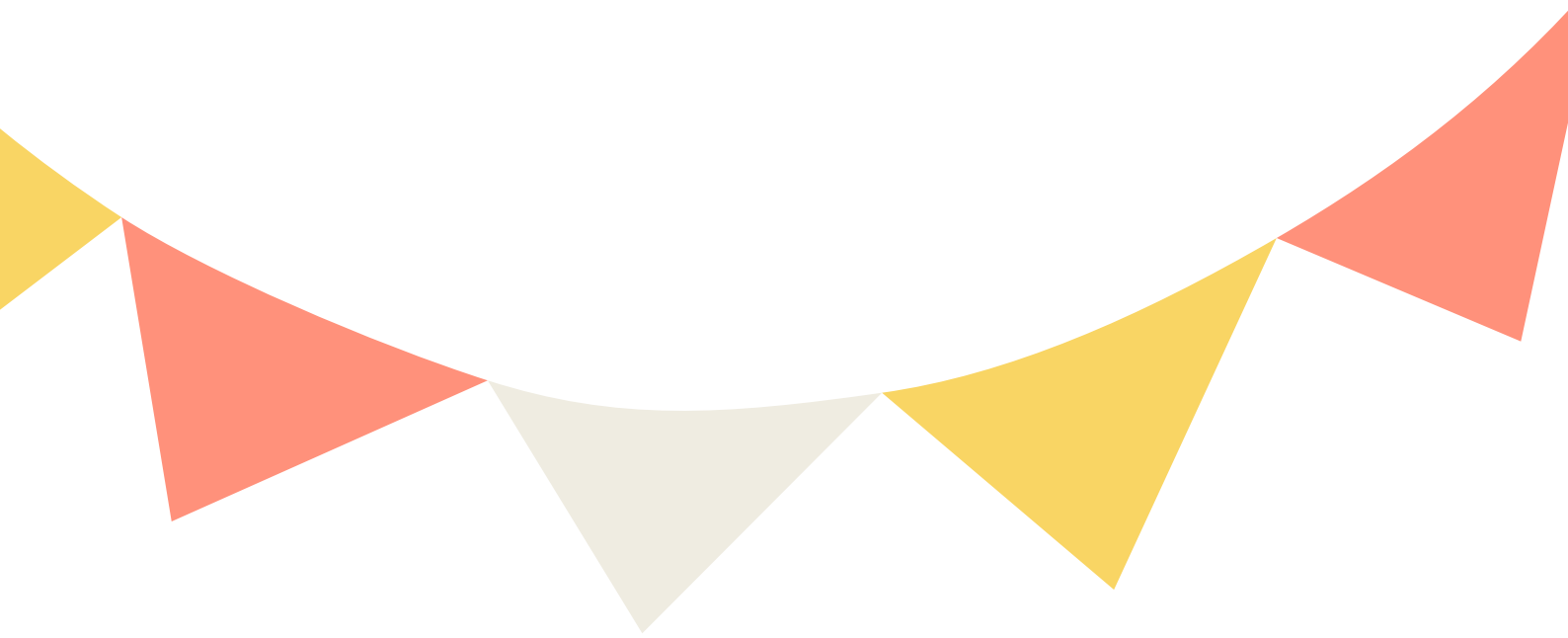


# VIRTUAL RECEPTION!

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***5.30 - 7.00pm***

Dr. Calhoun's talk will be followed by a virtual reception. Please feel free to grab whatever beverage (or snacks) will make you happy!



# ABOUT MRGSA

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## *Who We Are*

MRGSA is made up of graduate students at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH, drawing on disciplines as wide-ranging as English; Near-Eastern Languages and Cultures; History; Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Eastern Asian Languages and Literature; Art History; Spanish and Portuguese; German; French and Italian; Musicology; Dance; and many others. We welcome grad students of any background, race/ethnicity, religion, citizenship status, and LGBTQIA+ status.



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