



# MRGSA COLLOQUIUM: PREMODERN RACE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17 & 18

THIS EVENT IS CO-SPONSORED BY THE MEDIEVAL AND  
RENAISSANCE GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION, CENTER FOR  
MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE STUDIES, THE HUMANITIES  
INSTITUTE, DISABILITY STUDIES PROGRAM, AND DEPARTMENT OF  
ENGLISH.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

CENTER FOR MEDIEVAL AND  
RENAISSANCE STUDIES

# PREMODERN RACE

The Ohio State University's 9th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Student Colloquium aims to discuss and engage with issues of race in premodern studies and its scholarship—including its literature, religion, art, history, and culture—while thinking about how scholars can locate and explore the way race functioned premodernity. By investigating race in medieval and early modern studies and supporting scholars of color, MRGSA aims to amplify race as a lens of investigation that will encourage participating scholars—faculty, staff, graduate, and undergraduate affiliates of CMRS and Ohio State University—to explore and deal with questions of race in the pre-modern world. There is a dire need to continue integrating premodern critical race studies into our curricular development and to expand and diversify our inclusion efforts in the field. MRGSA seeks to develop rich and engaging conversations about premodern critical race studies and to push us towards using race as a significant and crucial framework in our field.

**A note on access:** If you require Zoom access for one or both keynote speakers, please send your request to [cmrs\\_gaa@osu.edu](mailto:cmrs_gaa@osu.edu).

# COLLOQUIUM SCHEDULE:

Location: 260 Pomerene Hall

Q&A Session will start at 5:30pm

## KEYNOTE 1

Friday, Feb. 17th 4:00–4:50pm



### "CRAFTY MOBILITIES: MEDIEVAL POETICS AND CRITICAL REFUGEE STUDIES"

*Jonathan Hsy*

*George Washington University.*

Jonathan Hsy will explore how medieval poetry can engage with the contemporary field of critical refugee studies. Hsy case studies include the collaboratively-authored *Refugee Tales* (mobile transnational storytelling endeavor invoking Chaucer's incomplete *Canterbury Tales*), the medieval-themed poetry by incarcerated migrants at Angel Island, and present-day Asian immigrant/refugee poets remaking premodern Western traditions (such as Ouyang Yu and Ocean Vuong). How does a global approach to medieval poetics transform our understandings of race, disability, mobility, and social justice?

Jonathan Hsy is an Associate Professor of English at George Washington University. He is an Affiliated Faculty in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. His teaching and research interests include Comparative Literature, Critical Theory, and Disability Studies, and he teaches in GW's Asian American Studies minor. Hsy is the author of *Antiracist Medievalisms: From "Yellow Peril" to Black Lives Matter* (Arc Humanities, 2021) and *Trading Tongues: Merchants, Multilingualism, and Medieval Literature* (Ohio State UP, 2013) and he is the co-editor of *A Cultural History of Disability in the Middle Ages* (Bloomsbury, 2020). He co-directs *Global Chaucers*, serves on the Executive Board of RaceB4Race, and has served on the MLA's Committee on Disability Issues in the Profession.



## "THE MUSLIMS ARE COMING: THE TEMPEST'S BRAVE OLD WORLDS"

*Ambereen Dadabhoy*  
*Harvey Mudd College*

Investigating the Mediterranean setting of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*, on an island somewhere between Naples and Tunis, Dadabhoy seeks to contextualize how this Mediterranean geography informs the construction of the play's absent women, Sycorax and Claribel. By focusing on the play's geography, Dadabhoy argues that the Muslim Mediterranean informs and challenges the plot's focus on achieving European, dynastic hegemony.

Ambereen Dadabhoy is an Associate 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 in how they are mobilized in the global imperial projects that characterize much of the early modern period. Ambereen is co-author with Dr. Nedda Mehdizadeh of *Anti-Racist Shakespeare* (Cambridge Elements 2023). She has just completed her monograph, *Shakespeare through Islamic Worlds* (coming soon from Routledge), which investigates the paucity of Muslim representation in Shakespeare's works, despite their ubiquitous presence in his preferred setting of the Mediterranean Sea. Her talk for MRGSA is a preview of this book.



# TEACHING PREMODERN RACE WORKSHOP

Location: 311 Denney Hall (Resgistration Required)

WORKSHOP

Saturday, Feb. 18th 11:30-2:30pm



Amrita Dhar, moderator  
The Ohio State University



Carol Mejia LaPerle  
Wright State University



Mira Kafantaris  
Butler University



Kirsten Mendoza  
University of Dayton

The workshop "Teaching Pre-Modern Race" will feature a discussion moderated by Professor Amrita Dhar (OSU) with Professor Mira Kafantris (Butler University), Professor Carol Mejia LaPerle (Wright State University), and Professor Kirsten Mendoza (University of Dayton).

Please register [here](#) for the workshop portion of the colloquium, and keep in mind that space is limited to the first 20 participants.

Some questions "Teaching Premodern Race Workshop" ask:

- How do we discuss decolonization in a premodern curriculum that goes beyond the problematic use of it as a metaphor?
- What pedagogical lenses can we offer to consider interdisciplinary exploration of premodern critical race studies that expands our lens to include premodern history of Europe, the Mediterranean, and East Asia?
- How can we expand the scope of premodern race studies in our curricular development to include various modalities of premodern race, such as materials texts and visual arts?
- How can we foster classrooms that support the implication of archival work on premodern critical race studies?