

DYANI JOHNS TAFF

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CURRENT POSITION: Assistant Professor of English, Colby College, 2021-Present

PREVIOUS POSITIONS AND EDUCATION

Lecturer, Ithaca College English and Writing Departments, 2015-2021

Ph.D. University of California, Davis, CA, Department of English, 2015

M.A. University of California, Davis, CA, Department of English, 2010

B.A. Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY, 2007

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Gendered Seascapes and Monarchy in Early Modern English Culture. Under contract with Edinburgh University Press.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

2023 "Rivers and Bogs: Slow Protests in Aphra Behn's *Oroonoko*." *Coastal Studies & Society* 2.1 (March 2023): 38-57. Invited contribution to a Special Issue edited by Christopher Pastore. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26349817221133973>.

Co-Winner of the Best Article Award 2023 from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender.

2020 "Dark Holes and Violent Allegories in *The Faerie Queene*." *Spenser Review* 50.3.2 (Fall 2020). <https://www.english.cam.ac.uk/spenseronline/review/item/50.3.2/>.

2019 "[L]ove that oughte ben secree": Secrecy and Alternate Endings in Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*." *Studies in Philology*, vol. 116, no. 4 (Fall 2019): 617-639. <https://doi.org/10.1353/sip.2019.0025>.

2018 "Gendered Circulation and the Marital Ship of State in Jonson's *The Staple of News*." *Renaissance Drama* 46, vol. 2 (Fall 2018): 193-212. <https://doi.org/10.1086/699623>.

Public-Facing Humanities Articles

2022 "Europa into the Waves: John Dee and Meandering Research." *The Collation*. Folger Shakespeare Library. 8 July. <https://collation.folger.edu/2022/07/europa-into-the-waves/>.

2020 "Death and Revolution: Thinking with Hester Pulter." *The Sundial: Premodern Pasts, Inclusive Futures AMCRS*. 27 October. <https://medium.com/the-sundial-acmrs/death-and-revolution-thinking-with-hester-pulter-848d5c966b6d>.

Book Chapters

- “‘I am the sea’: Grief and Disability in *Titus Andronicus*.” *Oxford Handbook of Shakespeare and the Natural World*. Eds. Todd Borlik and Karen Raber. Oxford University Press. Invited contribution; in preparation.
- 2024 “Estuarial Rage and Resistance in Hester Pulter’s ‘The Complaint of Thames.’” *Water and Cognition in Early Modern English Literature*. Eds. Nic Helms and Steve Mentz. Amsterdam University Press. 237-55.
- 2021 “Conflicts: Naval Wars, Violent Migrations, and Silent/Silenced Archives.” *A Cultural History of the Sea in the Early Modern Age*. Ed. Steve Mentz. Bloomsbury Publishing. 105-33.
- 2019 “Precarious Travail, Gender, and Narration in Shakespeare’s *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* and Margaret Cavendish’s *The Blazing World*.” *Travel and Travail: Early Modern Women, English Drama, and the Wider World*. Eds. Bernadette Andrea and Patricia Akhimie. University of Nebraska Press. 273-291.
- 2018 “Time, Gender, and Nonhuman Worlds.” (with Emily Kuffner and Elizabeth Crachiolo) *Gendered Temporalities in the Early Modern World*. Ed. Merry Wiesner-Hanks. Amsterdam University Press Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World Series. 69-92.
- 2015 “A Shipwreck of Faith: Hazardous Voyages and Contested Representations in Milton’s *Samson Agonistes*.” *Storms on Islands: Shipwreck and Island Motifs in Literature and the Arts*. Eds. Brigitte Le Juez and Olga Springer. Brill/Rodopi. 151-170.

Book Reviews

- Mary C. Fuller. *Lines Drawn Across the Globe: Reading Richard Hakluyt’s Principal Navigations* (McGill-Queens UP, 2023). *Journal of British Studies*. Forthcoming.
- 2024 Todd Andrew Borlik. *Shakespeare Beyond the Green World: Drama and Ecopolitics in Jacobean Britain* (Oxford UP, 2023). *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies in Literature and Environment*, 31.1. 237-238. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isle/isad084>
- 2018 Grace Ji-Sun Kim and Hilda P. Koster, eds. *Planetary Solidarity: Global Women’s Voices on Christian Doctrine and Climate Justice* (Fortress, 2017). *Reading Religion*.
- 2018 Lowell Duckert. *For All Waters: Finding Ourselves in Early Modern Wetscapes* (U of Minnesota P, 2015). *The Nautilus: A Maritime Journal of Literature, History, and Culture*, vol. IX. 99-103.

AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Folger Shakespeare Library Short-Term Fellowship—Omohundro Institute Fellow
- 2015 Shakespeare Association of America Travel Grant
- 2014 Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award, UC Davis Graduate Studies
- 2014 Research-Teaching Fellowship, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation UC Davis Initiative in Early Modern Studies

- 2014 Summer Dissertation Fellowship, UC Davis Department of English
- 2013 Summer Dissertation Fellowship, UC Davis Department of English

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Organizer

- Seminar: “Blue Shakespeares.” Co-Organizers: Shaul Bassi and Steve Mentz. World Shakespeare Congress, Verona, Italy, July 20-26, 2026.
- 2024 Seminar: “Protest and Resistance in the (Early) Modern Era.” Co-Organizer: Scott Oldenburg. Shakespeare Association of America, Portland, OR, April 10-13.
- 2024 Roundtable: “Environmental Protests in the Early Modern and Colonial World.” Modern Languages Association Annual Convention, Philadelphia, PA, January 4-7.
- 2018 Workshop: “Choice, Displacement, and Environmental Violence: Contesting the Categories of Woman and the Human in Early Modern Literature and Culture.” Co-organizers: Teresa Coronado and Tara Pedersen. Attending to Early Modern Women: Action and Agency, Milwaukee, WI, June 14-17.
- 2015 Workshop: “Time, Gender, and Non-human Worlds.” Co-organizers: Emily Kuffner and Elizabeth Crachiolo. Attending to Early Modern Women: It’s About Time. Milwaukee, WI, June 18-20.

Invited Research Presentations

- 2023 “Telling and Retelling Maritime Stories.” Making Waves: Innovative Maritime Scholarship in a Post-Pandemic World. Maine Maritime Museum, Bath, ME, 14 October.
- 2021 “‘In mind’s ocean wide’: Naval Wars, Gendered Sovereignty, and Authorship in Margaret Cavendish’s *Poems and Fancies*.” Society for Renaissance Studies, Online Panel, 26 January.
- 2019 “Rocks and Hard Places: Scylla and Charybdis, Wombs/Tombs, and Racialized Environments in Early Modern Culture.” Ithaca College Sigma Tau Delta Fall Faculty Lecture, November 20 (invited by Sigma Tau Delta students).
- 2019 “Margaret Cavendish, Gendered Temperature, and Maritime Spectacle.” Washburn University, Topeka, KS, November 18.
- 2019 “Navigating Ships of State: Early Modern Sea-Sovereignty and Prospero’s Queer Sails.” Framingham State University, Framingham, MA, February 27.
- 2017 “Gender, Environment, and the Ship of State in Heywood’s *The Fair Maid of the West* and Elizabeth I’s Poetry and Prose.” University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, January 18.
- 2015 “*Like the shippes of marchants*: Navigating Marriage in Jonson’s *The Staple of News* and Shakespeare’s *The Taming of the Shrew*.” Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY, December 4.
- 2014 “Pilot or Ship? Gendering Early Modern Free Will Debates in Visual and Textual Maritime Metaphors.” Scholars’ Symposium: *Image/Text*, Davis, CA, February 13.

Papers Presented

- “Protection, Pain, and Power at Sea: Sidney Gifts to Elizabeth I.” Renaissance Society of America, San Francisco, February 19-21, 2026.
- 2022 “Estuarial Rage and Resistance in Pulter’s “The Complaint of Thames.” ASLE Symposium: Watersheds. University of Delaware, Newark, DE, June 24-26.
- 2022 “Estuarial Rage and Resistance in Pulter’s “The Complaint of Thames.” Shakespeare Association of America, Jacksonville, FL, April 6-10.
- 2019 “Hurricanes and Floods: Environmental Violence in Cervantes, Daborne, and Behn.” Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, Canada, March 17-19.
- 2018 “Violent Matter: ‘Womb/Tomb,’ ‘Wave/Grave,’ and Sea Sovereignty in Early Modern Texts.” Shakespeare Association of America, Los Angeles, CA, March 28-April 1.
- 2017 “Governance and Prospero’s Queer Sails in *The Tempest*.” Transforming Bodies Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, April 21-22.
- 2017 “Gender, Environment, and the Ship of State in Heywood’s *The Fair Maid of the West*.” Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, January 5-8.
- 2016 “Precarious Travel, Gender, and Narration in Shakespeare’s *Pericles, Prince of Tyre* and Margaret Cavendish’s *The Blazing World*.” Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans, LA, March 23-26.
- 2014 “Willing Conversion: Navigating Will and Gender in *The Merchant of Venice* and *A Christian Turned Turk*.” Shakespeare Association of America, St. Louis, MO, April 9-12.
- 2011 “*Lat in youre brayn non other fantasie*: Problems with Secret-Keeping and Genre in *Troilus and Criseyde*.” 46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11-15.

Chair/Moderator/Respondent

- 2023 “New Approaches to Early Modern Metaphor II” Renaissance Society of America, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 8-11.
- 2020 [Accepted Panel; cancelled due to COVID-19] “Futures of the Maritime Humanities.” Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, April 2-4.

Roundtable Member

- “Resistance and Resilience: Attending to Early Modern Women and Gender.” Renaissance Society of America, San Francisco, February 19-21, 2026.
- 2023 “Teaching Writing with AI & ChatGPT: Lessons from Spring.” Writing Program Event, Colby College, Waterville, ME, May 5.

- 2020 “Male Wombs, Ravenous Oceans, and Racialized Environments in *The Faerie Queene*.” Session 666: “Spenser, Ecology, and the Dream of a Legible Environment,” Modern Language Association, Seattle January 9-12.
- 2014 “Conference Confidence: Delivering Papers with Style.” Women’s Caucus Roundtable, Davis, CA, March 13.
- 2012 “Graduate Academic Service: What Do (or Should) Grads Actually Do When They Serve?” Labor in the University: American Cultures and Politics Research Cluster Roundtable, Davis, CA, May 11.

Workshop Participant

- 2023 “Interacting with Wabanaki-Maine History.” Place Justice, Colby College, Waterville, ME, February 24.
- 2022 Colby Summer Institute in Environmental Humanities. Colby College, Waterville, ME, August 1-7.
- 2021 “The Activist Shakespearean on the University Campus.” Shakespeare Association of America, Online, March 30-April 4.
- 2019 “Intergroup Dialogue Facilitator Training.” Led by Kristie Ford (Skidmore College) and Charles Behling (The University of Michigan), hosted by the Center for Faculty Excellence, Ithaca College, May 20-21.
- 2019 “Teaching the premodern in a time of white supremacy.” Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, D.C., April 17-20.
- 2019 “Day of Digital Learning.” Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, Canada, March 16.
- 2017 “Experiencing Intergroup Dialogue.” Led by Kristie Ford (Skidmore College) and Charles Behling (The University of Michigan), hosted by the Center for Faculty Excellence, Ithaca College, October 19-20.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Colby College, Assistant Professor

English Department

Slow Read Shakespeare: The Tempest (fall 2025)
 Greenworlds and Changeable Bodies in Early Modern Drama (spring 2026)
 Literature and Environment (spring 2024)
 Women, Science, and Politics in 17th C Literature (spring 2023)
 Shakespeare and Injustice (spring 2023)
 Pirates and Captives in Early Modern Romance (spring 2022, 2024)
 Foundations of Literary Studies (spring/fall 2022, fall 2025)

Language, Thought, and Writing: Community Literacy and Migration (fall 2021, 2022, 2023, spring 2026)

Environmental Humanities: Stories of Crisis and Resilience (fall 2021, 2023; cross-listed with Environmental Studies)

Ithaca College, Lecturer

English Department

Dramatic Literature 1 (fall 2020)

Slow Read: The Tempest (summer 2020)

Senior Seminar in the English Renaissance: Women, Science, and Politics (Spring 2020)

Literature and the Environment: Vital Rivers, Rivers in Crisis (fall 2018; cross-listed with Environmental Studies)

Shakespeare (spring 2017, 2018, 2019)

Introduction to Poetry (spring/fall 2018, fall 2019, spring/fall 2020, spring 2021)

Introduction to Literature: Piracy (fall 2017)

Ithaca Seminar Program

College: Why Are We Here? (summer 2020)

Interdisciplinary Studies Program

Exploring the Options (fall 2019)

(IC)2 Integrated Curriculum Program

Insight: Climate Changing (fall 2017, 2018); taught with Nancy Jacobson (Biology)

Writing Department

Academic Writing I (fall 2015, spring/fall 2016)

University of California, Davis, Associate Instructor

English Department

Literatures in English I: to 1700 (fall 2013)

Literature and Expository Writing: Madness and Perception (fall 2011, winter/fall 2012)

University Writing Program

Expository Writing: Food—Culture, Economics, and Ethics (winter/spring 2011)

Expository Writing: Language, Recognition, and Stochasticity (fall 2009, winter/spring 2010)

Skidmore College, Instructor

English Department

Poetry: Introduction to the Genre (summer 2011, summer 2012)

Basic Expository Writing: Food—Culture, Economics, and Ethics (summer 2012)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Profession

Peer Reviewer for *PMLA*, *Shakespeare*, *Early Theater*, *Women's Writing*, *Philological Quarterly*, and *The Nautilus: A Maritime Journal of Literature, History, and Culture*.

Planning Committee Member, Attending to Early Modern Women and Gender Conference, Washington, DC, June 10-12, 2027.

Colby College

Co-Director, English Literature and Environment Concentration, Colby College, Fall 2023-present.

Co-Sponsor, "Islands" 2-Year Theme, Center for Arts and Humanities, Colby College, Fall 2025-Spring 2027.

Member, Budget Committee, Colby College, Fall 2025-present (elected).

Member, Writing Across the Curriculum Advisory Committee, Colby College, Fall 2022-spring 2024 (elected).

Member, English Department Student Recruitment and Engagement Committee, Fall 2021-present.

Member, English Department Anti-Racist Pedagogy Committee, Fall 2023-Present.

Member, Summer Institute for the Environmental Humanities Organizing Committee, Fall 2022-spring 2024.

Ithaca College

English Teaching-Option Liaison to the Education Department, 2020-21

Member, Ithaca College Natural Lands Committee, 2019-21

Co-Coordinator, Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium, 2017-21

Steward and Webmaster, Ithaca College Contingent Faculty Union SEIU Local 200United, 2017-19

Member, School of Humanities and Sciences Strategic Planning—Faculty and Staff Professional Development Task Force, Spring 2018

University of California, Davis

Co-Chair, Early Modern Research Cluster, 2010-12

Graduate Student Mentor, University Writing Program, 2011-15

Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Department of English, 2010-15

Graduate Student Association Representative, 2010-11

LANGUAGES

Spanish: intermediate speaking, advanced reading and writing; Latin: intermediate reading

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment; Modern Language Association; Renaissance Society of America; Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship; Shakespeare Association of America; Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender, Margaret Cavendish Society, Milton Society

REFERENCES PROVIDED ON REQUEST