

## DYANI JOHNS TAFF

Colby College ~ 5257 Mayflower Hill ~ Waterville, ME 04901-8852  
[dtaff@colby.edu](mailto:dtaff@colby.edu) ~ <https://dyanijt.github.io/>

**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. Special Issue edited by Christopher Pastore.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/26349817221133973>.
- 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

"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. Under contract with Amsterdam University Press.

- 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**

- 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**

#### **Workshops Organized**

- 2018 "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 "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

- 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

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

Literature and Environment (spring 2024)

Women, Science, and Politics in 17<sup>th</sup> 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)  
Language, Thought, and Writing: Community Literacy and Migration (fall 2021, 2022, 2023)  
Environmental Humanities: Stories of Crisis and Resilience (fall 2021, 2023)

### **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)

## **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

### **Profession**

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

### **Colby College**

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

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

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

### **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; GEMELA: Grupo de Estudios sobre la Mujer en España y las Americas (pre-1800); 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**

