

CURRICULUM VITAE
Elizabeth B. Bearden
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Comparative Literature, New York University, 2006.

M.A. Comparative Literature, New York University, 2004.

A.B. Comparative Literature, *magna cum laude*, Princeton University, 1998.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor, Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017–present.

Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012–2017.

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011–2012.

Faculty Affiliate, Department of Classics, University of Maryland, College Park, 2009–2011.

Assistant Professor, English and Comparative Literature, University of Maryland, College Park, 2006–2011.

PUBLICATIONS

Books

In progress “Crip Authority: Disability and the Art of Consolation in the Renaissance.”
(advanced contract, U Michigan P)

This book considers how early modern European writers with disabilities embrace their status as “cripples” to enhance their authority, be it literary, military, political, or religious authority. The project draws on the critical traditions of disability studies, life writing, and the long literary tradition of consolation texts to explore a cross-section of early modern authors, including Petrarch, Teresa de Cartagena, Giovanni Paolo Lomazzo, Torquato Tasso, Cervantes, Robert Burton, John Milton, and Anne Finch.

- 2019 *Monstrous Kinds: Body, Space, and Narrative in Renaissance Representations of Disability. Corporealities: Discourses of Disability* series. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 2019. pp. 284. Winner of the Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities.

This project examines disability in the Renaissance in conduct books and treatises, travel writing, and wonder books. The cross-section of texts is comparative, putting canonical European authors such as Castiglione into dialogue with transatlantic and Anglo-Ottoman literary exchange. Its methodology takes a formal and philosophical approach to pre-modern formulations of monstrous bodies, spaces, and narratives, which continue to shape our understandings of disability today. My work discerns the norming of early modern bodies in the discourse of the ideal and the natural, and it discovers alternative representations of embodiment that allow for variation and vulnerability. It overturns the assumption that “monstrosity” was relegated to the margins of the world from antiquity to the Renaissance, and it questions grand narratives propounding a progression of disability from supernatural marvel to medical specimen. I contend that these categories coexist and intersect, and that we can better understand early modern productions of disability by attending to the rich variety of monstrous bodies, spaces, and narratives that populate Renaissance texts.

- 2012 *The Emblematics of the Self: Ekphrasis and Identity in Renaissance Imitations of Greek Romance*. Toronto: U of Toronto P, 2012. pp. 274. (E-book version, 2013).

This book examines how ekphrasis, the verbal representation of visual representation, illuminates gender, ethnic, and religious identity in Renaissance imitations of ancient Greek romances by Achilles Tatius and Heliodorus. Rather than presuming individual agency in romance characterization, I propose that romance identity is passible (susceptible or impressionable) and that ekphrastic characterization—what I call the emblematics of the self—discloses adaptations in cultural identity. Renaissance romancers craft verbal images to function as graphic puzzles, and romance characters such as cross-dressed Amazons and white Mauritians reveal their ethos in the act of interpretation. Alonso Núñez de Reinoso, Philip Sidney, Miguel de Cervantes, Mary Wroth, and John Barclay craft romances that undo criteria for cultural otherness in their manipulations of multivalent verbal pictures and reflect European cultural anxieties; yet these works also promise the possibility of cultural assimilation through the romance genre’s forte, love and marriage.

Articles

- 2017 “Before Normal, There Was Natural: John Bulwer, Disability, and Natural Signing in Early Modern England and Beyond.” *PMLA* 132.1 (Jan. 2017): 33–50.
- 2016 “Monstrous Births and Crip Authority: Cervantes, Disability, and the *Persiles*.” *eHumanista/Cervantes* 5; “*Si ya por atrevido no sale con las manos en la cabeza*”: *el legado poético del Persiles cuatrocientos años después*. Ed. Mercedes Alcalá Galán. Santa Barbara: U of Santa Barbara, 2016. 69–84.
- 2014 “Moctezuma’s Zoo: Housing Disability in Transatlantic Travel Literature and European Courts.” *Disability Studies in the Hispanic World*. Ed. E. Juárez Almendros. *Arizona Journal for Hispanic Cultural Studies* 17 (2014): 163–78.

- 2011 “Converso Convertida: Cross-dressed Narration and Ekphrastic Interpretation in *Leucippe and Clitophon* and *Clareo y Florisea*.” *Fictional Traces: Receptions of the Ancient Novel*. Ed. M. Futre Pinheiro and S. Harrison. *Ancient Narrative Supplementum* 14.1. Groningen, NE: Roelf Barkhuis, 2011. 127–50.
- 2010 “Sidney’s ‘mungrell tragy-comedie’ and Anglo-Spanish Exchange in the *New Arcadia*.” *Anglo-Spanish Relations: Historical and Literary Perspectives on the Empires*. Ed. B. Fuchs and B. Lockey. *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 10.1 (Spring 2010): 29–51.
- 2008 “Weaving a New Interpretation of Romance Endings: Female Narration and Ekphrastic Intersections in Achilles Tatius and Alonso Núñez de Reinoso.” *ICAN IV, the Fourth International Conference on the Ancient Novel*. Conference Proceedings CD-ROM.
- 2006 “Painting Counterfeit Canvases: American Memory *Lienzos* and European Imaginings of the Barbarian in Cervantes’s *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*.” *PMLA* 121.3 (May 2006): 735–52.

Electronic Edition and Exhibition Piece

- 2008 “The Funeral Procession of Sir Philip Sidney: An Early Modern Multimedia Site and Pedagogical Venture.” I directed an electronic archiving project that was housed at UMD until 2011 to document the pictorial, musical, and literary records of the funeral procession of Sir Philip Sidney in London, 1587.
- 2008 “History in the Making: How Early Modern Britain Imagined Its Past.” Co-curated by Alan Stewart and Garrett Sullivan. Washington, DC: Folger Shakespeare Library, January 24–May 17, 2008. My multimedia presentation of Sidney’s funeral was featured in the exhibition.

Review

- 2014 Rev. Hobgood, Allison P. and David Houston Wood, eds., *Recovering Disability in Early Modern England*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State UP, 2013, *Journal for Literary and Cultural Disability Studies* 8.2 (2014): 231–9.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2018 Tobin Siebers Prize for Disability Studies in the Humanities, awarded for *Monstrous Kinds: Body, Space, and Narrative in Renaissance Representations of Disability*.
- 2017–2018 Research Sabbatical, UW-Madison, Madison WI.
- f.2016 Institute for Research in the Humanities Fellowship, leave, UW-Madison, Madison, WI.
- 2015 William Andrews Clark Memorial Library Short-Term Fellowship, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2013–2014 Nellie McKay Fellowship, Provost’s grant for one-year research leave, UW-Madison.

- 2013–2015 Vilas Associate Award, faculty development grant for 2 years of summer salary and research funds, UW-Madison.
- 2011–2012 Research and Scholarship Award (RASA) faculty development grant for one-semester research leave, UMD. (Declined award).
- 2010 Designated Research Initiative Fund (DRIF), grant to fund a biannual medieval and early modern graduate student conference, UMD.
- f.2008 One-semester research leave, Department of English, UMD.
- f.2008 Folger Short-Term Fellowship, Folger Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2008 Designated Research Initiative Fund (DRIF), grant to fund a biannual medieval and early modern graduate student conference, UMD.
- 2007–2008 Improvement of Instruction Grant, Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), granted for my electronic archiving project, “The Funeral Procession of Sir Philip Sidney,” UMD.
- 2005–2006 Lane Cooper Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, NYU.
- 2004–2005 Anaïs Nin Dissertation Research Fellowship, NYU.
- 2001–2003 William and Pearl C. Helbein Fellowship, NYU.
- 2000–2003 Graduate School of Arts and Science Fellowship for Tuition and Fees, NYU.

INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCE PAPERS, AND PANELS

- Mar. 2021 New Directions in Premodern Research and Performance, invited roundtable speaker, Folger Institute (Washington, DC) in collaboration with Emory University, Atlanta, GA.
- Feb. 2021 “Crip Authority: Disability and the Art of Consolation in the Renaissance,” invited lecture, Warburg Institute and Welcome Museum, London, UK.
- Apr. 2020 “Disability in the Global Renaissance,” invited seminar Co-director, Shakespeare Association of America Conference, Denver, CO.
- May 2019 “Leonard and the Art of Transumption,” invited talk, *Transformations: A Conference for Leonard Barkan*, Princeton U, Princeton, NJ.
- Apr. 2019 “*El manco de Lepanto: The Art of Consolation and Cervantine Disability*,” invited talk, Cervantes Symposium, Newberry Library, Chicago, IL.
- Jan. 2019 “A Queer and Crip Time and Place for the Conjoined Twins of Early Modern Wonder Books,” Modern Language Association (MLA) Annual Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Jun. 2018 “The Gendered Religious Imagination” and “Bodies of Authority,” workshop participant, Attending to Early Modern Women convention, Milwaukee, WI.
- Nov. 2017 “Crippling the Renaissance: Disability and the Art of Consolation,” invited talk, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA.
- Oct. 2017 *Revision, Reiteration, Remaking*, panel chair, Sixteenth Century Society Conference, Milwaukee, WI.

- Mar. 2017 “Monstrous Memes: Conjoined Twins and the Unnatural Narratology of the Wonder Book,” Renaissance Society of America (RSA) Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Oct. 2016 “‘Signing in the Seraglio’: Global Disability in European Spatial Representations of the Ottoman Court,” Institute for Research in the Humanities, Madison, WI.
- Sept. 2016 “The *Persiles* and Cervantine Disability,” *Cervantes’s Cultural Labyrinth: The Persiles at 400*, invited speaker, Princeton U, Princeton, NJ.
- Mar. 2016 “Deafness and Disability in European Travel Accounts of the Ottoman Empire,” RSA Conference, Boston, MA.
- Jan. 2016 *Disability and Interdependence*, session chair, MLA Annual Convention, Austin, TX.
- Oct. 2015 “Crip Authority: Disability and Psalmic Rhythms in Milton’s Sonnets and *Samson Agonistes*,” invited speaker, Willamette University, Salem, OR.
- Sept. 2015 “Monstrous Births and Disabling Receptions: Heliodorus, Cervantes, and the Representation of Disability in the Reception of the Greek Romance,” *Fifth International Conference on the Ancient Novel (ICAN V)*, Houston, TX.
- Jan. 2015 “‘Mediocrità’: Schemas of Disability Propounded in Early Modern Conduct Books,” MLA Annual Convention, Vancouver, CA.
- Apr. 2014 *Brothers and Others: New Directions*, seminar co-leader, Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.
- Mar. 2014 “Translating Disability: John Bulwer, Universal Signing, and the Translation of the Senses,” New College Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Sarasota, FL.
- Jan. 2014 “History, Form, and Theory of Early Modern Disability,” Session Chair, MLA Convention, Chicago, IL.
- Mar. 2012 *The Extraordinary and the Ordinary in Early Modern England and Animal Translations*, chair for both panels, RSA Conference, Washington, DC.
- Jan. 2012 “Before Normal, There Was Natural: Chironomia, Chirologia, and Natural Signing in the Ottoman and Safavid Courts,” MLA Annual Convention, Seattle, WA.
- Feb. 2011 “Moctezuma’s Zoo: Housing Disability in Transatlantic Travel Literature and European Courts,” Department of English, UW-Madison, Madison, WI.
- Dec. 2010 “Global Romance: Ekphrasis and Neostoical Cosmopolitanism in the Afro-European Exchange of John Barclay’s *Argenis*, 1621,” invited talk, Faculty Seminar for Classics Affiliates, UMD, College Park, MD.
- Sept. 2010 “Housing Disability: Albinos, ‘Enanos,’ ‘Contrechos y Concorbatos’ in Mexican and European Courts,” *From Iberian Kingdoms to Atlantic Empires: Spain, Portugal, and the New World, 1250–1700*. Nanovic Institute Conference, Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.
- Dec. 2009 “Romance Ekphrasis: A Language of Sociability?” Invited talk, NYU English and Comparative Literature Departments, New York, NY.

- Oct. 2009 “Sidney Is Dead; Long Live Sidney: Funeral Materials for the Body Natural and Transmigration for the Body Poetic,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Dallas, TX.
- Mar. 2009 “‘Mungrell Tragy-Comedie’: The Generic and Ethnic Politics of Sixteenth-Century Anglo-Spanish Relations,” invited talk, Program in Renaissance and Medieval Studies, U Nebraska, Lincoln, NE.
- Dec. 2008 “Renaissance Moving Pictures: From Sidney’s Funeral Materials to Collaborative, Multimedia *Nachleben*,” invited talk, Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities, College Park, MD.
- Nov. 2008 “Sidney’s Celestina and Philisides’ Iberia: ‘mungrell tragy-comedie’ and Anglo-Spanish Exchange in the *New Arcadia*,” Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Jul. 2008 “Weaving a New Interpretation of Romance Endings: Female Narration and Ekphrastic Intersections in Achilles Tatius and Alonso Núñez de Reinoso,” ICAN IV, Fourth International Conference on the Ancient Novel, Lisbon, Portugal.
- Apr. 2008 *Global Romance*, panel chair and organizer, RSA Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Mar. 2007 “‘We are all picturd in that Piece’: The ‘Tottering’ Romance Globe in Lady Mary Wroth’s *Urania*,” RSA Conference, Miami, FL.
- Apr. 2006 “Painting Cervantine Testimonials: Ekphrasis, Indigenous Mexican *Lienzos*, and the Trial Motif in Transatlantic Literary and Philosophical Imaginings,” RSA Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- May 2005 “Seneca’s Wanton Honeybee: Hybridity and Senecan Mimesis in the *Lozana Andaluza*,” Conference on Early Modern Hybridity, Princeton, Princeton, NJ.
- Apr. 2004 “Painting Cervantine Testimonials: Ekphrasis and Mexican Evidential *Lienzos* in New World Courts and Early Modern Juridical Philosophy,” Copia Conference for Renaissance Studies, Princeton, Princeton, NJ.
- Mar. 2003 “Painting Counterfeit Canvases: The Barbarian’s Art of Memory in Cervantes’s *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*,” Copia Conference for Renaissance Studies, Yale, New Haven, CT.
- Dec. 2002 “Equine Enargeia: Ekphrasis as a Vehicle for the Verisimilar/Marvelous in *Orlando Furioso*, *Don Quijote*, and *Los trabajos de Persiles y Sigismunda*,” Cervantes Society of America Panel, MLA Convention, New York, NY.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Undergraduate

- “Discourses of Disability before 1800,” (advanced undergrad.), s.2012, s.2015, s.2016, s.2019, s.2020, s.2021.
- “The Sixteenth Century,” (advanced survey), s.2013, f.2015, f.2019, f.2020.
- “The Early Works of Shakespeare: Exploring Error in Shakespeare,” (advanced undergrad). f.2021.

“Renaissance Romance,” (honors seminar), f.2011, s.2016, f.2019.

“Travel Writing in the Renaissance,” (advanced undergrad.), f.2012, f.2014, f.2018.

“Methods in the Study of Literature,” (seminar in the major), f.2015, s.2017.

“Patrick Rothfuss and Writing the Other,” (guided independent study), f.2015.

“Shakespeare, The Early Works,” (large lecture), f.2012, f.2014.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Graduate and Faculty

“The Global Renaissance,” (grad. seminar), f.2018, s.2021.

“Discourses of Disability,” (grad. seminar), s.2013, s.2015, s.2019, s.2020.

“Disability Studies in the Humanities,” (Faculty Development Seminar, co-taught with Ellen Samuels), s.2017.

“Sensory Perception and Early Modern Literature,” (independent study), s.2015.

“The Sidney Circle,” (grad. seminar), s.2012.

University of Maryland, College Park, Undergraduate

“Discourses of Disability,” (advanced undergrad.), s.2011.

“Travel Writing and Cultural Otherness in Early Modern England,” (advanced undergrad.), f.2006, f.2010.

“Medieval and Renaissance British Literature: Error and Errantry,” (advanced survey), f.2009, s.2010.

“Non-Dramatic Literature of the Sixteenth Century,” (advanced survey), s.2008, f.2009, s.2009.

“Critical Methods in the Study of Literature,” (sophomore seminar), f.2007, s.2007, s.2008, f.2010, s.2011.

“Renaissance Romance: Subversion and Delight,” (honors seminar), f.2006, s.2009.

University of Maryland, College Park, Graduate

“Ekphrasis: Word and Image,” (grad. seminar), s.2010.

“Readings in Renaissance Literature,” (master’s seminar), f.2007.

“Graduate Seminar in Renaissance Literature: The Sidney Circle,” (grad. seminar), s.2007.

Dissertation Committee Member, UW–Madison

Director:

Kevin Boettcher (defended 2016), Emily Loney (defended 2020), Keith Gabler (prelims 2015, prospectus defense 2016), Andie Barrow (prelims Jan. 2021, prospectus 2021), Sarah Drage Olson (prelims [Ch. Britland] 2020, prospectus 2020), Miranda Alksnis (prelims 2022).

Committee Member:

Elise Kerns (prelims 2022), Diego Corona (prelims 2022), Alexander Kris (prelims 2022), Elinor Hayden (prelims 2020, prospectus 2021), Kiawna Brewster (prelims 2020, prospectus 2021),

Kaydian Campbell (prelims 2017), Jessie Gurd (prelims 2013, prospectus defense 2014), Brian Knight (prospectus defense 2012), Cassidy Reis (Spanish, defended 2021), Leah Pope Parker (defended 2018), Kelsey Ihinger (Spanish, defended 2018), Rachel Hertzl-Betz (defended 2017), Victor Lenthe (defended 2017), S. Marshelle Woodward (defended 2015), Jacob Tootalian (defended 2015), Kristiane Stapleton (defended 2014), Nancy Simpson-Younger (defended 2013), Blaire Zeiders (defended 2013), Chelsea Avirett (defended 2013), Ben Beier (defended 2012), Aaron Spooner (defended 2012).

Director, Undergraduate Honors, UW-Madison

Kristin Magliocco (2013); Juliette Schefelker (2019); Heather Erickson (2020).

Dissertation Committee Member, UMD

Amy Merritt (prospectus defense 2010), Maggie Ray (prospectus defense 2010), Jasmine Lellock (defended 2013), Rebecca Lush (defended 2011), Timothy Crowley (defended 2009).

Committee Member, Master's Capstone Project, UMD

Diana Owen (2008)

Director of Undergraduate Honors Theses, UMD

William Harris (2011), Stephanie Wolfe (won Horrell Award, 2010), Daniel Greene (won Dean's Senior Scholar Award, 2009).

Institutional Service, UW-Madison

Post-Tenure Review Chair, Martin Foys, f.2020.

Chair, Literary Studies Steering Committee, 2020; member 2018–2019.

Director, steering committee, UW Disability Studies Initiative, f.2015–s.2016, 2019–2020; co-director with Ellen Samuels, s.2015, 2018–2019.

Mentor, Women Faculty Mentoring Program, 2018–present.

Member, Committee on Grad. Student Job Placement, 2018–2022.

Co-Chair, CDAI Subcommittee on Disability Access and Accommodation in Employment, 2018–2019.

Member, Committee on Access and Accommodation in Instruction (titled Committee on Disability Access and Inclusion [CDAI] as of 2018), UW-Madison, 2015–2016, spring 2017, 2018–2020.

Member, steering committee, Center for Early Modern Studies, 2015–present.

Tenure committee membership: Kristina Huang (Chair 2020–2021; member, 2018–20 present); Stephanie Elsky (Chair 2014–2015; member 2015–2017) Joshua Calhoun (tenured 2019); Jordan Zweck (tenured 2017); Ellen Samuels (tenured 2014).

Organizer or Co-organizer, Renaissance Colloquium, 2012–present.

Member, steering committee, UW Disability Studies Initiative, 2011–present.

Senator, UW Faculty Senate, s.2017.

Member, Special Nominations Committee, Department of English, 2016–2017.

Disability Accommodations Coordinator, Department of English, 2012–2013, 2015–2016, 2017, 2020–present.

Member, English Honors Committee, 2015–2016, 2019–2021.

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2015–2016.

Member, early modern search committee, resulting in hire of Stephanie Elsky, 2012–2013.

Judge, M.A. essay prize, s.2012, s.2013.

Recording Secretary for English Department Executive Committee, 2012–2013.

Member, early modern search committee, resulting in hire of Joshua Calhoun, 2011–2012.

Member, Literary Studies Committee, 2011–present.

Institutional Service, UMD

Graduate Studies Committee, elected member, 2010–2011.

Personnel Committee, elected member, 2010–2011.

Medieval and Renaissance Area Group Coordinator, 2009–2011.

Director, Renaissance Reckonings lecture series, 2009–2011.

Member, Comparative Literature Steering Committee, 2006–2011.

Mock interview participant for graduate students, 2006–2011.

Judge, Kinnaird Graduate Essay Prize, s.2011, s.2007.

Faculty Sponsor, UMD Medieval and Renaissance Graduate Conference, 2008, 2010.

Salary Committee, elected member, 2007–2009.

Pedagogical Mentor for graduate students, 2006–2007.

Speaker for dissertation workshop, 2006–2007.

Speaker for job placement group, 2006–2007.

Professional Service and Affiliations

Judge, William Ryley Parker Prize, MLA, 2018–2020.

Member, Advisory Board, *Monsters and Marvels: Alterity in the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds*. Amsterdam University Press, 2018–present.

Member, Advisory Board, *Monsters, Prodigies, and Demons: Medieval and Early Modern Constructions of Alterity*. Medieval Institute Press/Arc Humanities Press, 2017–2018.

Chair, Executive Committee of the Forum on Disability Studies, MLA, 2015–2016.

Elected member, Executive Committee of the Forum on Disability Studies, MLA, 2012–2017.

Outside reviewer for tenure and promotion, 2013, 2018, 2021.

Reader, U Michigan P, U Penn, Cornell UP, MIT P, U of Chicago P, *PMLA*, *Hispanic Review*, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, *Early Modern Women: an Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Journal of Narrative Theory*, *Comparative Literature*, and *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies*.

Reader, Folger Shakespeare Library, Newberry Library, Huntington Library, William Andrews Clark Memorial Library.

Member, MLA, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women, RSA, SAA, The Sixteenth Century Society, and Society for Disability Studies.

Languages

Fluent Spanish; advanced reading knowledge of Latin, French, Italian; reading knowledge of Portuguese.