Anita Gilman Sherman

Department of Literature

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## Education

University of Maryland, Ph.D. 2003. Department of English

Dissertation: *Memory and the Art of Skepticism in Shakespeare and Donne*

Director: Theodore B. Leinwand

Readers: David Norbrook, Marshall Grossman, Donna Hamilton, Kent Cartwright

University of Maryland, M. A., 1998. Department of English

Oxford University, M. A., 1981. Honors School of Philosophy and Theology

Harvard University, B. A., Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1979

History and Literature: Renaissance and Reformation

## Employment

American University

Director, M. A. Program in Literature, 2011 –

Associate Professor of Literature, 2009 –

Assistant Professor of Literature, 2003 – 2009

**Publications**

*Skepticism and Memory in Shakespeare and Donne* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2007), 248 pp.

Reviews: Stephen B. Dobranski, *Studies in English Literature* 49.1 (2009): 256; David

Hillman, *Shakespeare Quarterly* 62.2 (2011): 290-92; Ryan Paul, *Modern Philology*

109.3 (2012): E173-E176; Julie Sanders, *Shakespeare Survey* 62 (2009): 397, 405-06;

Ellen Spolsky, *Renaissance Quarterly* 62.3 (2009):1035-36.

## Critical Essays

“Fantasies of Private Language in Shakespeare’s ‘Phoenix and Turtle’ and Donne’s

‘Ecstasy’” in *Shakespeare and Donne: Generic Hybrids in the Cultural Imaginary*,

eds. Judith Anderson and Jennifer Vaught (New York: Fordham University Press, 2013), pp. 250 – 278.

“The Politics of Truth in Herbert of Cherbury.” *Texas Studies in Language and Literature*

54.1 (2012): 189 – 215.

“Forms of Oblivion: Losing the Revels Office at St. John’s,” *Shakespeare Quarterly*

62.1 (2011): 75 – 105.

“Shakespearean Vertigo: W. G. Sebald’s *Lear*.” *Criticism* 52.1 (2010): 1 – 24.

“The Skeptical Ethics of John Donne: The Case of *Ignatius his Conclave*.” *Reading*

*Renaissance Ethics*. Ed. Marshall Grossman (Routledge, 2007): 367 – 405.

Reviews: Catherine Gimelli Martin, *Studies in English Literature* 48.1 (2008): 199-200; Benedict S. Robinson, *The Review of English Studies*, 59.239 (2008): 292-94.

“The Aesthetic Strategies of Skepticism: Mixing Memory and Desire in Montaigne and

Shakespeare.” *Shakespearean International Yearbook 6*. Ed. Graham Bradshaw,

Tom Bishop and Peter Holbrook (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2006): 99 – 118. Review:

Andrew Vorder Bruegge, *Sixteenth Century Journal* 40.2 (2009): 472-73.

“John Donne and Spain.” *Studies in Honor of Denah Lida*. Ed. Mary G. Berg and Lanin A.

Gyurko (Potomac, Maryland: Scripta Humanistica, 2005): 71 – 83. Review: A. B. Solis,

*Hispania* 88.4 (2005): 750-51.

“Disowning Knowledge of Jessica, or Shylock’s Skepticism.” *Studies in English*

*Literature* 44.2 (Spring 2004): 277 – 295. Review: James Purkis, *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 85 (2004): 384.

“The Status of Charity in Thomas Heywood’s *If You Know Not Me You Know Nobody II*.”

*Medieval and Renaissance Drama in England* 12 (1999): 99 – 120; Review: Matthew Steggle, *The Year’s Work in English Studies* 80 (1999): 310.

“El Viento como Destino en la Obra de Garcilaso de la Vega.” *Revista Sin Nombre* 14

(1984): 132 – 143.

# Reviews

Rev. of *Shakespeare’s Memory Theatre* by Lina Perkins Wilder (Cambridge: Cambridge

University Press, 2010). *Shakespeare Quarterly* 63.3 (2012): 456-58.

Rev. of *Chiastic Designs in English Literature from Sidney to Shakespeare* by William E.

Engel (Farnham, Surrey and Burlington, Vermont: Ashgate, 2009). *Sixteenth Century*

*Journal* 42.2 (2011): 482-83.

Rev. of *Shakespeare and the Middle Ages*. Ed. Curtis Perry and John Watkins (Oxford:

Oxford University Press, 2009). *Sixteenth Century Journal* 42.2 (2011): 586-87.

“Donne’s Sermons as Re-enactments of the Word: A Response to Margaret Fetzer.”

*Connotations* 19.1-3 (2009 / 2010): 14-20. (Followed by “An Answer to Edmund

Miller and Anita Gilman Sherman” by Margret Fetzer, *Connotations* 20.2-3

(2010/2011): 221-27.)

Rev. of *Women’s Writing in the British Atlantic World: Memory, Place and History, 1550*

*-1700* by Kate Chedgzoy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007). *Early*

*Modern Women* 3 (2008): 335-38.

“Women and the Pedagogical Structures of Memory” (conference workshop report).

*Structures and Subjectivities: Attending to Early Modern Women*. Ed. Joan E. Hartman

and AdeleSeeff (Newark: University of Delaware Press, 2007): 370 – 71.

Rev. of *Forgetting in Early Modern English Literature and Culture: Lethe’s Legacies*, Ed.

Christopher Ivic and Grant Williams (London: Routledge, 2004). *EMLS (Early Modern*

*Literary Studies)* 11.2 (9/2005):8.1-6.

“Skepticism in the Seventeenth Century.” Viewpoint Column. Inaugural issue of

*Literature Compass* (on-line journal published by Blackwell). 12/2003.

Rev. of *Death of the Heart* by Elizabeth Bowen*. Women’s Literature Review*, Spring 1999.

Rev. of *An Interrupted Life: The Diaries of Etty Hillesum & Letters from Westerbork*

by Etty Hillesum*. Women’s Literature Review*, 1997.

## Invitations

“Vestigial Memory Palaces in Margaret Cavendish’s *The Blazing World.*” Renaissance

Society of America panel on the memory arts (Rebeca Helfer), San Diego, 4/2013

“Staging the Crossroads (or lost roads) of History in Shakespeare and Fletcher’s *Henry VIII.*” Cosmos Club (Jeanne Addison Roberts), Washington, D. C. 10/15/2010

“Best Practices: Conformity and Consent in Herbert of Cherbury.” TILTS (Texas Institute for Literary and Textual Studies), University of Texas at Austin, 5/24/2010

“Skepticism and Memory in Shakespeare and Donne.” Scholars in Print and Person.

American University, 4/12/2010

“Fantasies of Private Language: Staging the Chaste Sublime in Donne’s “The Extasie” and

Shakespeare’s “The Phoenix and Turtle.” Shakespeare Association of America seminar (Judith Anderson and Jennifer Vaught), Chicago, 4/2/2010

“Losing the Revels Office: A Forgotten Performance Space.” Shakespeare Association of

American seminar (Kate Chedgzoy and Julie Sanders), Washington, D. C., 4/11/2009

“Picturing Insight: Spenser Meets Rothko.” Renaissance Reckonings series, University of

Maryland, 4/9/2008

“Gallants, Gulls and Groundlings: Playhouses and Play-going in Shakespeare’s London.”

Shakespeare Fest, Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies (Adele Seefe),

University of Maryland, 2/23/2008

“Disowning the Art of Memory in *The Winter’s Tale*.” Bar-Ilan University (Ellen

Spolsky), Israel, 11/21/2008

“John Donne and Spain.” James Madison University, Keynote Speech, Undergraduate

Research Conference, 4/2005

“The Skeptical Poetics of Shakespeare and Donne.” Center for Renaissance and Baroque

Studies, University of Maryland, Dissertations-in-Progress series, 2/2001.

## Conference Papers

“The Political Aesthetic of Skepticism: Satirists, Bystanders, and Free-thinkers,” Panel on

Skepticism in the 17th Century, Modern Languages Association, Boston, 1/2013

“Disowning Knowledge of Montaigne: Cavell’s Shakespeare’s Skepticism.” Shakespeare

Association of America seminar (Paul Kottman and Philip Lorenz), Boston, 4/6/2012

“The King of Poland at the English Court: Elective Monarchies Abroad.” Renaissance

Society of America, Washington, D. C., 3/23/2012

“The Politics of Truth in Herbert of Cherbury.” Rocky Mountain Renaissance and

Medieval Association, Salt Lake City, 4/8/11

“Spenser and Nominalism.” Sixteenth-Century Society Conference, Geneva, 5/29/09

“The Exemplarity of Stanley Cavell’s Memory.” Stanley Cavell and Literary Criticism

Conference. University of Edinburgh, 5/2008

“The Art of Abstraction in Spenser’s *November*.” Southeastern Renaissance

Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 10/6/2006

“Shakespeare and Fletcher’s Skeptical Memory: Experiencing Freedom from the

Reformation in *All Is True*.” Shakespeare Association of America seminar, Philadelphia, 4/2006

“Disowning Knowledge in Donne’s *Anniversaries*.” John Donne Society Conference.

Louisiana State University, 2/2006

“Dumbing Down or Raising the Bar[d]? Shakespeare & Co.” Panel on “Canonical

Revisions and World Literature.” Modern Languages Association, 12/2005

“The Aesthetic Strategies of Skepticism: Bad Memory in Montaigne and After.”

Shakespeare Association of America seminar (Tom Bishop and Peter Holbrook),

Bermuda, 3/2005

“The Art of Skeptical Memory in *The Winter’s Tale.*” Comparative Literature Conference

on “The Availability of Philosophy in Film and Literature.” University of South Carolina, 2/2005.

“The Ghost of Conciliarism in John Donne’s *Ignatius his Conclave*.” Modern Languages

Association, 12/2004

“The Crisis of Experience in *Samson Agonistes.*” International Milton Congress. Duquesne

University, 3/2004.

“Women and the Pedagogical Structures of Memory.” (interdisciplinary, collaborative

workshop). Attending to Early Modern Women: Structures and Subjectivities. Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies, University of Maryland, 11/2003.

“Conciliarism in John Donne’s *Ignatius his Conclave*.” Patristic, Medieval and Renaissance

Studies Conference. Villanova University, 9/2003.

“The Attractions of Austerity in Milton.” The Seventh International Milton Symposium.

University of South Carolina (Beaufort), 6/2002.

“Shylock’s Skepticism: Disowning Knowledge in *The Merchant of Venice.*” The Ohio

Shakespeare Conference, Cleveland, 3/1999.

“Playing God: John Donne and the Godless Reader.” Central New York Conference on

Language and Literature. S.U.N.Y. Cortland, 10/1998.

**Work In Progress**

“The Skeptical Imagination: Paradoxes of Secularization in English Literature, 1579-1671”

(book)

“Poland in the Cultural Imaginary of Early Modern England” (essay)

## Awards

National Humanities Center, Summer Institute in Literary Study (NHC SILS), Andrew

Marvell: The Lyric and Public Poems (Nigel Smith), Chapel Hill, June 2012

TILTS Summer Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, May 2010

Folger Institute, “Reassessing Henry VIII,” Fall Workshop (Paul E. J. Hammer and

Kathleen Lynch), 2010

Mellon Fund Research Award, CAS, American University, 2007

Folger Institute, “The Spanish Connection,” Late Spring Seminar (Barbara Fuchs), 2007

Mary Savage Snouffer Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2002 – 2003

Mellon Seminar in Interpretation Fellowship, Pennsylvania State University, 2000

Kinnaird Essay Prize (English Department prize), 2000

University of Maryland Graduate School Fellowship, 1999 – 2000

Distinguished Teaching Assistant, University of Maryland, 1998 – 1999

Kinnaird Essay Prize (English Department prize), 1998

Baltimore Artscape Special Merit Award for Short Story (Judge: David Bradley), 1997

University of Maryland Graduate School Fellowship, 1996 – 1997

Worcester County Summer Arts Grant (joint grant), 1995

Baltimore City Arts Grant (joint grant), 1994

Oliver-Dabney Prize #2 (History and Literature Department prize), 1978

Oliver-Dabney Prize #1 (History and Literature Department prize), 1977

Susan Anthony Potter Prize (Romance Languages Essay Prize), 1977

## Teaching

American University, 2003 –

The Art of Renaissance Doubt (graduate seminar)

Cultures of Memory: Theory and Literature (graduate seminar)

Readings in Genre: Drama (graduate seminar)

Religion / Revolution / Exile in 17th-Century English Literature (graduate seminar)

Theories and Methodologies (graduate seminar)

Senior Project in Literature

Renaissance Journeys

Shakespeare and Marlowe

Shakespeare and Italy

Shakespeare’s Machiavellian Princes

Shakespeare Studies

Transformations of Shakespeare

Metaphysical Poetry

Early British Literature

Books that Shaped the Western World

University of Maryland, 1997 – 2002

Western World Literature from Homer to the Renaissance

Introduction to Shakespeare

The Major Works of Shakespeare (teaching assistant)

Introduction to Drama

Freshman Composition

The Johns Hopkins School of Continuing Studies, 1988 – 1995

Advanced Prose Composition, Freshman Writing

Towson University, 1987

Freshman Writing

Harvard University Summer School, 1985

TOEFL preparation, ESL writing

## Other Employment

Editorial Assistant; helped Professor David Norbrook with his edition of Lucy Hutchinson’s

*Order and Disorder* (Basil Blackwell, 2000), 1999 – 2000

## Languages

Fluent in Spanish and French; Italian (reading knowledge); high school Latin.

## Service

External

Duquesne University Press, reviewer, 2012

Tenure evaluation, Hampton University, 2012

Folger Institute Application Review Committee, Chair, 2011 – 2012

Folger Institute Application Review Committee, 2009 –

Folger Institute Central Executive Committee (American University representative), 2008 –

Co-chair, Schools and Scholarships Committee, Harvard Club of Maryland, 1993 – 2006

Organized an Education Forum for the Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Maryland, featuring

Charles Beckman, Director of Communications for the Johns Hopkins Center for

Talented Youth and Bryan Richardson, Director of the SchoolStat Program of the

Baltimore City Public Schools, 11/2006

Introduced Dr. Jocelyn Chadwick of the Harvard Graduate School of Education at the

Harvard-Radcliffe Club of Maryland’s Spring Academic Forum, 3/2005

Chair of a panel at the Narrative Conference held at Georgetown University, 3/2007

Internal

Director, M. A. Program, Literature Department

General Education Committee, 2012 –

JCCAP (Joint Committee on Curriculum and Academic Programs), 2006 – 2008

Joint B. A. / M. A. Working Group, 2006 – 2008

Departmental Library Liaison, American University, Fall 2005 –

Eighteenth-Century Search Committee, 2007 –2008, 2008 – 2009

Medievalist Search Committee, 2012 – 2013

Renaissance Studies Search Committee (visiting position), 2012 – 2013

Interviewed candidates for two World Literature positions at MLA, 1/2011

Interviewed candidates for the American Studies position at MLA, 12/2006

Medievalist Search Committee, 2004 – 2005

Seventeenth Century Search Committee, 2003 – 2004

Reappointment and Tenure Committee, 2003 – 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2010 –

Chair Search Committee, 2011 – 2012

Graduate Speakers Series Committee, 2005 – , Chair 2008-2009

Introduced Dr. Susan Rubin Suleiman of Harvard University at the Department of

Literature’s Graduate Speakers Series, 11/11/2010

Introduced Dr. Theodore Leinwand of the University of Maryland at the Department of

Literature’s Graduate Speakers Series, 10/2007

Introduced Dr. Reid Barbour of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill at the

Department of Literature’s Graduate Speakers Series, 2/2007

Introduced Dr. Jonathan Gil Harris of The George Washington University at the

Department of Literature’s Graduate Speakers Series, 11/2005

Administered the Louise M. Young Memorial Prize for best essay on Literature and Human

Values by an undergraduate woman, 2006 – 2009

Moderated a panel at the American University conference, “The Ground Beneath Our Feet:

Building, Living, and Thinking Underground,” 11/11/2011

Chair of a panel at the Robyn Rafferty Matthias Student Research Conference, 2008, 2009,

2011

Literature Colloquium on Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*, 10/2012

Literature Colloquium on Milan Kundera’s *The Unbearable Lightness of Being,* 10/2008

Literature Colloquium on Mikhail Bulgakov’s *The Master and Margarita*, 4/2008

Judge at the Literature Colloquium on J. M. Coetzee’s *Disgrace*, 3/2007

Literature Colloquium on Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, 3/2005

Literature Colloquium on Salman Rushdie’s *Midnight’s Children*, 3/2004

Departmental Preview Day 10/2007

Literature Day, 2007 –

Departmental Council, American University, 2003 –

Writing Council, 2008 – 2009

Departmental Merit Committee, American University, 2005, 2008

Teaching Assistant panelist, “Talks about Teaching,” CAST 2001 – 2002

Advisory Board Member, Center for Renaissance and Baroque Studies, 1999 – 2001

# Professional Affiliations

John Donne Society, 2006 –

Modern Languages Association, 1995 –

Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Chapter, American University, 2003 –

Renaissance Society of America, 2011 –

Shakespeare Association of America, 2003 –

Sixteenth Century Society, 2009 –

Southeastern Renaissance Conference, 2006 –