

Anita Gilman Sherman

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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 – 2014
Associate Professor of Literature, 2009 –
Assistant Professor of Literature, 2003 – 2009
Faculty Associate, Political Theory Institute, 2019 –

Publications

Monographs

Skepticism in Early Modern English Literature: The Problems and Pleasures of Doubt
(Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021)

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; Lucy Munro, *Shakespeare* 7.1 (2011): 109-110, 117; 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

- “Andrew Marvell’s Taste for Death” in *Memory and Mortality in Renaissance England*. Ed. William Engel, Rory Loughnane and Grant Williams (Cambridge: Cambridge UP) (forthcoming)
- “The Nature of Presence: Facing Violence in Montaigne and Shakespeare” in *Shakespeare and Montaigne*. Ed. Lars Engle, Patrick Gray and William M. Hamlin. (Edinburgh: Edinburgh UP) (forthcoming)
- “John Donne and Skepticism” in *John Donne in Context*. Ed. Michael Schoenfeldt (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2019), pp. 227 – 235.
Reviews: Michael Brennan, *The Seventeenth Century* 35.1 (2020): 127 – 128; J. D. Sharpe, *Choice* 57.1 (2019): 51.
- “The Sceptic’s Surrender: Believing Partly” in *The Routledge Companion to Shakespeare and Philosophy*. Ed. Craig Bourne and Emily Caddick Bourne (Routledge, 2019), pp. 350 – 359.
- “Cultural Memories of the Legal Repertoire in *Richard III* and *Richard II*: Criticizing Rites of Succession” in *The Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Memory*. Ed. Andrew Hiscock and Lina Perkins Wilder (Routledge, 2018), pp. 208 – 222.
- “Conformity and Consent in Herbert of Cherbury” in “*Foreign Wisdom*”: *Circulating European Culture, Edward Herbert, and George Herbert*. Ed. Greg Miller and Anne-Marie Miller-Blaise. (Manchester: Manchester UP) (forthcoming)
- “Poland in the Cultural Imaginary of Early Modern England,” *Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies* 15.1 (2015): 55 – 89.
- “Fantasies of Private Language in Shakespeare’s ‘Phoenix and Turtle’ and Donne’s ‘Ecstasy’” in *Shakespeare and Donne: Generic Hybrids in the Cultural Imaginary*, Ed. Judith Anderson and Jennifer Vaught (Fordham University Press, 2013), pp. 169 – 184. Reviews: Graham Roebuck, *Seventeenth Century News* 71.3 & 4 (2013): 104 – 107; Margaret Maurer, *Renaissance Quarterly* 67.1 (2014): 356 – 57; Leah S. Marcus, *Studies in English Literature* 54.1 (2014): 232; Rebecca Totaro, *Shakespeare Quarterly* 67.1 (2016): 152 – 154; Allison Machlis Meyer, *John Donne Journal* 35 (2016): 329 – 336.
- “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), pp. 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 (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 (Scripta Humanistica, 2005), pp. 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 (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

- “Out of Place: Looking for Donne in London. A Response to Theresa M. DiPasquale’s ‘Ways of Reading Donne’s St. Paul’s Epitaph: Close, Comparative, Contextu[r]al, Concrete’.” *Connotations* 29 (2020): 24 – 33.
- Rev. of *The Memory Arts in Renaissance England: A Critical Anthology*, eds. William E. Engel, Rory Loughnane and Grant Williams (Cambridge, 2016). *Seventeenth-Century News* 76 (2018): 25 – 29.
- Rev. of *Practicing the City: Early Modern London on Stage* by Nina Levine (Fordham, 2016) and *Sensory Experience and the Metropolis on the Jacobean Stage* by Hristomir A. Stanev (Ashgate, 2014). *Shakespeare Quarterly* 67.4 (2016): 522 – 25.
- Rev. of *Shakespeare and Memory* by Hester Lees-Jeffries (Oxford, 2013). *Shakespeare Jahrbuch* 151 (2015): 275 –76.
- Rev. of *Doubt and Skepticism in Antiquity and the Renaissance* by Michelle Zerba (Cambridge, 2012). *Renaissance Quarterly* 67.1 (2014): 235 – 36.
- Rev. of *Shakespeare’s Memory Theatre* by Lina Perkins Wilder (Cambridge, 2010). *Shakespeare Quarterly* 63.3 (2012): 456-58.
- Rev. of *Chiastic Designs in English Literature from Sidney to Shakespeare* by William E. Engel (Ashgate, 2009). *Sixteenth Century Journal* 42.2 (2011): 482-83.
- Rev. of *Shakespeare and the Middle Ages*. Ed. Curtis Perry and John Watkins (Oxford,

- 2009). *Sixteenth Century Journal* 42.2 (2011): 586-87.
- “Donne’s Sermons as Re-enactments of the Word: A Response to Margaret Fetzter.” *Connotations* 19.1-3 (2009 / 2010): 14-20. (Followed by “An Answer to Edmund Miller and Anita Gilman Sherman” by Margaret Fetzter, *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 Chedzoy (Cambridge, 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 Adele Seeff (Newark: U of Delaware P, 2007): 370 – 71.
- Rev. of *Forgetting in Early Modern English Literature and Culture: Lethé’s Legacies*, Ed. Christopher Ivic and Grant Williams (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 Ety Hillesum & Letters from Westerbork* by Ety Hillesum. *Women’s Literature Review*, 1997.

Invitations

- “Andrew Marvell’s Taste for Death.” Warburg Institute. Symposium on “Memory and Morality in Renaissance England.” London, 5/17/2019.
- “Theatrical Skepticism.” Co-organizer with Prof. Lauren Robertson (Columbia U.) of Shakespeare Association of America seminar. Washington, D. C., 4/19/2019
- “Modeling the “good death”: Donne’s *Devotions* in the light of Montaigne.” Renaissance Society of America. Panel on the death arts (William Engel). New Orleans, 3/23/2018.
- Alumna talk. English Department, University of Maryland, 9/15/2016.
- “Facing [off] the Violent in Montaigne and Shakespeare.” Shakespeare Association of America seminar (William Hamlin and Lars Engel), New Orleans, 3/26/2016.
- “Richard III and the Law.” Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C. 10/22/2015
- “Margaret Cavendish and Skepticism.” NEH Summer Institute, UC Boulder, 7/20/2015
- “The Skeptical Imagination of Margaret Cavendish.” Folger Institute Works-in-Progress Talk, 10/30/2014
- “Guilt and Memory in Montaigne and Donne.” Sewanee Colloquium on Medieval Emotions. Panel on memory (William Engel), 4/5/2014.
- “Vestigial Memory Palaces in Margaret Cavendish’s *The Blazing World*.” Renaissance Society of America. Panel on the memory arts (Rebeca Helfer), San Diego, 4/5/2013
- “Fantasies of Private Language in ‘The Phoenix and Turtle.’” Shakespeare Association of America. Public presentation (Open Paper Competition). Toronto, 3/30/2013.
- “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 America 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

- “Meeting the Skeptical Challenge: The Allure of Neutrality in Lord Herbert of Cherbury’s Philosophy.” Herbert Society, Paris, 5/19/2017
- “Falling in Love with the World: The Enchanting Skepticism of Andrew Marvell.” Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, 3/30/2017
- “The Skeptical Imagination: Paradoxes of Secularization.” Shakespeare Association of America seminar (Barbara Sebek), St. Louis, 4/10/2014
- “The Political Aesthetic of Skepticism: Satirists, Bystanders, and Free-thinkers,” Special Session on “Skepticism in the 17th Century,” M. L. A., 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.

Awards

- Folger Institute, “Reimagining Andrew Marvell: The Poet at 400,” Spring Weekend
Colloquium (Matthew Augustine and Giulio Pertile), St. Andrews, 7-9 May 2020 (now
postponed)
- National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, “Between Medieval and Early
Modern Philosophy, 1300-1700” (Robert Pasnau), UC Boulder, July 2015
- Folger Short-term Fellowship, “The Skeptical Imagination of Margaret Cavendish,” July /
August 2014
- Folger Institute, “Political Theologies in Early Modern Literature,” Fall Week-end Seminar
(Lorna Hutson and Victoria Kahn), November 2013
- Winner, Open Paper Competition, Shakespeare Association of America, March 2013
- 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, and Exile in 17th-Century English Literature (graduate seminar)
Theories and Methodologies of Literary Studies (graduate seminar)
Books that Shaped the Western World
Literature and Plague
Literatures of Early Modern Empires
Literature of the English Revolution
Metaphysical Poetry
Plague and Literature
Renaissance Drama
Renaissance Journeys
Revenge Drama and City Comedy: Shakespeare's Contemporaries
Royals, Religion and Revolution
Shakespeare
Shakespeare and Italy
Shakespeare's Machiavellian Princes
Shakespeare and Marlowe
Shakespeare and Philosophy
Transformations of Shakespeare

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

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 and Latin (reading competence).

Service

External

Andrew Marvell Society, Executive Board, 2020-2023

Folger Institute Central Executive Committee (American University representative), 2008 –
Folger Institute Application Review Committee, 2009 – 2013, 2017 – 2020

Folger Institute Application Review Committee, Chair, 2011 – 2012, 2019 – 2020

Shakespeare Association of America Local Arrangements Committee, 2019

Listy filologické (Folia philologica), journal published by the Centre for Classical Studies at
The Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences), essay referee, 2019

Shakespeare Quarterly, essay referee, 2019

Studia Anglica Posnaniensia, essay referee, 2019

Studia Neophilologica, essay referee, 2019

University of Nebraska Press, book referee 2019

Routledge, book proposal referee, 2018

Christianity and Literature, essay referee, 2017

Sixteenth-Century Journal, essay referee, 2016

Upstart Crow, essay referee, 2015

Duquesne University Press, book referee, 2012

Tenure evaluation, Hampton University, 2012

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

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

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

Internal

Faculty Hearing Committee, 2020-2023

Technology and Culture Search Committee, 2020 – 2021 (postponed)

Writing Studies Merit Committee, 2021

Judge, Best Undergraduate Capstone, 2021

Departmental Executive Committee, 2019

M. A. Committee, 2019

Director, M. A. Program, Literature Department, 2011 – 2014

Reappointment and Tenure Committee, 2009 –

Chair, Chair Search Committee, 2011 – 2012, Co-Chair, 2018 – 2019

General Education Committee, 2012 – 2013
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 – 2010
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 –
Graduate Speakers Series Committee, 2005 – 2014, Chair 2008 – 2009, 2012 – 2014
Introduced Dr. Daniel Shore of Georgetown University at the Department of Literature's
Graduate Speakers Series, 2/26/2013
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, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2019 (co-convener)
Literature Day, 2007 –
Departmental Council, American University, 2003 –
Writing Council, 2008 – 2009, 2019 – 2020
Departmental Merit Committee, American University, 2005, 2008, 2018, 2020
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
George Herbert Society
Andrew Marvell Society
Modern Languages Association
Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Chapter, American University
Renaissance Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America

Sixteenth Century Society
Southeastern Renaissance Conference