

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HUMANITIES CENTER FELLOWS
2014 – 2015

FACULTY FELLOWS

Misty Anderson

Professor, Department of English

Ph.D., Vanderbilt University

Project: *God on Stage: Performing Belief in the Long Eighteenth Century*

This book project, *God on Stage*, examines the unlikely explosion of religious language, supernatural events, and divine encounters on the Restoration and eighteenth-century stage. While the period is often defined by a fierce secularism, a closer look reveals a tense but fascinating dialogue between modern theatre and its ritual origins. From the angels and devils of the Restoration stage, to the anxious references to the Eucharist in the early eighteenth-century, to the supernaturalism woven into harlequinades, afterpieces, and early Gothic drama, the language of what Graham Ward has called “true religion” is everywhere present and yet everywhere under radical revision. The eighteenth-century stage's “God talk” illuminates the struggle of secular aspirations and sacred longings that continue to haunt modernity.

For more information about Dr. Anderson click <http://english.utk.edu/peopletwo/misty-anderson/>.

Gregory Kaplan

Lindsay Young Professor of Spanish, Department of Modern Foreign Languages and Literatures

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Project: *A Call for a Converso Return to the Hebrew Republic by Saul Levi Morteira, Spinoza's Rabbi* Also Recipient of National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for the critical edition of *Obstáculos y oposiciones contra la religión cristiana en Amsterdam* (Arguments against the Christian Religion in Amsterdam)

“Saul Levi Morteira, Spinoza’s Enlightened Rabbi” involves the sole copy of an unedited manuscript from a UNESCO World Heritage Collection of Judaic texts that fortunately survived the Holocaust after being confiscated by the Nazis in 1942. This project has evolved from research conducted over the past two decades. The manuscript that is currently being edited and translated from Spanish into English, *Obstáculos y oposiciones contra la religión cristiana en Amsterdam* (Arguments against the Christian Religion in Amsterdam), which is housed at the Ets Haim Library (Portuguese Synagogue, Amsterdam), was composed by Morteira during the 1620s as a manual for instructing ex-conversos in Jewish doctrines and rituals. The first translation into English of *Obstáculos* will complement the first thorough critical study that situates Rabbi Saul Levi Morteira (c. 1596-1660) as the key figure in the rejudaization of ex-conversos and as a bridge between rabbinic thought in the nascent Dutch Republic and the political concepts of his most renowned student, Baruch Spinoza (1632-77).

For more information about Dr. Kaplan click <http://mfll.utk.edu/faculty.php>.

Avigail Sachs

Assistant Professor, School of Architecture

Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley

Project: *Architecture's Scientific Turn: Environmental Design 1945-1973*

As World War II came to an end, most American architects agreed it was time to rethink architectural education and, through it, professional practice. As has been well documented, for many architects this challenge necessitated the adoption of modern architecture and architecture education developed in Europe and imported to the United States by luminaries such as Walter Gropius and Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Others, however, looked to their own experiences in depression and war, and to American notions of science-based professional expertise to shape their efforts. The resulting ensemble of pedagogies, programs, and practices, each an interpretation of the term “environmental design,” offered an American theory of modern architecture that overlapped with, but was also distinct from, the avant-garde European approach. Although only partially successful, considered together, these efforts amounted to an attempt to restructure, even “re-professionalize,” architecture in the United States and align it to the social sciences, and the engineering and planning professions. The history of environmental design has been marginalized in architectural discourse in favor of the heroic “struggle for modernism.” By rescuing this theme from its current obscurity, the history of modern architecture in the United States can be significantly broadened.

For more information about Dr. Sachs click <http://archdesign.utk.edu/faculty-staff/facultystaff/avigail-sachs/>.

Charles Sanft

Assistant Professor, Department of History

Ph.D., University of Muenster

Project: *Men of Letters: Writing at the Boundary of Person and Bureaucracy*

This project draws upon ancient archaeologically recovered letters, from the 3rd century BCE through the 3rd century CE, to study common soldiers' lives, work, and communication in early China. *Men of Letters* will begin to fill a gap left by two trends in the study of Chinese history: the exclusion of common people from historiography, and the focus on literary letters that has given prosaic forms little weight. This project will show that writing letters to each other was one way that soldiers and low-ranking officials created and sustained identities, just as the literati did in later times. By positioning these letters as part of the wider discourse of their time, *Men of Letters* will contest the longstanding division separating them from the literary canon.

For more information about Dr. Sanft click <http://history.utk.edu/peopletwo/charles-sanft/>.

Robert Stillman

Lindsay Young Professor, Department of English

Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania

Project: *Religious Order, Pious Economies and the Turn from Confessionalism in Early Modern English Literature*

This work on early modern literature and religion identifies a body of English writers in an age divided by sectarian conflicts—conflicts among opposing “confessions,” Catholic, Protestant, and Puritan—who represent themselves as anti-sectarian believers, or what both the Emperor Maximilian II and C. S. Lewis might have called “mere Christians.” They are pious amphibians and misfits, like John Harington, Henry Constable, Philip Sidney, Jack Donne, Ben Jonson, and William Shakespeare, whose lack of fit with orthodox religion produced both a fascinating literature and a special vantage from which to understand the shaping power of religious beliefs on fiction-making.

For more information about Dr. Stillman click <http://english.utk.edu/peopletwo/robert-stillman/>.

Anthony Welch

Associate Professor, Department of English

Ph.D., Yale University

Project: *From Troy to Tenochtitlan: Colonial Epic and World History*

This book project traces the impact of colonialism on Europe’s epic literature from 1570 to 1740. It asks how global exploration and conquest forced epic poets to rewrite the stories that they had long told about their peoples’ origins and their place in the world. Since the era of Vergil’s *Aeneid*, epic poets had fashioned dreams of empire that were tightly bound up with myths about the past, stories that organized the world’s history around their own chosen nation and its imperial destiny. What happened to those stories when European explorers pushed back the horizons of their known world from the Mediterranean Basin to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond? Where did the peoples of those faraway regions come from? How did their history intersect with that of the Old World? How did they challenge Europeans to rethink their own ancient origins? Focusing on the Atlantic seafaring nations of England, Spain, and Portugal, this study shows how early modern poets struggled to adapt their ancient literary models in order to imagine a global history that stretched from the West Indies to the Moluccas—a struggle that reveals some of Europe’s earliest attempts to find its place in a modern global order.

For more information about Dr. Welch click <http://english.utk.edu/peopletwo/anthony-welch/>.

GRADUATE FELLOWS

Emily Murphy Cope

Fifth-Year Doctoral Student, Department of English

Project: *The Academic Writing of Evangelical Undergraduates at Public Universities*

This dissertation explores the ways evangelical undergraduates experience and respond to academic writing situations. While many studies examine polemical sources that bolster suspicion that evangelical rhetoric is incompatible with academic discourse, this project uses qualitative interviews with self-identified evangelicals and qualitative document analysis of their writing to describe the rhetorical

theories and practices of ordinary evangelicals. Overall, this study reveals that evangelical undergraduates are a diverse population whose interpretations of and responses to academic writing situations result from a number of factors (such as prior experiences with writing and school, levels of interest in subject matter, relationships with professors, experiences writing in particular genres, beliefs about academic writing) that interact in complex ways with their evangelical identities.

This study also speaks to one of liberal education's most cherished goals—to prepare students for participation in public life—and will provide recommendations for designing undergraduate education that prepares students, especially those from religious backgrounds, for civic participation in diverse contexts.

For more information about Emily Murphy Cope click <http://english.utk.edu/peopletwo/emily-cope/>.

Katherine Hodges-Kluck

Sixth-Year Doctoral Student, Department of History

Project: *The Matter of Jerusalem: The Holy Land in Angevin Court Culture and Identity, c. 1154-1216*

This dissertation tracks the development of English identity under the Angevin Kings, a time when a sense of “Englishness” came to be defined not by insular concerns but by the court’s vision of England’s place in Christendom. Although Angevin land-holdings included significant Continental possessions, their courtiers deliberately crafted a new identity focused upon England. Angevin authors often articulated this new perspective by emphasizing England’s connections to Jerusalem. Drawing upon biblical history, nationalistic legends, crusading ideology, and eschatological beliefs, this study shows how members of the court honed their concept of England by connecting it to the Holy Land not only through the crusade movement, but also in the greater scope of Christian and mythic history.

For more information about Katie Hodges-Kluck click <http://history.utk.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-students/katie-hodges-kluck/> .

Lauren McMillan

Fifth-Year Doctoral Student, Department of Anthropology

Project: *Politics, Conflict, and Exchange in the Chesapeake: An Archaeological and Historical Study of the Tobacco Pipe Trade in the Potomac Valley ca. 1630-1730*

This dissertation examines the impact of politics and conflict on trade in the English colonies of Virginia and Maryland during the first century of European settlement using archaeological and historical evidence. It details the formation of local political and social alliances reflected in trading practices and traces the persistence of trade relations between English settlers and Dutch merchants over the course of the long 17th century. Specifically, it examines the presence and frequency of English and Dutch tobacco pipes and the distribution of locally-made clay pipes on archaeological sites in the Potomac valley from 1630 to 1730. This research indicates that colonists in the Chesapeake adopted Dutch concepts surrounding free trade resulting from prolonged, extensive economic relationships formed during the early-17th century. The dissertation addresses how the roots of the modern, capitalist world-system were introduced into the region through trade and exchange and how local and international conflict, as well as social and political relationships influenced trade networks. More broadly, it provides a

theoretical and methodological framework for examining agency and the formation of American identity within colonial peripheries.

Victoria Swanson

Sixth-Year Doctoral Student, Department of English

Project: *Samuel Beckett: Age, Impairment, and the Drama of Confinement*

The aging body is a universal feature of existence and, in every sense, aging alters physical and mental performance. Approaches to age and performance studies often focus upon the aging actor or the challenges faced by actors when they are cast in roles which require them to act the part of a much older character. While these methods of study have provided the foundation for further research into the aged body in performance, it seems a natural progression to explore the ways that agedness operates in dramatic texts. This study explores age in dramatic literature through an analysis of Samuel Beckett's works. Little scholarship exists that addresses Beckett's use of age. However, aged figures appear across his works. As such, this project repositions the aged body as a vital component throughout Beckett's career.

This dissertation focuses on the ways that confinement, memory, and impairment are utilized in Beckett's drama as expressions or consequences of agedness. Of particular interest is how these constructs are portrayed relationally, how they *act* in the text, and how that translates into performance. The premise of the research is interdisciplinary in scope, drawing upon studies in gerontology and performance in order to make a case for incorporating the study of age in dramatic literature. By situating agedness and aging as integral to engagement with Samuel Beckett's works, this dissertation establishes the analysis of aging as a relevant avenue for scholarship not only in Beckett studies, but also as a point of intersection that links gerontology to the fields of drama, performance, and literary studies.

ADDITIONAL FACULTY AND GRADUATE FELLOWS

Nancy Henry

Professor, Department of English

Ph.D., The University of Chicago

Project: *Women and the Nineteenth-Century Cultures of Investment*

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship

This project defines the cultures that emerged in response to the democratization of the stock market in nineteenth-century Britain when investing provided increased access to financial independence. Women voted in shareholder meetings, as they could not in political elections, and their role as investors complicates notions of separate domestic and public spheres. Women writers often invested income from their writing, becoming contributors to national and global economies, and their novels represent these economic networks in realistic detail while examining the intertwined economic and affective lives of characters. Analyzing evidence about real investors together with a wide range of fictional examples, this book argues that investing was not just something women did in Victorian Britain; it was a distinctly modern way of thinking about independence, risk, global communities and the future in general.

For more information about Dr. Henry click <http://english.utk.edu/peopletwo/nancy-henry/>.

Thomas Lecaque

Fifth-Year Doctoral Student, Department of History

Project: *The Count of Saint-Gilles and the Saints of the Apocalypse: Occitanian Religion and Culture in the Age of the First Crusade*

Marco Haslam Dissertation Fellowship

When Raymond of Saint-Gilles died in the castle of Mons Peregrinorum, in what is today Lebanon, he left behind a realm that had grown from a fortress, a single town and a half share of a monastery to fourteen counties, covering much of southern France and across the Mediterranean to a significant holding on the Syrian and Lebanese coast. The unique identity of his home region, Occitania, shaped not only his personal development and the development of his realm, but the response of a large contingent of the First Crusade, itself a major turning point in European history. This project identifies the unique contributions of the Occitanians to the Crusade and in particular to the foundation of the Crusader County of Tripoli, showing clearly that regional history and crusade history need to be thought through and written as one. Focusing largely on the figure of Raymond of Saint-Gilles and his core territories, this study will enhance our understanding of the plurality of Latin Christian cultures in the Middle Ages, and examine how the unique nature of the regions of medieval Occitania shaped the cultural, religious, and political experience of their inhabitants and their participants in the early crusades. The Occitanian crusading experience drew on the legacy of the Peace of God and the regional apocalyptic anxieties of an era of great flux and change. This project uses the life of Raymond of Saint-Gilles and his crusading experience to explore the importance of regional differences in understanding the religious and cultural experience of the Middle Ages and the First Crusade.