

CURRY WILLIAM KENNEDY

Department of English
Texas A&M University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. English | Penn State University, 2021

Dissertation: "Grace and Skill: Religion and Rhetorical Education in Early Modern England"

Committee: Debra Hawhee (advisor), Stuart Selber, Michele Kennerly, David Loewenstein, Claire Bourne.

M.A. English | Penn State University, 2017

B.A. English, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa | The University of Arkansas, 2014

ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of English, Department of English, Texas A&M University. College Station, TX. 2023-Present

Assistant Professor of English, Department of English, Rhetoric, and Humanistic Studies, Virginia Military Institute. Lexington, VA. 2021-2023

Writing Center Coordinator, Virginia Military Institute. Lexington, VA. 2021-Present.

Graduate Assistant to the Program of Writing and Rhetoric, Penn State University, 2015-2016

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Penn State University. 2015-2021

PUBLICATIONS

Kennedy, Curry. "Depression and Drama in Augustine of Hippo's Rhetorical Imaginary." *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* vol. 54, no. 2 (2024): 142-154.

Kennedy, Curry. Invited review of *The Genuine Teachers of This Art: Rhetorical Education in Antiquity* by Jeffrey Walker. *Journal for the History of Rhetoric* vol. 25, no. 2 (2022): 201-202. Part of the Book Review Forum, "Generative Legacies: Rhetorical Historians on the Writing That Shaped Their Paths."

Kennedy, Curry. "Living the *Vita Copiosa*: Erasmus's *De duplici copia* and the Presence of a

Protean Jesus at St. Paul's School." *Journal for the History of Rhetoric* vol. 24, no. 2 (2021): 117-139.

Kennedy, Curry. "'Not Instruction, but Provocation': Clarity, the Divinity School Controversy, and Emerson's Rhetorical Imaginary of Provocative Obscurity." *College English* vol. 82, no. 4 (2020): 381-408.

Kennedy, Curry. "Milton's Ethos, English Nationhood, and the Fast-Day Tradition in *Areopagitica*." *Studies in Philology* vol. 116, no. 2 (2019): 375-400.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Kennedy, Curry. *Grace and Skill: Religion and The Arts of Language in Early Modern England*

This book project examines how early modern English rhetorical education and religion mutually informed and affected each other. I argue that notions and practices of literacy were informed by the ceremony of confirmation, that style exercise in the grammar schools was a form of soulwork, that Ramism and religion interanimated in homiletical training at Cambridge, and that godly ministers developed an art of hearing sermons for their parishioners.

NATIONAL SERVICE

Member of the Steering Committee for the American Society for the History of Rhetoric, 2024-Present

Guide decision-making for the society and support the officers.

Member of the Committee for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, the American Society for the History of Rhetoric, 2022-2024

Facilitated IDEA initiatives in all aspects of the ASHR organization. Promoted new and underrepresented scholarship.

Communications Director, Rhetoric and Religious Traditions Standing Interest Group, Conference on College Composition and Communication, 2019-2021

Managed collaborative opportunities for members of the standing group. Established sustainable web presence. Managed social media.

Editorial Assistant, *Rhetorica*, 2018-2020

Processed submissions to the official journal of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric. Copyedited page proofs. Corresponded with readers and submitters. Assisted Editor-in-Chief Debra Hawhee.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2021-2023 Writing Center Coordinator, Virginia Military Institute

Manage six professional and six student writing consultants and promote and connect the Writing Center to other groups and programs across the Institute. Recorded higher student participation rates than previous five years in 2021 and 2022.

2018 Graduate Assistant, Digital English Studio, Penn State

Assisted faculty in multimedia projects, such as recording lectures, crafting websites, and editing audio and video for purposes of teaching or research.

2017 Graduate Teaching Mentor, Penn State

Mentored 5 new graduate teaching assistants. Evaluated grading practices. Observed teachers in class. Provided resources on pedagogy and professionalism.

2016 Graduate Assistant, Program in Writing and Rhetoric, Penn State

Managed operations of an 80-instructor, 7200-student first-year-writing program. Taught first-year-writing teaching practicum for lecturers and graduate students (ENGL 602). Organized department book fair, grade appeals committees, high school essay contest, incoming lecturer and graduate student orientations. Wrote standard syllabus for first-year-writing course, ENGL 15.

2016 Copy Editor for Debra Hawhee**TEACHING**

Texas A&M University

ENGL 353 History of Rhetoric
ENGL 365 The Bible as Literature
ENGL 104 Rhetoric and Writing

Virginia Military Institute

ERH 101 Writing and Rhetoric I - 1 section
ERH 102 Writing and Rhetoric II - 2 sections
ERH 201 Rhetorical Traditions I - 2 sections
ERH 202 Rhetorical Traditions II - 2 sections
ERH 205 British Literary Traditions - 3 sections
ERH 301 Rhetoric and Public Address - 2 sections

Penn State

ENGL 15 Rhetoric and Composition - 6 sections (1 online)
ENGL 602 Composition Pedagogy (co-taught with Gregg Rogers) - 1 section
ENGL 471 Rhetorical Traditions - 1 section
ENGL 137/8H Rhetoric and Civic Life - 2 sections

ENGL 202C Technical Writing – 3 sections (2 online)
AMST 140 Religion in American Life and Thought – 1 section (online)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Penn State Alumni Association Dissertation Award
- 2021 Milton Society of America Albert C. Labriola Award for Distinguished Article on Milton by a Graduate Student
- 2020 Louis Round Wilson Prize for Best Essay in *Studies in Philology* published in 2019
- 2020 Raymond E. Lombra and Roberta Lombra Outstanding Graduate Research Award
- 2020 Center for Democratic Deliberation Kenneth Burke Prize in Rhetoric
- 2019 Research Fellowship, International Society for the History of Rhetoric (ISHR)
- 2019 Rock Ethics Institute Fellowship
- 2018 Milton B. Dolinger Graduate Fellowship in Writing

DIGITAL PROJECTS

Writer/Producer, *My Rhetorical Life*

A five-episode podcast series produced in collaboration with the [Public Writing Initiative](#), in which I interview professionals about the role of writing and communication in their lives and work. Episodes can be listened to [here](#).

Writer/Producer, *Adventures in Argument*

A podcast produced in collaboration with Penn State's [Digital English Studio](#) that presents concepts in rhetorical theory through story and example.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Unexamined Elements of Augustine of Hippo's Rhetorical Imaginary." Rhetoric and Religious Traditions Conference. Memphis, Tennessee. 2023.

"The Art of Hearing in Early Modern England: Hearing, Memory, and Delivery." International Society for the History of Rhetoric. Nijmegen, Netherlands. 2022.

"The Art of Hearing in Early Modern England: Hearing as Collaborative Practice." Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Baltimore, MD. 2022.

"Love in the Rhetoric of Augustine of Hippo." American Society for the History of Rhetoric

- Symposium. Baltimore, MD. 2022.
- “Ramism and Puritanism at Cambridge.” Renaissance Society of America Conference. Virtual. 2021.
- “Welcoming the Ghost of Christmas Past: Histories of Rhetoric, Book Studies, and the Animating Spirit of the Boy Jesus in Erasmus’ *Copia*.” Biennial Conference of the Rhetoric Society of America. Portland, OR. 2020. *Accepted but cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.
- “The Political Purposes of Patience in Early Modern England.” Renaissance Society of America Conference. Philadelphia, PA. 2020. *Accepted but cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.
- “Rhetorical Clarity and Strategic Obscurity in Emerson’s Divinity School Address.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Milwaukee, WI. 2020. *Accepted but cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*.
- “Performing Wonder; Or, How I Composed a Podcast to Teach First-Year Composition.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Pittsburgh, PA. 2019.
- “Remnants of Rhetorical Humanism in Non-Conformist Arts of Hearing.” Sermon Studies Conference. Dublin, Ireland. 2019.
- “The *ABC with a catechism*: Reading toward Popular Sovereignty in the Petty Schools of England ca. 1540-1660.” Biennial Conference of the International Society for the History of Rhetoric. New Orleans, LA. 2019.
- “The Rhetoric of the *Passio Sanctorum Perpetuae et Felicitatis*.” Authoritative Texts and Their Reception Seminar. Athens, Greece. 2019.
- “Keeping the Faith in Grad School: (Religious) Students Doing (Religious) Rhetoric.” Rhetoric & Religion in the 21st Century Conference. Knoxville, TN. 2018.
- “On Being Good Soil: Rhetorical Trust and the Role of the Graduate Mentee.” Conference on College Composition and Communication. Portland, OR. 2017.

ACADEMIC ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

National Council of Teachers of English

Rhetoric Society of America

International Society for the History of Rhetoric

American Society for the History of Rhetoric

Renaissance Society of America

Religious Communication Association

REFERENCES

Debra Hawhee
McCourtney Professor of Civic Deliberation, Professor of English and Communication Arts &
Sciences
Penn State University
hawhee@psu.edu

Stuart A. Selber
Professor of English
Affiliate Professor of Information Sciences and Technology
Penn State University
selber@psu.edu

Steven Knepper
Associate Professor of English
Virginia Military Institute
knepperse@vmi.edu