WHITNEY SPERRAZZA

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Academic Appointments

2024–	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Texas A&M University
2019– 2024	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rochester Institute of Technology
2017–2019	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas

Education

2017	PhD	Indiana University Bloomington, English
2011	MA	University of Chicago, Humanities, *summa cum laude*
2009	BA	University of Albany, English, *summa cum laude*

Publications

Monographs

Anatomical Forms: The Science of the Body in Early Modern Women's Poetry. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2025.

Refereed Journal Articles

"The Power of 0: Computing and Modeling Silence in Shakespeare's Drama." *Shakespeare Quarterly*. 75.3 (2024): 229-55.

"Mary Sidney's Postmortem Poetics." *Shakespeare Studies* 49 (2021): 175-80.

"Knowing Mary Wroth's Pamphilia." *Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies* 19.3 (2019): 1-35.

"Intimate Correspondence: Negotiating the Materials of Female Friendship in Margaret Cavendish's *Sociable Letters*." *Women's Writing* 26.4 (2019): 456-472.

Essays in Edited Collections

"Robert Hooke's Three-Dimensional Point." *Literary Form After Matter 1550-1700: Experiments in Close Reading*. Ed. Katherine Hunt and Dianne Mitchell. Edinburgh University Press. [forthcoming 2026]

"Early Modern Women Writers and Science." *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women's Writing.* Ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith. Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

"Formalism." *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women's Writing.* Ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith. Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

"Hester Pulter." *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women's Writing.* Ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith. Palgrave Macmillan, 2024.

"Granular Reading: Texture, Language, and Surface Marks in *Titus Andronicus*." *Titus Andronicus: The State of Play*. Ed. Farah Karim-Cooper. Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2019. 179-99.

"Feminist Queer Temporalities in Aemilia Lanyer and Lucy Hutchinson." Co-authored with Penelope Anderson. *Gendered Temporalities in the Early Modern World*. Ed. Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks. Amsterdam University Press, 2018. 159-84.

Digital Scholarly Editions and Articles, Peer-Reviewed

"This Flying Fish." By Hester Pulter (Poem 90, Amplified Edition). *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*. Ed. Leah Knight and Wendy Wall. https://tinyurl.com/5ap78mw2.

"Invocation of the Elements." By Hester Pulter (Poem 41, Amplified Edition). *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*. Ed. Leah Knight and Wendy Wall. https://bit.ly/2X8kP3Z.

"Pulter's Garden" (Poem 118, Curation). *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*. Ed. Leah Knight and Wendy Wall. https://bit.ly/2VtHOpo.

"The Snail, the Tulip, and the Bee." By Hester Pulter (Poem 118, Amplified Edition). *The Pulter Project: Poet in the Making*. Ed. Leah Knight and Wendy Wall. https://bit.ly/3kl6IhD.

Reviews

"Early Modern Fictions of Science." Review of *Possible Knowledge: The Literary Forms of Early Modern Science*, Debapriya Sarkar. *The Sundial* (2023).

"Early Modern Manuscripts Online." *Early Modern Digital Review* 3.2 (2020). https://bit.ly/3ovBGW6.

Editorial Work

Co-Editor (with Penelope Anderson), Civil War and Interregnum Section, *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Early Modern Women Writers*. Gen. Ed. Patricia Pender and Rosalind Smith. Palgrave Macmillan, 2020–2024.

Public Humanities Writing

"Reading Anatomy Texts Like Poetry (and why we should do it more often)." *The Collation*, Folger Shakespeare Library, 2021. https://bit.ly/3ltu7Bv.

"The Algorithm's Needlework Origins." *The Sundial*, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2021. https://medium.com/the-sundial-acmrs.

"Before Lovelace." *Lady Science*, 2020. https://bit.ly/3pxhYua.

"Digital Feminist Archives." *The Recipes Project*, 2019. https://bit.ly/362m9nF.

"Physical/Digital Archives: Teaching with Spencer Manuscripts." Kenneth Spencer Research Library Blog, 2019. https://bit.ly/32eiJwf.

In Progress Publications

Early Modern Literatures and Sciences: Forms of Knowledge in Women's Writing (co-edited with Liza Blake, University of Toronto) [edited collection in progress]

"Poetry, Place, and Possession in *The Countess of Montgomery's Urania*." *English Literary Renaissance*, special issue [under review]

"Penetrative Parentheticals: The Forms and Figures of Rape in Early Modern Romance" [article in progress]

"Emblem." *The Cambridge Companion to Hester Pulter*. Ed. Wendy Wall [chapter in progress]

"Margaret Cavendish's *Sociable Letters*" (co-authored with Tanya Schmidt Morstein, Stanford University), *Oxford Handbook of Margaret Cavendish*. Ed. Julie Crawford [chapter in progress]

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

2025	Southeastern Conference Faculty Travel Research Grant, Southeastern Conference Academic Initiatives, Texas A&M University
2024	Publication Subvention Grant, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University
2022–2023	National Endowment for the Humanities, Fellowship (funding for monograph, *Anatomical Forms*)
2021–2022	Central New York Humanities Corridor, Faculty Working Group Startup Grant (funding for regional collaborative digital project, *Resistance Mapping*)
2020	Folger Shakespeare Library and Wellcome Library, Short-Term Fellowship, (funding for monograph, *Anatomical Forms*)
2019	American Philosophical Society, Franklin Research Grant, (funding for monograph, *Anatomical Forms*)
2017–2018	College of Arts and Sciences, Indiana University, Dissertation Completion Fellowship (declined to accept postdoctoral fellowship)
2016	College Arts & Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Graduate Research Travel Grant
2016	English Department, Indiana University, Shirley Jean McRoberts-Cox Fellowship, Summer Research/Writing Award
2016	College Arts & Humanities Institute, Indiana University, Conference Travel Award
2015	Newberry Library, Renaissance Consortium Dissertation Seminar, Invited Participant

Invited Talks

2025	"Transatlantic Touching in the Early Modern World," Renaissance Studies Program, Indiana University Bloomington
	Graduate Student Digital Humanities Coffee Hour, Renaissance Studies Program, Indiana University Bloomington
2024	"Womb Poetics," The Futures of Early Modern Literatures, Philosophies, and Sciences Symposium, Folger Shakespeare Library

"Measuring Silence: New Digital Approaches to Shakespeare," Humanities Center Digital Humanities Series, California State University, Chico

2019   "Tangible Digital Humanities," Digital Humanities Pedagogy Summer Institute, Arizona State University (institute co-leader and featured presenter)

"Renaissance Skins: Translating Dissection to the Page in Early Anatomical Texts," Medical Humanities Seminar, University of Kansas School of Medicine

"(In)Tangible Violence: Poetry, Touch, and Digital Critical Making," Digital Humanities and Social Engagement Program, Dartmouth College

2018   "Modeling Absence: Digital Text Analysis and Sexual Violence in Shakespeare's Drama," University of Victoria

"Knowing the Early Modern Female Form" (research presentation) and "Uncommon Commonplacing" (teaching presentation), Renaissance Studies NOW Symposium, Indiana University

Select Presentations

Panels and Seminars Organized

2024   "The Sensorium of Early Modern Science," *Shakespeare Association of America*, Portland, OR

2023   "Feminist Digital Thinking I: Early Modern Data and Archives" (linked roundtable, co-organized with Hillary Nunn and Margaret Simon), *Renaissance Society of America Conference*, San Juan

"Feminist Digital Thinking II: Early Modern Methods and Practices" (linked roundtable, co-organized with Hillary Nunn and Margaret Simon), *Renaissance Society of America Conference*, San Juan

2021   "Science Without Shakespeare" (seminar, co-organized with Liza Blake), *Shakespeare Association of America*, Virtual Conference

"Community-Centered Digital Places: A Roundtable Conversation" (co-organized with Kristin Doughty, Kirin Makker, and Kate Mariner), CNY Humanities Corridor Working Group, Virtual Event

2018   "The Making of Knowledge: Experimental Texts and Textual Experiments in Early Modern Women's Scientific Writing" (workshop, co-organized with Alice Brooke, Elizabeth Crachiolo, and Julia Reed), *Attending to Early Modern Women*, Milwaukee

2015   "Feminist Queer Temporalities." *Attending to Early Modern Women* (workshop, co-organized with Penelope Anderson and Bronwyn V. Wallace), Milwaukee

Papers Presented (*Invited)

2025   "The Anatomical Elegy: or, Jane Barker sneaks in a philosophy lesson," *Women's Scientific Literatures*, Cambridge, UK*

"Intimacy at Scale," *Renaissance Society of America Conference*, Boston*

"Aphra Behn's 'fair Queen of Night': Touching on Imoinda in *Oroonoko*," *Shakespeare Association of America Conference*, Boston

2024 "Transatlantic Touching: Colonial Points of Contact in Andrew Marvell's 'Bermudas,'" *Scientiae*, Brown University

2022 "Crafting the Fleshly Text," *Shakespeare Association of America*, Jacksonville

"Microscopic Anatomy and Hester Pulter's Manuscript Experiments," *Modern Language Association*, Virtual Panel

2021 "Hacking Time with Hester Pulter," *Teaching with The Pulter Project*, Northwestern University, Virtual Symposium

"Making Poetry with Margaret Cavendish," *Renaissance Society of America*, Virtual Conference*

"Mary Sidney's Postmortem Poetics," Next Generation Plenary Panel, *Shakespeare Association of America*, Virtual Conference*

2019 "Earth Felt the Wound": Milton's Environmental Politics," *Renaissance Society of America*, Toronto

"Perverse Intimacy," *Shakespeare Association of America*, Washington DC

"Points of Insertion: Hester Pulter and the Early Modern Blazon," *Modern Language Association*, Chicago

"Digital Making and the She/Her/Hers of Early Modern Poetry," *Modern Language Association*, Chicago

2018 "Blazonic (Un)making: Margaret Cavendish's Recipe Poems as Early Modern Maker Labs," *Symposium: Puzzles, Bots, and Poems*, University of Virginia*

"Dusty Death: Anne Sexton's Scrapbook *Macbeth*," *Shakespeare Association of America*, Los Angeles

"A 'Course Peice' of Writing: Textured Poetics in Margaret Cavendish's *Poems and Fancies*," *Modern Language Association*, New York

2017 "Building a Feminist Future: On (Digital) Pedagogical Praxis," *HASTAC Conference*, Orlando

Roundtable Discussant

2021 "A Conversation about Data Feminism," Virtual Roundtable, Mellon Digital Humanities Program, University of Rochester*

2020 "Positioning Yourself on the Academic Job Market," Virtual Roundtable, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender*

"Collective Close Reading as Critical Making," Digital Creative Making in the Literature Classroom Roundtable, *Modern Language Association*, Seattle*

2018 "Conflict and Resolution in the Early Modern World," Medieval and Early Modern Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas*

Campus and Departmental Talks

2025   "Transatlantic Touching in the Early Modern World," Early Modern Studies Working Group, Glasscock Center for the Humanities, Texas A&M University

2021   "Building Community-Engaged Digital Projects," (workshop, co-organized with Rebekah Walker), Rochester Institute of Technology

2019   "Perverse Intimacies: Poetry, Anatomy, and the Early Modern Female Form," Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas

"Maker Spaces: Ideas, Questions, Possibilities," Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, The University of Kansas

2018   "The Eve Problem in Early Women's Devotional Poetry," Gender Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas

2017   "Touching on Archival Absence: Early Modern Women and the Digital Humanities," Digital Humanities Seminar, Hall Center for the Humanities, The University of Kansas

Digital and Public Humanities Research and Honors

2021–2022   Principal Investigator, *The Craft of Computation: A Digital Exhibit of Les Laboureurs*, Digital Humanities Project

The Craft of Computation is a digital exhibit prototype on the relationship among book making, textile work, and computer programming. The exhibit focuses on the first book made by an automated machine, a silk woven edition of *Les Laboureurs* (*The Laborers,* 1883) by Alphonse de Lamartine, held at the Cary Graphic Arts Collection, RIT. $5,000 seed funding awarded, Sponsored Research Services, RIT.

2020–2022   Co-Principal Investigator, *Resistance Mapping*, Digital Humanities Project

Resistance Mapping is a living archive that aims to trace how the places of Monroe County, NY have been shaped by histories of institutional racism and collective community resistance. As co-PI, I co-led a regional collaborative team (RIT, University of Rochester, and Rochester community educators and activists) to design and build a project prototype. $61,000 non-profit foundation funding awarded, PathStone Foundation, Rochester, NY.

2019   Institute Co-Leader and Plenary Speaker, Digital Humanities Pedagogy Summer Institute, Arizona State University

Co-designed and team-taught a three-day institute on digital humanities pedagogy and graduate student training for faculty, graduate students, and staff in Phoenix, AZ. Presented two formal talks as part of my institute contribution.

2018–2019   Principal Investigator, "Feeling Violation: Digital Making and the Early Modern Blazon"

Designed and produced 3D models of quantitative data on early modern sonnet sequences using a combination of digital fine arts and computational text analysis methods. $5,000 in seed funding awarded, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas.

2015   National Endowment for the Humanities Institute, "Early Modern Digital Agendas: Advanced Topics"

Earned position (15 faculty and graduate students internationally) to participate in three-week seminar on advanced topics in Digital Humanities and critical digital approaches to early modern studies. Funded through Folger Shakespeare Library and NEH.

Teaching

Texas A&M University Teaching

ENGL 315: Seventeenth-Century Literature (Fall 2024)
ENGL 374: Women Writers (Fall 2024; Spring 2025)
ENGL 395: Literature and Medicine: Premodern Medicines (Spring 2025)

Rochester Institute of Technology Teaching

ENGL 210: Introduction to Literature and Cultural Studies (Spring 2020)
ENGL 215: Text and Code [Introduction to Poetry] (Spring 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2023)
ENGL 250: Data Methods for English Majors (Spring 2024)
ENGL 414 / WGST 414: Women's Science / Fiction (Spring 2021; Spring 2022)
ENGL 418: Shakespeare (Fall 2023)

DHSS 101: Computation and Culture (Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021; Fall 2023)
DHSS 102: Media Archaeology (Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2024)

Rochester Institute of Technology Advising

Senior Capstone Committee Member, Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, Kadin Benjamin, Nick Pels, Cael Burkhardt (2021–2022)
Master's Thesis Committee Member, School of Communication, Emily Hawk (2019–2020)
Senior Capstone Committee Member, Digital Humanities and Social Sciences, Mandy Cameron (2019–2020)

The University of Kansas

ENG 315: Digital Approaches to Early Women's Writing
ENG 590 / ENG 790: Digital Feminist Archives

Indiana University

ENG-W131: Elementary Composition
ENG-W170: Introduction to Argumentative Writing
ENG-W231: Professional Writing
ENG-L205: Introduction to Poetry (Teaching Assistant)
ENG-L450: Feminist and Queer Theory (Teaching Assistant)

The University of Chicago

HUMA 19100: Media Aesthetics, Humanities Writing Seminar (Teaching Assistant)

Service

Service to Profession

Reviewer for *Critical Quarterly*, special issue on "Paper and Poetry: Interventions in Theory and Practice" (Spring 2025)

Next Generation Plenary Panel Review Committee, Shakespeare Association of America (2022)

Digital Strategies Subcommittee Member, Shakespeare Association of America (2019–2020)

Graduate Representative, Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender Executive Committee (2016–2017)

Reviewer for *Modern Philology*, *Early Modern Women: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Early Modern Studies Journal*, and *Sidney Journal*

Department and University Service

Glasscock Humanities Center, Graduate Research Fellowships Review Committee (Spring 2025)

Glasscock Humanities Center, Visiting Short-Term Fellowship Faculty Organizer (Dr. Liza Blake), Texas A&M University (Spring 2025)

Undergraduate Recruitment Committee, Humanities, Computing, and Design Program, RIT (2023–2024)

Curriculum Committee, English Department, RIT (2020–2022; 2023–2024)

Curriculum Committee, Humanities, Computing, and Design Program, RIT (2019–2022; 2023–2024)

Tenure Criteria Evaluation, English Department, RIT (2019–2020)

Medical Humanities Working Group, Center for Engaged Storycraft, RIT (2019–2020)

Whiting Public Engagement Fellowship, Internal Review Committee, University of Kansas (2018–2019)

Advisory Board, Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities, University of Kansas (2018–2019)

Public Humanities Roundtable, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas (2018–2019)

Professional Affiliations

History of Science Society
Modern Language Association
Renaissance Society of America
Shakespeare Association of America
Society for the Study of Early Modern Women and Gender