

**CHRISTINE VARNADO**cmvarnad@buffalo.edu

University at Buffalo  
1024 Clemens Hall  
Buffalo, NY 14260

314 Norwood Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
917.991.8391

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**EDUCATION**

- 2011 Ph.D., with Distinction, Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature. Dissertation: “The Shapes of Fancy: Queer Circulations of Desire in Early Modern Literature” (Director: Jean E. Howard). Winner, M.C. Cohen Dissertation Prize.
- 2005 M.A., Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature. Thesis: “‘Infinite riches in a little room’: Capitalism and the Commodification of the Human in *The Famous Tragedy of the Rich Jew of Malta*.”
- 2004 M.Phil., with Distinction, Oxford University, European Literature - English and French. Dissertation: “The Scottish Play: *Newes from Scotland* and its Shakespearean Afterlife.”
- 2002 A.B., Summa cum laude, Duke University, English. Minors: Medieval & Renaissance Studies, French. Thesis (High honors): “Significations of the Body: Radical Tactics for Constructing Sacred Space in *The Book of Margery Kempe*.”

**EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

The University at Buffalo - State University of New York:

- 2023-present Associate Professor, Department of English
- 2021-present Associate Professor, Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies  
Affiliate: Center for the Study of Psychoanalysis and Culture, Gender Institute
- 2017–2021 Assistant Professor, Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies
- 2014-2017 Assistant Professor of Global Gender Studies, Dept. of Transnational Studies
- 2011-2014 Visiting Assistant Professor, Global Gender Studies division, Department of Transnational Studies

**PUBLICATIONS****Monograph:**

- 2020 *The Shapes of Fancy: Reading for Queer Desire in Early Modern Literature*, University of Minnesota Press, 2020. <https://manifold.umn.edu/projects/the-shapes-of-fancy>  
Reviews: *Modern Philology* 118.3 (2020); *Renaissance Quarterly* 74.4 (2021); *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 32.1 (2023)

**Articles and Essays:**

- 2023 “Post-” in *Logomotives: Words that Change the Premodern World*, ed. Marjorie Rubright and Stephen Speiss (forthcoming from Edinburgh University Press).

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
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- 2023 “Aftercare” (afterword) in *The Kinky Renaissance*, ed. Joseph Gamble and Gillian Knoll (forthcoming from Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Press).
- 2019 “The Quality of Whiteness: *The Thief of Baghdad* and *The Merchant of Venice*,” *Exemplaria: Medieval/Early Modern/Theory* 31.4 (2019): 245-269. Winner of the Shakespeare Association of America’s inaugural Innovative Article Award, 2021.
- 2017 “Queer Nature, or The Weather in *Macbeth*,” in *Queer Shakespeare: Desire and Sexuality*, ed. Goran Stanivukovic (Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare, 2017): 177-195.
- 2016 “Getting Used, and Liking It: Erotic Instrumentality in *Philaster*,” *Renaissance Drama* 44.1 (Spring 2016): 25-52. Selected as “Featured Content” for 2017.
- 2013 “‘Invisible Sex!’: What Looks Like the Act in Early Modern Drama?” in *Sex Before Sex: Figuring the Act in Early Modern Literature*, eds. James Bromley and Will Stockton (University of Minnesota Press, 2013): 25-52.

**Reviews:**

- 2020 Book Review, *Queer Faith: Reading Promiscuity and Race in the Secular Love Tradition* by Melissa Sanchez, in *Renaissance Quarterly* 73.4 (2020): 1450-1451.

**Book Manuscripts (in progress):**

**Monograph:**

*Queering Birth, Queering Death: The Problem of Life in Literature.*

**Edited Collection:**

*The Queerness of Early Modern Death* (co-edited with Lauren Shohet, Villanova U; under review at Bloomsbury Arden Shakespeare).

**AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, and GRANTS**

- 2023 University at Buffalo OVPRED/HI Research Funding in the Arts and Humanities grant.
- 2023 Shakespeare Association of America Huntington Library Fellowship, Spring 2023.
- 2023 Thomas W. Wilkins Fellowship, Henry E. Huntington Library, Spring 2023.
- 2021 Innovative Article Award, Shakespeare Association of America, for “The Quality of Whiteness: *The Thief of Baghdad* and *The Merchant of Venice*” (*Exemplaria* 2019).
- 2021 University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Faculty Fellowship, Spring 2022.
- 2020 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, Henry E. Huntington Library, Spring 2020.
- 2020 University at Buffalo Libraries TOME (Towards an Open Monograph Ecosystem) Publishing Grant for *The Shapes of Fancy*.
- 2019 NY/Union of University Professionals Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Diversity Leave, Spring 2019.
- 2018 University at Buffalo Humanities Institute Seed Money in the Arts and Humanities Grant.
- 2012 M. C. Cohen Dissertation Prize. Biannual award from Columbia University Department of English and Comparative Literature for the department’s best dissertation, 2009-2011.

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
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- 2004 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Graduate Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. National award for first-year doctoral students in the humanities, administered 1993-2005.
- 2001 Harry S. Truman Scholarship.
- 2001 Phi Beta Kappa, Duke University.

**INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 Shakespeare and Queer Theory seminar, University of Mississippi, Oxford, MS, in conversation with Ari Friedlander, September 15, 2022.
- 2021 Columbia University “First Books” speaker series, in conversation with Jack Halberstam, April 28, 2021.
- 2021 “Of Desire and Dead Babies: When Did Life Begin in the Renaissance?” SUNY Binghamton Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Binghamton, NY, February 24, 2021.
- 2019 “Queer Death: Towards an Aesthetics of Post-Human Being,” Invited speaker, “Intersecting the Sexual: Modes of Early Modern Embodiment” Symposium, Folger Shakespeare Institute, Washington, DC, November 16, 2019.
- 2016 “Reading for Desire,” Columbia University Early Modern Colloquium, New York, NY, September 29, 2016.

**CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2022 “How Many Children?: The Queer Materiality of Reproduction and the Problem of Life,” UB Humanities Institute Scholars@Hallwalls series, February 11, 2022.
- 2021 “New Books in Dialogue” conversation on *The Shapes of Fancy* with Joseph Gamble (U. Toledo), Queer Studies and Early Modern Research Workshops, April 9, 2021.
- 2017 “UNREPAIRED: *Macbeth* and the Politics of Negative Affect,” Works-in-progress series, Queer Studies and Early Modern Research Workshops, February 16, 2017.
- 2016 “Reading for Desire: What Counts as ‘Queer’ in Renaissance Drama?” UB Humanities Institute New Faculty Seminar Series, September 30, 2016.

**CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

- 2023 “Fort/Da for Ghosts: Reading for Apparitions on the Early Modern Stage,” Shakespeare Association of America, Minneapolis, MN, March 30-April 1, 2023.
- 2022 Seminar leader (with Lauren Shohet), *Queering Death* seminar, Shakespeare Association of America, Jacksonville, FL, April 7-9, 2022.
- 2022 “Reading from the Future: The ‘Spacetimemattering’ of Shakespeare’s Apparitions,” *Nondualist Cosmologies of Reading* Special Session (Organizer), Modern Languages Association, Washington, DC, January 8, 2022.
- 2021 Respondent, *The Kinky Renaissance* seminar, Shakespeare Association of America virtual meeting, April 3, 2021.

CURRICULUM VITAE  
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- 2020 “Post- Philology,” *New Philologies* seminar, Shakespeare Association of America virtual meeting, April 16, 2020.
- 2020 “Bone Art: A Queer Afterlife as Ornament,” *Queer Crossings and Unruly Locales* conference, The Early Modern Center, University of California at Santa Barbara, February 28-29, 2020.
- 2020 “Apparitional Pregnancy: How Many Children Had Lady Macbeth?,” Modern Language Association of America, Seattle, WA, January 9-12, 2020.
- 2019 “‘Still Raving of Her Child’: Of Desire and Dead Babies,” Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, DC, April 17-20, 2019.
- 2019 “‘As soon as it saluted the unwelcome light’: When Does Life Begin in Infanticide Narratives?,” Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, ON, March 17-19, 2019.
- 2018 Seminar leader, *The Problem of Life* seminar, Shakespeare Association of America, Los Angeles, CA, March 29-April 1, 2018.
- 2018 “Infanticide As A Form of Birth Control: Secrecy, Knowledge, and the Problem of Life in *The Bloody Mother* (1609),” Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, LA, March 22-24, 2018.
- 2017 “Unrepaired: Lady Macbeth and the Politics of Negative Affect,” Shakespeare Association of America, Atlanta, GA, April 5-8, 2017.
- 2016 “On the Queerness of Lost Children,” Shakespeare Association of America, New Orleans, LA, March 23-26, 2016.
- 2015 “Queer Nature, or, The Weather in *Macbeth*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Vancouver, BC, April 1-4, 2015.
- 2014 “How Many Children?: Queer Generation and the Problem of the Human in *Macbeth*,” Shakespeare Association of America, St. Louis, MO, April 9-12, 2014.
- 2013 “The Quality of Whiteness: *The Thief of Bagdad* and *The Merchant of Venice*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Toronto, ON, March 28-30, 2013.
- 2012 “Queer Affective Genealogies and Colonial Desire,” Shakespeare Association of America, Boston, MA, April 5-7, 2012.
- 2012 “‘For Love of Us’: Protestant Ethnographers’ Unspeakable Investments in the Face of Failure,” Modern Languages Association, Seattle, WA, January 5-8, 2012.
- 2012 Respondent, *Queer Memoir* panel (convened by Jennifer DeVere Brody), Modern Languages Association, Seattle, WA, January 5-8, 2012.
- 2011 “‘So Full of Shapes’: Fantasy and the Fashioning of Erotic Desire, Or, Another Queer Reading of *Twelfth Night*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Bellevue, WA, April 7-9, 2011.
- 2010 “Lost Worlds, Lost Selves: Queer Identification and Colonial Failure,” American Comparative Literature Association, New Orleans, LA, April 1-4, 2010.
- 2009 “Erotic Instrumentality as Queer Intimacy in *Philaster, Or Love Lies A-Bleeding*,” Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, DC, April 9-11, 2009.
- 2008 “A Circuitous Feminism: Theorizing Gender and Queer Theory in Early Modern English Literature,” Modern Languages Association, San Francisco, CA, December 27-30, 2008

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
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2008 “Getting used and liking it: go-betweens and erotic instrumentality on the early modern stage,” Pacific Northwest Renaissance Society, Vancouver, BC, April 3-5, 2008.

**COURSES TAUGHT**

**University at Buffalo-State University of New York (2011-present):**

**Undergraduate:**

ENG 371/GGS 369: Queer Theory  
GGS 109: Introduction to Sexuality Studies  
GGS 265: Sexualities and Cultures  
GGS 228: Feminist Theory  
GGS 101: Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies  
UGC 111: World Civilization 1: Prehistory to 1500

**Graduate:**

The Queer and Trans Non-Modern in Literature and Theory  
The Problem of Life: Feminist and Queer Materialisms  
How Soon is Now?: New Directions in Queer Theory  
Queer/Theory: Space, Time, and Matter  
Queer Theory is FUNdamental  
Reading and Representation: Methods of Critical Interpretation in the Humanities

**Columbia University (2005-2011):**

**Undergraduate:**

Literary Texts and Critical Methods (Introduction to the English Major)  
Contemporary Civilization (Columbia College Core Curriculum)  
University Writing (Columbia College 2006-2008, School of General Studies 2009)  
Shakespeare II (TA for Alan Stewart)  
The Renaissance in Europe: Figuring the Erotic (TA for Anne Lake Prescott)

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**Professional Memberships:**

Modern Language Association (GL/Q Caucus), Shakespeare Association of America,  
Renaissance Society of America

**Service to the Profession:**

Campus Representative, Folger Library Consortium Executive Committee (2022-present).  
Advisory Board Member, *Exemplaria: Medieval, Early Modern, Theory* Journal (2021-2025).  
Peer reviewer: *Shakespeare Quarterly*; *Differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies*;  
The University of Mississippi Department of English; Routledge Press.

**University Service:**

Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award Committee, UB Graduate School (2020).  
LGBTQ+ University Committee, Office of the Vice Provost for Inclusive Excellence (2019).  
Founder and Director (with Jonathan D. Katz), Humanities Institute Queer Studies Research  
Workshop. Interdepartmental consortium for sexuality-based scholarship (2014-present).

**CURRICULUM VITAE  
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Conference Organizer, “Radical Histories, Radical Futures: Buffalo on the Vanguard of Feminist and Queer Thought,” October 12-13, 2018. Collaboration with the Madeline Davis Archive at Buffalo State Library and the Buffalo-Niagara LGBTQ History Project.

**College of Arts and Sciences Service:**

Truman Scholarship Committee, Honors College (2014-present).  
College of Arts and Sciences Budget Committee (2022-present).  
College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee (2021-present).  
Presidential Scholarship Selection Committee, Honors College (2021).  
Faculty Advisor, Society of Feminists (“SoFem”-Undergrad) (2014-2019).

**Departmental Service:**

Early Modern Search Committee, Department of English, 2020-2022.  
Executive Committee, Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2017-present.  
Undergraduate Committee, Department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies, 2017-present.  
Graduate Committee, Department of Transnational Studies, 2011-2015.

**MEDIA COVERAGE**

“The Shapes of Fancy: Reading for Queer Desire in Early Modern Literature,” interview in *NOTCHES: (re)marks on the history of sexuality*, February 18, 2021 (<https://notchesblog.com/2021/02/18/the-shapes-of-fancy-reading-for-queer-desire-in-early-modern-literature/>).

“Reading for Queerness with Christine Varnado,” interview with Callan Davies, *A Bit Lit* #95, December 3, 2020 (<https://abitlit.co/history/reading-for-queerness-with-christine-varnado/>).

“Radical Queer Histories Rediscovered, Remembered Throughout Buffalo,” Abhi Wagh, *UB Spectrum*, October 15, 2018 (<https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2018/10/radical-queer-histories-rediscovered-remembered-throughout-buffalo>)

“Conference to explore past, present, future of gender and sexuality studies,” Robby Johnson, *UB Now*, October 9, 2018 (<http://www.buffalo.edu/ubnow/stories/2018/10/radical-histories-radical-futures.html>)

“What’s in a Sex? Understanding the Sexual in Early Modern England,” Annie Martirosyan, *The Huffington Post*, June 2, 2013 ([https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/annie-martirosyan/whats-in-a-sex-\\_b\\_3361774.html?guccounter=1](https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/annie-martirosyan/whats-in-a-sex-_b_3361774.html?guccounter=1))

“Gender is a thing that can be thought about: Varnado teaches students to question traditional stigmas,” Sharon Kahn, *UB Spectrum*, February 5, 2013 (<https://www.ubspectrum.com/article/2013/02/gender-is-a-thing-that-can-be-thought-about>)

**LANGUAGES**

French (academic reading and writing), Spanish (basic reading)