

MATTHEW P. RITGER

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

Dartmouth College

Assistant professor, Department of English and Creative Writing, 2020–present

EDUCATION

Princeton University

Ph.D., English, 2020

M.A., English Literature 1500–1700, 2016

Cornell University

M.F.A., Poetry, 2014

Dartmouth College

B.A., English and Creative Writing (High Honors), 2011

BOOK PROJECT

Objects of Correction: English Literature and the Making of Modern Punishment

Beginning in the 1550s, institutions called ‘houses of correction’ opened a new era in England's efforts to both punish and reform the country's most criminalized subjects, centuries in advance of the penitentiary. Although these efforts by early prison reformers were quickly and widely seen as cruel failures, nevertheless the ideas, arguments and stories they promoted about the means of changing human behavior — what I call in this study the rhetoric of correction — proved an enduring success. By examining how writers including More, Shakespeare and Milton engaged with these institutions and these ideas, *Objects of Correction* constructs a critical history of the making of modern punishment. Ultimately, the project proposes “correction” as a third term for Renaissance literary theory, as one of the period's most important but least studied means of literary justification, beyond the familiar commonplaces of instruction and delight.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Forthcoming: “Milton and the Literary Workhouse,” *Milton Studies*

2019: “Reading *Utopia* in the Reformation of Punishment,” *Renaissance Quarterly* 72.4, Winter 2019-2020, 1225-1268.

2018: “Marvell’s Double Negatives: Oliver Cromwell and ‘An Horatian Ode,’” *English Literary History* 85.3, Fall 2018, 631-667.

AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2018–2019: Porter Ogden Jacobus Fellowship, Princeton University Graduate School (Princeton’s highest honor for a graduate student, given annually to one project in each of four disciplines: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering.)
- 2017–2018: Arthur P. Morgan Graduate Fellowship in English, Princeton University
- 2013: The Corson-Browning Poetry Prize, Cornell University Department of English
- 2010: The Sydney Cox Thesis Prize, Dartmouth College Department of English and Creative Writing
- 2010: Class Orator, Dartmouth College (elected by fellow students to deliver an address during commencement week)
- 2009: Academic Citation, Dartmouth College Department of English and Creative Writing (for outstanding coursework in Literary Theory)
- 2008: The Lockwood Prize, Dartmouth College Department of English and Creative Writing (for a sophomore)
- 2007: Thomas Ralston IV Prize, Dartmouth College Department of English and Creative Writing (for a first-year)

OTHER REVIEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2016: “Invisible Shakespeare,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books* online, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/invisible-shakespeare/#!>
- 2015: “The Charges: On Jorie Graham’s *From the New World: Poems 1976–2014*,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books* online, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/charges/>
- 2015: “Brilliant in Difference: On Three Emerging American Indian Poets,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books Print Quarterly*, Winter 2015, 18-24.
- 2014: “Shrapnel and Song: On Contemporary Poetry from Afghanistan,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books* online, <https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/shrapnel-song-contemporary-poetry-afghanistan>
- “Evergreen Cemetery,” verse, *The Beloit Poetry Journal*, Vol. 64, No. 3
- 2013: “Translations from the Bone-House: On the Poetry of Seamus Heaney and John Hollander,” *The Los Angeles Review of Books Print Quarterly*, Winter 2013, 95-105.
- 2012: “Three linked poems,” verse, *The Seattle Review*, Vol. 5, No. 2.
- “30,” verse, included in *Best New Poets 2011: 50 Poems from Emerging Poets*, selected by D.A. Powell; University of Virginia Press, 2012.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor – Dartmouth College

- **English 15: Shakespeare*, Fall 2020
- **Writing 5: Shakespeare's Materials*, Winter 2021
- **English 61.03: Early Modern Literature and the History of Sexuality*, Spring 2021

Lead Instructor – Cornell University

- **English 1127: Shakespeare from Stage to Screen* (First-year writing seminar), Spring 2014
- **English 2800: Introduction to Creative Writing*, Spring 2014
- **English 1127: Shakespeare from Stage to Screen* (First-year writing seminar), Fall 2013
- **English 2800: Introduction to Creative Writing*, Fall 2013

- **English 1127: Shakespeare from Stage to Screen* (First-year writing seminar), Spring 2013
- **English 2800: Introduction to Creative Writing*, Spring 2013
- **English 1127: Shakespeare from Stage to Screen* (First-year writing seminar), Fall 2012
- **English 2800: Introduction to Creative Writing*, Fall 2012

Assistant-in-Instruction – Princeton University

- **English 351: American Literature 1865-1930*, Spring 2018
- **English 320: Shakespeare I*, Fall 2017
- **English 200: Introduction to English Literature: 14th-18th Century*, Spring 2017

Teaching Assistant – Cornell University

- **English 3390: Jane Austen*, Fall 2011

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2018: Hyde Summer Research Fellowship, Princeton University Graduate School
- 2017–2018: Research “Seed” Grant, Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities
- 2017–2018: Dissertation Research Fellowship, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion
- 2016: Research Grant, Princeton University Institute for International and Regional Studies
- 2009: The William W. Cook Fellowship, Dartmouth College Department of English and Creative Writing (summer funding opportunity through the Robert Frost Place)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND SEMINARS

- 2019: Shakespeare Association of America, seminar participant: “Shakespeare and Institutional Life,” paper title: “Between Bridewell and Blackfriars”
- 2017–2018: “Researching the Archive,” Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington D.C. (year-long dissertation seminar, taught by Ann Blair and Peter Stallybrass)
- 2017: “The Handwriting and Culture of Early Modern England,” Rare Books School, University of Virginia (summer seminar taught by Heather Wolfe)
- 2016: “More’s Utopia: Humanist Literature and Political Thought,” Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, D.C. (six-week summer seminar taught by Cathy Curtis)
- 2015: “Laughing at Oliver Cromwell,” paper delivered at Yale University Department of Comparative Literature Graduate Student Conference

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- 2020-2021: Committee on Intellectual and Social Life, Dept. of English and Creative Writing, Dartmouth College
- 2020-2021: Graduate School Advisor, Dept. of English and C.W., Dartmouth College
- 2015-2020: Resident Graduate Student, Princeton University (live-in mentor and programming assistant for Princeton’s undergraduate residential colleges)
- 2015-2017: Graduate Student Administrative Assistant, Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University Library
- 2015-2017: Co-Convener, Renaissance Colloquium, Princeton English dept.
- 2015-2016: Representative, Working Group for Graduate Issues, Princeton English dept.
- 2013-2014: MFA representative, Cornell U., Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee