**Sean Benson**

University of Mary Hardin-Baylor

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**Education:**

1999: PhD, English, Saint Louis University. Fields: Renaissance British literature,

Shakespeare, and Medieval literature

1990: MAT, University of Iowa

1988: BA “with highest distinction” and *Phi Beta Kappa*, English, University of Iowa

**Academic positions:**

Professor of English and Frank W. Mayborn (endowed) Chair of Arts and

Sciences, The University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, 2020-

Director of Liberal Studies, The University of Dubuque, 2017-20

Department chair, Language and Literature, The University of Dubuque, 2018-20

Fulbright U.S. Scholar, The University of the West Indies, Barbados, Fall 2016

Professor of English (tenured), The University of Dubuque, 2012-20

Associate Professor of English, The University of Dubuque, 2010-12

Associate Professor of English (tenured), Malone University, 2006-09

Assistant Professor of English, Malone University, 1999-2005

**Books:**

*Heterodox Shakespeare*. NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press and Rowman

& Littlefield, 2017.

*Shakespeare,* Othello, *and Domestic Tragedy*. The Arden Shakespeare (Bloomsbury

Continuum), 2011.

*Shakespearean Resurrection: The Art of Almost Raising the Dead*. Duquesne University

Press, Medieval and Renaissance Literary Studies, 2009.

Jensen, Paul, and Sean Benson (secondary). *Fantasy Land: Anti-Realism in America*,

Defiance Press & Publishing, 2022.

**Under review:**

“Nominalism, Sonnet 20, and the Transgender Moment”

**Top-tier journal articles:**

Benson, Sean (primary), and Paul Jensen, “Stanley Fish, Milton, and the

Euthyphro Dilemma.” Forthcoming in *Milton Quarterly*.

“The *Piètas* of Dogberry.” *Shakespeare Survey*, edited by Emma Smith, vol. 76,

Cambridge University Press, 2023, pp. 128–36.

“Salvation, Doom, and Romans 8 in Alan Paton’s *Too Late the Phalarope*.” *Christianity*

*& Literature* vol. 71, no. 1, 2022, pp. 40–54.

“‘[D]runk with those that have the fear of God’: Shakespeare on Social

Drunkenness.” *Renascence* vol. 72, no. 3, Oct. 2020, pp. 147–62,

https://doi.org/10.5840/renascence202072311

“‘Like monsters of the deep’: Transworld depravity and *King Lear*.” *Philosophy and*

*Literature* vol. 37, no. 2, Oct. 2013, pp. 314-29.

“Augustinian evil and moral good in *Lolita*.” *Renascence* vol. 64, no. 4, summer 2012,

pp. 353-67. This won the 2014 Joseph M. Schwartz Memorial Essay Prize.

“‘Perverse Fantasies’?: Rehabilitating Malvolio’s Reading.” *Papers on Language and*

*Literature* vol 45, no. 3, summer 2009, pp. 261-86.

“The Resurrection of the Dead in *The Winter’s Tale* and *The Tempest*.” *Renascence* vol.

61, no. 1, fall 2008, pp. 2-24.

“Materialist Criticism and Cordelia’s Quasi-Resurrection in *King Lear*.” *Religion and*

*the Arts* vol. 11, nos. 3-4, 2007, pp. 436-53.

“‘If I do prove her haggard’: Shakespeare’s Application of Hawking Tropes to

Marriage.” *Studies in Philology* vol. 103, no. 2, 2006, pp. 186-207.

“Reckoning and Regeneration: Billy Bob Thornton’s Scourge of God and Holy

Fool.” *Religion and the Arts* vol. 3, no. 2, 1999, pp. 180-194.

“The Abrahamic Mythopoeia of Sutpen’s Design: ‘Notrespectability’ in Search of a

Dynasty.” *Mississippi Quarterly* vol. 50, Summer 1997, pp. 451-64.

**Book chapters:**

“Vocation and the Drudgery I Love,” in *Transforming Leadership Pathways for*

*Humanities Professionals in Higher Education*, eds. Roze Hentschell and Catherine E. Thomas. Purdue University Press, 2023, pp. 241-57.

“Shakespeare and the Moral Imagination in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream,*” in *Critical*

*Approaches to Literature: A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, ed. Nicolas Tredell. Salem Press, 2020, pp. 135-49.

**Other peer-reviewed essays:**

“The Persecution of Jaelene Hinkle.” *Character and Discomfort* vol. 5, 2019, pp. 46-63

“Miraculous murders: *Othello* and domestic tragedy.” *Allegorica* vol. 28, 2012, pp.

83-96.

“Short Shrift?: Religion and Materialist Criticism.” Literature Compass vol 2, no. 1,

Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

“‘Even to the Gates of Rome’: Grotesque Bodies and Fragmented Histories in

*Coriolanus*.” *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* vol. 30, 1999,pp. 95-112.

**Selected book reviews:**

*Shakespeare and the Elizabethan Reformation* by Dennis Taylor (Lexington Books,

2022). Forthcoming November 2024 in *The Ben Jonson Journal.*

*The Theatre of Death: Rituals of Justice from the English Civil War to the Restoration* by P. J.

Klemp (University of Delaware Press, 2016). *Seventeenth-Century News* 77.3-4 (2019): 175-80 <https://oaktrust.library.tamu.edu/handle/1969.1/94990>

*Reading Shakespeare’s Mind* by Steve Sohmer. Manchester University Press, 2017.

*Cercles: Revue pluridisciplinaire du monde anglophone* (2017).

<http://www.cercles.com/review/r80/Sohmer.html>

*Wonder in Shakespeare* by Adam Max Cohen. Palgrave, 2012. *Shakespeare Quarterly*

63.3 (Fall 2012): 458-61.

*Twelfth Night: New Critical Essays*. Ed. James Schiffer. Routledge, 2011. *Th*e *South*

*Atlantic Review.*

*Incest and Agency in Elizabeth’s England* by Maureen Quilligan. University of

Pennsylvania Press, 2005. *Discoveries* 24.2 (Fall 2007).

*Spiritual Shakespeares*. Ed. Ewan Fernie. Routledge, 2005). *The Shakespeare Newsletter*

56.1 No. 268 (Spring/Summer 2006): 29, 34.

**Selected presentations**

“Dogberry at 400,” invited lecture for “Shakespeare 400: Celebrating Four

Hundred Years of Shakespeare in Print,” Baylor University, November 2023.

“*Samson Agonistes*, Stanley Fish, and Divine Command Ethics,” 13th International

Milton Symposium, Toronto, July 2023.

“The *Piètas* of Dogberry,” Renaissance Society of America, Puerto Rico, spring

2023.

“Shakespeare and the Resurrection,” Baylor Symposium on Faith and Culture, fall

2022.

“‘Lend me your [f]ears’: Donald Trump as an American Caesar.” The Shakespeare

Association of America, 2021.

“‘I do live by the church’: *Twelfth Night* and Churches as Performance Venues.”

The South-Central Renaissance Conference, Tucson, 2014.

“*King Lear* and the Problem of Evil.” The Shakespeare Association of America,

Boston, 2012.

“Zombies and the Shakespearean Undead.” The South-Central Renaissance

Conference, New Orleans, 2012.

“‘If I do prove her haggard’: Shakespeare and the Discourse of Hawking.” The

South Atlantic Modern Language Association, Atlanta, 1999.

**Seminars and Workshops**

Council of Independent Colleges (CIC) seminar participant, “Sight and Sound in

Renaissance and Baroque Europe (c. 1300-1700): A Seminar on Teaching

European Art in Context.” The High Museum of Art, Atlanta, 2016.

CIC seminar participant, “Ancient Greece in the Modern College Classroom

Seminar: Homer and Hesiod.” Center for Hellenic Studies, Washington, D.C., 2009.

**Academic Service/Awards:**

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Scholar of the Year, College of Humanities and Sciences, UMHB, 2022-23

At-large member, Executive Committee, The South-Central Renaissance

Conference, 2022-24

External reviewer in the application for promotion to full professor of Julie

Griffin, Georgia Southern University, 2020

Discipline peer review committee, Fulbright U.S. Scholar program, 2018-2019

External examiner, doctoral oral examination for S. Kate Pratt, University of

Alberta, September 2014

Recipient of the Joseph M. Schwartz Memorial Essay Prize for the best essay in

*Renascence*, 2012-2014

President, The South-Central Renaissance Conference, 2012-2013

Book reviewer, *Shakespeare Quarterly*

The John Stewart Research Award, University of Dubuque, 2012-14, 2015-16,

2020

Distinguished Faculty Award for Scholarship, Malone University, 2009

**Referee:**

*PMLA*, *Early Modern Studies, Renaissance and Reformation, Religion and Literature*,

*Explorations in Renaissance Culture*, *Allegorica*,and Bloomsbury Academic Publishing

**COURSES TAUGHT:**

Shakespeare; Renaissance Drama; Revenge Tragedy; The Literature of Satire; History of the English Language; British literature surveys I and II; Technical Writing; Film: An Introduction; World Cinema; *Film Noir* and Screwball Comedy; Applied Literary Theory; The Classical Tradition; Senior Seminar: Comedy; Literature and the Problem of Evil; 20th/21st-Century Fiction; Selected British Authors: Spenser and Milton; Detectives, Spies, and *Noir*; Chaucer; Literature and Film: Love, lust, and chastity