

# Ashley O'Mara

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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy, English:** Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (anticipated: spring 2021)

Dissertation: "Man delights not me; no, nor Woman neither": Celibacy and Asexuality in the Literature of Reformed England"

**Master of Arts, English:** Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY (2014)

**Bachelor of Arts, English:** Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY (2010)

## SERVICE

Summer 2020 **Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park:** marketing supervisor

Summer 2020 **Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park:** assistant director, *Love's Labour's Lost*, Syracuse, NY

2019-present **CNY Aces:** organizer and co-founder, Syracuse, NY

2019-present **Usher:** volunteer, Syracuse Stage, Syracuse, NY

2019-present **Syracuse Shakespeare in the Park:** dramaturg, Syracuse, NY

2018-present **Pronouns, Gender, and Preferred Name Advisory Council:** graduate student representative, Syracuse University

2018-2019 **NEH Next Gen PhD committee:** member, Syracuse University

**Mentoring/Alumni Network subcommittee:** member, Syracuse University

2018-present **Usher:** volunteer, CNY Playhouse, Syracuse, NY

Spring 2018 **Hiring Committee:** member, LGBT Resource Center, Syracuse University

2017-2018 **Chancellor's Task Force on Sexual and Relationship Violence:** graduate student representative, Syracuse University

2017-2018 **Diversity Committee:** member, Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University

2017-present **Usher:** volunteer, Landmark Theatre, Syracuse, NY

2016-2017 **Undergraduate Committee:** representative, Department of English/English Graduate Organization, Syracuse University

2015-2016 **Graduate Employment Committee:** member, Graduate Student Organization, Syracuse University

2015-2016 **Graduate Student Organization:** representative, English Graduate Organization, Syracuse University

2014-2015 **PhD Co-facilitator:** English Graduate Organization, Syracuse University

2013-2014 **MA Co-facilitator:** English Graduate Organization, Syracuse University

2013-2014 **MA Co-facilitator:** English Graduate Organization, Syracuse University

## MARKETING

2018-2020 **Web Editor:** *Broadly Textual Pub* ([BroadlyTextual.com](http://BroadlyTextual.com))

2018-present **Website manager and co-creator** for my personal website, [ashleyomara.com](http://ashleyomara.com)

Fall 2018 **Digital Campaign Manager:** Gail Tosh (D) for New York State Assembly (*New York State 120th district*)

2016-2018 **Web and Social Media Coordinator:** Department of English, Syracuse University

## EDITING

2019-2020 **Co-editor,** *Broadly Textual Pub* ([BroadlyTextual.com](http://BroadlyTextual.com))

Summer 2018 **Staff editor,** *The Asexual* journal ([TheAsexual.com](http://TheAsexual.com))

Spring 2011 **Co-editor,** *The Salamander* (Le Moyne College, Syracuse, NY)

## SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING

20 February 2020 *Howlround*, review, "Something for Everybody: Radical Inclusion in a Modern Adaptation"

10 September 2019 *Howlround*, review, "Unmanly Grief: Performing a Trans Hamlet"

28 August 2018 *Religion Dispatches*, editorial, "World Meeting of Families again positions queer Catholics as children"

28 June 2018 *The Post-Standard*, editorial, "Calling on clergy to bear witness at Syracuse immigration rally"

7 February 2018 *America* magazine, personal essay, "Fasting, Dieting, and Finding Christ in the Body"

- Broadly Textual Pub* (BroadlyTextual.com), posts:
- November 2017 “Misrepresenting Difference: Objectifying Asexuality in Journalism”  
 “Abnormalizing Difference: Sexual Normativity in Asexual *Sherlock* Fanfic”  
 “Normalizing Difference: Redefining Asexuality”  
 “Valuing Difference: An Ace on Food, Friendship, and Fluffy Companionship”
- January 2017 “Un/natural Citizens: Naturalization and Conversion”  
 “Persuasive Performance: Theater and Conversion”  
 “Legalizing Repression: ‘Muslim Registries’ and English Recusants”  
 “Coda: Converting Art – Literature During Political Repression”

## INVITED SPEAKER

- 15 October 2020 Early Modern Asexuality and Performance (Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies)
- 31 January 2020 “‘I cannot prove a lover’: Asexuality, Disability, and Performing Sexual Authority in Shakespeare” (Humanities Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)
- 2 April 2019 “Celibacy and Asexuality in English Literature” (Early Queer Scholarship series, Syracuse University LGBT Resource Center, Syracuse, NY)
- 30 November 2018 “Celibacy and Asexuality in Hamlet” (Department of English Colloquium series, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)
- 11 April 2018 “An Ace Discovers Asexuality History and Culture” (Human Library, Syracuse University Bird Library, Syracuse, NY)
- 12 March 2017 “‘Give Me Chastity But Not Yet’: Augustine, Sex, and Sin” (Adult Forum, United Church of Fayetteville, NY)
- 9 April 2016 Audience discussion: Sarah Ruhl’s *Passion Play* (The Red House Arts Theatre, Syracuse, NY)
- 3 April 2016 “Queer(ing) Catholics in English Literature” (Adult Forum, United Church of Fayetteville, NY)
- 13 February 2016 Audience discussion: William Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (The Red House Arts Theatre, Syracuse, NY)

## INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2019-present **Pronouns Competency Workshop:** *Syracuse University*  
 Curriculum co-developer, co-facilitator, and trainer of co-facilitators for university professional development training in using personal pronouns
- 2016-2018 **English Textual Studies Graduate Teaching Associate:** *Syracuse University*  
 Independently-taught writing-intensive freshman literature courses
- ETS 182: Race and Literary Texts (Fall 2017)
  - ETS 192: Gender and Literary Texts (Spring 2016 and 2018)
  - ETS 113: Survey of British Literature, Beginnings to 1789 (Fall 2016)
- 2013-2014, 2015-2016 **English Textual Studies Graduate Teaching Assistant:** *Syracuse University*  
 Writing-intensive freshman literature courses
- ETS 121: Introduction to Shakespeare (Fall 2013, with Dr. Dympna Callaghan)
  - ETS 119: Postwar American Fiction (Spring 2014, with Dr. Susan Edmunds)
  - ETS 114: Survey of British Literature, 1798-present (Fall 2015, with Dr. Mike Goode)
  - ETS 146: Reading Screen Cultures (Spring 2016, with Dr. Chris Hanson)
- 2012-2013 **Writing Program Graduate Instructor:** *Syracuse University*  
 Independently-taught freshman- and sophomore-level composition and research courses
- WRT 105: Practices of Academic Writing, “Re-imagining the Normal” (Fall 2012)
  - WRT 205: Critical Research and Writing, “Gender in Religion” (Spring 2013)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2018 **Curator:** *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon* (sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com)  
 Approve new entries to the database and edit existing entries for accuracy
- 2015-2018 **Contributor:** *Six Degrees of Francis Bacon* (sixdegreesoffrancisbacon.com)  
 Responsible for over 20 additions of persons, relationships, and group assignments to the database
- Summer 2015 **Research Assistant:** for reporter Jeet Heer, *The New Republic*  
 Conducted archival research in the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Roundtable: Early Modern Asexuality and Performance

Co-chair, Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia, PA, 4 April 2020 (postponed due to COVID-19)

“Married Chastitie”: Asexual Love in “The Phoenix and Turtle” (Part 2)

Seminar paper, Shakespeare Association of America, Washington, DC, 18 March 2019

“Married chastity”: Catholic Celibacy and Platonic Desire in Shakespeare’s “The Phoenix and the Turtle” (Part 1)

Panel paper, Renaissance Society of America, Toronto, ON, 18 March 2019

Rib-bed for Her Pleasure: Reproduction and Conversion in the Creation of Eve

Seminar paper, Objects of Conversion conference, University of California, Los Angeles, 16 February 2017

“How art thou changed!”: Transfiguring the Magdalene in Early Modern Converts’ Poetry

Panel paper, Transforming Bodies conference, Cornell University, 21 April 2017

“El sexo no es esencia en lo entendido”: Sor Juana’s Women’s Bodies and Ungendered Souls

Seminar paper, 2016 NEMLA, Hartford, CT, 20 March 2016

“Idioma mexicano”: Criollismo and Spanish Text/Paratext in Paredes’s Nahuatl *Catecismo mexicano*

Panel paper, 2014 NEASECS Conference, Syracuse, NY, 26 September 2014

## AWARDS

- Grant-in-aid, “Exploring Identity and (Dis)belonging” writing workshop (Summer 2020), Collegetown Institute (postponed due to COVID-19)
- Humanities Center Dissertation Fellowship (2019-2020), Humanities Center at Syracuse University
- Grant-in-aid, “Intersecting the Sexual” symposium (Fall 2019), Folger Shakespeare Library
- Joseph Hughes Memorial Summer Fellowship (2019), Department of English at Syracuse University
- Summer Dissertation Fellowship (2019), the Graduate School at Syracuse University
- Hugo Award for Best Related Work, Archive of Our Own (contributor)
- Grant-in-aid, “Researching the Archive” dissertation seminar (2018-2019), Folger Shakespeare Library
- Grant-in-aid, “A Broader Public” writing workshop (Summer 2018), Collegetown Institute
- *Jeopardy!* contestant, 12 March 2018
- Grant-in-aid, “Objects of Conversion” conference (Spring 2018), University of California–Los Angeles
- HASTAC (Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory) Scholar (2016-2017), Department of English at Syracuse University
- Grant-in-aid, “Early Modern Theater and Conversions” symposium (Fall 2016), Folger Shakespeare Library
- Summer Fellowship (June and July 2016), Department of English at Syracuse University
- Grant-in-aid, “Cultural Histories of the Material World: Books and Objects” workshop (Spring 2016), Folger Shakespeare Library
- University Fellowship (2014-2015 and 2018-2019), Syracuse University

## SKILLS

- Student Advocacy Training: Safe Zone (LGBT Resource Center); Narcan Administration (Health Promotions); Caring for Yourself and Others (Office of Student Assistance); STOP BIAS (EOIRS)
- Writing: outstanding copyediting skills; strong web and print research skills
- Computer: Wordpress and Cascade CMS; Markdown and HTML; Adobe Photoshop; Canva; social media administration (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Discord); teleconferencing (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Blackboard Collaborate); Microsoft Office and G Suite
- Languages: native English; advanced Spanish; beginner Arabic (dialects: MSA and Lebanese)