

# JUSTIN KOLB

Assistant Professor (Tenure-Track) at the American University in Cairo  
Department of English, Comparative Literature, and Theatre

University Email: [Justin.kolb@aucegypt.edu](mailto:Justin.kolb@aucegypt.edu) Website: [justinbkolb.com](http://justinbkolb.com)

## Education

- Ph. D. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Department of English. August 2010  
Dissertation: *Spongy Natures: Ben Jonson in the City of Things*  
Committee: Heather Dubrow (English, co-director), Henry S. Turner (English, co-director),  
Michael Witmore (English), David Loewenstein (English), Michael Shank (History of  
Science)
- M.A. University of Wisconsin-Madison. Department of English. August 2004.
- B.A. DePauw University. May 2002. *Summa cum Laude*. Phi Beta Kappa  
Major in English Literature, Minor in Political Science  
Thesis: *Undiscovered Countries: Michel de Montaigne and Shakespeare's Romances*

## Previous Appointments

- 2012-2013 University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Lecturer in English  
2011-2012 Oberlin College, Visiting Assistant Professor of English  
2010-2011 University of Minnesota-Morris, Visiting Assistant Professor of English

## Publications

“Creatures of Art: Character as dramatic homunculus in *The Alchemist*.” *Poetica*, 44-1/2 (January 2013), Berlin.

“‘To me comes a creature’: Recognition, agency, and the properties of character in Shakespeare’s *The Winter’s Tale*.” *The Automaton in English Renaissance Literature*. Edited by Wendy Beth Hyman. Farnham, UK: Ashgate, 2011. PDF full text: [tinyurl.com/kolbcreature](http://tinyurl.com/kolbcreature).

“‘A Turk’s mustachio’: Anglo-Islamic exchange and the development of urban character in Ben Jonson’s *Every Man Out of His Humour* and *Entertainment at Britain’s Bourse*.” *Early Modern England and Islamic Worlds*. Edited by Linda McJannet and Bernadette Andrea. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. PDF full text: [tinyurl.com/kolbturk](http://tinyurl.com/kolbturk).

“‘In th’armor of a Pagan knight’: Romance and anachronism east of England in Book V of *The Faerie Queene* and *Tamburlaine*.” *Early Theatre* 12.2. December 2009. PDF full text: [tinyurl.com/kolbknight](http://tinyurl.com/kolbknight).

“Review of Laurie Shannon, *The Accommodated Animal: Cosmopolitanism in Shakespearean Locales*.” *Humanimalia: A Journal of Human/Animal Interface Studies*. (Forthcoming 2014).

“Stoicity: Forbearance, Self-interest, and the Commonwealth of the Self in Ben Jonson’s *Epicoene*.” (Under consideration).

**Book Manuscript in Progress: *Spongy Natures: The Civic Ecologies of Ben Jonson’s London***

**Awards**

- American University in Cairo Research Fund award, October 2013.
- Oberlin College Chute Fund awards, January and April 2012.
- University of Minnesota-Morris Faculty Research Fund award, September 2010.
- University of Wisconsin Graduate Student Collaborative Vilas Travel Grant. November 2009.
- University of Wisconsin College of Letters and Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship. February 2008.
- Humanities Exposed (HEX) Grant. University of Wisconsin Center for the Humanities Award. August 2007.

**Selected Conference Presentations and Invited Lectures**

- 2014 Panel Organizer and presenter. “*Sur les pavés, la plage*: Holidays and castaways in the (early) modern revolutionary moment.” <http://justinbkolb.com/2013/09/03/211/>. BABEL Working Group 2014 Biennial Meeting, “On The Beach: Precariousness, Risk, Forms of Life, Affinity, and Play at the Edge of the World,” University of California-Santa Barbara. <http://babel-meeting.org/2014-meeting/>.
- 2014 “The Dissolution of the Engine of this World”: The Decay of Nature and the Anthropocene in History Plays.” Panel on “Shakespeare and Natural History.” Shakespeare 450 Conference, Société française Shakespeare, Paris. <http://www.shakespeareanniversary.org/?-Shakespeare-450->.
- 2013 “Stoicity: Forbearance, Character, and the Borders of the Self in Ben Jonson’s *Epicoene*.” “Shakespeare and Hospitality” seminar. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON. <http://tinyurl.com/bsew2ae>.
- 2012 “Creatures of Art: Character as Artificial Life in Jonson’s *The Alchemist*.” “The Nonhuman Renaissance” seminar. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2011 “A Turk’s Mustachio: Anglo-Islamic exchange and the development of urban character in Ben Jonson’s city comedies.” Guest lecture to English Department, Oberlin College, Oberlin, OH.
- 2010 “‘Chief Actors to Arden’s Overthrow’: *Arden of Faversham* and Things Conceived on the Early Modern Stage.” “The Shakespearean Immaterial” seminar. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. <http://tinyurl.com/2csog57>.
- 2009 Panel Organizer. “The Metaphysics of Objects in Early Modern English Literature.” A roundtable discussion of current research. Henry S. Turner Presiding. Presenters: Justin Kolb, Jonathan Gil Harris, Natasha Korda, Julian Yates. <http://sites.google.com/site/justinbkolb/mla2009>.

- Presenter: “Beams that issue from his sight”: Poison paintings and the space between things on the early modern stage.”  
Modern Language Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. December 2009.
- 2009 “Paynim Knights: Islam and romantic mimesis east of England in *The Faerie Queene* and *Tamburlaine*.” “Early Modern England and Islam” seminar. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Washington DC.
- 2008 “‘To me comes a creature’: Stage properties and inhuman agency on the seacoast of Bohemia.” “Shakespeare and Technology” roundtable. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX.
- 2008 “‘No man a state of perpetuity’: The Author, the Devil, the Projector, and the problem of dramatic agency in Ben Jonson’s *The Devil is an Ass*.” “Forms of life in Shakespeare” seminar. Shakespeare Association of America Annual Meeting, Dallas, TX.
- 2007 Co-Panel Organizer. “‘What fine chisel could ever yet cut breath?’: The technology of character in *The Winter’s Tale*.” “Automata in Early Modern English Literature” panel. Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Annual Conference, Portland, ME.
- 2007 Panel Chair. “Come Live With Me and Love the Wars: The Passionate Shepherd in Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine*.” “Christopher Marlowe” panel. Group for Early Modern Cultural Studies Conference, *Reconstructing Histories, 1550-1850*, Chicago, IL.
- 2005 “‘Brotherly Dissimilitudes’: *Areopagitica*, the radical sects, and Milton’s vitalist order.” “Political Prose” panel. The Conference on John Milton, Murfreesboro, TN.

### Teaching as Instructor of Record

#### American University in Cairo, August 2013 onward

*Shakespeare: Brave New Worlds and Encounters with the Other*  
Advanced Undergraduate Seminar, ECLT 360  
Survey of Shakespeare’s plays and poetry.

#### *Experiencing Creativity*

Introductory Core Curriculum Class ECLT 123  
Introduction to literary analysis and academic writing.

#### University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, August 2012-May 2013

##### *On Cannibals*

First-Year Composition, English 102  
Starting with Montaigne’s “Of Cannibals,” a look at social connection, cultural relativism, and exploitation in a global society. Montaigne, Shakespeare, Swift, Kazuo Ishiguro, journalism on global poverty and markets in organs, other texts. Emphasis on research and use of sources. Culminated in independent research projects.

##### *Cultivation*

First-Year Composition, English 101  
Examining the connection between education and forms of cultivation and development from science and the natural world. Emphasis on essay form and expository writing.

Oberlin College, August 2011-May 2012*Turning Turk: Renaissance England and Islamic Worlds*

Advanced Undergraduate Seminar, English 311

Islamic themes in early modern English literature and Anglo-Islamic cultural exchange. Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson, Tayeb Salih. Travel narratives, pirate plays, "Turk plays," popular pamphlets, and translated Arabic and Turkish texts.

*Shakespeare's Creatures: Renaissance Texts and the Limits of the Human*

Undergraduate Lecture, English 210

Shakespeare and other early modern writers read through a posthuman lens.

*Our Scene is London: Writing the Early Modern City*

Undergraduate Lecture, English 216

London in literature 1589-1689. Jonson, Dekker, Middleton, Behn, Shadwell, many others.

*Invisible Cities: Urban Space and Urban Experience*

Interdisciplinary First-Year Seminar, First-Year Seminar Program 083

Italo Calvino, Walter Benjamin, Charles Baudelaire, Virginia Woolf, Teju Cole, Vladimir Sorokin, Raymond Chandler, *The Wire*, *Chinatown*, poetry, novels, film, television. Culminated in independent research projects.

*Order and Disorder in the Works of Shakespeare*

Advanced Undergraduate Seminar, English 307

Shakespeare and the systems that ordered the early modern universe.

University of Minnesota-Morris, August 2010-May 2011*Mighty Lines and the Upstart Crow: Playing with Genre in Shakespeare's Theater*

Advanced Undergraduate Seminar, English 3159

Shakespeare, Jonson, Marlowe, Kyd, Dekker, Middleton, Lyly, and others.

*From Beowulf to Brobdingnag: Approximately 1000 years of English Literature*

Undergraduate Lecture, English 2201

Survey of English Literature from Anglo-Saxon era to Eighteenth Century.

*Life During Wartime*

First-Year Composition Course, English 1011

On writing and intellectual work during war.

*On Cultivation*

First-Year Composition Course, English 1011

On the symbiotic (and parasitic) relationships between human beings and other living things.

University of Wisconsin-Madison*The Later Plays of Shakespeare*

Senior-level Seminar (English 418) on Shakespeare's post-1600 work. Spring 2010

*Madison Academic Action Exchange: First Year Composition: Writing Communities (Service-Learning Project)*

Program Director and Instructor. Fall 2007 and Spring 2008.

Combined a First-Year Composition classroom (English 100) with service learning at the Madison East High School Writing Center. Organized joint UW-EHS class sessions. Recruited undergraduate Writing Fellows to volunteer at EHS. Transformed the program from a short-term project into an established first-year composition offering. Selected successor director.

### Teaching and Research Assistant positions at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

- *Contemporary Literature, Gender, and Sexuality*: Undergraduate Lecture. English 171. Fall 2009. Lecturer Emily Clark.
- *Introduction to Literature of Native America*: Undergraduate Lecture. English/American Indian Studies 171. Spring 2009. Lecturer Matthew Hooley.
- *English Literature to 1750*: Undergraduate Lecture. English 215. Spring 2007. Prof. John Niles.
- *Nineteenth and twentieth century British and American Literature*: Undergraduate Lecture. English 169. Spring 2005. Prof. David Zimmerman.
- *Shakespeare*: Undergraduate Lecture. English 162. Fall 2004. Prof. David Loewenstein.
- *Writing Center*: Individual Writing Instruction. August 2004 to May 2008, January to May 2009.
- Research Assistant for Prof. Henry Turner. Fall 2006. Assisted in research for *Shakespeare's Double Helix* (New York: Continuum, 2007) and in designing graduate seminar on Ben Jonson.
- Research Assistant for Prof. Susanne Wofford. Fall 2003 and Spring 2004.

### Professional Service

- American University in Cairo: University Library Committee
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater: Superior Student Writing Awards Committee.
- Oberlin College: English Dept. Development Committee. Management of Department funds.
- University of Minnesota-Morris: English Dept. Graduate School Advising Subcommittee.

### Professional Memberships

European Shakespeare Research Association  
Marlowe Society  
Modern Language Association  
BABEL Working Group

Renaissance Society of America  
Shakespeare Association of America  
Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts  
Société française Shakespeare

### Languages

French (very good)  
Italian (good)  
Latin (good)  
Arabic, modern standard and Egyptian colloquial (beginner)