

# Beverley Catlett Bolen

## EDUCATION

**UNC Chapel Hill, Ph.D. in English & Comparative Literature**, Chapel Hill NC (August 2021-Present)

**Georgetown University, MA in English**, Washington, DC (2016-2018)

Master's Thesis: "W.H. Auden's *On This Island*: Negative Aesthetics and the Nietzschean Sublime"

**Sewanee: The University of the South, BA Honors in English**, Sewanee, TN (2012-2016)

Honors English Thesis: "Madness as Prophecy in Dystopia: From Shakespeare's Hamlet to Nietzsche's Philosophy, and Heller's Satire of Wartime Insanity"

- The Andrew Nelson Lytle Prize for Excellence in English
- "Distinction," 2016 English Comprehensive Examination

## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications

Catlett, Beverley. "W. H. Auden's *On This Island*: The Phenomenology of Apocalyptic Revelation at the Point of Epiphany."

*Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, vol. 22, no. 3, 2020, pp. 185–205. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/intelitestud.22.3.0185](http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.5325/intelitestud.22.3.0185).

Catlett, Beverley. "Madness as Prophecy in Dystopia: From Shakespeare's Hamlet to Nietzsche's Philosophy, and Heller's Satire of Wartime Insanity": *Janus Head: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Studies in Literature, Continental Philosophy, Phenomenological Psychology & the Arts* (pp. 173-225). Volume 16.1, 173-225. March 2017. Print and Online:

<http://www.janushead.org/16-1/Catlett.pdf>

Catlett, Beverley. "The Madness of Shell-Shock in Pat Barker's *Regeneration*: An Inversion of the Sacred Carapace." *Driftwood Press*, Volume 4.2 (pp.65-69). March 2017.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

"Distinction," M.A. Thesis Defense (Georgetown University), "W.H. Auden's *On This Island*: Nietzschean Aesthetics and the Negative Sublime". March 21st, 2018.

**2017 Cosmos Scholar, The Cosmos Club Foundation, Washington, DC (January 2017 - January 2018)**

- Received grant in support of my proposal to pursue archival research in the archives of Harold Bloom, and funding for travel to New Haven to work with Bloom on manuscript progress towards an intellectual biography.
- Funding to explore related archives at Yale, Cornell, Harvard, and UVA, including the files of John Hollander, Cleanth Brooks, Robert Penn Warren, A.R. Ammons, John Ashbery, M.H. Abrams, Cecil Lang, and various other colleagues and correspondents.

**Merit-based Scholarship**, Georgetown University GSAS, Office of the Dean, Washington DC (Spring 2018)

**Competitive Funding for Archival Research & Collaboration with Harold Bloom at Yale University** (Georgetown University Graduate School of Arts & Sciences; Georgetown University Department of English) (2017-2018)

- Received four installations of funding for travel and lodging in New Haven, CT, to continue archival research and collaboration with Dr. Harold Bloom. This funding supported further research in the archives of Harold Bloom, a project launched with the support of the Cosmos Club Foundation.

- Regularly visited with Bloom to exchange questions and feedback on manuscript progress toward an intellectual biography, focusing in particular on his “high theoretical phase” of the 1970’s and 1980’s.
- Research in the Bloom archive, Fall 2017: Focused on Bloom’s argument that Freud’s *Unheimliche* embodies the aesthetics of the modern sublime, as argued in *Agon* and illustrated in several manuscripts and notebooks in the Bloom archive for an unfinished publication.
- Research Spring 2018: Focused in particular on his “high theoretical phase” of the 1970’s and 1980’s
- With these funding installments from Georgetown, I was able to sustain my archival research and collaboration with Bloom throughout my two-year candidacy at Georgetown.

**The Andrew Nelson Lytle Award for Excellence in English and Southern Studies**, Sewanee: The University of the South, Department of English (Sewanee, TN, May 2016)

**GSAS Graduate Student Research and Conference Travel Grants**, Georgetown University, (Spring 2017 & Fall 2018)

- Fall 2018: **MMLA**, “English Literature Before 1800” Panel, “O, my prophetic soul! Madness as Prophecy in Hamlet,” Chicago, IL
- Spring 2017: 48th Annual CEA Conference, “Narratology & Trauma” Panel

**"Distinction" on 2016 English Comprehensive Examination**, The University of the South: Department of English, April 2016

**Dolores Liebmann Foundation Fund Nominee**, Georgetown University, Washington, DC (January 2017)

- One of three institutional nominees for the Dolores Liebmann Foundation Fund.

**Yale Writers' Conference, 2016, Session I: Creative Nonfiction with Sergio Troncoso**, Yale University, New Haven CT (June 4th-14th 2016)

- Initiated critical autobiography of Harold Bloom that I continued to pursue with funding from the Cosmos Club Foundation and Georgetown University

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**2017 Cosmos Scholar, The Cosmos Club Foundation**, Washington, DC (2017-2018)

In January 2017, I was admitted to the Cosmos Scholars Grant Program and received a one-year grant in support of my research proposal, "Bloom: A Study in the Life and Works of the World's Leading Literary Critic". With funding for research, travel, and related expenses, I commenced research in Harold Bloom's archives, commuting to New Haven throughout the academic year during the grant period, and spending two consecutive months living on-site to conduct full time archival research in the summer of 2017.

In addition to working with Bloom directly, I conducted archival research and interviews at the aforementioned sites throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2017. During Georgetown's 2017 spring recess, I traveled to the University of Virginia to survey archives in the Cecil Lang papers at the Albert & Shirley Special Collections Library, which contained early correspondence from Bloom dating from the mid-1960's in the early phases of his career. At Yale, I worked with archives at the Beinecke Division for Rare Manuscripts and Special Collections, and covered the following collections in their entirety: John Hollander, Robert Penn Warren, Cleanth Brooks, and relevant files from the Yale University Publishing House, the College Seminar Records, and the English Department Archives from Bloom's work as a lecturer and professor from the 1970's onward. At Cornell, I conducted research at the Kroch Library and surveyed English Department Records as well as the papers and correspondence of A.R. Ammons and M.H. Abrams.

Bloom provided guidance throughout my work on the project, which he oversaw as a mentor, while granting my unrestricted access to the extensive archival collection in his New Haven home. Throughout the Fall 2017 term, I traveled to and from New Haven to work with Bloom and his archives, and with additional travel funding from Georgetown University, I continued to work with Bloom throughout my MA candidacy, visiting regularly to exchange writing and discuss my progress in archival research. At the conclusion of the grant period, I

submitted a year-end findings report that I was later invited to present at the 2018 Annual Cosmos Scholars' Banquet.

#### **Postgraduate Research & Collaboration with Harold Bloom, New Haven, CT (May 2018-October 2019)**

- After graduating from Georgetown, I continued my visits to New Haven to research the Bloom archive, focusing on the conceptual foundations and development of his theory of poetic influence through eight notebooks spanning from 1965 to 1973
- Worked with Bloom until his passing in 2019, whereafter I was granted access to the Bloom archive, which is otherwise off-limits to the public for two generations after his death.

#### **Cornell University, "Archie in the Archives" Seminar & Archival Workshop Ithaca, NY (August 2019)**

- Invited to attend and present archival research at Dr. Roger Gilbert's archival workshop and seminar on A.R. Ammons ("Archie in the Archives") in August 2018
- At the conclusion of the seminar, I was invited to present my research in the Bloom archive and analysis of Ammons' role in Bloom's application of his theory of poetic influence to American literature; his engagement with contemporary poetry; and the significance of Ammons' poetry in Bloom's development as a scholar of American literature.

#### **Competitive Funding for Collaboration with Harold Bloom at Yale University, Georgetown University GSAS & Department of English (October 2017, January 2018)**

- On the recommendation of the Department of English and the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, I received two installations of funding for travel and lodging in New Haven, CT, to continue archival research and collaboration with Dr. Harold Bloom while working with a research grant from the Cosmos Club Foundation and researching Bloom's archives to acquire manuscript material for a critical study of his work.
- Commuted from D.C. to New Haven on four separate occasions while upholding my duties and thesis research as a full-time, second-year M.A. candidate.
- With the support of the Georgetown English Department, I was able to extend my collaboration with Dr. Bloom beyond my year-long fellowship as a 2017 Cosmos Scholar, and continued to work on this project throughout my two-year M.A. candidacy. I continue to exchange writing and collaborate with Dr. Bloom today.

Washington, DC 2017-2018 "**The Conceptual Foundations of Harold Bloom's Theory of Influence**," Fall 2017 Independent Tutorial • Independent tutorial designed to integrate my research as a Cosmos Scholar into my coursework at Georgetown. This interdisciplinary tutorial focused on readings outside of Harold Bloom's work, turning instead to the thinkers and movements that contextualized or influenced his own. I developed the tutorial seeking instruction in the thinkers who influenced Bloom's archival writings in order to enrich my understanding of his genealogy in literary and intellectual history. • In my second year at Georgetown, I designed an independent study in the philosophy, psychoanalysis, criticism, and theory that inform the conceptual foundations of Harold Bloom's 1973 *The Anxiety of Influence* and works in his subsequent "high theoretical phase" from the 1970's to the early 1980's.

- In collaboration with my tutorial director, I designed a syllabus and series of readings to study a genealogy of thinkers who informed, or whose work contextualized, Bloom's psychogenetic theory of intergenerational agon and revisionism. Readings included works by Lucretius, Michel Serre, Shelley, Emerson, Nietzsche, Freud, Lacan, Empson, Derrida, de Man, Hartman, J. Hillis Miller, T.S. Eliot, Knapp and Michaels, Wimsatt and Beardsley, and others.
- The first half of the course was structured around Bloom's "six revisionary ratios" so as to illuminate how these thinkers explored critical movements preceding or contextualizing Bloom's own, including readings in the New Criticism and T.S. Eliot to contrast Bloom's ideas of canon-formation and Romantic revisionism, as well as readings in the works of "Yale School" theorists whose work contributed to a theoretical revolution alongside Bloom's own.
- The second half of the course focused on critical movements preceding or contextualizing Bloom's own, including readings in the New Criticism and T.S. Eliot to contrast Bloom's ideas of canon-formation and Romantic revisionism, as well as readings in the works of "Yale School" theorists whose work contributed to a theoretical revolution alongside Bloom's own.

**Research Assistant to Dr. Harold Bloom** New Haven, CT May - September 2018 • After graduating from Georgetown University in Fall 2018, I moved to New Haven to work as a research assistant for Harold Bloom.

- While working as Bloom's research assistant, I also conducted archival research and submitted writing for a critical study in his life and works that I began as a 2017 Cosmos Scholar.
- In my work for this role, I drew upon my familiarity with his archival collection to help him find sources and records relevant to his works-in-progress and forthcoming publications.
- I also drew on my familiarity with Bloom's critical canon to help him locate and select content and essays for forthcoming collections of his writing on Shakespeare, American literature, and poetic influence.
- In addition, I assisted Bloom in transcribing and sourcing his works-in-progress; locating notebooks, manuscripts, letters, books, and other records from his fifty-thousand volume collection; and in using the archives to contextualize and historicize moments of his career that he planned to write about in three books-in-progress that he was working on at that time.

**M.A. Thesis Research**, Advised by Dr. John Pfordresher, Georgetown University 2017-2018

I wrote my MA thesis on W.H. Auden's *On This Island*, arguing that Auden's interwar poems should be read against the literary and philosophical tradition of the "point of epiphany"--an archetypal figuration that Northrop Frye identifies as the liminal threshold at which the natural and apocalyptic worlds come into alignment. Harnessing the full resources of apocalyptic modernism in what I call the epiphanic mode, Auden depicts fallen, dysfunctional English landscapes symptomatic of his contemporary humanitarian crisis, while deploying eschatological rhetoric and iconography to present a world bathed in apocalyptic futurity.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS & PRESENTATIONS

Catlett, Beverley. **A.R. Ammons and the Bloom Archive: Reviving American Romanticism.** "Cornell University, Archie in The Archives" Seminar, Dr. Roger Gilbert. August 2020.

- Invited to attend and present at the "Archive in the Archives" Seminar at Cornell, led by Dr. Roger Gilbert at Cornell University.
- Drew upon my years of research and scans from the Bloom archive to illustrate how, prior to encountering Ammons' work, Bloom saw the American literary tradition as a "problem" when it came to his theory of influence (whose origins I traced from the original 1965 notebook on Poetic Influence through subsequent notebooks until its publication in 1973).
  - Demonstrated writings in the Bloom archive illustrating that engaging with Ammons' poetry led Bloom to see American literature and his theory of influence as compatible: Ammons was the inheritor of the Emersonian -Whitmanian tradition that Bloom had previously been unable to identify after Wallace Stevens.
  - This led to Bloom's engagement with contemporary poetry throughout his "high theoretical phase," while encouraging Bloom to engage further with American literature in this succession of works
  - Overall, Bloom's progress from seeing American literature as incompatible with his theory, in 1965, to finding Ammons' work as proof of the survival of poetic revisionism in American literature, shows the integral role their correspondence and literary relationship played in Bloom's work--as well as Ammons' own.

Catlett, Beverley. **Cosmos Scholar Findings Report: "Bloom: A Study in the Life & Works of a Leading Literary Critic."** 2017 Cosmos Club Foundation Scholars' Banquet, April 2018

- Presented year-end findings report and archival records to members and trustees of the Cosmos Club Foundation • Compiled extensive report integrating critical insights from a year's archival research, significant archives illustrating major findings relevant to research questions proposed, and unexpected advancements on the project (i.e., collaborating directly with Dr. Bloom on the project after he authorized the biographical project and granted full access to his archives as well as long-term mentorship to help me write and eventually publish his biography).
- Digitization of archival records and incorporation of charts and graphs sketched by Bloom in the original notes for *The Anxiety of Influence* into critical exegesis and exposition of the theory that the figures and filed pictures communicate • Organized informational table and pitched biography and significant findings, while displaying images of and interpretative aids to significant archival records (i.e., 1965 diagrammatic representations charting the "six revisionary ratios" and their equivalents in Anna Freud's ten ego-defense mechanisms, phases of creation in the Lurianic Kabbalah, and rhetorical tropes in the scheme of Kenneth Burke's *A Rhetoric of Motives*)

Catlett, Beverley. **"O, my prophetic soul!: Madness as Prophecy in Shakespeare's Hamlet"**. The 59th Annual Convention of the Midwest Modern Language Association, Cincinnati, Ohio. English Literature: Pre-1800, Permanent Panel (Saturday, November 11th.

Loyola University: November 9-12, 2017.

• **Abstract:** Twentieth-century Hamlet criticism was heavily burdened by the emergence of psychoanalytic criticism as its own hermeneutic mode. Freud and his disciple Ernest Jones famously claimed to solve the tricentennial mystery of Shakespeare's Hamlet by putting a name to the source of the Prince's suffering: the Oedipus complex. The "Freud-Jones" reading of the play asserts that Shakespeare consciously employs Hamlet's "antic disposition" as a cloak for his Oedipally-charged mania, an unspeakable subject on the late-Elizabethan stage. We are to read Hamlet as a "truly hysterical subject," and to scan the play for "hints" of Hamlet's Oedipal desires through his consistent and genuine "neurosis." Unsurprisingly, psychoanalytic critics have over-literalized Hamlet's "madness." I argue that Shakespeare leverages the Prince's facade of madness to "hint" that Hamlet is a prophet. The Prince's suffering is the product of preternatural insight in a world where one is better off not knowing the truth. Shakespeare establishes with a heavy hand that Elsinore is an "unweeded garden", entrenched in deep-seated evils that will become Hamlet's responsibility to unearth. The ghost's "revelation" is a confirmation, for Hamlet, that "the serpent wears the crown," to which the Prince responds, "O, my prophetic soul!" (I.v.40). Foucault demonstrates that "madness" has not always carried clinical connotations. In early seventeenth-century Shakespearean theatre, "Reason-madness" allows the madman to transcend a delusional environment. Freud and Jones oversimplify Hamlet's mission: Claudius is not his sole target -- the Prince interprets his own task as the correction of social failure on a massive scale. Madness's dramatic function is to "bring illusion to its climax, [to] the point that illusion is undone." Hamlet has ancestors in ancient mythology, but Oedipus is not one of them; he is a descendant of the cursed prophetess Cassandra in the Agamemnon. I aim to localize Hamlet in a long standing archetypal narrative of the madman as a harbinger of truth to an environment permeated by lunacy and delusion. In an attempt to craft an illuminative portrait of madness in what I call the "prophetic strain," this study combines New Historicism and independent textual analyses with a diverse array of voices from an enormous geography of scholarship. Through Frye, Nietzsche, Bloom, De Grazia, and others, I consider the critical, theoretical, historical, and philosophical implications of Hamlet's "antic disposition."

**Catlett, Beverley. "The Island at the Point of Epiphany: Disorder and Delusion in Gulliver's Travels and Catch-22."** 48th Annual CEA Conference. Hilton Head, SC, 2017. Narratology and Trauma Panel.

## **TEACHING & TUTORING EXPERIENCE**

### **T.A. in Department of English & Comparative Literature**

- **ENGL 105, UNC Chapel Hill** (20 students)

**Graduate Writing Consultant, Georgetown University Writing Center,** August 2016 - November 2018

**Lead Graduate Writing Consultant, Georgetown University School of Continuing Studies,** Washington DC, 2016-2018

- One of two head Writing Consultants assigned to provide additional weekly instruction at the Georgetown School of Continuing Studies, providing writing instruction to ESL and non-traditional degree students in academic and professional degree programs
- Worked with non-traditional degree students in specialized professional and academic programs
- Extensive work providing writing instruction to ESL (English as a Second Language) students and native English speakers in a variety of disciplines across the GSAS

**T.A., Business Writing 102,** Ginsburg Advanced Tutoring & Dr. Shana Ginsburg, Bethesda MD (January 2017-May 2017)

**Diagnostic Tutor and Writing Consultant,** Ginsburg Advanced Tutoring, LLC, Bethesda, MD (May 2018 - February 2020)

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE: WRITING, MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS**

**Marketing & Communications Associate,** Episcopal Relief & Development (ERD), New York, NY, June-August 2015

- Responsible for maintenance and updating of the organization's website, <http://www.episcopalrelief.org>. Worked in HTML to regularly refresh and update images and articles, drafted text and layout for new web pages, regularly updated menu and timeline coverage of the organization's response to ongoing events; drafted updates detailing international emergencies and proposing the organization's response

strategy to appeal to donors for disaster-relief support

- Managed the organization's social media presence on Facebook and Twitter; drafted Facebook updates offering condolences and urging support in response to rising crises, working with other members of the Marketing and Communications department to mediate ERD's responses to the public regarding sensitive issues, allocation of donated funds, and controversial crises for which the Church was called to respond
- Undertook major research project to update the website's 'country pages' by reading 2015 Program Profiles, technical strategic plans laid out by professionals for each country, detailing plans for the upcoming year, and using new information to bring each 'country page' up to date; prepared more than 20 web pages through multiple rounds of revisions with input from several departments
- Attended weekly meetings with the Marketing and Communications Department to discuss project planning and management, building and using spreadsheets

**NYT: Now Marketing Ambassador**, The New York Times, Sewanee, TN, Sept -Dec 2014

- Worked independently to raise awareness on campus about the NYT: NOW mobile app and equipped students and faculty to take advantage of free digital subscriptions offered as part of the Times's new marketing initiative
- Met or exceeded monthly digital download quotas
- Organized, catered, and hosted multiple informational tabling events in high-traffic areas on campus throughout the semester, promoting the offer and increasing visibility
- Gained experience in social media marketing, promotional writing, and public speaking
- Wrote and published promotional articles for campus newspaper about the history of the New York Times and the value of digital access

**Researcher/Writer**, American Literary Journalism, September - December 2014 (Full-time)

- Participated in a three month project researching gender relations at The University of the South and campus sexual assault incidents and policies on a local and national level
- Researched lawmaking, conducted interviews with faculty, conducted student surveys and extensive research resulting in the publication of three articles: hard news, profile, and feature.