

Matthew William Rickard

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1 Appointments

- 2023– Assistant Professor, Program of Liberal Studies, University of Notre Dame
Affiliate Faculty, Program in the History & Philosophy of Science
2021–2023 Mellon Fellow, Modeling Interdisciplinary Inquiry, Washington University in St. Louis

2 Education

- 2021 Ph.D., English & Interdisciplinary Humanities, Princeton University
2012 A.B., English, with highest distinction, *magna cum laude*, Washington University in St. Louis

3 Books

3.1 SINGLE-AUTHORED

Probability: A Literary History, 1479–1700. In preparation.

3.2 CO-AUTHORED & CO-EDITED

- 2018 *Keywords; for Further Consideration*, with D. Graham Burnett & Jessica Terekhov. Princeton University Press. Reviewed in *The New Yorker* & *The Georgia Review*. Featured in *The Paris Review* & *Lapham's Quarterly*. Interviewed by *Inside Higher Education*.
<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt1xhr4vf>.

4 Articles

- 'Pascal & the Mathematics of the Future'. Under review.
'Probability, Antiquity & the Renaissance *Poetics*'. Under review.
2024 'The Probability of *Paradise Lost*,' *English Literary History* 91.2 345–375.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/elh.2024.a929152>.
2022 'Milton & the Education Monopoly,' *Studies in Philology* 119.3 495–525.
<https://doi.org/10.1353/sip.2022.0012>.

5 Notes

- 2022 'Dryden, Rymer & the Interested Gods,' *Notes & Queries* 69.4 301–304.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/notesj/gjac107>.

6 Reviews

- 2026 R. D. Perry, *Coterie Poetics & the Beginnings of the English Literary Tradition*. University of Pennsylvania Press, 2024. Forthcoming in *Renaissance Quarterly*.

7 Talks & Other Events

7.1 CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- 2018 The Desire for Method, New York University & Princeton University
2017 Renaissance Displacements, Princeton University

7.2 PANELS ORGANIZED

- 2024 Milton's Late Humanism, Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, Illinois
2024 Humanism after Milton, Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, Illinois
2018 History & Historicism, Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana
2016 Cause & Effect in Early Modern Europe, Renaissance Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts

7.3 CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 'Milton's Realism,' Renaissance Society of America, San Francisco, California
2024 'Milton's Theophrastan Characters,' Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, Illinois
2023 'More, Dorp & Several Agricolas,' Renaissance Society of America, San Juan, Puerto Rico
2018 'The Methodization of What,' The Desire for Method, New York University
2018 'The Liberal Arts Circa 1645,' Renaissance Society of America, New Orleans, Louisiana
2017 'The Liberal Arts Circa 1645,' The Making of the Humanities VI, Somerville College, Oxford
2017 'Poetry Yields the Cause,' Renaissance Society of America, Chicago, Illinois
2016 'Pascal's Fiction,' Renaissance Society of America, Boston, Massachusetts

7.4 CAMPUS TALKS & PAPERS

7.4.1 University of Notre Dame

- 2026 'Impartiality,' Program in the History & Philosophy of Science
2025 'The Great Unlikelihood of English Verse,' Program of Liberal Studies
2025 'Pascal's Apocalyptic Figures,' Department of English
2023 'The Probability of Renaissance Comedy,' Program of Liberal Studies

7.4.2 Washington University in St. Louis

- 2023 'Jonson's Incurable Characters,' Political Theory Workshop
2023 'The Probability of Renaissance Comedy,' Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities
2021 'Comedy Three Ways,' Department of Philosophy
2019 'Renaissance Dialectic, Literary Structure,' Department of English
2014 'A Roll of the Talus, or Chance in the *Faerie Queene*,' The Spenser Project Conference

7.4.3 Princeton University

- 2019 'Renaissance Dialectic, Literary Structure,' Renaissance Workshop

- 2016 'Poetry Yields the Cause,' Renaissance Workshop
- 2016 'A Roll of the Dice,' Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities
- 2014 'A Roll of the Talus, or Chance in the *Faerie Queene*,' Renaissance Workshop

7.5 PUBLIC TALKS & PAPERS

- 2025 'Reflections on Pascal's Wager,' Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois
- 2018 'Washington among the Nymphs,' Artbook at MoMA PS1, Queens, New York

8 Fellowships, Honors & Awards

- 2021–2023 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Washington University in St. Louis, Postdoctoral Fellowship
- 2018–2019 Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, Graduate Fellowship
- 2018–2019 Collaborative Teaching Initiative, Princeton University, Graduate Fellowship
- 2018–2019 Center for Digital Humanities, Princeton University, Graduate Fellowship
- 2018 Folger Shakespeare Library, Coursework Fellowship
- 2017 Shoenk Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University
- 2017 Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University
- 2017 Hyde Fellowship for International Research, Princeton University
- 2015–2021 Interdisciplinary Doctoral Program in the Humanities, Princeton University, Graduate Fellowship & Joint Degree Candidacy
- 2015–2016 Departments of History & Philosophy, Princeton University, Visiting Student
- 2014 Department of English, Princeton University, General Exams with Distinction
- 2010–2012 Humanities Digital Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis, Undergraduate Fellowship
- 2010 Summer Institute for Research in Biostatistics, Washington University School of Medicine, Undergraduate Fellowship

9 Teaching

9.1 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

- PLS 33101: Seminar III
- PLS 33101: Seminar III, with Katie Bugyis
- PLS 20201: The Lyric Poem*
- PLS 13186: Comedy
- **Winner of the Cronin Award for best undergraduate essay written in the Program of Liberal Studies [Kephias Olsson (2023)]*

9.2 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

- ENG 432: Early Modern Comedy
- IPH 405: Theory & Methods in the Humanities, with Kevin Kadowaki
- IPH 405: Theory & Methods in the Humanities, with Alison Korinek
- IPH 150: Fictions of Chance

9.3 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

- ENG 405: Poetry & Belief, with Jeff Dolven [at East Jersey State Penitentiary]
- ENG 321: Shakespeare, preceptor for Bradin Cormack

ENG 200: Introduction to English Literature, preceptor for Jeff Dolven

9.4 GUEST TEACHING

For T. J. Keeley, Faith, Doubt & Literature, St. John Vianney High School, Kirkwood, Missouri

For Alice Ford, B Block English Literature, Eton College, Windsor, United Kingdom

For Guinn Batten, Senior Research Seminar, Washington University in St. Louis

For Guinn Batten, Introduction to Literary Theory, Washington University in St. Louis

10 Service

10.1 UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

2025–2026 Member, Search Committee, Program of Liberal Studies

2024– Chair, Poetry Club, Program of Liberal Studies

2024– Member, Recruitment Committee, Program of Liberal Studies

2023– Thesis Advisor, Program of Liberal Studies

P. J. Carroll (2026), Kephass Olsson (2026), Dora Tomko (2026), Marcelle Couto (2025),

Lauren Douglas* (2025), Vanessa Franco (2024), Charlotte Stubbs (2024)

2023– Thesis Reader, Program of Liberal Studies

Hannah Smith* (2024)

2023–2024 Member, Intellectual Life Committee, Program of Liberal Studies

**Winner of the Bird Award for best senior thesis written in the Program of Liberal Studies*

10.2 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY IN ST. LOUIS

2023 Coordinator, The Milton Group

10.3 PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

2014–2015 Chair, Renaissance Colloquium, Department of English

2014–2015 Representative, Working Group for Graduate Issues, Department of English

2013–2017 Chair, Theory Colloquium, Department of English

11 Memberships

Milton Society of America

Renaissance Society of America

Modern Language Association

12 Languages

Latin

French

13 References

Available upon request

