

## **Open and Intersectional Pedagogy: Teaching the Early Modern with Generative Artificial Intelligence**

Lecture by Alexa Alice Joubin

Modern Language Association's convention in Philadelphia, January 6, 2024

<https://youtu.be/XcdH-D67tRY>



What a piece of theatre work is AI ! Since AI outputs can be seen as a theatrical performance, in her 10-minute paper at the MLA, Alexa Alice Joubin argued that we can teach critical questioning skills using generative AI. She demonstrated responsible and creative ways to teach students meta-cognition, using Shakespeare and early modern studies as examples.

At its core, theatre is an interlinked system of interfaces that regulate inputs and outputs. Actors work with promptbooks for their cues. Even when scripted, performances of the same production differ in dynamics each night.

Similarly, AI tools draw on users' prompts and the publics' collective memories to create improvised performances. The same prompt generates cognate but different outputs. Each instance of rendition is unique. The AI outputs are replete with repetitions with a difference, which makes them useful pedagogically.

Users' prompts reflect particular kind of historical imagination and relationships with history. Joubin identifies two challenges in this new landscape, and proposes solutions for each challenge.



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# PMLA

PROGRAM

The 139th MLA  
Annual Convention

Philadelphia



*Publications of the Modern Language Association of America*

A special session. *Presiding*: Alessandra Occhiolini, Graduate Center, City U of New York

1. "Publishers and Pharmaceuticals: Hacking the Body and the Archive in *Confessions of the Fox*," Sylvia Korman, Graduate Center, City U of New York
2. "The Third Time I Taught Myself to Walk," Tim Dalton, City C, City U of New York
3. "A Nervous System: The Ethics of Teaching Bodies," Alessandra Occhiolini

### 537. Joy and Sorrow of Being Social in the Writings of Benito Pérez Galdós

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Grand K, Marriott*

Program arranged by the International Association of Galdós Scholars

1. "¡Alazaras de mil demonios!": Colectividades y reuniones infantiles en la narrativa galdosiana," Sara Munoz-Muriana, Dartmouth C
2. "From Social to Personal: Sentimental Response in *La de Bringas*," Lisa Nalbone, U of Central Florida
3. "Bares, que lugares tan gratos para pelear' ante el absolutismo en *La fontana de oro* (1871)," Rafael Nunez Rodriguez, U of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
4. "Surviving Death: Family Responses to Childhoods Cut Short," Erika Maurine Sutherland, Muhlenberg C

### 538. Teaching the Early Modern: Evolving Methods, Archives, and Technologies

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Adams, Loews*

Program arranged by the forum LLC 17th-Century English. *Presiding*: Jane Hwang Degenhardt, U of Massachusetts, Amherst

1. "Open and Intersectional Pedagogy: Teaching the Early Modern with Generative Artificial Intelligence," Alexa Alice Joubin, George Washington U
2. "Teaching Early Modern Literature Contrapuntally," Goutam Piduri, Brown U
3. "Shakespeare and Sleep: An Interdisciplinary Approach," J. Asia Rowe, Great Bay Community C, NH
4. "A Tale Too Tedious to Repeat: Teaching *Pericles* and Narrative Silence," Kimberly Huth, California State U, Dominguez Hills

### 539. Editing Late Writings: Joys and Sorrows

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Independence I, Marriott*

Program arranged by the Society for Textual Scholarship. *Presiding*: Tyler Hoffman, Rutgers U, Camden

1. "The 'Fuel of Rapture': Editing Dickinson's Late Letters," Cristanne Miller, U at Buffalo, State U of New York
2. "'Garrulous to the Very Last': Editing and Re-evaluating Whitman's Late Writings," Kenneth M. Price, U of Nebraska, Lincoln
3. "Too Busy to Die: Editing Amy Lowell's Late Letters," Melissa Bradshaw, Loyola U, Chicago

### 540. Folkloric Perspectives on Celebration

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Independence III, Marriott*

Program arranged by the American Folklore Society. *Presiding*: James Deutsch, Smithsonian Inst.

1. "One Grand Noise in the Florida Panhandle," Jerrilyn McGregory, Florida State U
2. "Cross-Border Traditions: Nowruz in the Persianate World," Elmira Louie, U of California, Davis
3. "Celebration and Spicy Foods in Contested Spaces: Hot Chicken in Nashville, Tennessee," Sarah Shultz, Memorial U of Newfoundland

### 541. Mourning without End

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Liberty, Marriott*

A linked session arranged in conjunction with the **Presidential Plenary: The Poetics of Celebration (199)**. *Presiding*: Frieda Ekotto, U of Michigan, Ann Arbor

*Speakers*: Cesare Casarino, U of Minnesota, Twin Cities; Maggie Hennefeld, U of Minnesota, Twin Cities; John W. Mowitt, U of Leeds; Simona Sawhney, Indian Inst. of Tech., Delhi

During the ongoing coronavirus pandemic loss is everywhere. Among those things we lost stands mourning itself, especially when contrasted with melancholia: a contrast that turned on the "normal" finitude of the former. Mourning shaped one's relation to the lost around an end. This end was to be fixed within some familiar account of duration, but in the pandemic, duration lost its shape. The end was lost. Loss after loss. What does mourning become under such circumstances? How is it lived, shared, expressed?

### 542. Writing Program Futures: Technologies, Curricula, People

1:45–3:00 p.m., *Washington B, Loews*

Program arranged by the Council of Writing Program Administrators



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