

The Sonnets in the Series of the Dianas: Forms, Themes, and Function

This talk focuses on the sonnets in the series of the *Dianas* and approaches their forms, themes, and functions from an overarching perspective. Attention is given to the varying presence of sonnets and to how their proportion develops across the different works in the series. Drawing on an integrated analysis of meter as well as themes and imagery—with particular attention to the Petrarchan repertoire and its later updates—the talk examines how sonnets are embedded in the pastoral novel and how they serve multiple functions, including characterization, affective intensification, and the articulation of narrative movement. The second part of the talk turns to the *Tercera Diana*, a work marked by extensive plagiarism, in which the proliferation of sonnets is closely tied to the massive reuse of poetic materials from other authors. Poorly integrated into the work, this strategy weakens the relationship between poem and narrative context and reduces the sonnet’s role to an ornamental effect. Taken together, these phenomena can be situated within the genre’s historical trajectory and read as signs of its decline amid shifting literary tastes.

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Before the Future: Our Fathers’ “Unthinkable” Legacy in Recent Anglophone Climate Fiction (and Preceding Work)

“Our house is on fire,” Greta Thunberg warns us as we pursue our mundane lives. How do we not see and confront this specter? Amitav Ghosh argues that literary, historical, and political discourse has made anthropogenic climate change “unthinkable,” while Jennifer Wenzel critiques how “world literature” shapes our understandings of our climate apocalyptic world. Driven by the urgency of communicating the nature, threats, and possible solutions to our ongoing climate catastrophes, my next project engages how literature can play a role in such comprehension. The core texts are three recent Anglophone climate fiction novels: Julia Armfield’s *Private Rites* (2024), Suyi Davies Okungbowa’s *Lost Ark Dreaming* (2024), and Vajra Chandraskera’s *The Saint of Bright Doors* (2023). Reading these novels through the lens of Ghosh and Wenzel’s theorizations of how climate fiction approaches the “unthinkable” reveals the genre’s potential to awaken readers to our individual places in genealogies, communities, and shaping the future. Can we extend the metaphorical significance of fathers in these novels to broader societal discourse on climate change in our world, namely the place that legacy should play in coming to terms with a climate apocalyptic world and reconciling our place in a destructive legacy? My promotion lecture will introduce this future research, and

contextualize it in my preceding work on speculative fiction, catastrophe, climate, space, family, sexuality, religion, and imperialism.