

DOUGLAS BIOW

Superior Oil Company—Linward Shivers Centennial Professor
in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Department of French and Italian
Director, Center for European Studies
Director, France-UT Institute

Curriculum vitae

Department of French and Italian
1 University Station B7600
The University of Texas at Austin
Austin, Texas 78712-1197
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MAJOR ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2009-: Courtesy Appointment in the Department of History, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008-: Director, Center for European Studies, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008-: Director, France-UT Institute, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008-: Superior Oil Company—Linward Shivers Centennial Professor in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Dept. of French and Italian, University of Texas at Austin
- 2003-: Professor, Dept. of French and Italian, University of Texas at Austin
- 2002: Acting Director, Plan II Honors Program, University of Texas at Austin (*fall semester*)
- 1998-05: Associate Director, Plan II Honors Program, University of Texas at Austin
- 1997-03: Associate Professor, Dept. of French and Italian, University of Texas at Austin
- 1992-97: Assistant Professor, Dept. of French and Italian, University of Texas at Austin
- 1992-: Member, Graduate Faculty in the Program of Comparative Literature

ACADEMIC HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2017-18: College Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
- 2013-14: Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008-9: Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for Research in Venice and the Veneto (*winter*); Research Grant, University of Texas at Austin
- 2008: Fellow of the Humanities Institute, University of Texas at Austin (*spring*)
- 2007: Recipient of a Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title (*The Culture of Cleanliness in Renaissance Italy*)
- 2007: Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for Research in Venice and the Veneto (*summer*)
- 2006-7: John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Foundation
- 2006-7: Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin
- 2006: Gladys Krieble Delmas Foundation for Research in Venice and the Veneto (*summer*)
- 2005: Dean's Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin (*fall semester*)

- 2003: Recipient of a Robert W. Hamilton Book Award (*Doctors, Ambassadors, Secretaries*)
- 2003: Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin (*spring semester*)
- 1996-97: National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship
- 1996-97: National Humanities Center Fellowship (declined)
- 1996-97: Faculty Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin
- 1996: Summer Research Assignment, University of Texas at Austin
- 1992: Summer Research Award, Syracuse University
- 1989: Fellow at the Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies, Villa Spelman, Johns Hopkins University, Florence
- 1988-89: Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Program, United States Department of Education
- 1986-88: The Jacob K. Javits Fellowship, United States Department of Education

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR GRANTS

- 2018-22: Principal Investigator, Title VI Award for National Resource Center, Department of Education (awarded \$1,932,000 over 4 years) for the Center for European Studies
- 2017-19: Principal Investigator, "Getting to Know Europe" Grant, awarded from the EU Delegation (60,000 Euros over 2 years) for the Center for European Studies in a Collaborative Project with the University of California at Berkeley.
- 2014-18: Principal Investigator, Title VI Award for National Resource Center, Department of Education (awarded \$1,972,000 over 4 years) for the Center for European Studies
- 2014-15: Principal Investigator and Co-Director, EU Center of Excellence, awarded from the EU Delegation (90,000 Euros over 1 year) for the Center for European Studies
- 2014-15: Co-Principal Investigator (with Mary Neuburger), \$50,000, Office of the Provost, UT-Austin, Course Transformation Grant.
- 2012-14: Principal Investigator, French Embassy Award, \$62,650: French Endowment Studies Contribution (\$25,000), Energy Policies in the US and France (\$12,500, conference), Magnum Collection Exhibit (\$10,600, symposium), WWI Exhibition (\$14,550, lectures and workshops).
- 2011-14: Principal Investigator and Co-Director, EU Center of Excellence, awarded from the EU Delegation (300,000 Euros over 3 years) for the Center for European Studies
- 2010-14: Principal Investigator, Title VI Award for National Resource Center, Department of Education (awarded \$1,622,380 over 4 years) for the Center for European Studies

EDUCATION

- 1988-90: Ph.D., Italian Language and Literature, Johns Hopkins University
- 1984-88: M.A., Italian Language and Literature, Johns Hopkins University
- 1975-79: B.A., Double Major: Literature and Music (classical violin), Bennington College

CURRENT SCHOLARLY RESEARCH

I am currently developing three book-length projects: (1) One is a large-scale monograph aimed at a broad audience on the history of the individual in European thought from antiquity to the end of the modern period, which Beatrice Rehl, editor at Cambridge University Press, has expressed keen interest in publishing; (2) another is an edited volume devoted to sociable spaces, beyond

the court, in Renaissance Italy; and (3) the last is a comparative reading of the art of “monumental,” “antiquarian,” and “critical” history writing in light of, and as a mutual critique of, Nietzsche’s second untimely meditation, “On the Uses and “Disadvantages of History,” drawing principally on the exemplary humanist (or humanist-influenced/inspired) works of Giorgio Vasari’s *Le vite de’ più eccellenti pittori, scultori, e architettori*, Flavio Biondo’s *Italia Illustrata* and *Roma Triumphans*, and Niccolò Machiavelli’s and Francesco Guicciardini’s respective *Istorie Fiorentine*.

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

6. *Vasari’s Words: The “Lives of the Artists” as a History of Ideas in the Italian Renaissance*. Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Pp. xxii + 241.
Reviews: *European History Quarterly* 49 (2019): 307-8; *Journal of Art Historiography* (2019)
<https://arthistoriography.files.wordpress.com/2019/09/cast-rev.pdf>;
5. *On the Importance of Being an Individual in Renaissance Italy: Men, Their Professions, and Their Beards*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. Pp. xii + 311.
Reviews: *Journal of Modern History* 90 (2018): 213-14; *European History Quarterly* 47 (2017): 328-30; *Canadian Journal of History* 52 (2017): 116-18; *Parergon* 33 (2016): 260; *Women’s Studies: An Inter-Disciplinary Journal* 45 (2016): 795-97; *Archivio Storico Italiano* 174 (2016): 591-93; *History: Review of Books* 44 (2016): 170; *American Historical Review* 121 (2016): 1372-73; *Italian Culture* 34 (2016): 114-16; *caa.reviews* June 16, 2016; *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal of Modern Literatures* 70 (2016): 105-107; *Renaissance Quarterly* 69 (2016): 286-87; *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 46 (2016): 590-91; *Forum Italicum: A Journal of Italian Studies* 49 (2015); *Annali d’Italianistica* (online) 33 (2015): 415-17; *Medieval Review* (online) 15.08.42
4. *In Your Face: Professional Improprieties and the Art of Being Conspicuous in Sixteenth-Century Italy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2010. Pp. xix + 246.
Reviews: *European History Quarterly* 43 (2013): 336-38; *Art History* 35 (2012): 840-43; *Romance Sphere* April 14, 2012; *Bibliothèque d’humanisme et renaissance*, 73 (2012): 413-14; *Sixteenth Century Journal* 42 (2011): 918-19; *Italian Culture* 29 (2011): 142-44; *Journal of Modern History* 83 (2011): 676-77; *American Historical Review* 116 (2011): 240-41; *Renaissance Quarterly* 63 (2010): 918-19; *Choice* (Sept., 2010); *Reference & Research Book News* (May, 2010).
3. *The Culture of Cleanliness in Renaissance Italy*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2006. Pp. xix + 244.
Awarded: *Choice Magazine Outstanding Academic Title* (2007)
Reviews: *European History Quarterly* (2009): 122-24; *Italica* 85 (2008): 344-5; *Modern Philology* 106 (2008): 228-31; *The Historian* 70 (2008): 821-22; *Bulletin*

of the History of Medicine 82 (2008): 708-9; *Sixteenth Century Journal* 39 (2008): 204-5; *Speculum* 83 (2008): 172-4; *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 38 (2008): 456-7; *Social History* 32 (2007): 465-7; *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 38 (2007): 190-92; *Archivio storico italiano* 165 (2007): 615-16; *Bibliothèque d'humanisme et Renaissance* 69 (2007): 746; *The Art Book* 14 (2007): 60; *Renaissance Quarterly* 60 (2007): 909-10; *American Historical Review* 112 (2007): 946-7; *Choice* (May 2007); *De volksrant*, "In de hel zietten de vleiers onder se stront," 5 January 2007; *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, 83 (2007).

2. *Doctors, Ambassadors, Secretaries: Humanism and Professions in Renaissance Italy.*

Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2002. Pp. xviii + 224.

Reviews: *Romance Sphere* April 14, 2012; *Journal of Modern History* 78 (2006): 973-5; *Isis* 95 (2004): 692-3; *Clio* 33 (2004): 321-8; *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 78 (2004): 714-6; *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences* 59 (2004): 297-9; *American Historical Review* 108 (2003): 1240-2; *Choice* (February 2003); *Journal of Early Modern History* 7 (2003); *Sixteenth Century Journal* 34 (2003): 910-11; *Renaissance Quarterly* 46 (2003): 1152-3.

1. *Mirabile Dictu: Representations of the Marvelous in Medieval and Renaissance Epic.*

Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1996. Pp. viii + 199.

Reviews: *Modern Philology* 97 (2000): 566; *Speculum* 74 (1999): 126-9; *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal of Modern Literatures* 52 (1998): 117-21; *Sixteenth Century Journal* 28 (1997): 1047-9; *Choice* (December 1996).

CO-AUTHORED BOOKS

1. Translation and critical edition with Wayne Rebhorn (UT-Austin) of Baldessar Castiglione's *Libro del Cortegiano*, contracted with W. W. Norton & Co. for spring 2021.

ARTICLES

"The Life-Enhancing Value of Life-Writing: On the Uses and Abuses of History in Vasari's *Lives of the Artists*." In preparation.

"Reflections on Reflections: The Pictorial Lessons of Mirrors in Vasari's *Lives*." Submitted.

"Constructing a Maverick Physician in Print: Leonardo Fioravanti, Medical Odors, and the Reconstructed Nose." *MLN* 129 Supplement (2014): S60-S72.

"Manly Matters: The Theatricality and Sociability of Beards in Giordano Bruno's *Candelaio* and Sixteenth-Century Italy." *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 40 (2010): 325-46.

"Beards in Cinquecento Italy." *The Body in Early Modern Italy*, ed. Julia Hairston and Walter Stephens. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010. Pp. 176-94, 347-49.

- “Diplomacy: Castiglione and the Art of Being Inconspicuously Conspicuous” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 38 (2008): 35-55.
- “Food: Pietro Aretino and the Art of Conspicuous Consumption.” In *The Renaissance World*, ed. John Jeffries Martin. Oxford: Routledge, 2007.
- “Reflections on Professions and Humanism in Renaissance Italy and the Humanities Today.” *Rinascimento* 43 (2003): 333-53.
- “From Machiavelli to Torquato Accetto: The Secretarial Art of Dissimulation.” In *Educare il corpo, educare la parola*, Ed. G. Patrizi and A. Quondam. Rome: Bulzoni, 1998. Pp. 219-38.
- “The Politics of Cleanliness in Northern Renaissance Italy.” *Symposium* 50 (1996): 1-13. Partly reprinted in the series “Exploring Cultural History”: Mark R. Nesbitt, *Living in Renaissance Italy* (Detroit: Greenhaven Press, 2005).
- “Epic Performance on Trial: Virgil's *Aeneid* and the Power of Eros in Song.” *Arethusa* 27 (1994): 223-46.
- “Dido, Pier della Vigna, and the Discourse of Tragedy in the *Commedia*.” *Stanford Italian Review* 11 (1992): 155-70.
- “From Ignorance to Knowledge: The Marvelous in *Inferno* 13.” In *The Poetry of Allusion: Virgil and Ovid in Dante's "Commedia"*. Ed. Rachel Jacoff and Jeffrey T. Schnapp. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991. Pp. 45-61.
- “Psychoanalysis, History, Marginality: A Study of Violence and Disease in Pirandello's *Enrico IV*.” *Italica* 66 (1989): 158-75.

NOTES, ENTRIES, AND SMALL TRANSLATIONS

- “Individual” and “Profession.” Entries in *The Encyclopedia of Renaissance Philosophy*, ed. Marco Sgarbi. New York: Springer, 2018.
- “Castiglione, Baldassare.” Entries in *The Encyclopedia of Diplomacy*, ed. Gordon Martel. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2017.
- Antonio Vivaldi: The Four Seasons*. The Metropolitan Museum of Art Publications. Little, Brown and Company: Boston, 1999. Translation of sonnets.
- “Ariosto, Ludovico.” In *Major Tudor Authors: A Bio-Biographical Critical Sourcebook*, ed. Alan Hager. Westport: Greenwood Press, 1997. Pp. 16-20.

REVIEWS

- Sharon T. Strocchia. *Forgotten Healers: Women and the Pursuit of Health in Late Renaissance Italy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019. Forthcoming in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 2020.
- John Henderson. *Surviving Plague in an Early Modern City: Florence Under Siege*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2019. Forthcoming in the *American Historical Review* 2020.
- Arielle Saiber. *Measured Words: Writing and Computation in Renaissance Italy*. Toronto: Toronto University Press, 2018. *Isis* 109 (2018): 834-35.
- Patrick Baker. *Italian Renaissance Humanism in the Mirror*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015. In *The Journal of Modern History* 89 (2017): 455-57.
- Oren Margolis. *The Politics of Culture in Quattrocento Europe: René of Anjou in Italy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016. In *European History Quarterly* 42 (2017): 366-67.
- Sandra Cavallo, and Tessa Storey. *Healthy Living in Late Renaissance Italy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. In the *American Historical Review* 119 (2014): 1371-72
- Massimo Firpo and Fabrizio Biferali. "Navicula Petri": *L'arte dei papi nel cinquecento*. Collezione Storica. Rome: Editori Laterza, 2009, and Massimo Firpo. *Storie di immagini, Immagini di storia: Studi di iconografia cinquecentesca*. Storia e letteratura raccolta di studi e testi, volume 262. Rome: Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, 2010. In *The Journal of Modern History* 84 (2012): 225-27.
- Jon Snyder. *Dissimulation and the Culture of Secrecy*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. In the *American Historical Review* 115 (2010): 880-81.
- Timothy Hampton. *Fictions of Embassy: Literature and Diplomacy in Early Modern Europe*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009. In *Renaissance Quarterly* 62 (2009):1223-25.
- Virginia Smith. *Clean: A History of Personal Hygiene and Purity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. In the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine* 82 (2008): 709-10.
- Meredith J. Gill. *Augustine in the Italian Renaissance: Art and Philosophy from Petrarch to Michelangelo*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005. In *Italian Culture* 24/25 (2006-7): 195-9.
- Thomas V. Cohen, *Love and Death in Renaissance Italy*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2004. In *The Historian* 68 (2006): 867-8.
- Christopher S. Celenza. *The Lost Italian Renaissance: Humanists, Historians, and Latin's Legacy*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. In the *American Historical Review* 110 (2005): 245-6.

Leda Giannuzzi Jaworski, ed. *Lo studio bolognese: Campi di studio, di ricerca, di insegnamento, di divulgazione*. Forum Italicum: Filibrary Series, number 8, 1995. In *Symposium* 51 (1997): 206-8.

Rodney J. Payton, *A Modern Reader's Guide to Dante's "Inferno."* New York: Peter Lang, 1992. In *Annali d'italianistica* 13 (1995): 477.

J. F. Took. *Dante: Lyric Poet and Philosopher. An Introduction to the Minor Works*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990. In *Lectura Dantis* 13 (1933): 96-7.

Domenico Pietropaolo. *Dante Studies in the Age of Vico*. Ottawa: Dovehouse Edition Inc., 1989. In *Romance Quarterly* 39 (1992): 252-3.

SELECTED PAPERS DELIVERED

Discussion of Vasari at the workshop "The Profession of Writing" at the University of Bristol, June 22, 2018. Invited participant.

"Reflections on Reflections: The Pictorial Lessons of Mirrors in Vasari's *Lives*." Renaissance Society Association Conference. March 2017.

"Reflections on Reflections: The Pictorial Lessons of Mirrors in Vasari's *Lives*." Invited lecture, Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS), York University, York. March 2017. Conducted as well a master class for the graduate students of CMRS on my new book on Vasari, concentrating on the Preface, Introduction, and fifth chapter, on "Notte/Night."

"Vasari's Professions." Keynote at University College London, London. September 2016.

"Vasari's Speed." Newberry Library, European Art Symposium, Chicago. April, 2016.

"What are Your Aspirations? Do You Want to be a Member of the Elite? What Makes You Unique? What Makes You an Individual?" Lone Star Book Festival, Houston. April, 2016.

Presentation of *On the Importance of Being an Individual in Renaissance Italy: Men, Their Professions, and Their Beards*. De Bosis Colloquium in Italian Studies. Harvard University, Cambridge. March, 2016.

"Vasari's Professions." Renaissance Society of America, Berlin. March, 2015.

"Reading Problems in Dante." Invited lecture at Trinity University, San Antonio. November, 2014.

"Professionally and Technically Speaking: The Culture of *Ars* in Renaissance Italy." Invited lecture at Indiana University, Renaissance Studies Program, First Symposium of the

- Series, “*Techné: Intersections of Theory and Practice in Renaissance Culture.*” April, 2012.
- “Leonardo Fioravanti, Odors, and Noses.” Renaissance Society of America Conference. Venice, Italy. April, 2010.
- “Understanding Dante.” Invited lecture at Trinity University, San Antonio. November, 2009.
- “Anton Francesco Doni and Print Culture.” American Association for Italian Studies Conference, New York City. May, 2009.
- “Dante’s *Inferno.*” Invited lecture at Trinity University, San Antonio. November, 2008.
- “Staging Facial Hair in the *Candelaio*: Theatricality and Sociability in Sixteenth-Century Italy.” Invited lecture. University College Cork, Cork, Ireland. May, 2008.
- “Anton Francesco Doni and the Art of Conspicuous Reproduction” and “Consumption and Absorption in Michelangelo’s *Bacchus.*” Invited papers presented at the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, April, 2008.
- “Limits: Understanding Nature, Understanding Cultures, Understanding the World in Fioravanti’s *Specchio.*” Invited lecture. *Interpreters of Culture*, Koper, Slovenia, September 2007.
- “Michelangelo’s *Bacchus* and the Art of Absorption.” Invited lecture. Trinity University, San Antonio, April, 2007.
- “The Beard in Sixteenth-Century Italy.” *Renaissance Society of America.* Miami, March 2007.
- “Soap.” *Renaissance Society of America.* New York City, April 2004.
- “Three Reactions to Plague: Marvels and Commonplaces in Medicine and Literature” and “The Importance and Tragedy of Being an Ambassador: The Performance of Francesco Guicciardini.” Invited papers presented at the University of Michigan. Ann Arbor, October 2001.
- “Fracastoro’s *Syphilis*: Wonder, the Metaphors of Illness, and Naming a ‘New’ Disease.” American Association for Italian Studies Conference, New York City, April 2000.
- “Petrarch’s Profession and His Laurel.” Modern Language Association, Chicago, December 1999.
- “The Authority of the Renaissance Secretary: Tasso’s Analogy.” Kentucky Foreign Language Conference. Lexington, KY, April 1999.
- “Fathers and Sons: Ermolao Barbaro’s Treatise on the Ambassador.” American Association for

Italian Studies Conference. Chicago, April 1998.

“Guicciardini as Sophist and Storyteller: The 'Discrezione' of the Humanist Ambassador.”
Invited lecture. The Charles S. Singleton Center for Italian Studies, Johns Hopkins
University. Florence, Italy, December 1995.

“From Machiavelli to Torquato Accetto: The Secretarial Art of Dissimulation.” Invited paper.
Università di Roma “La Sapienza.” Rome, Italy, 1995.

“Treating Diseases: Medicine, Legislators, and Boccaccio's *Decameron*.” American
Comparative Literature Association. Atlanta, March 1995.

“The Trials of the Secretary.” Renaissance Society of America. Dallas, April 1994.

“Dido, Pier della Vigna, and the Discourse of Tragedy.” Twenty-Sixth International Conference
on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, May 1991.

SERVICE (major duties)

2017: Provost's Global Engagement Task Force, Appointed by Sr. Associate Dean Richard
Flores, College of Liberal Arts

2014- : International Relations and Global Studies Steering Committee, Appointed by Sr.
Associate Dean Richard Flores, College of Liberal Arts

2013-14: Executive Committee, Department of French and Italian, College of Liberal Arts

2013- : Editorial Board, *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Literatures*

2013 : Provost's Committee on the Reappointment of Dean Diehl (Chair)

2012-15: Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) to the Dean of the College of Liberal
Arts, Appointed by Dean Randy Diehl

2012- : Standing Committee on International Programs, Appointed by Provost

2011- : Editorial Board, *Explorations in Renaissance Culture*

2010- : Dean's Swedish Endowment Committee, College of Liberal Arts

2008- : Dean's Academic Affairs College Committee, College of Liberal Arts

2008- : Dean's Committee for International Education, College of Liberal Arts

2007-9: Dean's Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Liberal Arts

2007- : Steering Committee, European Studies, College of Liberal Arts

2005-6: Faculty Development Program Committee

2003-5: Dean's Promotion and Tenure Committee, College of Liberal Arts

2001-12: Executive Committee, Department of French and Italian, College of Liberal Arts

2001-3: Member of the Castiglione Fiorentino Steering Committee

2001- : Temple Scholarship Committee, Liberal Arts Honors

2000-2: Member of the Faculty Council

Member of the Faculty Council Grievance Committee

1997-8: Chair of the Qualifying Exam Committee, Program in Comparative Literature

1994-6: Graduate Adviser of the Program in Comparative Literature, University of Texas

Reviewer for University of Chicago Press, Yale University Press, University of Toronto Press,
University of Pennsylvania Press, Routledge