

# STEVEN W. THOMAS

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## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS HELD

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Assistant Professor, English Department, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, 2007 – present.  
Lecturer, English and Comparative Literature Departments, Penn State University, 2006 – 2007.  
Graduate Assistant, English Department, Penn State University, 2001 – 2006.

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. in English Literature, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, May 2006.  
M.A. in English Literature, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2001.  
B.A. in English Literature and Religious Studies, Brown University, May 1994.

**Dissertation:** *Liberty and the Poetics of Mercantilism*, defended February 2006.

My transatlantic project analyzes how the colonial elite of America and Ireland authorized their political position within what Adam Smith called the “mercantile system.” Focusing on William Molyneux of Ireland, Cotton Mather of Massachusetts, and William Byrd II of Virginia, I contribute to the ongoing scholarly conversation about republican, liberal, and imperial ideologies by examining how these authors rearticulated those ideologies – using them as cultural capital – in order to construct themselves as representatives of their colonies and negotiate mercantile interest politics.

Committee: Carla Mulford (chair), Djelal Kadir, Clement Hawes, and Hester Blum

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### Articles in Journals and Edited Volumes

“Taxing Tobacco and the Metonymies of Virtue: the Poetics of Thomson, Browne, Byrd, and Cooke.” *Global Economies, Cultural Currencies of the Eighteenth Century*. Ed. Michael Schwartz. New York: AMS Press, Inc., forthcoming. ms. 32 pp.

“The New James Bond and Globalization Theory, Inside and Out,” *CineAction* 78 (2009): 32-39.

“Doctoring Ideology: James Grainger’s *The Sugar Cane* and the Bodies of Empire.” *Early American Studies* 4:1 (2006): 78-111.

### Articles in Encyclopedias and Book Reviews

“Mercantilism.” *Africa and the Americas: Culture, Politics, and History: A Multidisciplinary Encyclopedia*, vol. 2. Ed. Richard Juang and Noelle Morrissette. Oxford: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 746-8.

“William Byrd, II.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*. Ed. Jeffrey Gray. Vol. 1. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. 223-4.

“James Grainger.” *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of American Poets and Poetry*. Ed. Jeffrey Gray. Vol. 2. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 2006. 636-7.

Review of *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*, by Antonio Negri and Michael Hardt, and *Debating Empire*, ed. Gopal Balakrishnan. *Gramma: Journal of Theory and Criticism* 13 (2005): 208-12.

Review of *The Commonplace Book of William Byrd II of Westover*, ed. Kevin Berland, Jan Kirsten Gilliam, and Kenneth Lockridge. *The Southern Quarterly* 41:2 (2003): 148-9.

### **Creative and Non-scholarly Publications**

“The Oromo Renaissance,” *Ogina: Oromo Arts in Diaspora* (summer 2008). <[www.ogina.org](http://www.ogina.org)>

“Soccer Story,” *Storie* 55 (2005): 112-13.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

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#### **National and International Conferences**

“Ethiopia, American Literature, and Human Rights,” Society of Nineteenth-Century Americanists Conference. State College, Pennsylvania. May 2010.

“Against Gilroy?: The Political Atlantic,” Third Early Ibero/Anglo Americanist Summit: Early American Borderlands. St. Augustine, Florida. May 2010.

“The Black Enlightenment and the Network Concept,” Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference. Hamilton, Bermuda. March 2009.

“The Oromo Renaissance within the Marketplace of World Literature,” Oromo Studies Association Conference. Minneapolis, Minnesota. August 2008.

“The Cultural Politics of Single Mothers and *The Scarlet Letter* Today,” Nathaniel Hawthorne Society Summer Meeting. Brunswick, Maine. June 2008.

“William Byrd and the Tobacco Acts,” Northeast American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies: Transatlantic Destinies Conference. Dartmouth, New Hampshire. October, 2007.

“Taxing Tobacco and the Metonymies of Virtue.” East Central/American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies Annual Meeting. Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. October 2006.

“Clubical Liberty’s Fatal Cake.” Society of Early Americanists Fourth Biennial Meeting. Alexandria, Virginia. March 2005.

“Sex with Earth Angel: Mapping and Un-mapping a Gendered America in the Writing of Columbus, Raleigh, and Donne.” American Comparative Literature Association Annual Meeting. University Park, Pennsylvania. March 2005.

“The Specters of the Native and the Purloined Letter of the American Land in *The House of the Seven Gables*.” Nathaniel Hawthorne Society. Salem, Massachusetts. July 2004.

“Critical Pedagogy and American Literature.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention. San Diego, California. December 2003.

“Doctoring Ideology: Sugar, Slaves, and Sailors in the Atlantic World,” McNeil Center Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference on “Roots and Routes.” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. October 2003.

“The Meaning of Liberty in Mercantilist Culture.” International American Studies Association First World Conference. Leiden, The Netherlands. May 2003.

“Royal Science and Colonial Society: William Byrd II’s *History of the Dividing Line*.” Society of Early Americanists Third Biennial Conference. Providence, Rhode Island. April 2003.

“Sir Walter Raleigh: Inventions and Discoveries.” Early Ibero-Anglo Americanist Summit. Tucson, Arizona, May 2002.

### **Invited Lectures**

“The Symbol of Ethiopia in Harlem Renaissance Drama,” Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. June 19, 2010.

“Ethiopia in the American Literary Imagination,” Bunkyo Gakuin University, Tokyo, Japan. May 26, 2009.

“The Oromo Renaissance,” Oromo Fundraiser for Sandscribe Communications, Minneapolis, Minnesota, October 25, 2008.

### **TEACHING**

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#### **Courses Taught at The College of St. Benedict|St. John’s University**

Economics and Empire in Early American Literature (fall 2009 and 2010)  
Studies in Critical Theory: Literature and Theory of the Caribbean (fall 2010)  
Studies in Critical Theory: Globalization (spring 2010)  
Post-colonial Literature (spring 2010)  
Race and Ethnicity in American Literatures (fall 2008 and 2009)  
Survey of American Literature to 1865 (fall 2007 and 2008)  
Reading Fiction (fall 2007)  
Studies in Contemporary Literature (spring 2008 and 2009)  
Literary Theory and Criticism (spring 2008 and 2009)  
First Year Seminar (2007 – 2010)

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Faculty Handbook and Elections Committee, College of St. Benedict|St. John’s University, 2009 -- present

Head of International Advisory Board for Sandscribe Communications, 2009 – present.

Faculty Senate Subcommittee on Family Friendly Policies and Practices, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, fall 2008.

English Department Chair's Council, College of St. Benedict|St. John's University, September 2007 – present.

Modern Language Association Committee on the Status of Graduate Students in the Profession, July 2004 – June 2007.

President, Graduate Student Caucus, Modern Language Association, January – December 2005.

Vice-President, Graduate Student Caucus, Modern Language Association. January – December 2004.