

Juxta positions

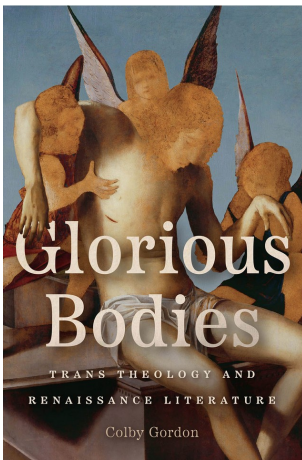
LECTURE SERIES **FALL 2025**

Colby Gordon

"A Pound of Flesh: *The Merchant of Venice* and the Trans Debate"

Thursday, November 6

3:30 pm - 306 Clemens Hall



Transition poses a curious anomaly for the secular state, appearing sometimes as an atheistic affront to Christian values and at other times as a dangerous, outmoded, quasi-religious practice in its own right. This talk considers how the residually religious contours of trans embodiment stem from transphobia's reliance on antisemitic tropes and the fear of a predatory, Judaizing incision by way of a reading of Shakespeare's most trans play, *The Merchant of Venice*.



Dr. Colby Gordon is an Associate Professor in the Department of Literatures in English at Bryn Mawr College. He is the author of *Glorious Bodies: Trans Theology and Renaissance Literature* (Chicago 2024), and one of the central founders of the field of Early Modern Trans Studies (#EctoTrans). He was awarded the Shakespeare Association of America's 2022 Innovative Article Award for his essay, "A Woman's Prick."

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