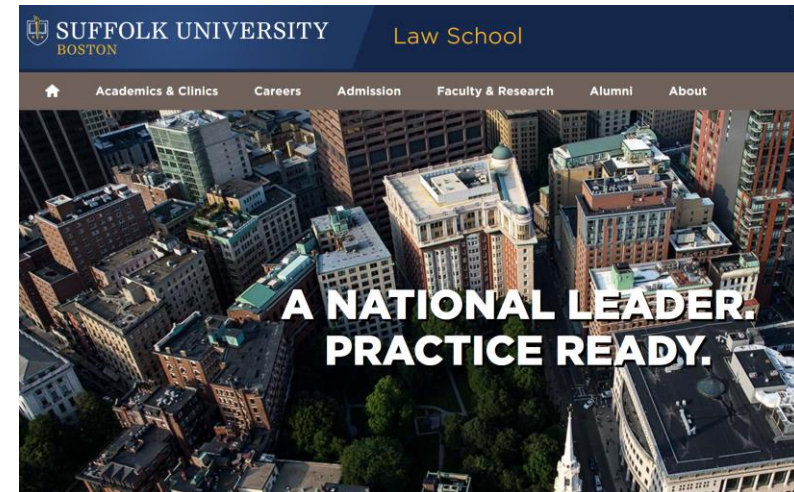
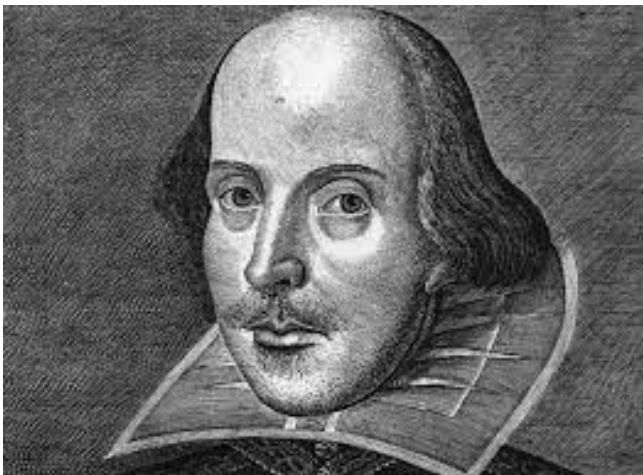


Building a Course on a Shaky Foundation

Marc Lauritsen

CALIcon 2022



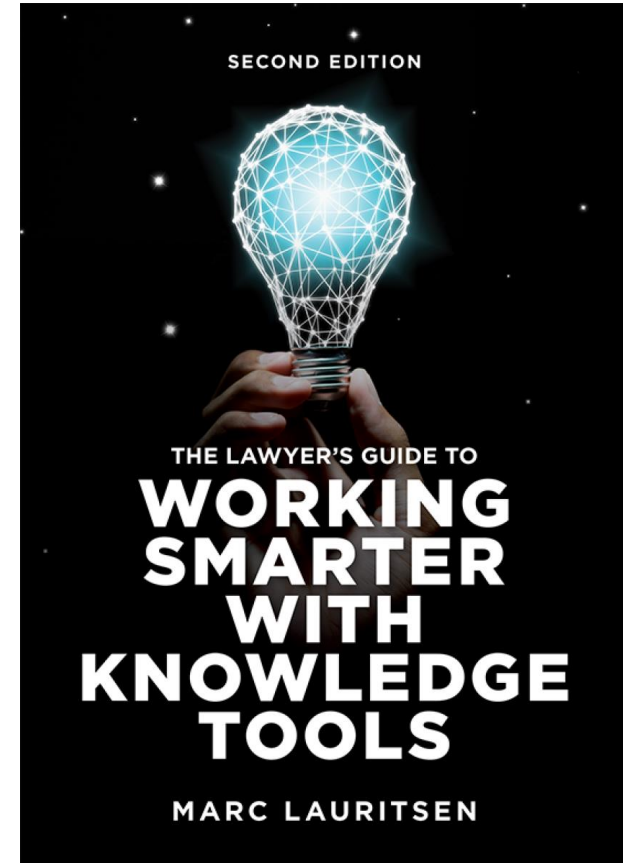
Shakespeare and Knowledge Technology

Shakespeare may be among the dearest of the Dead White Men, but his influence continues to resound four centuries after he put down the pen, and familiarity with his works is expected in an educated person. Not only was he one of the greatest literary artists in history, he was remarkably progressive for his time on the roles and rights of women and the relationships among religion, government, and society. The works are full of allusions to legal concepts and processes.

This course is designed to sharpen your Shakespeare literacy, and provide in depth study of a couple law-themed plays (*Measure for Measure* and *The Merchant of Venice*.) It will also introduce you to some of the latest technologies for collaborative knowledge work. We'll critically examine the evidence and arguments around the controversial theory that Will from Stratford-upon-Avon was not the author of the works that have come down under his name. (Mark Twain was convinced he must have been a practicing lawyer.)

This is a three credit course. In addition to classes, students are expected to spend an average of eight hours a week preparing for discussion and working on projects. No prior experience in Shakespeare or knowledge technology is required.

Your presenter



Contact: marc@capstonepractice.com



CALICon 2001 Friday Plenary: Learning Systems and Open Practice

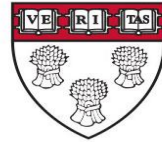
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyq6eYDWu0c&t=218s>

My so-called career

- Legal aid
 - Clinical legal education
 - Legal tech R&D
 - Capstone Practice Systems
 - AmeriCounsel
 - Legal Systematics
 - All About Choice
 - LawHelp Interactive
 - Adjunct professor
-
- The diagram illustrates a career path through a list of roles. Three blue arrows point from the right towards specific roles, indicating the start of certain obsessions:
- A blue arrow points from the text "Legal tech obsession begins (~1984)" to the role "Legal tech R&D".
 - A blue arrow points from the text "Shakespeare obsession begins (~2003)" to the role "AmeriCounsel".
 - A blue arrow points from the text "Obsessions combined! (2022)" to the role "Adjunct professor".

Project PERICLES

1984-88



HARVARD
LAW SCHOOL



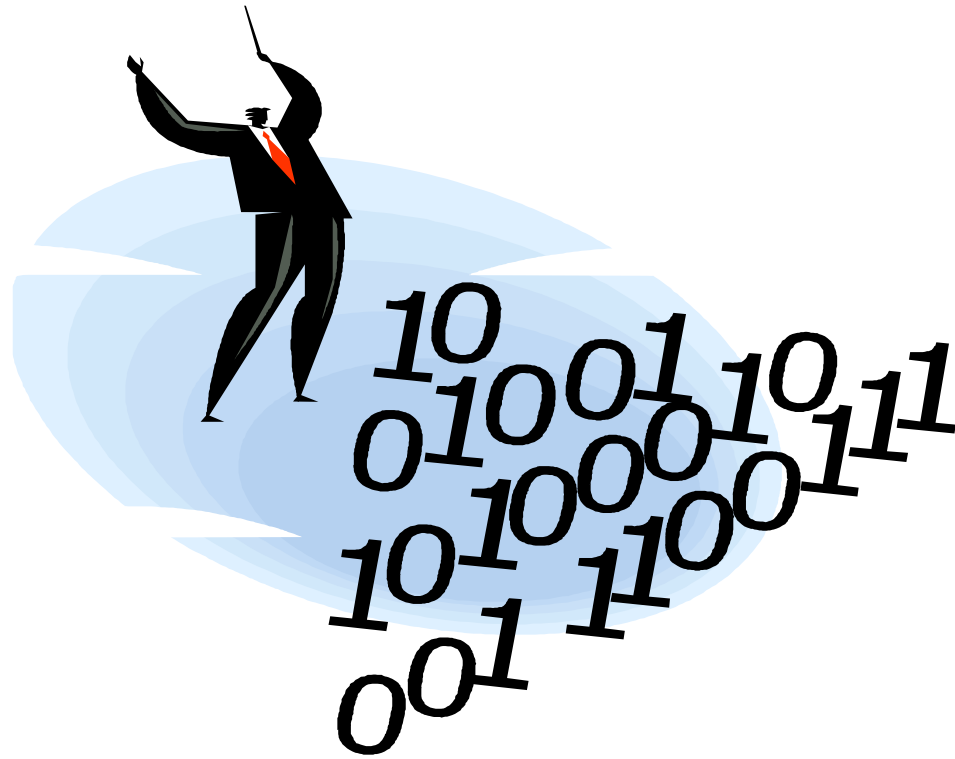
Learning law by teaching machines how to think like lawyers



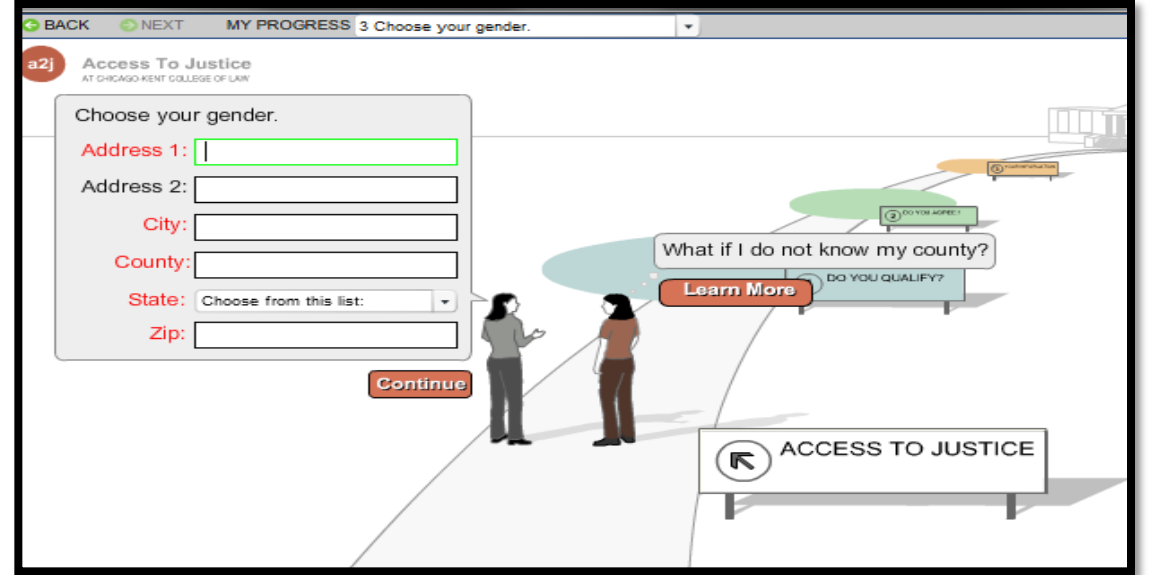
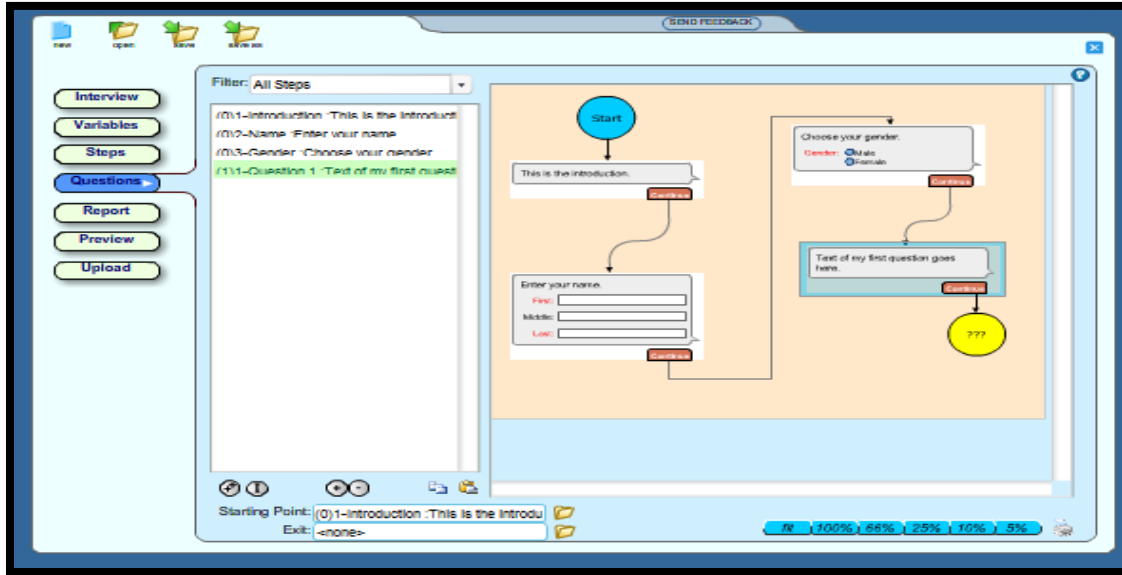
FutureLaw 2014 | Rebuilding Legal Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C01legdVziA&feature=youtu.be&t=27m14s>

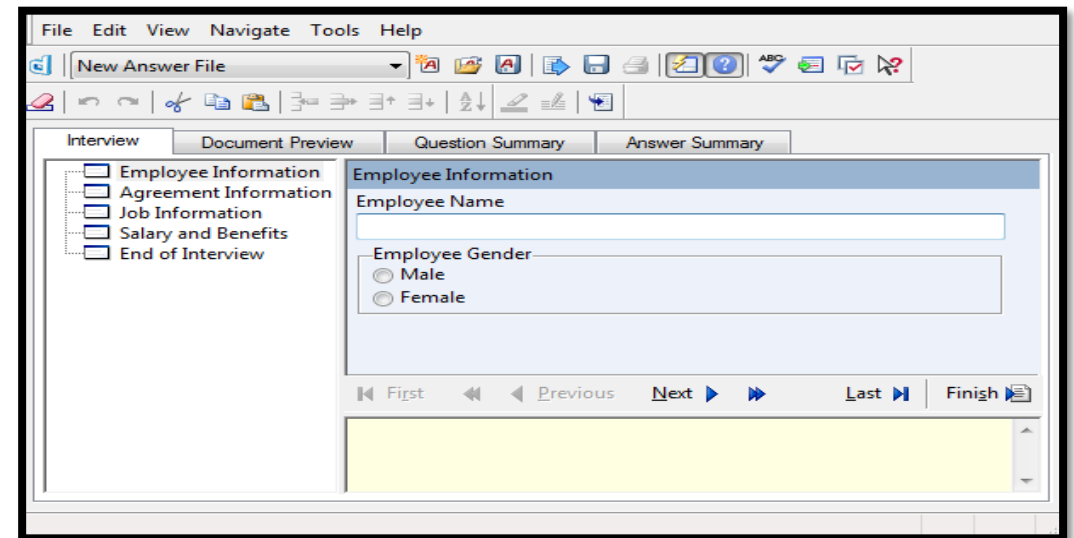
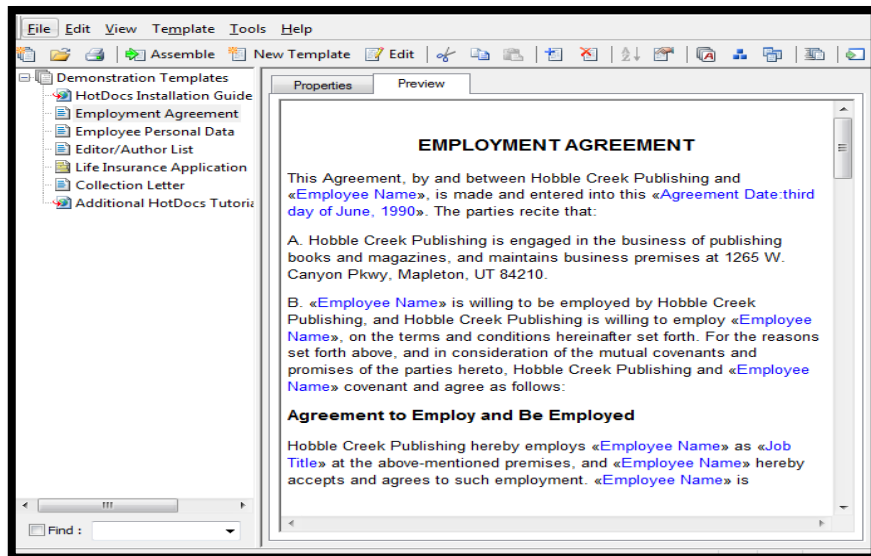
Apps for Justice



Guided Interviews

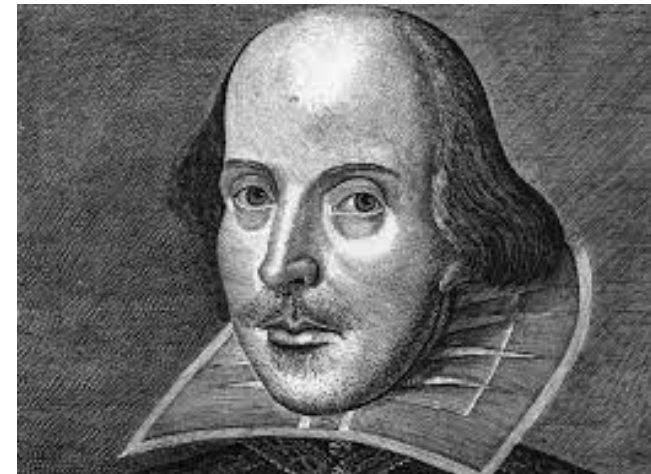


Intelligent document templates



Shakespeare

- His places and times
- Legal, policy, and ethical themes
- The Merchant of Venice
 - Specific performance of contracts; justice vs. mercy
 - Antisemitism; gender roles
- Measure for Measure
 - Regulation of sexuality
 - Governance, corruption
- The Sonnets





Are there poets for whom you've gained greater appreciation over time?

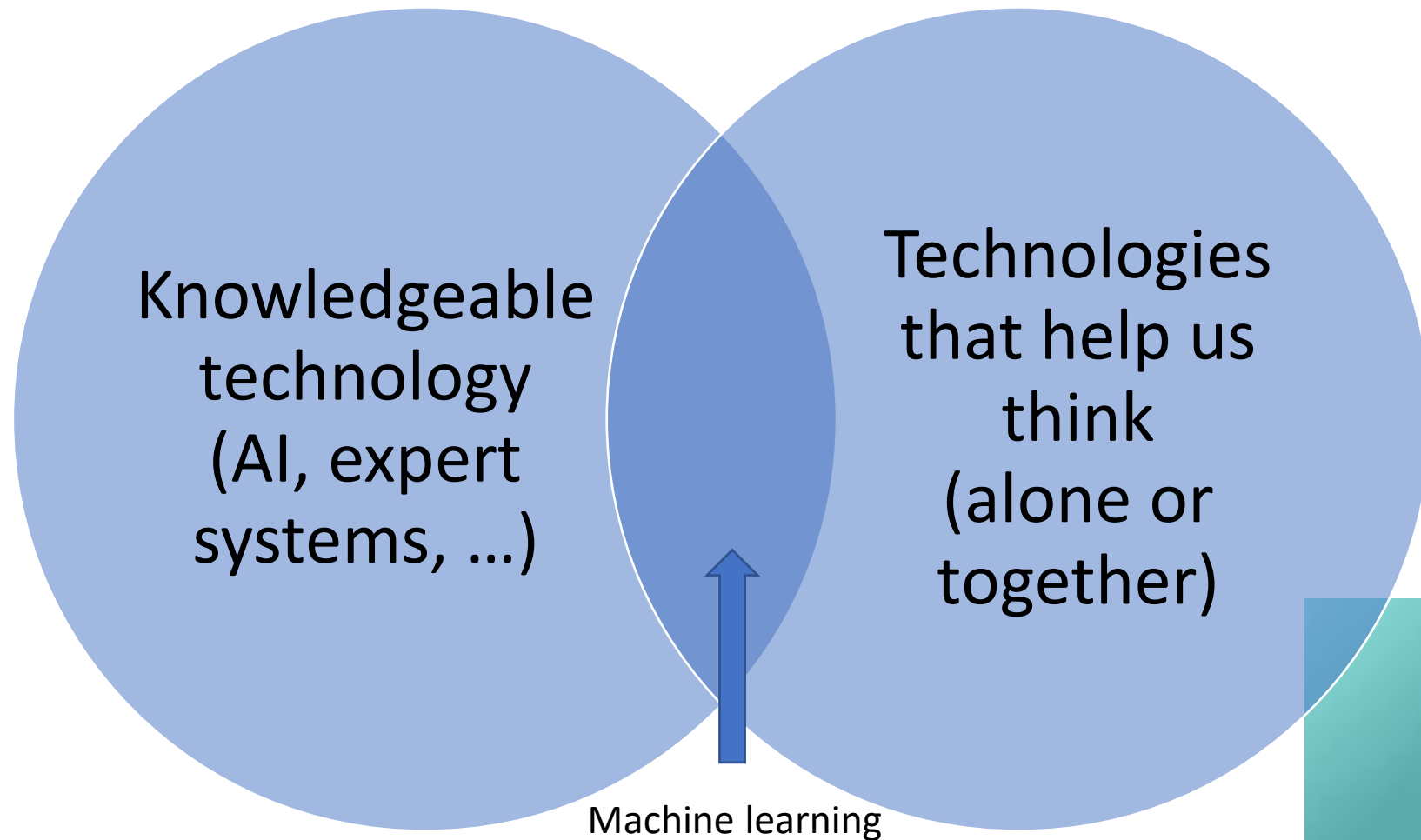
Shakespeare, hands down, which might seem a bit elementary since he occupies such a center stage in literature. Yet for the longest time I was ambivalent, if not outright dubious, of Shakespeare, for that very same reason. He just felt like another ancient dead white guy that my teachers were trying to shove into my brain when I was desperate to read someone who looked like me. When I was in college, I had this moment of thinking: *If you're going to close yourself off to an author, at least read them to understand why*. I owed that to myself and to literature. So I pushed myself to take a course called Global Shakespeare, taught by Dr. Leah Whittington, and I fell in love. I think it was finally being able to read Shakespeare through a global, racial and gendered lens that made me see him anew.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/09/books/review/amanda-gorman-by-the-book-interview.html>

Then and Now: Differences and Similarities

	1580-1620	
Before	During	After
Greece Rome Ovid Islam Middle Ages Dante Petrarch Renaissance Copernicus 'Discovery' of America Printing press Reformation Henry VIII	Queen Elizabeth Spanish Armada Burning heretics Astrology Plague Christopher Marlowe Thomas Nashe Ben Jonson King James United Kingdom	Indoor plumbing Scientific revolution French revolution Industrial revolutions United States Electricity Darwin Genetics Germ theory of disease Radio, television Quantum physics Computers Internet

Knowledge Technology



The Authorship Question(s)

- Did William Shaksper from Stratford-upon-Avon really write the plays and poems?
- If not him, who?
- Why didn't the actual author(s) use their real name(s)?
- How did he|she|they get away with it?
- Who's who in the Sonnets? (Fair youth, dark lady, rival poet, ...)
- Legitimate historical questions
- All remarkably unsettled and viciously debated

A lineup of usual suspects



Sir Francis Bacon

Two Inns of Court lawyer-poets, Joseph Hall and John Marston, in 1598 refer to the author of the Shakespeare poem, ***Venus and Adonis***, as "Labeo," a jurist, who is also to be identified by the motto ***Mediocria firma***. The motto was the specific heraldic motto of Francis and Anthony Bacon at that time, but, of the two, only Francis Bacon was a jurist.

[More about Bacon](#)



Edward de Vere, Earl of Oxford

De Vere possessed the classical learning and knowledge of the law, music, Italian culture, and aristocratic sports that feature so prominently in the Shakespeare canon. The poetry that has survived under his own name, as well as his letters, both collaborate the case for his authorship.

[More about Oxford](#)



John Florio

Recognised as the most important humanist in English Renaissance, Florio defined himself: "Italian tongue, English at heart." He contributed more than a thousand words to the English language. In his works, including his dictionaries and translation of Montaigne's *Essays*, are many dialogues, proverbs, and words attributed to Shakespeare.

[More about Florio](#)



Christopher Marlowe

William Shakespeare was "born" as an author shortly after Marlowe's supposed death. *Venus and Adonis* was registered anonymously on 18 April 1593, and the first recorded purchase on 12 June 1593, less than a fortnight after Marlowe's apparent death, marked the first appearance of the name "William Shakespeare" in any literary or theatrical context.

[More about Marlowe](#)



Sir Henry Neville



William Shaksper of Stratford



Mary Sidney, Countess of Pembroke



William Stanley, Earl of Derby

<https://shakespeareanauthorshiptrust.org/candidates>

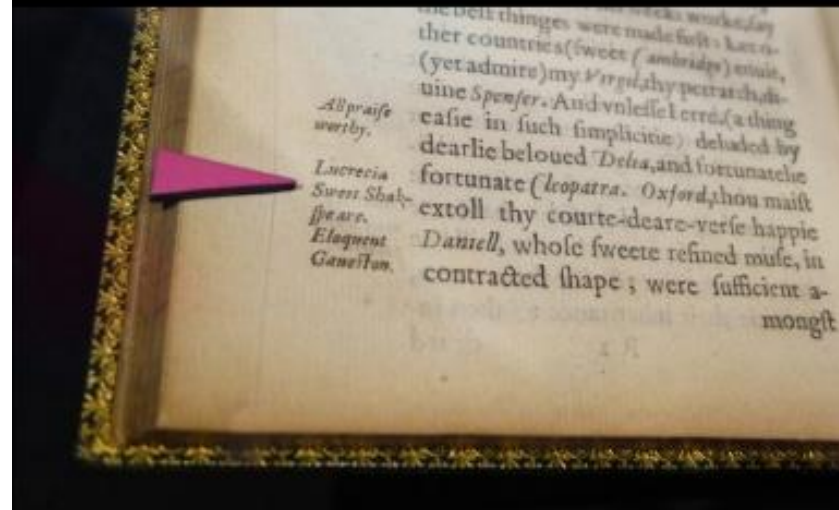
Is Shakespeare Dead?

By MARK TWAIN

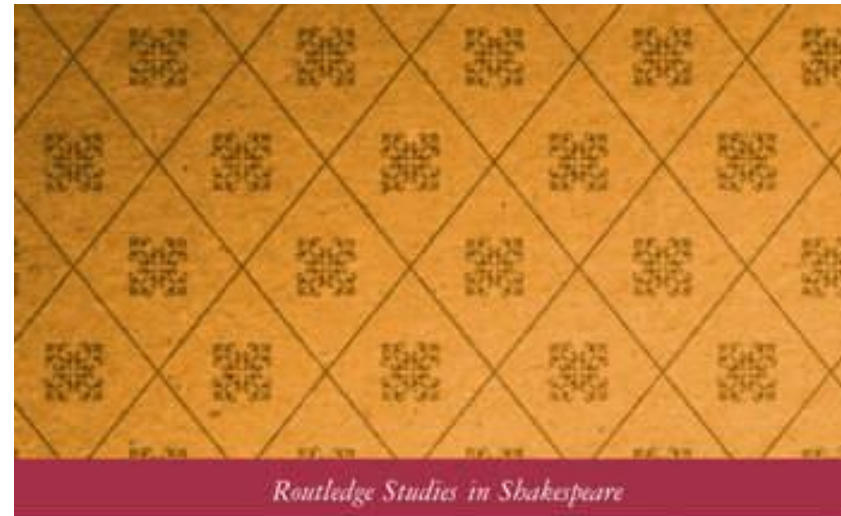
THIS new volume is a serious book full of humor—
one that in the guise of fun carries a message of
real importance. It is a valuable contribution to the
literature of the subject—and it is done with all the
merriment and keen analysis of Mark Twain at his best.

Early Shakespeare Authorship Doubts

Bryan H. Wildenthal



<https://www.amazon.com/Early-Shakespeare-Authorship-Doubts-Wildenthal/dp/1732716617/>



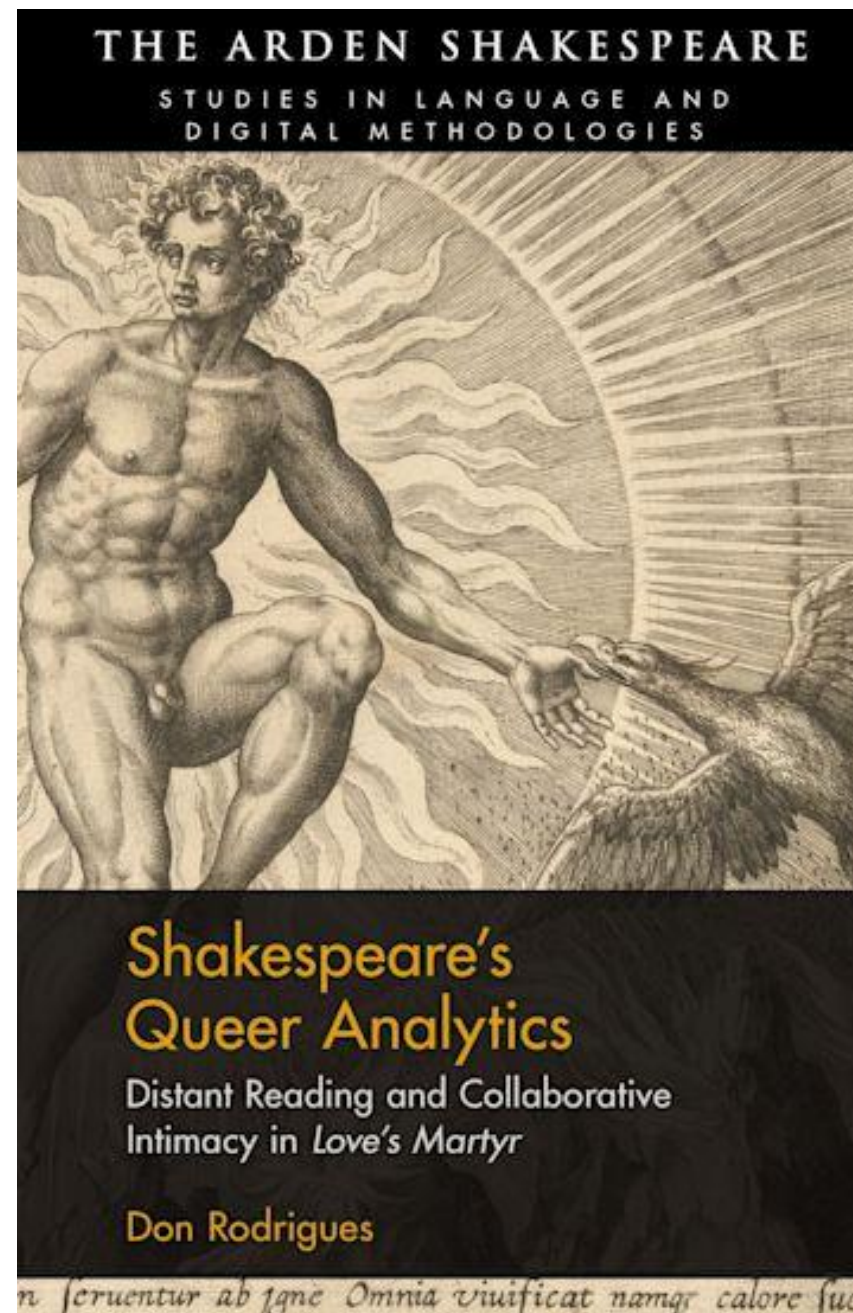
Routledge Studies in Shakespeare

AEMILIA LANYER AS SHAKESPEARE'S CO-AUTHOR

Mark Bradbeer

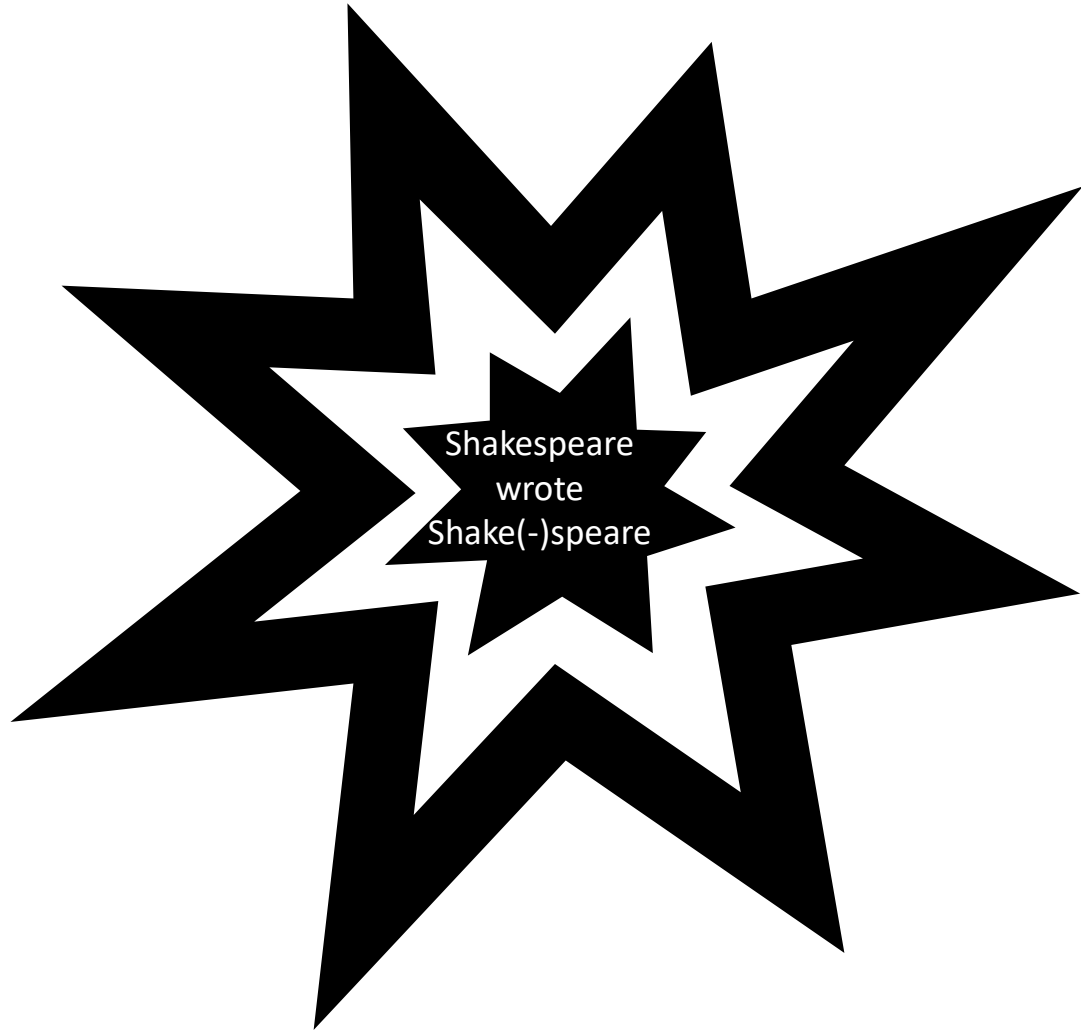


Bi?



<https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/shakespeares-queer-analytics-9781350178847/>

Exploding a myth



The screenshot shows the homepage of the The Shakespeare Authorship Coalition. At the top left is a logo featuring a portrait of a man with a question mark on his face and the letters "SAC" below it. To the right of the logo, the text "THE SHAKESPEARE AUTHORSHIP COALITION" is displayed in a large, serif font. Below this, the website address "DoubtAboutWill.org" is shown. A green banner below the header contains the text: "Dedicated to legitimizing the Shakespeare authorship issue by increasing awareness of reasonable doubt about the identity of William Shakespeare". Below the banner is a navigation menu with links: "Home", "The Declaration", "Past doubters", "Signing page", "Downloads", and "Signatories". At the bottom of the screenshot, a large white box contains the text: "Declaration of Reasonable Doubt About the Identity of William Shakespeare" in a serif font.

**THE SHAKESPEARE
AUTHORSHIP
COALITION** *DoubtAboutWill.org*

Dedicated to legitimizing the Shakespeare authorship issue by increasing awareness of reasonable doubt about the identity of William Shakespeare

[Home](#) [The Declaration](#) [Past doubters](#) [Signing page](#) [Downloads](#) [Signatories](#)

*Declaration of Reasonable Doubt
About the Identity of William Shakespeare*

Sentiments from the ‘camps’

(personal correspondence)

One professor at a top university:

“I see nothing problematic in the Stratford boy having grown up to write the plays. Hell, in some moods I might even argue that, despite the breathless nonsense that gets published about Shakespeare’s life (Greenblatt et al.), the case for his authorship rises to exceed the standard of reasonable doubt.”

A proponent of one ‘candidate,’ on the proponent of a different one:

“None of what he is proposing makes the slightest bit of sense or could possibly be true. It’s completely ridiculous.”

Connecting the themes

- Using knowledge tools to learn and work together
- Collaborative factual investigation and argument mapping



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Storybuilder by Everlaw

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Course themes and goals

- Sheer pleasure of reading great literature
- Learning about a very different but strangely similar time
- Dealing with arcane vocabulary and foreign ideas (like law itself)
- Critical thinking (what to believe)
- Factual analysis; fashioning and deconstructing stories
- Argumentation (how to convince others)
- How can knowledge technology help?

Argumentative Intelligence

Marc Lauritsen*



Argumentation is one of the most researched and discussed topics in the artificial intelligence (“AI”) and law community. After decades of scholarship, we have a rich literature and vibrant centers of ongoing exploration. Yet that work seems to have had little impact so far on the real-world behavior of humans in law-related contexts. Few technologies that support arguers have gained traction. Why is that? We need “smarter” arguments more than ever. What new roles for AI are worth imagining and pursuing? Might it, for instance, help us determine when an issue has been argued about “enough” to consider it settled?

Well have you argued, sir; and, for your pains,
Of capital treason we arrest you here.

Earl of Northumberland (to the Bishop of
Carlisle), in Richard II (Act IV, Scene 1)

<https://www.capstonepractice.com/s/Argumentative-Intelligence.pdf>

Course logistics

- Maker-style; project-based
 - Possible artifacts: databases, timelines, argument maps, performances?
- Experiential (more than just reading, listening, writing)
- Conversational, collegial, participatory
- Teamwork, collaboration
- Inverted classroom
- Guest speakers
- Find the allusions (in a current newspaper)

Open questions

- Is this the first course of this kind?
- Student interest (Will enough register?)
- Will it work?
- Trying to do too much?

