



The Lilly Fellows Program seeks to strengthen the quality and shape the character of church-related institutions of higher learning. Three closely related initiatives have been designed to accomplish this mission: a National Network of Church-Related Colleges and Universities that sponsors a wide variety of activities and publications that explore the Christian character of the academic vocation; a Graduate Fellowship Program that supports graduate students who are exploring vocations in church-related higher education, and the two-year, residential Postdoctoral Teaching Fellowship. As of 2021-2022 the Program has awarded eighty-two two-year postdoctoral fellowships to teacher-scholars who seek to renew and enrich their intellectual and spiritual lives while preparing for teaching and leadership roles at institutions of church-related higher education. Fellows teach in the honors college (Christ College) and departments of the College of Arts and Sciences at Valparaiso University. In addition, Fellows conduct scholarship or creative work, participate in a two-year colloquium, and interact with representatives from a national network of 99 church-related colleges and universities.



Amanda K. Ruud received her PhD in English from the University of Southern California in 2020 with support from the USC Visual Studies Research Institute and the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute. She holds a Certificate in Visual Studies from USC and an MA in English Literature from the University of Connecticut and is a graduate of the Torrey Honors Institute at Biola University.

Amanda is an early modernist and a Shakespearean with a focus on rhetorical poetics and the visual arts. Her scholarship demonstrates how early modern English poets and playwrights address the specific challenges of representing loss by drawing on both ancient and emerging ideas about visual images. Her work appears in *Philological Quarterly* and *The Routledge Companion to Adaptation* and is forthcoming in *The Shakespearean Death Arts: Hamlet Among the Tombs* (Palgrave Shakespeare Studies). Amanda maintains a secondary interest in film adaptation. Her work on Shakespeare in silent film extends her examination of the ways in which images communicate into the twentieth century.

Her current book project, *Shakespeare's Speaking Pictures: Rhetoric, Visual Art, and the Poetics of Loss in Early Modern England* launches an examination of early modern representational ethics from a pivotal observation: Shakespeare repeatedly slows narrative action to produce scenes of lavish description or visual engagement with silent images precisely at moments of loss or grief. In *Hamlet*, for example, Gertrude mourns by offering a sustained description of Ophelia hovering over the water before her death, and in both *Lucrece* and *The Winter's Tale* characters mourn by observing and addressing works of visual art. *Shakespeare's Speaking Pictures* argues that these scenes contribute to a larger early modern reimagining of the aims of poetry and art in the context of loss. Shakespeare draws on both classical poetics and motifs in Renaissance visual arts to craft scenes that resist the politically inflected instrumentalization of loss more common in epic and humanist poetry and offer instead a vivid experience of mourning with and for others. To illuminate these scenes the book unfolds a dialogue between elements of Renaissance visual culture (including vanitas paintings, *memento mori* images, and writings about sculpture) and the rhetorical handbooks in which classical and humanist rhetoricians talked about description and visuality.

Whether in a discussion-based literature course or in a writing and research course for Business majors and Engineers, Amanda's pedagogy encourages students to practice sustained, joyful, and rigorous inquiry, and to value excellence and growth. Over the past decade, Amanda has taught a wide range of students in writing programs at the University of Connecticut and Biola University, and in the English Department and Thematic Option honors program at the University of Southern California. Some of her favorite teaching experiences have included creating a writing curriculum for high school students titled *Writerly Habits & Writerly Virtues* and developing an undergraduate course that traced the story of Eve in writing by and about women in early modern England.

Outside of the classroom, Amanda seeks to build community around prayer, poetry, and the culinary arts. She is a mother of two small children and serves as a mentor to students and youth leaders through the Christian Adulthood Initiative, a non-profit ministry focused on inviting youth into Christian adulthood.