

2023 BLISS-ZIMMERMAN LECTURE

Hollow Men: Theater, Race, and Early Modern Blackface

DR. IAN SMITH



WED

5:00PM-
7:00PM

17



IHC McCune
Conference Room

MAY

HSSB 6020

EMAIL EMCFELLOW@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS

Co-sponsored by the UCSB Early Modern Center, the Department of English, and the Department of History.

The Bliss-Zimmerman Memorial Lecture honors the memories and legacies of two eminent EMC faculty members, Lee Bliss (1943-2006) and Everett Zimmerman (1936-2003).

For modern audiences and readers, “blackface” conjures up images we have come to associate mostly with nineteenth-century American blackface minstrelsy. The early modern English stage tradition introduces us to a different set of practices and blackface technologies. The talk will examine the use of these non-cosmetic prosthetics and their relation to conceptions of blackness in modernity by way of Shakespeare’s *Love’s Labour’s Lost*.

Dr. Ian Smith is the Richard H., Jr. ’60 and Joan K. Sell Professor in the Humanities in the department of English at Lafayette College. He is the author of *Race and Rhetoric in Renaissance England: Barbarian Errors* (2009) and collaborator on *Othello Re-imagined in Sepia* (2012). His most recent monograph, *Black Shakespeare: Reading and Misreading Race*, has been published by Cambridge UP (2022). He is the recipient of multiple fellowships in support of his scholarship and currently holds the Los Angeles Times chair in the History and Culture of the Americas at the Huntington Library (2022-23). He is also the President of the Shakespeare Association of America.