





CHAPTER ONE AGAINST EMERGENCE





“For the past decade or so, ‘emergent’ has often appeared alongside ‘transgender studies’ to describe a growing scholarly field. But while the scholarly trope of emergence conjures the cutting edge, it can also be an infantilizing temporality that communicates (and contributes to) perpetual marginalization. An emergent field is always on the verge of becoming, but it may never arrive.” - Reg Kunzel



How are trans people “emergent?”

EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY

Operations Transform Bronx Youth

Story on Page 3



A World of a Difference

George W. Jorgensen Jr., son of a Bronx carpenter, served in the Army (A) for two years and was given honorable discharge in 1946. Now George is no more. After six operations, Jorgensen's sex has been changed and today she is a striking woman (A), working as a photographer in Denmark. Parents were informed of the big change in a letter Christmas (that's her new name) sent to them recently. —Story on page 3

How are trans people “emergent?”

- new, novel, without history
- “cutting-edge” and futuristic (identities, medical technologies, etc)
- we keep being “discovered” (by cis people, obviously)



How are trans people “emergent?”

- “contagion” or “craze”
- appearing suddenly, “rapid onset”
- infantile, childlike
- untested, experimental
- dangerous, a threat, an emergency
or crisis

[Click here to join a support group for parents of children with rapid-onset gender dysphoria \(ROGD\) in your area.](#)

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RAPID-ONSET GENDER DYSPHORIA (ROGD)



We are the parents of ROGD kids

As Introduced

134th General Assembly

Regular Session

2021-2022

H. B. No. 454

Representatives Click, Grendell

Cosponsors: Representatives Kick, Merrin, Young, B., Young, T., Creech, John, Bird, Powell, Fowler Arthur, Hall, Holmes, Zeltwanger, Wiggam, Ferguson, Dean, Koehler, Johnson, McClain, Gross, Jordan, Loychik, Hoops, Stoltzfus

A BILL

To enact sections 3129.01, 3129.02, 3129.03,
3129.04, 3129.05, 3129.06, 3129.07, and 3129.08
of the Revised Code to prohibit certain
procedures to alter a minor child's sex and to
designate this act as the Save Adolescents from
Experimentation (SAFE) Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 3129.01, 3129.02, 3129.03,
3129.04, 3129.05, 3129.06, 3129.07, and 3129.08 of the Revised
Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 3129.01. The general assembly hereby finds and
declares all of the following:

(A) This state has a compelling government interest in
protecting the health and safety of its citizens, especially
vulnerable children;

(B) Only a tiny percentage of the American population
experiences distress at identifying with their biological sex.

SAFE Act (“Save Adolescents From Experimentation”)

- untested, experimental

- dangerous, a threat, an emergency
or crisis

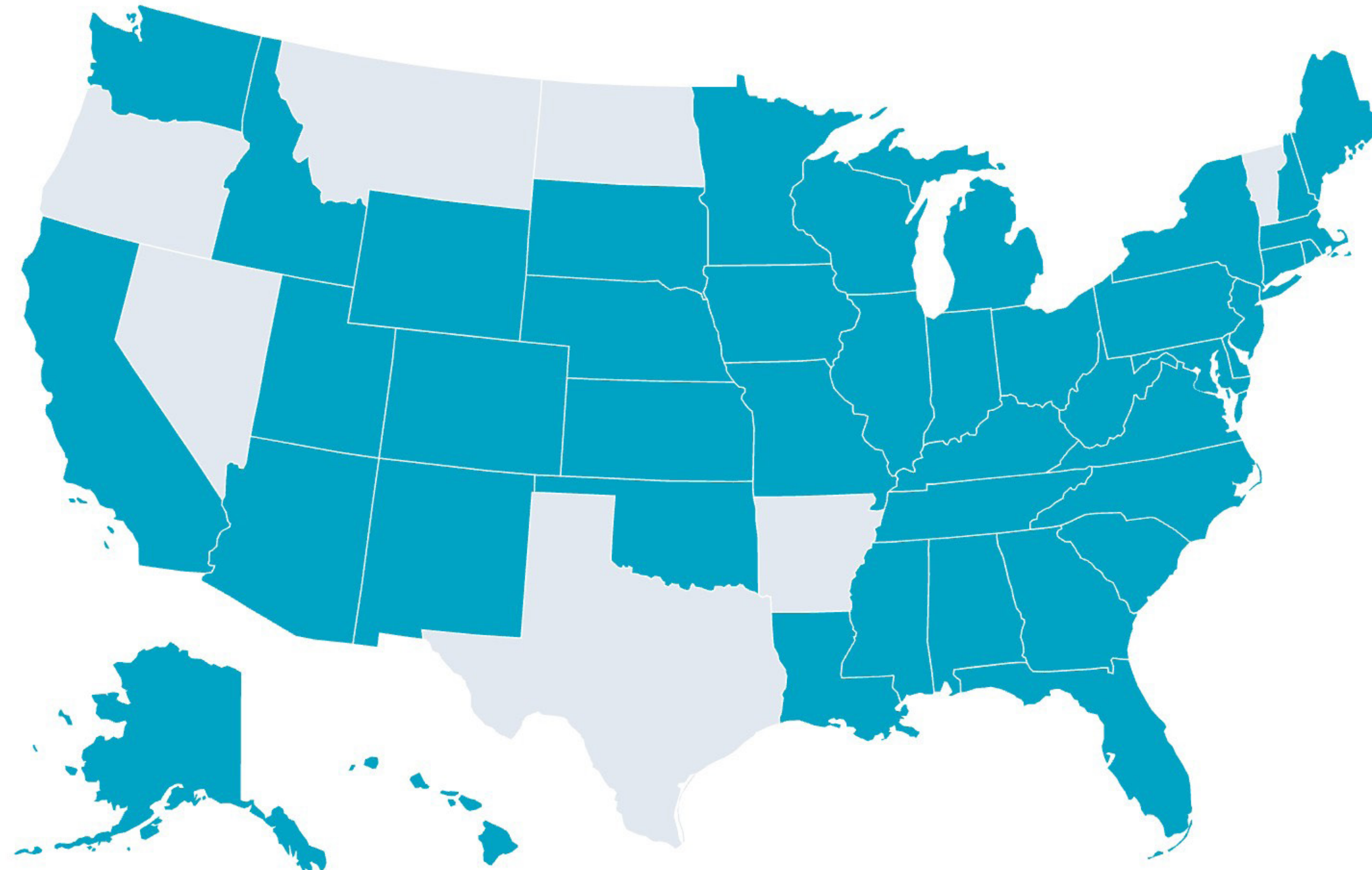
- specifically targeting children

2026 anti-trans bills tracker

In 2026, anti-trans bills continue to be introduced across the country. We track legislation that seeks to block trans people from receiving basic healthcare, education, legal recognition, and the right to publicly exist.

834 bills 43 states

63 passed 295 active 476 failed



What types of bills are you tracking?

Each bill is accompanied by a category label that indicates its primary area of impact. Education and healthcare bills make up about half of all bills considered in 2025.

- SPORTS
- HEALTHCARE
- EDUCATION
- ADOPTION
- BATHROOM
- BIRTH CERTIFICATES
- EMPLOYMENT
- INCARCERATION
- CHILD ABUSE
- RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS
- PERFORMANCE
- CHILD WELFARE
- MARRIAGE
- CIVIL RIGHTS
- PRONOUNS
- CHILD CUSTODY
- PARENTAL RIGHTS
- FOSTER CARE
- MILITARY
- MORE +

EDUCATION 280

These bills target educational settings. They aim to deny students name and pronoun autonomy, forcibly out trans students to their parents, and ban basic gender identity education, among other goals.

HEALTHCARE 214

The number of bills seeking to prohibit gender-affirming care — medical care supported by every major medical association — has surged in recent years. Many seek to outlaw care for minors and adults, and others would impact insurance coverage or access to services.

SPORTS 125

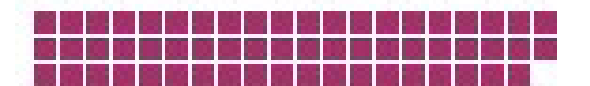
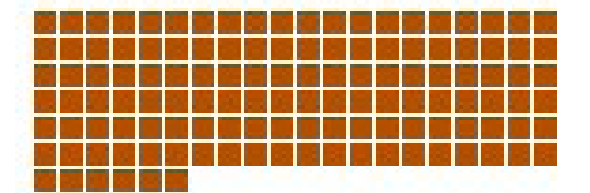
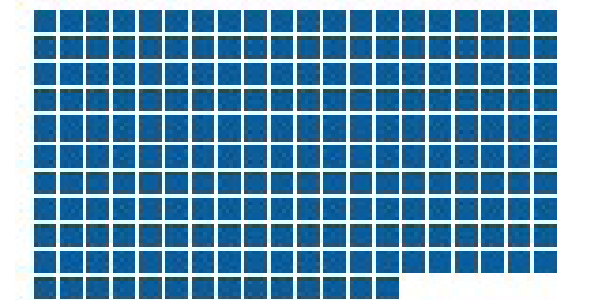
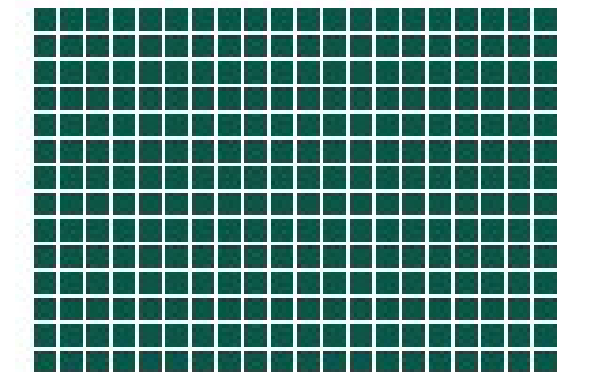
Sports bills target athletics in K-12 and higher education. They seek to codify sweeping definitions of gender and sex. Over one third of states have already passed laws banning transgender students from participating in sports consistent with their gender identity.

BATHROOM 59

Nearly a decade after North Carolina's infamous HB2, bathroom bills continue to be proposed. This category captures bills that would restrict access to public facilities.

PERFORMANCE

The performance category grew quickly in 2023, targeting gender non-conforming events and the businesses that host them. However, the language of the laws is so broad that it could extend to performances of Shakespeare.



Nineteenth Century

Location	Year	Location	Year
Columbus Ohio	1848	Dallas, Texas	1880
Chicago, Illinois	1851	Nashville, Tennessee	1881
Wilmington, Delaware	1856	San Jose, California	1882
Springfield, Illinois	1856	Tucson, Arizona	1883
Newark, New Jersey	1858	Columbia, Missouri	1883
Charleston, South Carolina	1858	Peoria, Illinois	1884
Kansas City, Missouri	1860 1889	Butte, Montana	1885
Houston, Texas	1861	Denver, Colorado	1886
Toledo, Ohio	1862	Lincoln, Nebraska	1889
Memphis, Tennessee	1863	Santa Barbara, California	189?
San Francisco, California	1863	Omaha, Nebraska	1890
St. Louis, Missouri	1864	Cheyenne, Wyoming	1892
Minneapolis, Minnesota	1877	Cicero, Illinois	1897
Oakland, California	1879	Cedar Falls, Iowa	1899

Criminalization of Crossdressing (1840s and 50s)

The History of Sexology (the science of sex)

- Late 19th century - 20th century
- Psychiatry, psychoanalysis, criminology, eugenics, law, medical science
- Obsessed with creating taxonomies
- Central genre: the case study

Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, 1825 - 1895



Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, 1825-1895

- *The Riddle of Man-Manly Love* (1864-1865)
- An Urning (Uranian) is someone with a “male body” who was “born with the sexual drive of women” as a result of embryonic development (inversion)
- Pursuit of Dionings (heterosexual men) is natural, biological, inborn
- Legal punishment of Urnings would be unjust
- *anima muliebris virili corpore inclusa*

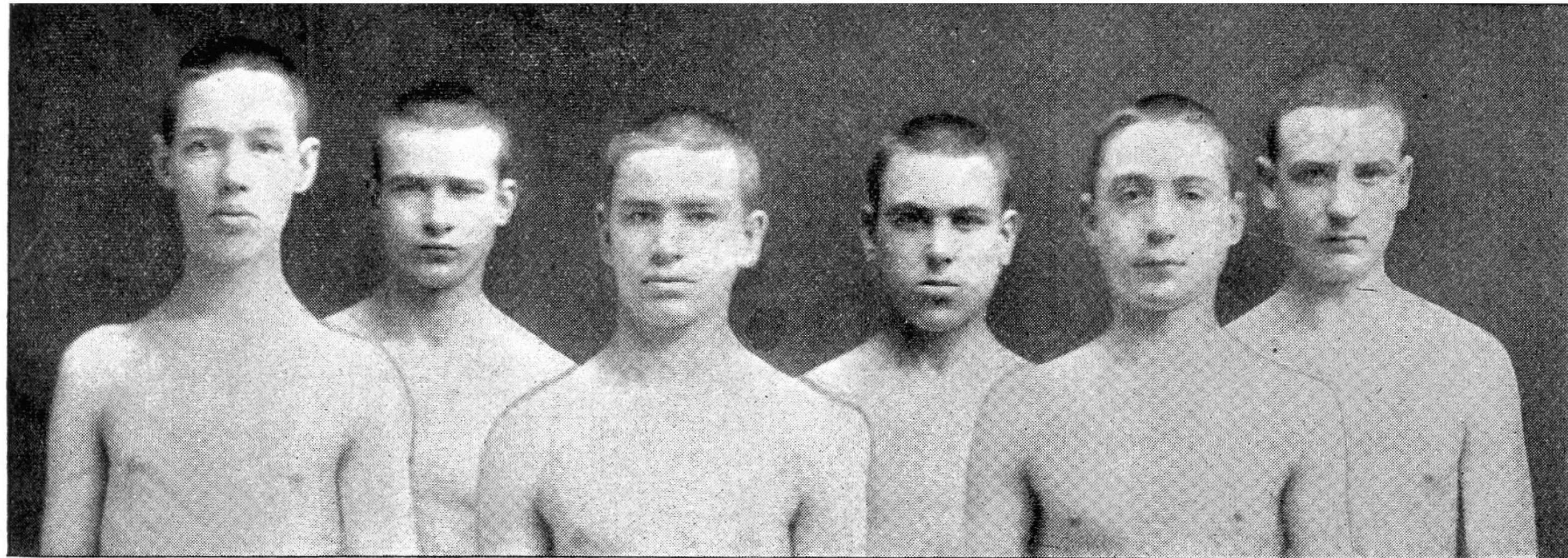
Richard von Krafft-Ebing, 1840-1902

- *Psychopathia Sexualis* (1886)
- “antipathic sexual instinct,” “eviration/defemination,” and “metamorphosis sexualis paranoica” (psychotic feeling that your body was transitioning)
- Either a “hereditary taint” or a taste acquired through degenerate living, sex work
- Focused on social behavior, esp. feelings of “jealousy” towards cis women



Havelock Ellis, *Sexual Inversion* (1896)

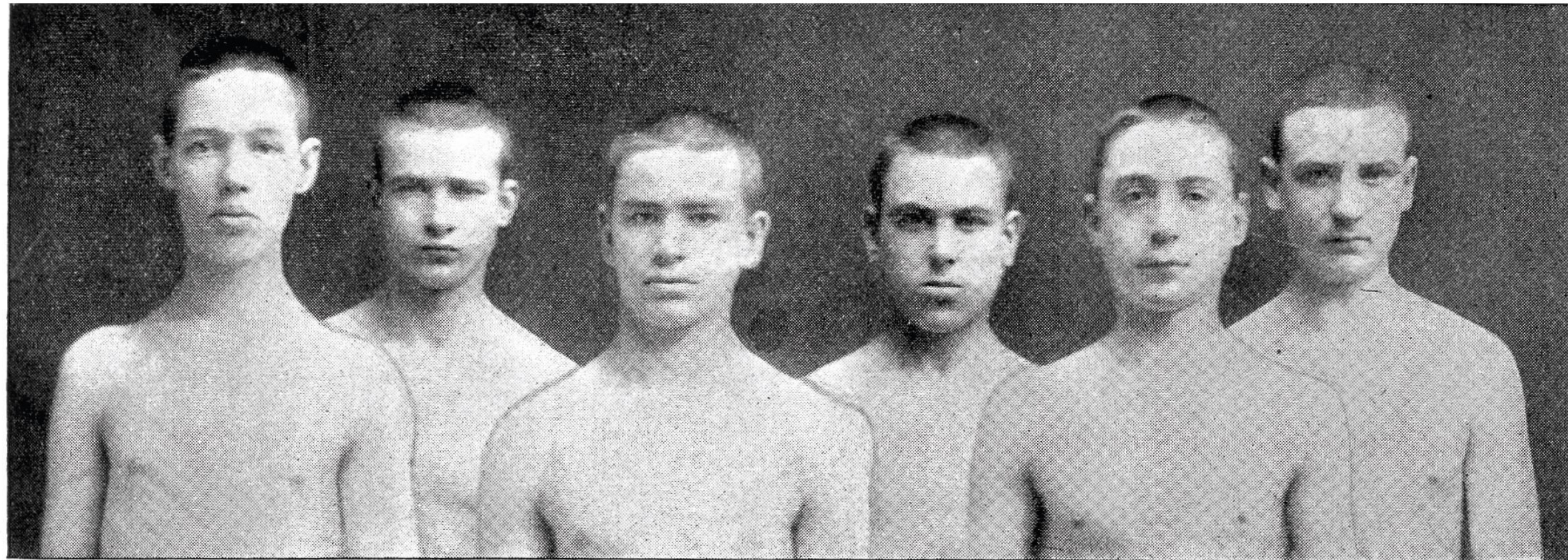
- Editor of Renaissance drama (especially Marlowe)
- Sexo-Aesthetic Inversion (wanting to look like the “opposite” sex)
- “Eonism,” developing overstrong identification with women



A GROUP OF SEXUAL PERVERTS (ELMIRA).

Havelock Ellis, *Sexual Inversion* (1896)

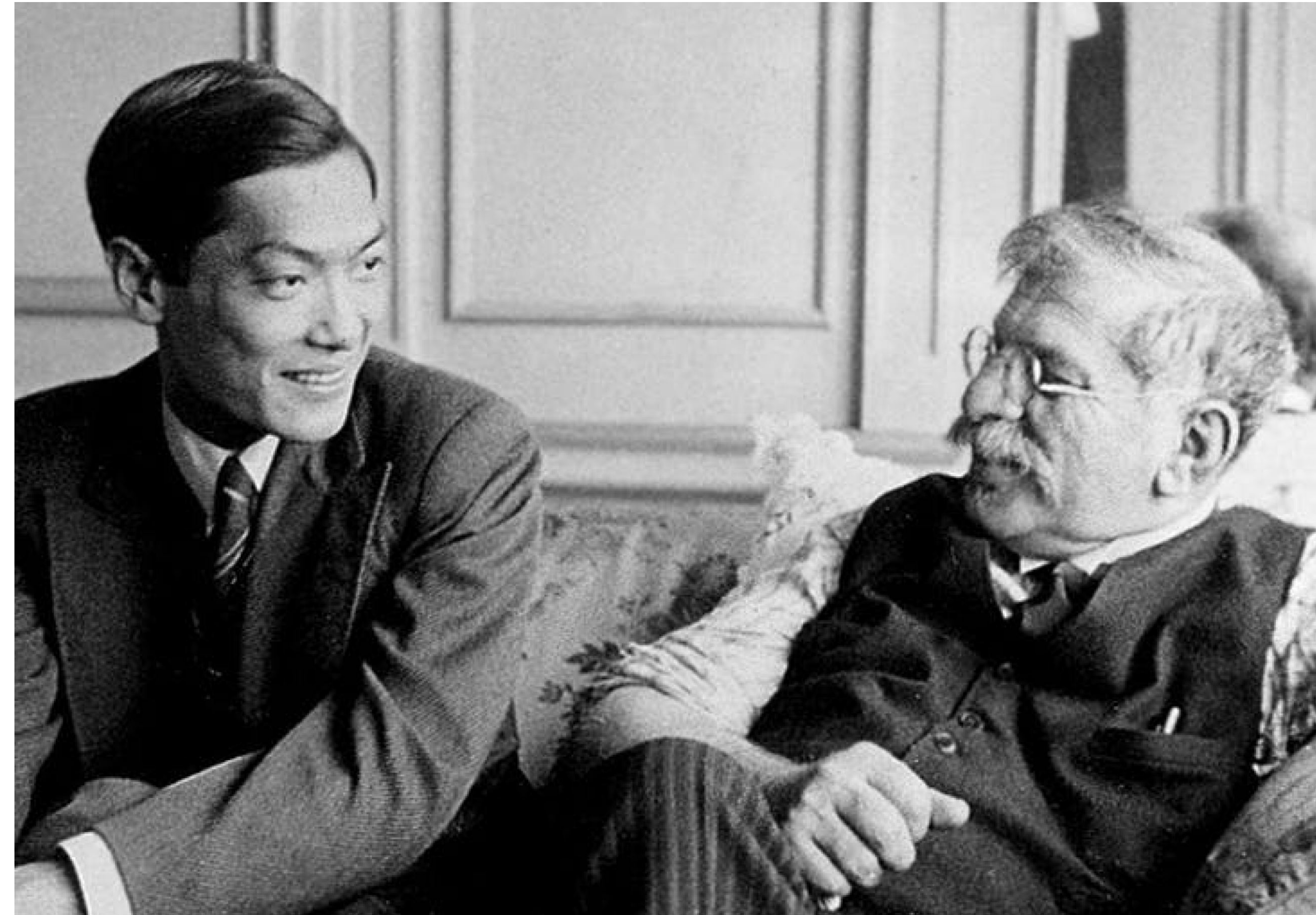
James Kiernan, inventor of the perversion “heterosexuality,” claimed that “The lowest animals are bisexual and the various types of hermaphroditism are more or less complete reversions to the ancestral type.”



A GROUP OF SEXUAL PERVERTS (ELMIRA).

Magnus Hirschfeld, 1868-1935

- Gay Jewish sexologist in Weimar Berlin
- Founded the Institute for Sexual Research in 1919
- “First” gender-confirming surgical and medical procedures
- Collected a massive archive on gender nonconformity, queer sexuality







B.

Der Polizeipräsident.

Berlin C. 25, Alexanderstr. 3-6,

Abteilung IV.

den 6. Dezember 1928

E 142 93

Die Robitwinowa Katter, W. 3.
1910 Berlin geb., in Fritz Wülfelsstr. 8
wohnhaft, ist für als Männerkennung
bekannt.

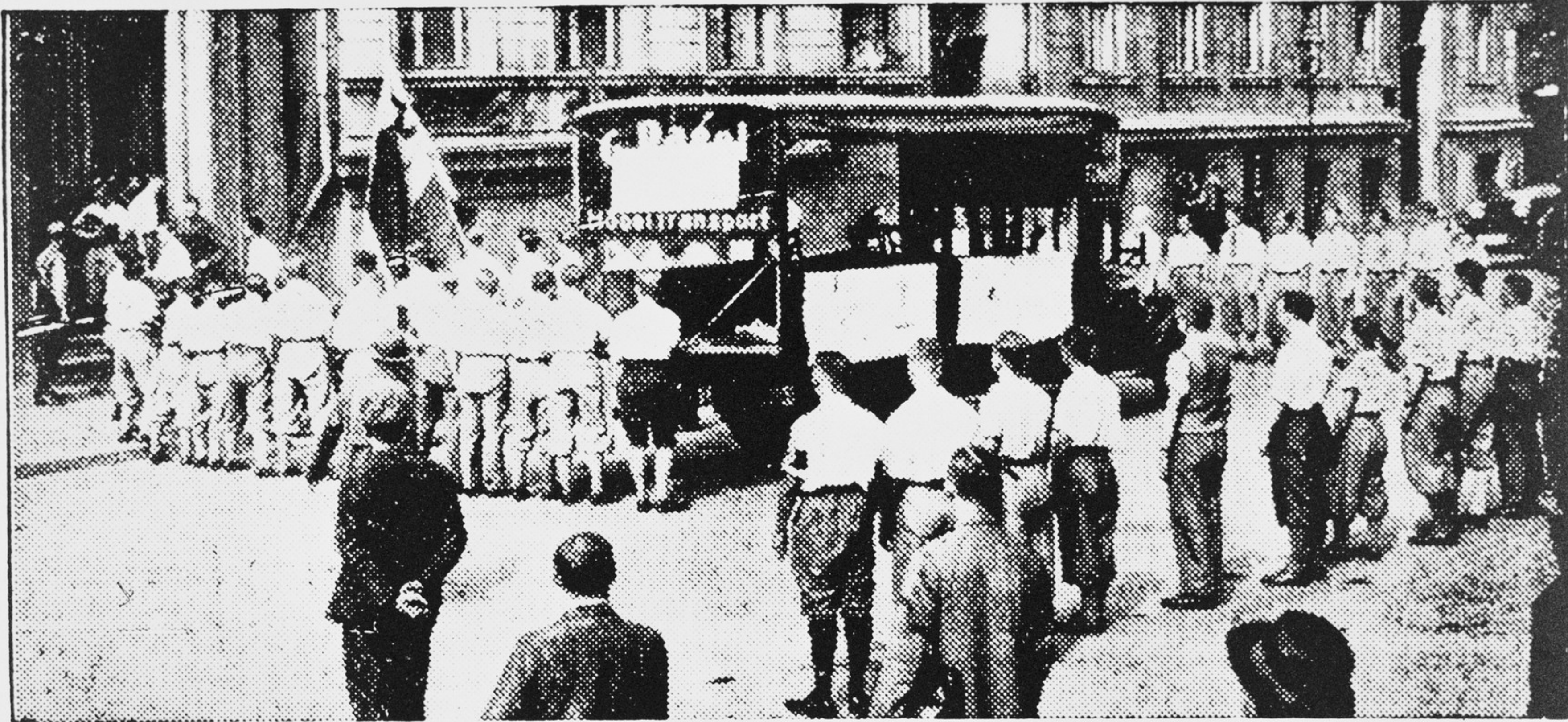


Mene

Kriminal-Kommission.



Wider den undeutschen Geist



Studenten während der Aktion vor dem Institut für Sexual-„Wissenschaft“ in Berlin. — Die vom Kampfausschuß „Wider den undeutschen Geist“ der Deutschen Studentenschaft Kreis X (Brandenburg) verkündete Aktion gegen alles undeutsche Schrifttum hat am Sonnabend in Berlin begonnen. Zunächst erfolgte die Säuberung und Schließung des Instituts für Sexual-„Wissenschaft“ von Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld.





Harry Benjamin, 1885-1986

- Endocrinologist, sexologist, scammer
- Began practicing trans health care in the 1930s
- Credit for coining the term “transsexual” (he didn’t)
- Professional connections to Magnus Hirschfeld, Alfred Kinsey, Karl Bowman
- *The Transsexual Phenomenon* (1966)

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—Story on Page 3



A World of a Difference

George W. Jorgensen Jr., son of a Bronx carpenter, served in the Army (A) for two years and was given honorable discharge in 1946. Now George is no more. After six operations, Jorgensen's sex has been changed and today she is a striking woman (←), working as a photographer in Denmark. Parents were informed of the big change in a letter Christmas (that's her new name) sent to them recently. —Story on page 3



Gender Identity Clinics, 1960s-70s

- UCLA Gender Identity Research Clinic, Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic, Stanford Gender Identity Clinic
- Tightly controlled access to gender-affirming care



Diagnostic Criteria: How to separate “true” or “genuine” transsexuals from fakers, repressed homosexuals, confused youth, fetishists, psychotics, paraphiliacs

- attractive to the doctor
- had a “trans childhood”
- wanted to transition to be “normal” (heterosexual, private life, middle class)
- compliant
- “real life test”

Some Effects:

Massive expansion of medical authority over trans life: physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists, sexologists, sociologists, behavioral scientists

Extreme lengthening of the process of transition

Intense, formalized gatekeeping from medical professionals

Made trans people gatekeep *themselves* and each other

Production of transness as an identity and a pathology



What are some limitations of this version of trans history?

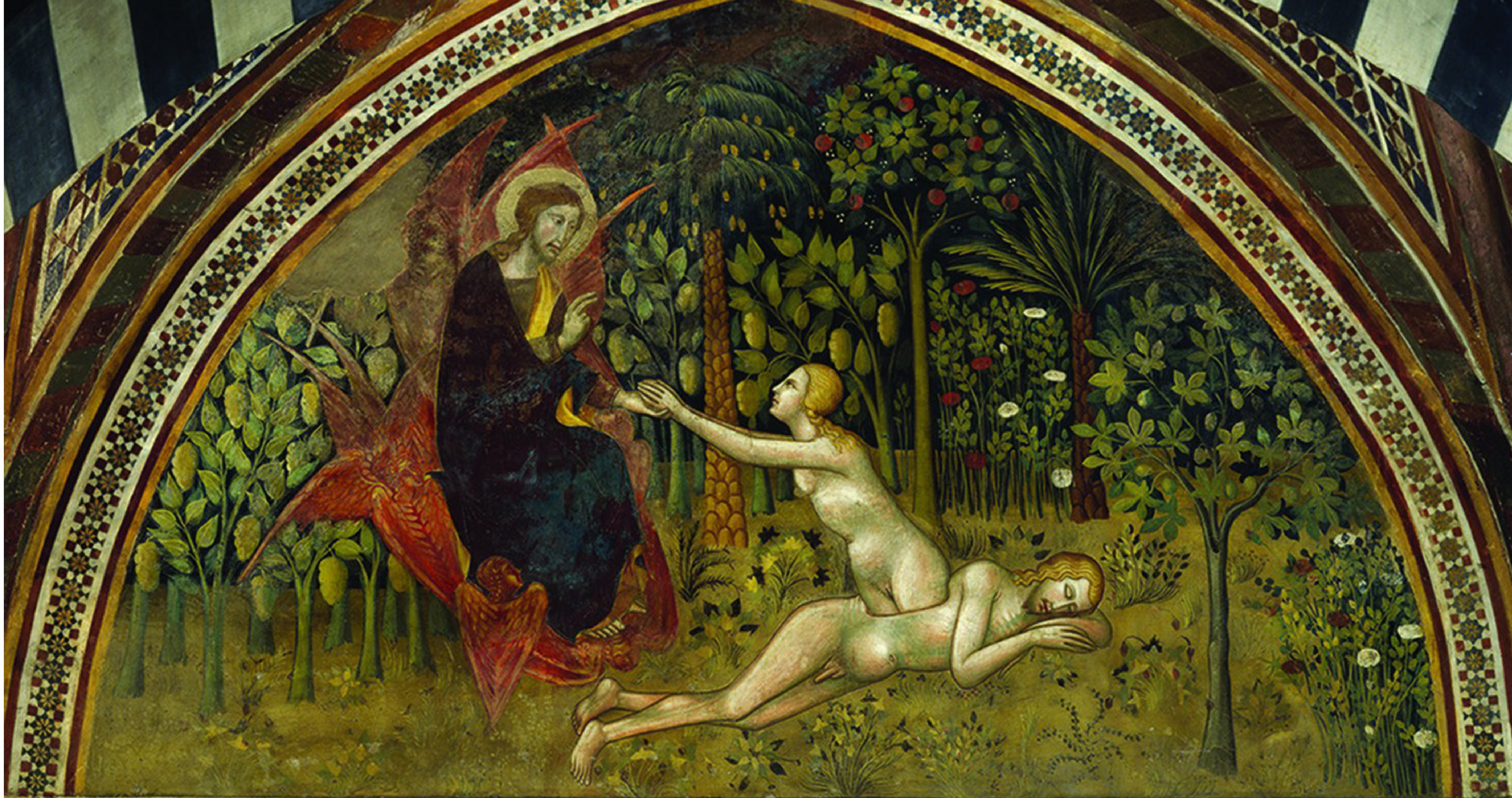


- What are some limitations of this version of trans history?
- Suggests trans people are a recent phenomenon
 - Equates trans people with medical procedures and authority
 - Transness is about identity, individual subjects
 - Nothing but white people? Especially white male doctors
 - A European and especially American history
 - History of pathologization



What can early modern trans studies offer?

- Challenge transphobic narratives about “new” gender identities, surgeries, transitions
- Think about how the histories of transphobia are also the histories of white supremacy, colonialism, antisemitism, and Islamophobia
- Find trans possibility in surprising places
- Updating early modern studies and trans studies
- Remember there was trans life before the clinic



SHAKESPEARE

PROCREATION SONNETS



JOHN LYLY

GALATEA



BOY PLAYERS, ANTI-THEATRICAL TREATISES



JOHN MILTON'S JUVENALIA



JOHN MILTON

COMUS



ANTONIO DE ERAUSO

LIEUTENANT NUN

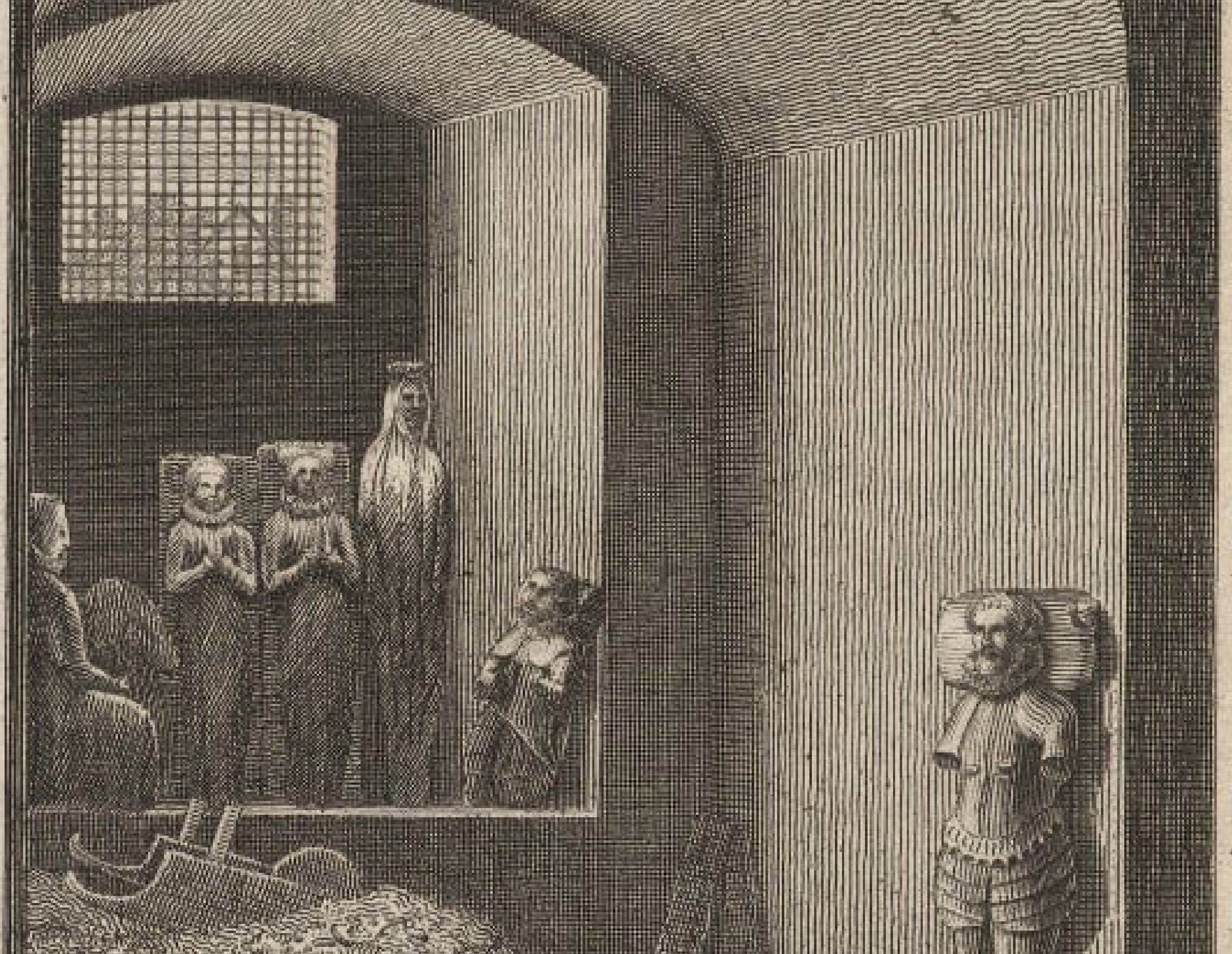


GEORGE HERBERT

LOVE POEMS



JOHN DONNE



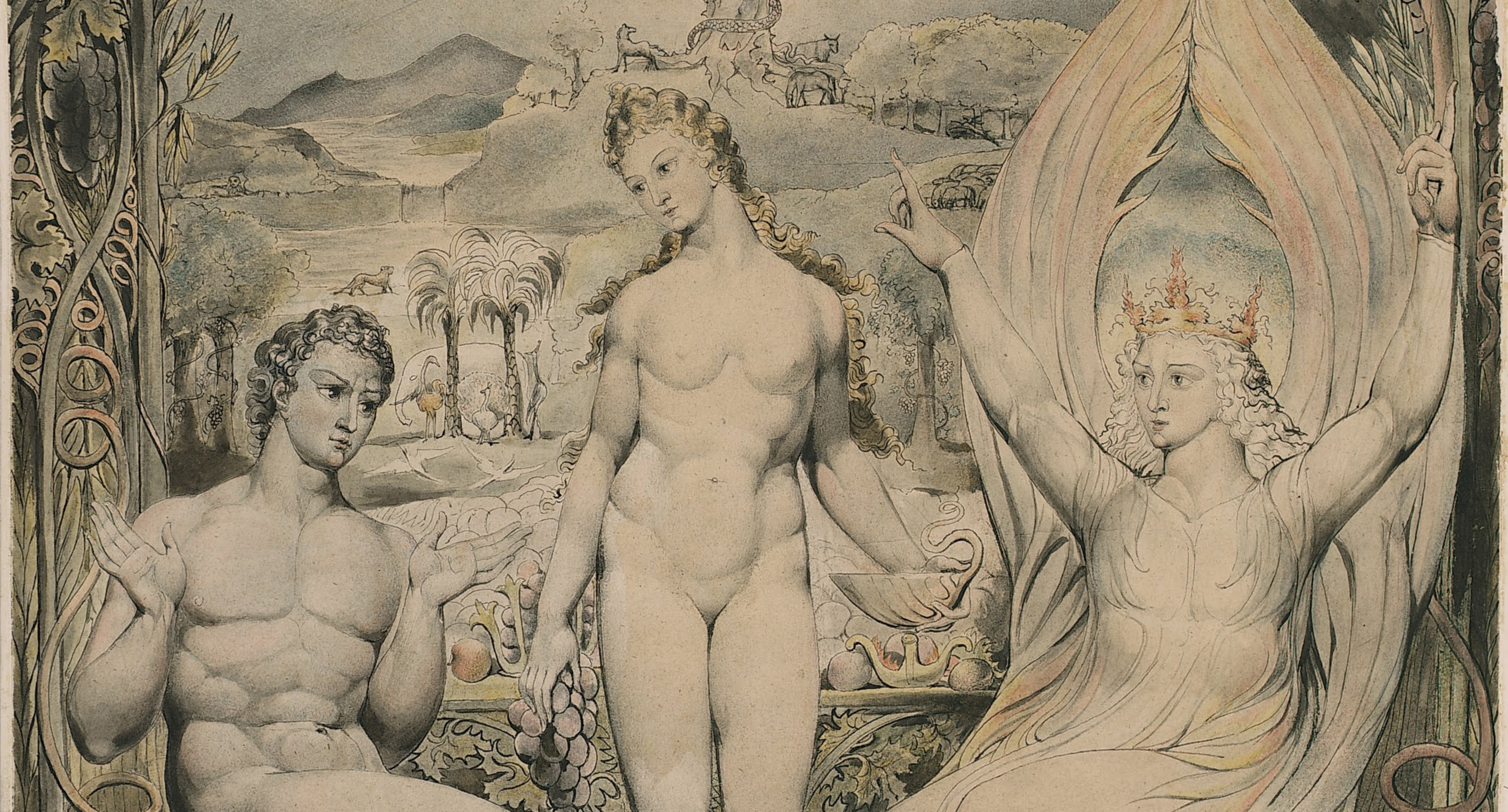
DEATH POEMS



MARGARET CAVENDISH



THE BLAZING WORLD



JOHN MILTON

PARADISE LOST



JOHN MILTON

SAMSON AGONISTES



MARIE DE FRANCE

YONEC



FOR WHO SEES NOT THAT TIME ON ALL DOTH PRAY?
BUT TIMES DO CHANGE AND MOVE CONTINUALLY:
SO NOTHING HERE LONG STANDETH IN ONE STAY:
WHEREFORE THIS LOWER WORLD WHO CAN DENY
BE SUBJECT STILL TO MUTABILITIE.





JOHN MILTON

PARADISE REGAINED

God created the man in his image: in the image of God created he him: he created them male and female.(Genesis 1:27)

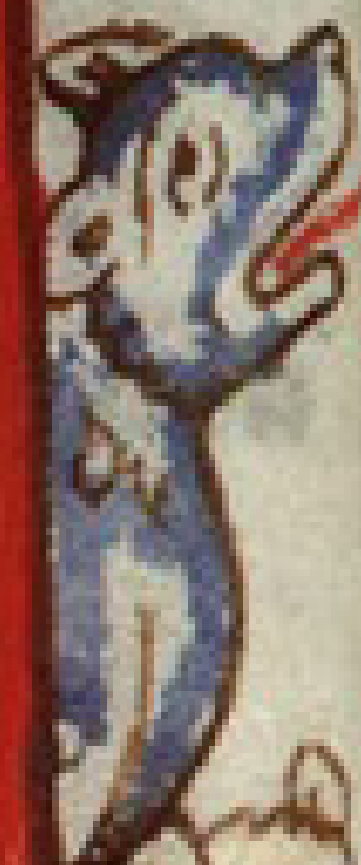
Therefore the Lord God caused a heavy sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in stead thereof. And the rib which the Lord God had taken from the man, made he a woman, and brought her to the man. Then the man said, This now is bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman, because she was taken out of the man (Genesis 2:21-23).



dies .vi.

eva.

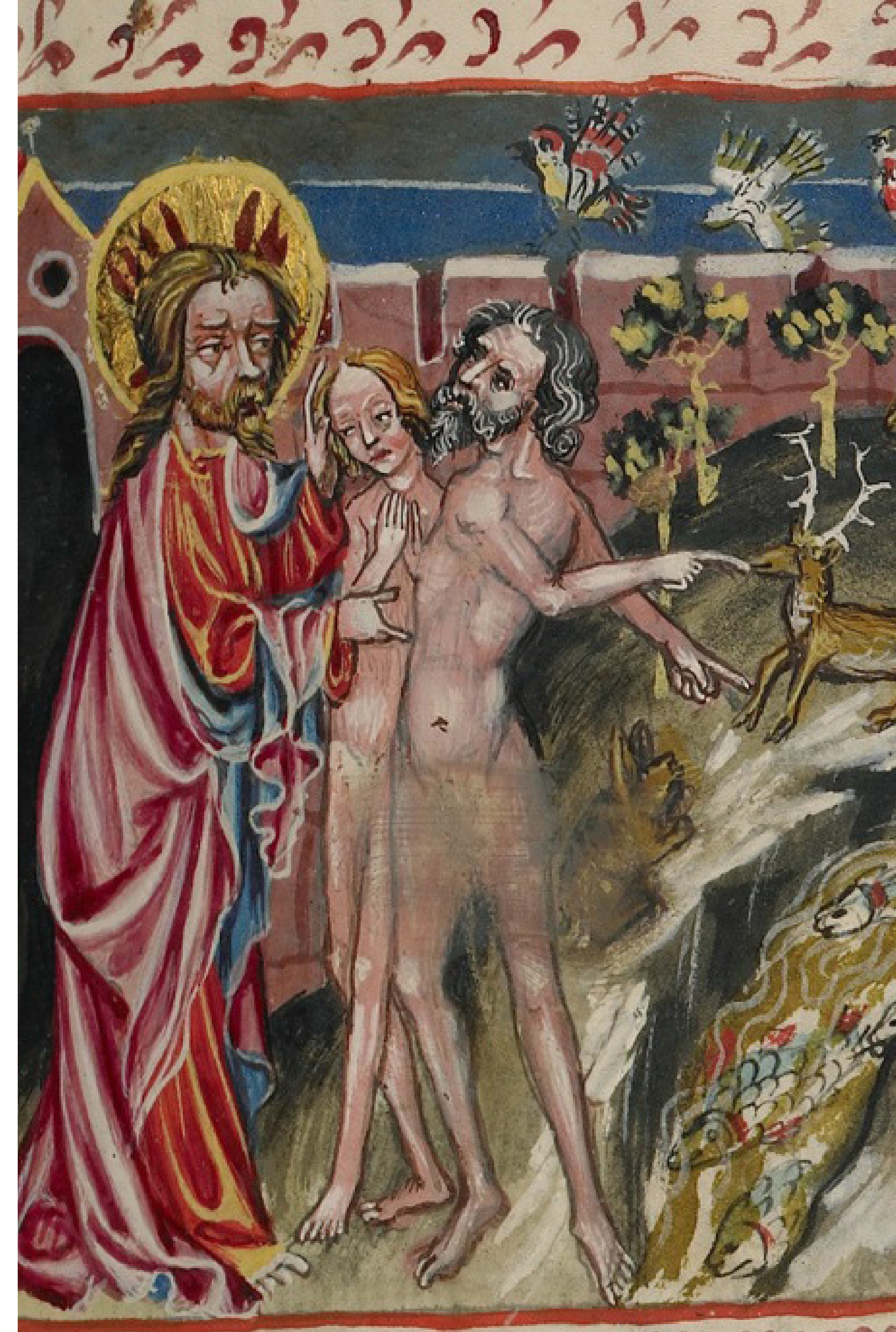
adam



dies .vii.



Got Eva Adam





Grading

Grades out of 100 points

4.0 95+ pts

3.7 90-94 pts

3.3 85-89 pts

3.0 80-84 pts

etc etc



How To Get Points

3 in-class exams, 50 points each (I will drop your lowest score)



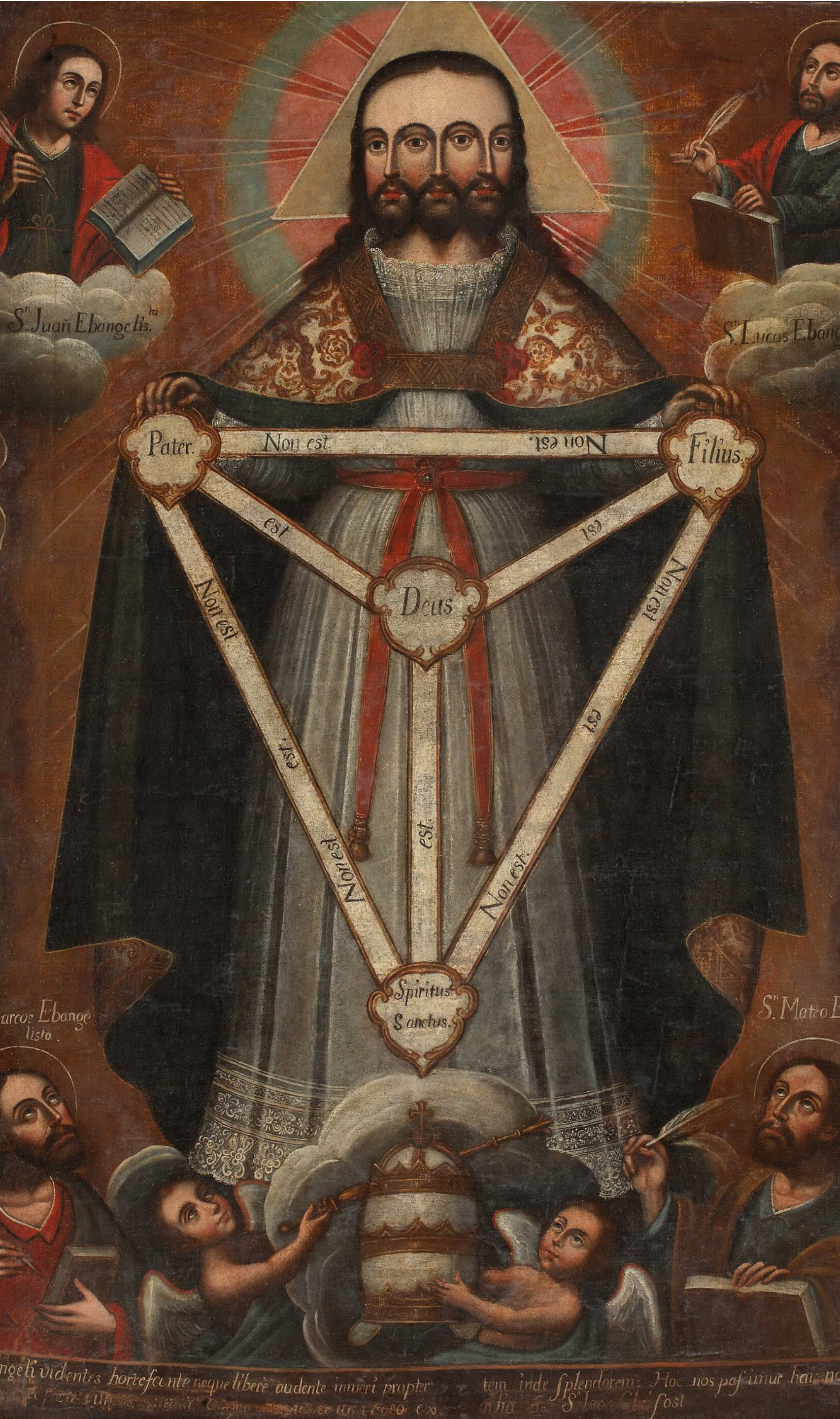
Additional Points:

Stage / record a scene, 10 points (1x max)

Memorize and recite a poem in class, 3 pts (1x max)

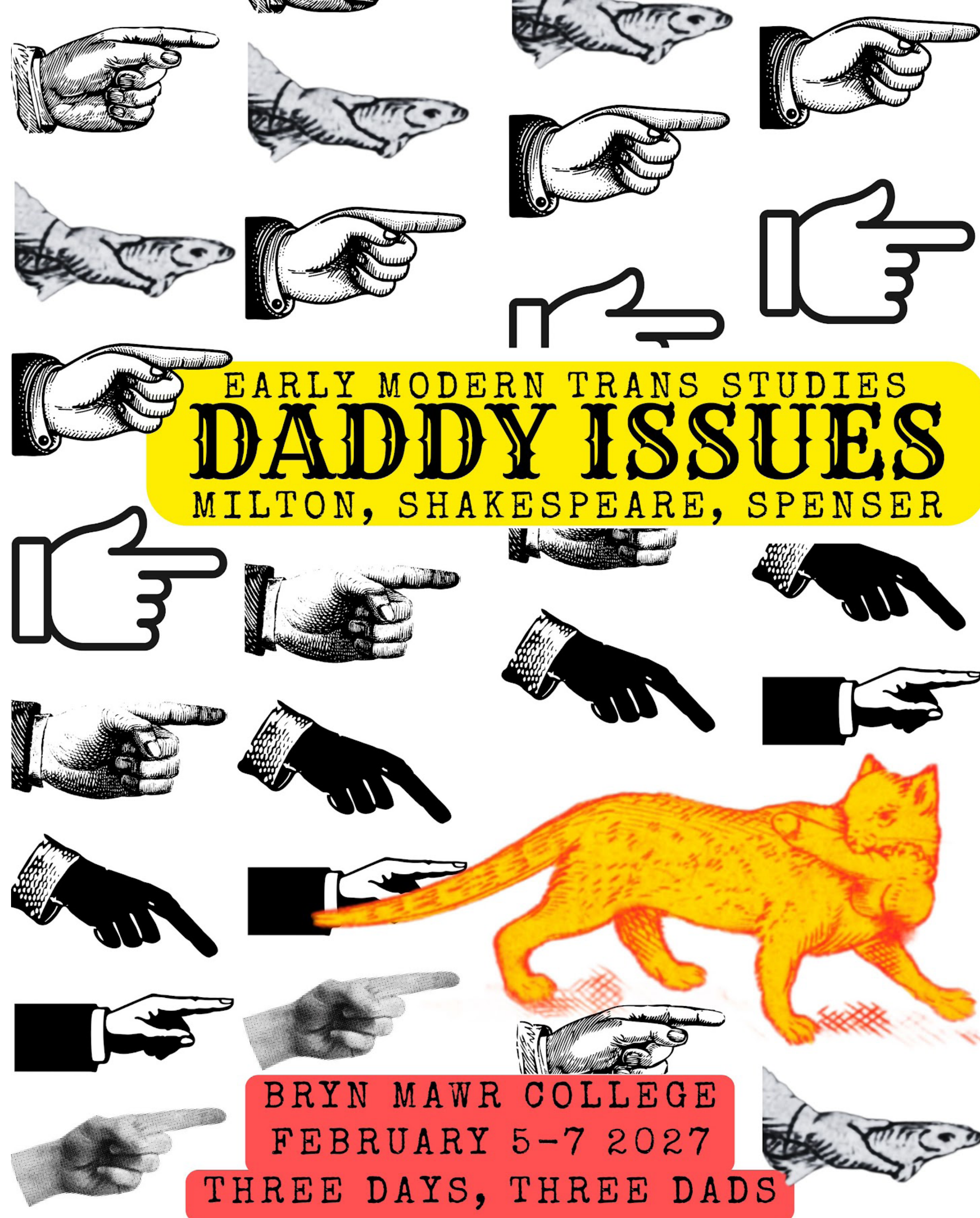
Memorize and recite a poem in my office, 2 pts (1x max)

Rest Activity, 1 point (2x max)



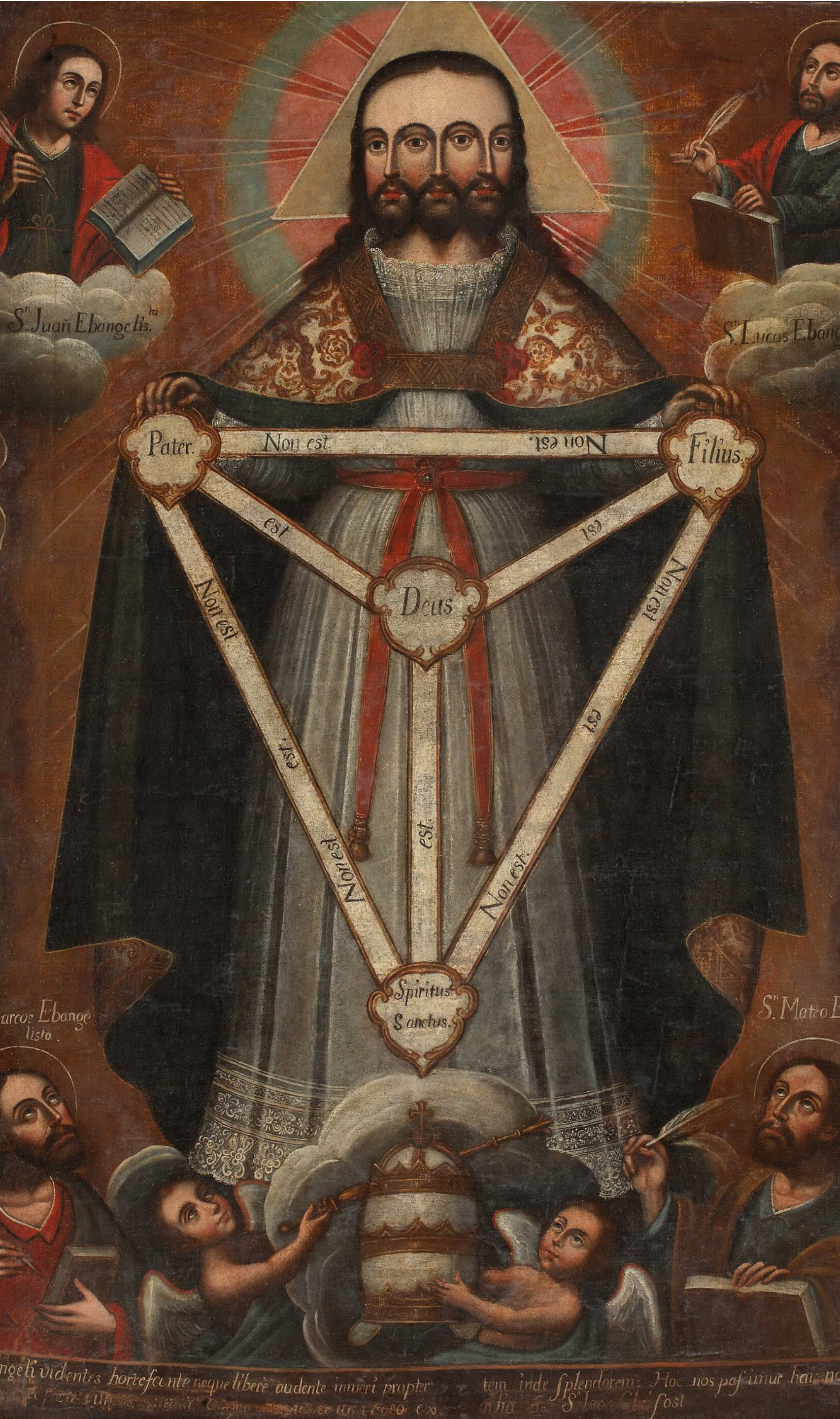
My goals:

- introduce you important work in trans studies
- imagine a deep history of trans life and transphobia
- work on your writing
- read some incredibly weird things



EARLY MODERN TRANS STUDIES
DADDY ISSUES
MILTON, SHAKESPEARE, SPENSER

BRYN MAWR COLLEGE
FEBRUARY 5-7 2027
THREE DAYS, THREE DADS



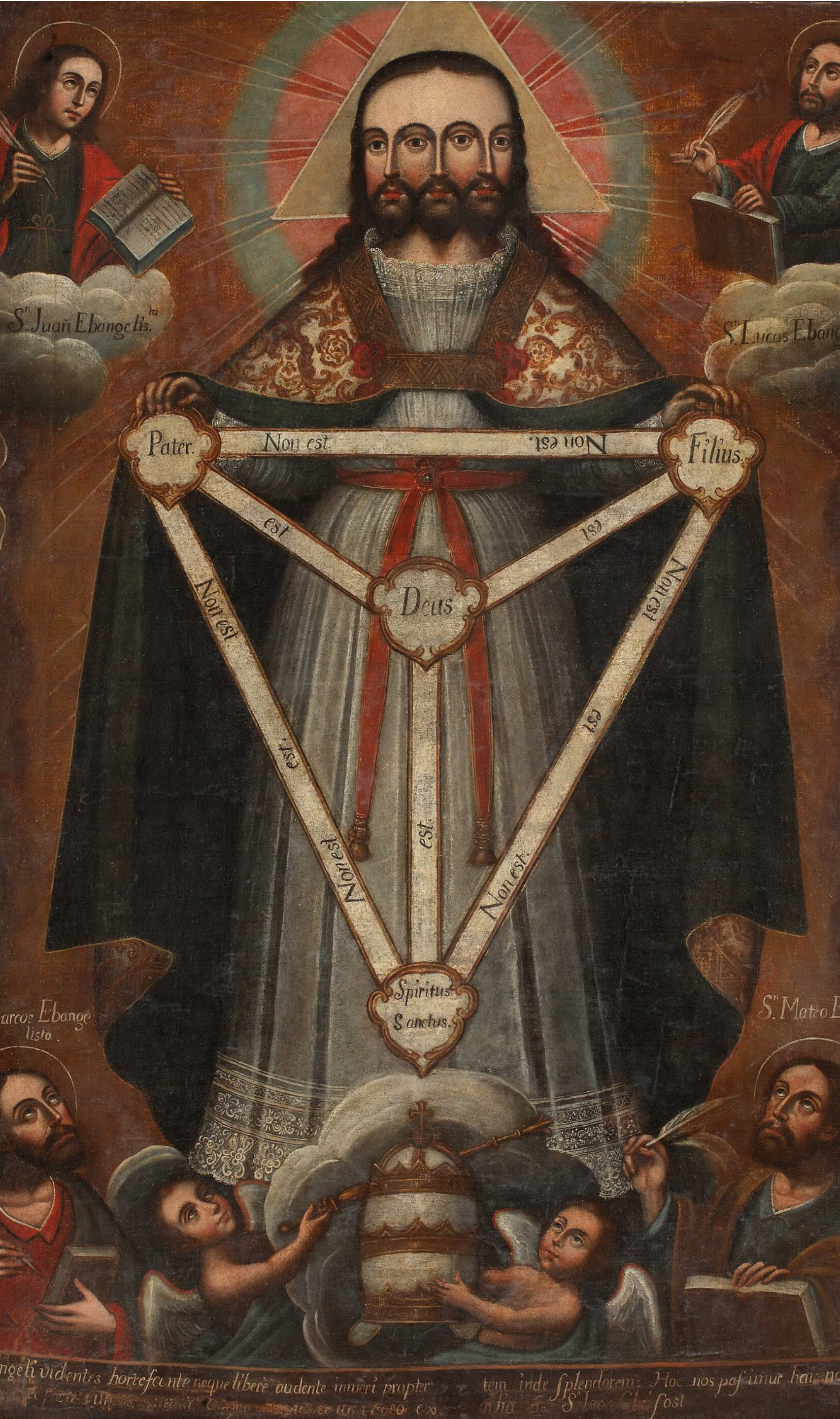
My information:

Office: English House 210

Office Hours: Tuesday 9-12 and by
appt (sign up on Calendly link on
Moodle)

Email: cgordon1@brynmawr.edu

Required Texts Available in
Bookstore



Next Steps For You:

Set your Moodle pic to an image of your face (thank you)

Think about how you want to get points

Read weird Shakespeare poems for Wednesday

Come to office hours and say hi! (If you want)