

Mel Evans and Elaine Hobby

Editing Aphra Behn
in the Digital Age and Investigating
Attribution

Cambridge Edition of the Works of Aphra Behn

General Editors:

Claire Bowditch (University of Queensland), Mel Evans (University of Leeds), Elaine Hobby (Loughborough University), Gillian Wright (University of Birmingham)

Editorial Board:

Maureen Bell, Hugh Craig, Robert D. Hume, Mary Ann O'Donnell, Paul Salzman, Jane Spencer

In the beginning

editing on an Amstrad before the internet

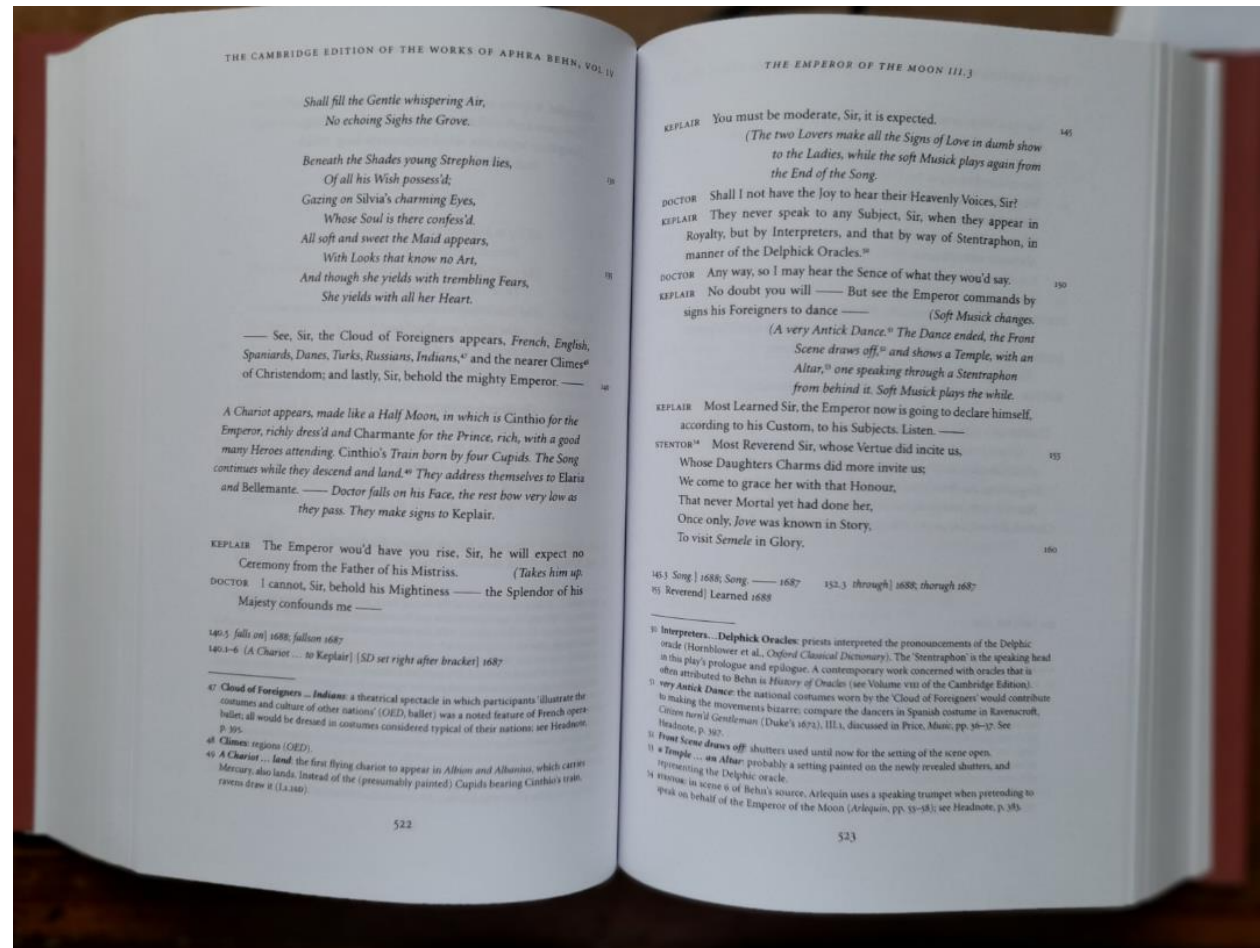
- no WYSIWYG
- no email exchanges
- no online searches
- no digital copies of anything

EEBO and a Digital Workbench

fantastically enabling but
also problematic (and often used rather stupidly).
The basis of our collating procedures (enhanced
by digital photographs).

And a Digital Workbench.

page layout: text, textual notes, commentary



volume I, Plays 1670-1676

ed. by Elaine Hobby, Jacqueline Pearson, David McInnis

Introduction to the Edition (General Eds)

The Forc'd Marriage (1670), *The Amorous Prince* (1671) , *The Dutch Lover* (1673), *Abdelazer* (1676)

volume II, Plays 1676-1678

ed. by Claire Bowditch, Jennie Challinor, Elaine Hobby

The Town-Fopp (1676), *The Counterfeit Bridegroom* (1676), *The Debauchee* (1677), *The Rover* (1677), *Sir Patient Fancy* (1678)

volume III, Plays 1679-1681

ed. by Rachel Adcock, Claire Bowditch, Jennie Challinor,

Elaine Hobby, Marcus Nevitt, Margarete Rubik

The Feign'd Curtizans (1679), *The Revenge* (1680), *The Second Part of the Rover* (1681) *The Roundheads* (1681), *The Young King* (c. 1681?)

volume IV, Plays 1682-1696

ed. by Rachel Adcock, Kate Aughterson, Claire Bowditch,

Elaine Hobby, Alan Hogarth, Anita Pacheco, Margarete Rubik

The City-Heiress (1682), *The Luckey Chance* (1686), *The Emperor of the Moon* (1687), *The Widdow Ranter* (1690), *The Younger Brother* (1696)

volume V, Poetry ed. by Gillian Wright (inc. many dubia)

volume VI, ed. by Aleksondra Hultquist

Love-Letters between a Nobleman and his Sister (1684, 1685, 1687)

volume VII, Fiction inc. Translated Fiction

ed. by Ros Ballaster, Jennifer Batt, Line Cottegnies, Karen Gervirtz,

Leah Orr, Paul Salzman, Helen Wilcox

La Montre, by Balthasar de Bonnecorse (1686), *The Fair Jilt* (1688), *Oroonoko* (1688), 'Lycidus', by Paul Tallemant (1688), *Agnes de Castro*, by J B de Brilhac (1688), *The History of the Nun* (1689), *The Lucky Mistake* (1689), *The Adventure of the Black Lady* (1698), *Memoirs of the Court of the King of Bantam* (1698), *The Nun; or, The Perjured Beauty* (1698), *The Wandering Beauty* (1698?), *The Unhappy Mistake; or, The Impious Vow Punish'd* (1698?), *The Unfortunate Bride; or, the Blind Lady a Beauty* (1698?), *The Unfortunate Happy Lady* (1698?), *The Dumb Virgin; or, The Force of Imagination* (1698?)

volume VIII, Letters, Non-Fiction Translations

ed. by Victoria Burke, Line Cottegnies, Mel Evans,

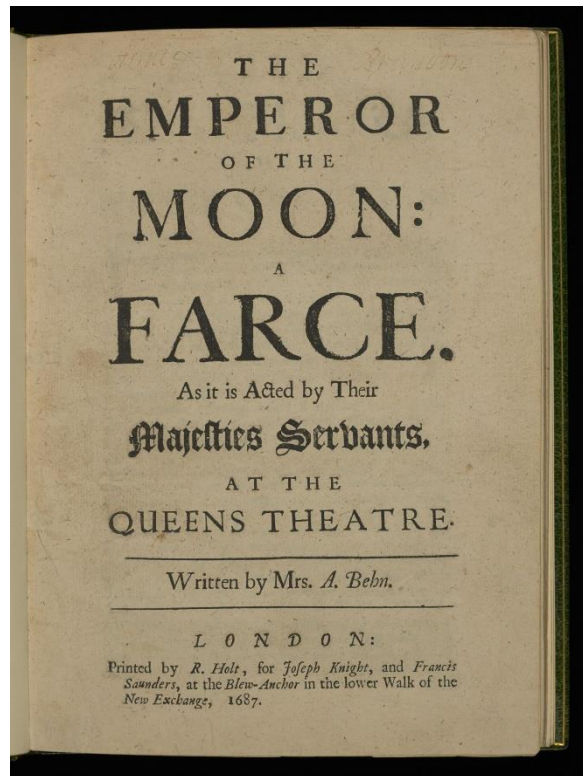
Anthony Ossa-Richardson

'Seneca Unmasked', by François de La Rochefoucauld (1685), *The History of Oracles*, by Bernard de Fontenelle (1688), *A Discovery of New Worlds*, by Bernard de Fontenelle (1688), spying letters, letter to Abigail Waller, 16 posthumously published letters inc. 'Loveletters to a Gentleman' (1696)

Digital photography

Princeton University Library Ex 3624.8.332

what we saw



Anne Brandon (see *ODNB* for her stormy life)

Princeton University Library

Wiltshire Record Office



Y^r La:^{ty}
most obedient
Daughter & humble
Servant of Brandon

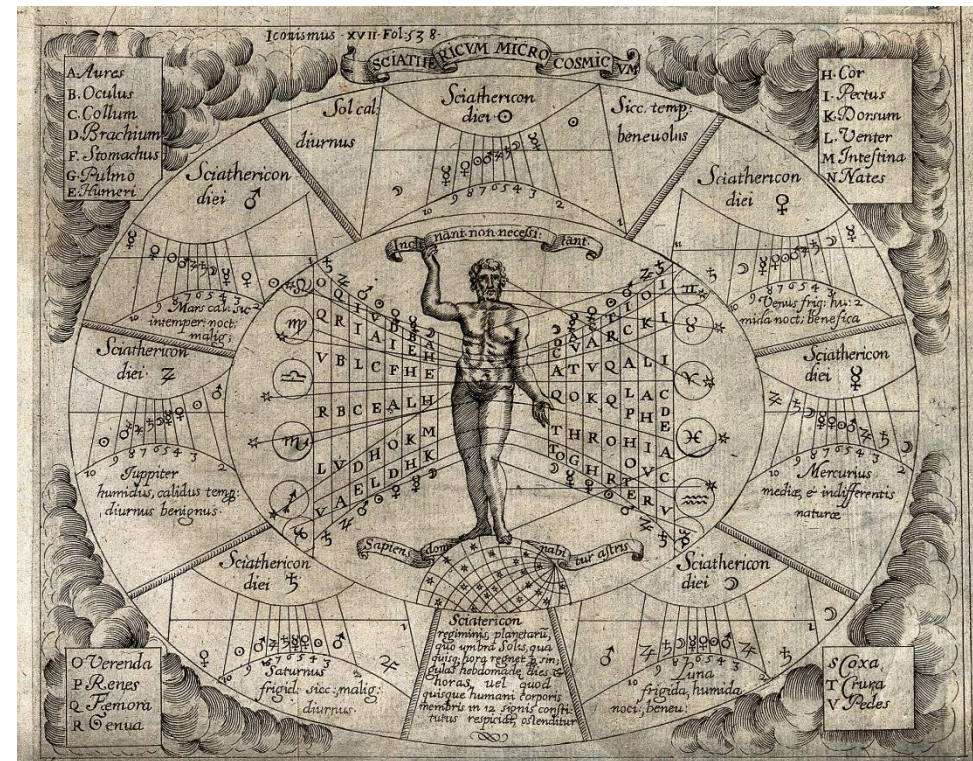
Behn's Works

	Secure	Questionable
Drama	16	5
Letters	8	10
Fictional Prose	4	9
Poetry	67	51
Non-Fictional Prose	0	1
Translated Prose	5	3

THE
Counterfeit Bridegroom:
OR THE
Defeated Widow.
A
COMEDY,
As it is Acted at
His Royal Highness
THE
Duke's Theatre.

Licensed Octob. 4th 1677. ROGER L'ESTRANGE.

LONDON,
Printed for Langley Currijs in Goat-Court
upon Ludgate-Hill, 1677.



The Posthumous Prose Fiction

Posthumous Publications:

*All The Histories and Novels
Written by the Late
Ingenuous Mrs Behn 1698
(third edition, for Samuel
Briscoe):*

- *Court of the King of Bantam*
- *The Nun: or, the Perjured Beauty*
- *The Adventure of the Black Lady*



ALL THE HISTORIES AND NOVELS

Written by the Late
Ingenuous M^{rs}. BEHN,
Entire in One VOLUME.

V I Z

- | | |
|--|--|
| I. <i>The History of Oroonoko, or the Royal Slave. Written by the Command of King Charles the Second.</i> | V. <i>The Ladies Looking-Glass to dress themselves by, or the whole Art of Charming all Mankind.</i> |
| II. <i>The Fair Jilt, or Prince Tarquin.</i> | VI. <i>The Lucky Mistake.</i> |
| III. <i>Agnes de Castro, or the Force of Generous Love.</i> | VII. <i>Memoirs of the Court of the King of Bantam.</i> |
| IV. <i>The Lovers Watch, or the Art of making Love; being Rules for Courtship for every Hour of the Day and Night.</i> | VIII. <i>The Nun, or the Perjured Beauty.</i> |
| | IX. <i>The Adventure of the Black Lady. These three last never before Published.</i> |

Together with

The History of the LIFE and MEMOIRS of Mrs. BEHN. Never before Printed. By one of the Fair Sex. Intermix'd with Pleasant Love-Letters that pass'd betwixt her and Minheer Van Bruin, a Dutch Merchant; with her Character of the Country and Lover: And her Love-Letters to a Gentleman in England.

The Third Edition, with Large Additions.

L O N D O N, Printed for Samuel Briscoe, in Russel-street; at the Corner of Charles-street, Covent Garden, 1698.

The Posthumous Prose Fiction



HISTORIES, NOVELS, AND Translations,

Written by the most
Ingenious Mrs. *B E H N*;

The Second Volume,

The greatest part never before Printed :

V I Z.

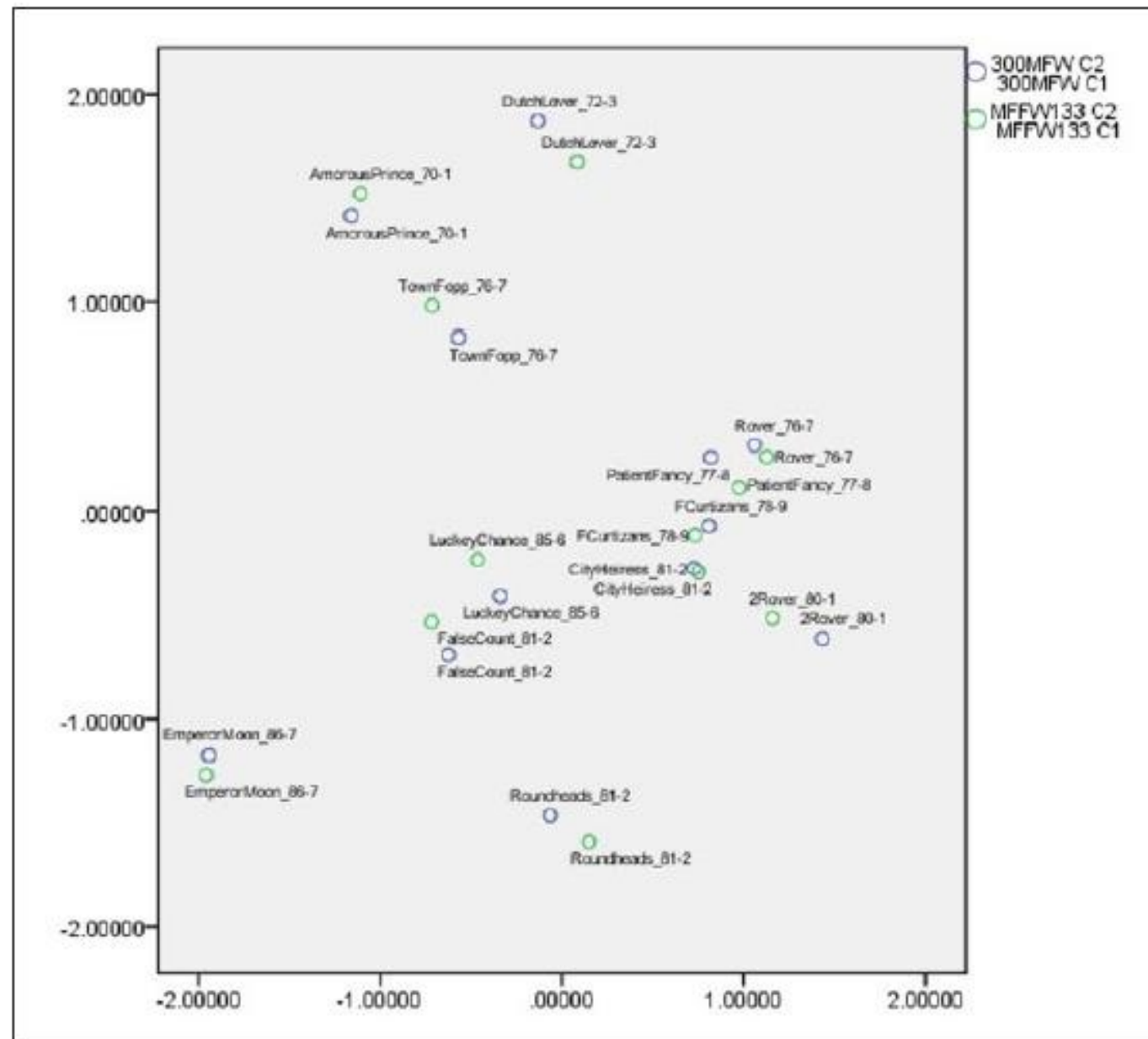
1. A Theory or System of several new - inhabited Worlds lately discover'd and pleasantly describ'd, in five Nights conversation with Madam the Marchioness of ***** Written in French by the famous *Monf. Fontanelle.*
2. An Essay on Translation and Translated Prose.
3. The History of Oracles, and Cheats of the Pagan Priests fully discover'd. Written in Latin by *Dr. Vandale.* Translated into French and improv'd by the famous *Monf. Fontanelle.*
4. The Blind Lady a Beauty : A Novel.
5. The Dumb Virgin : or, The Force of Imagination : A Novel.
6. The Unhappy Fortunate Lady : A true History.
7. The Wandering Beauty : or, The Lucky Fair One.
8. The Unhappy Mistake : or, The Impious Vow punish'd.

Printed L O N D O N : *Wallop*
Printed by *W. O.* for *S. B.* and sold by *M. Brown,*
at the Cross-keys on *Ludgate-hill.* M. DCC.

Histories, Novels and Translation (1700, for Samuel Briscoe):

- *The Unfortunate Bride (or The Blind Lady, a beauty)*
- *The Unfortunate Happy Lady*
- *The Dumb Virgin*
- *The Wandering Beauty*
- *The Unhappy Mistake*

Digital Approaches to Authorial Style



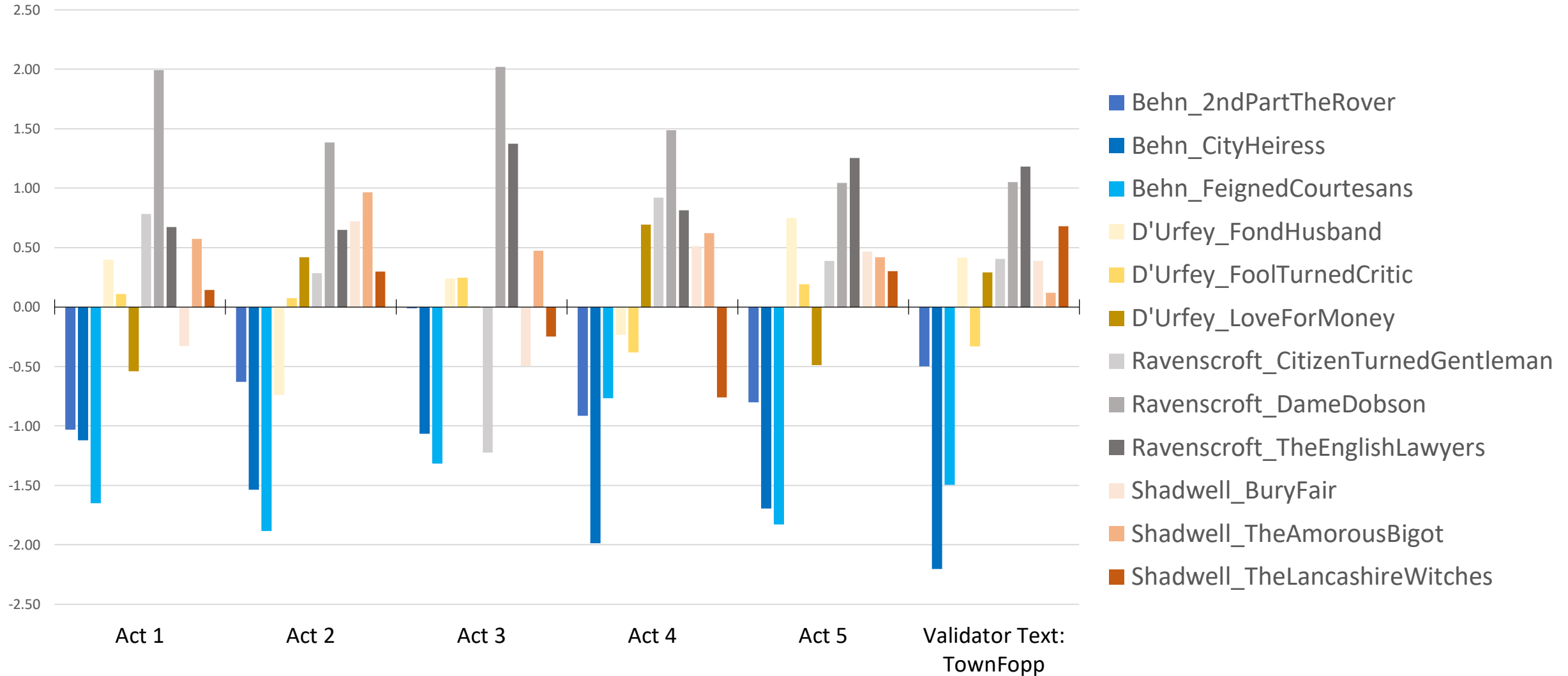
From Evans (2018)

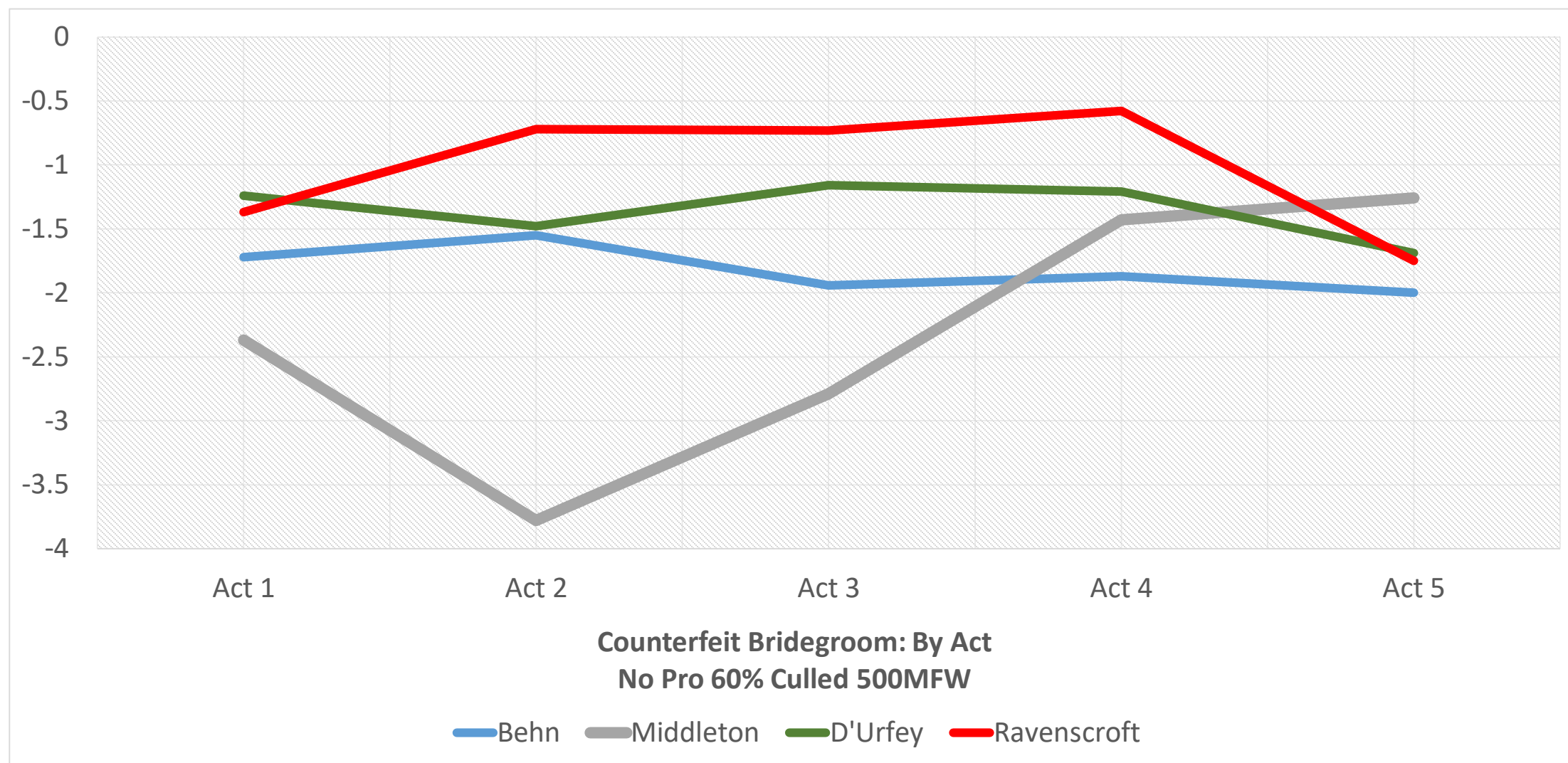
Figure 4. Principal components analysis results; 300 most frequent words and 133 most frequent function words. Behn's comedies.

Table 3. Gendered keywords for Behn's early, middle and late comedies. Extracted from top 200 keywords; log-likelihood > 15.13.

Keyword	Early: F	Early: M	Middle: F	Middle: M	Late: F	Late: M
Positive	sister (129) nurse (87.8) maid (41.3) she (21.9) her (16.6)	prince (83.6) brother (48.1) lord (17) father (16.5)	child (58) courtesan (44.8) whore (36.2) woman (19.8) helress (16.5) seigniora (16.5)	seignior (41) uncle (30.2) lieutenant (18.2) seigniors (18.2) nephew (16.6)	landlady (77.5) wife (76.1) wives (21.3) viscountess (20.2)	lord (90) lords (64) husband (55.1) cuckold (52.2) sirs (48) highness (44.6) king (40.8) captain (36.9) general (31.7) farmer (30.3) majesty (29.4) page (27.7) officer (27.3) seamen (2) knave (17.7) governor (15.3)

The Revenge (1680)
DELTA z-scores: no pronouns, culled 60%, 200MFW





From Evans and Hogarth (2020)

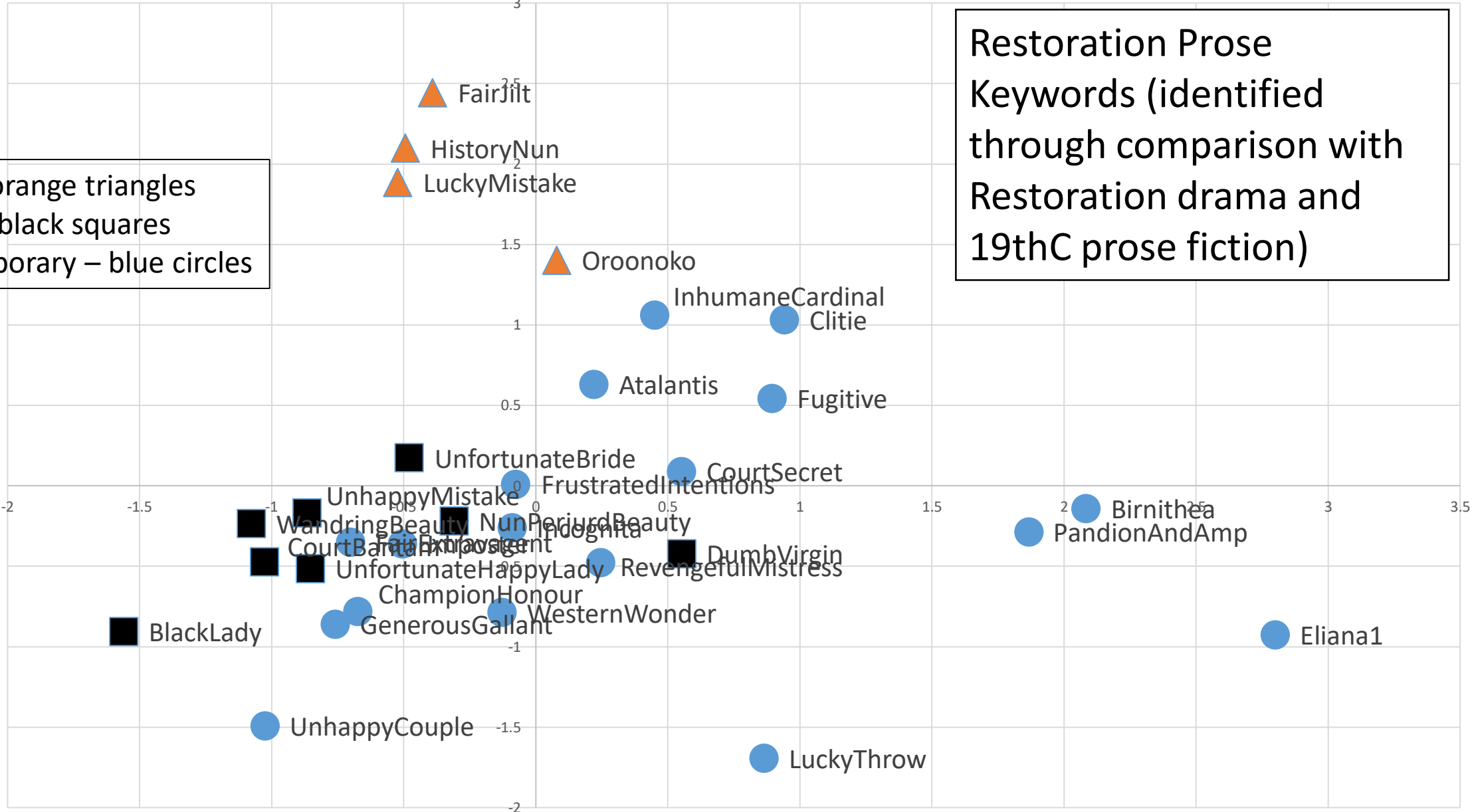
Behn's Prose: Keywords

- Top 11 topic-related keywords when compared with contemporary prose:
 - *grate, besought, negroes, headsman, sack, eel, plantation, colony, toiled, murderer, devout*
- 11 style-related keywords identified when compared with contemporary prose:
 - Third-person pronouns (*her, him, she, he, they*)
 - Conjunctions (*and, or, when, while*)
 - Determiner (*this*)

Distant Reading through Keywords

Behn – orange triangles
Dubia – black squares
Contemporary – blue circles

Restoration Prose
Keywords (identified
through comparison with
Restoration drama and
19thC prose fiction)





Ms. Benn.