In the course of the English Civil War (1640-1660), Parliament disestablished the Church of England, executed King Charles I, and dissolved monarchy. Together with the war itself, these events ruptured the nation’s sense of place, transforming the significance attributed to the nation as both a political and geographical body. In the wake of this national rupture, literature came to play an important role in diagnosing and mitigating the effects of the Civil War on the embodied experience of place, particularly the way the war estranged peoples’ sense of home. Strikingly, this cultural project did not end with the Restoration of Church and Crown in 1660 but continued for subsequent centuries.

Gary Kuchar is a Professor in the Department of English and an authority on seventeenth-century English religious literature. His current research includes work on Anglican writing in the wilderness years of 1645-1660.