

JESSICA BARR

University of Massachusetts Amherst
Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures
Program in Comparative Literature
428 Herter Hall, 161 Presidents Drive
Amherst, Massachusetts 01003
jbarr@umass.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Chair, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2024-present.

Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2022-present.

Visiting scholar, University of Strasbourg, France, fall 2022.

Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015-2022.

Associate Professor of English, Eureka College, 2012-2015.

Assistant Professor of English, Eureka College, 2008-2012.

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Eureka College, 2007-2008.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Brown University, Comparative Literature, 2007.

Dissertation: *The Limits of Revelation: Visionary Knowing and the Medieval Dream Vision*

M.A. Brown University, Comparative Literature, 2003.

B.A. Oberlin College, English with a concentration in Creative Writing, 1997.

Honors: Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Margaret Goodwin Meacham Award in English

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs:

Medieval Holy Women and the Desire for Death. South Bend, IN: University of Notre Dame Press (forthcoming 2026).

Intimate Reading: Textual Encounters in Medieval Women's Visions and Vitae. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2020.

Willing to Know God: Dreamers and Visionaries in the Later Middle Ages. Columbus: The Ohio State University Press, 2010.

Edited Collection:

Writing Holiness: Genre and Reception across Medieval Hagiography. Co-edited with Barbara Zimbalist. Cursor Mundi 43. Turnhout: Brepols, 2023.

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters:

“Pour Forth Tears and Praise Heaven: The Helfta Nuns on Death’s Emotional Complexity.” *Revue d’études médiévales et de philologie romane* (2024): 151-73.

“Introduction.” Co-authored with Barbara Zimbalist. *Writing Holiness: Genre and Reception across Medieval Hagiography*. Co-edited with Barbara Zimbalist. Cursor Mundi 43. Turnhout: Brepols, 2023. 7-32.

“Beatrice of Nazareth and the Desire for Death.” In *New Directions in Medieval Mystical and Devotional Literature: Essays in Honor of Denise N. Baker*. Ed. Amy N. Vines and Lee Templeton. Bethlehem, PA: Lehigh University Press, 2023. 129-44.

“The Soul Loves Its Own Flesh’: Death and Dying in the Helfta Literature and Bernard’s Sermons on the Song of Songs.” *Viator* 52.1 (2021): 249-278.

“Rhetorics of Wonder in Three Lives by Goswin of Bossut.” *Cistercian Studies Quarterly* 55.2 (2020): 177-99.

“The Idea of the Wilderness: Gender and Resistance in *Le Roman de Silence*.” *Arthuriana* 30.1 (2020): 3-25.

“Read it and Weep: Affective and Literate Engagement in Richard Rolle’s *Meditations* and *The Book of Margery Kempe*.” *Vernacular Aesthetics in the Later Middle Ages: Politics, Performativity, and Reception from Literature to Music*. Ed. Katharine W. Jager. The New Middle Ages Series. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2019. 271-97.

“Imagined Bodies: Intimate Reading and Divine Union in Gertrude of Helfta’s *Legatus*.” *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 43.2 (2017): 186-208.

“Visionary ‘Staycations’: Meeting God at Home in Medieval Women’s Vision Literature.” *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality* 52.2 (2016): 70-101.

“Modeling Holiness: Self-Fashioning and Sanctity in Late-Medieval English Mystical Literature.” *Sanctity and Literature: Interfaces of the Text and the Holy in Fourteenth- and Fifteenth-Century England*. Ed. Anke Bernau and Eva van Contzen. Manchester, UK: University of Manchester Press, 2015. 80-95.

“Reading Wounds: Embodied Mysticism in a Fourteenth-Century Codex.” *Magistra* 19.1 (2013): 27-39.

“The Secret Chamber of Her Mind: Interpreting Inner Experience in the *Vita* of Beatrice of Nazareth.” *Exemplaria: A Journal of Theory in Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 23.3 (2011): 219-41.

“Creative Imagination and Didactic Intent in Medieval Visions of the Otherworld: A Response to Fritz Kemmler.” *Connotations: A Journal of Literary Debate* 20.1 (2010-2011): 1-11.

“The Meaning of the Word: Language and Divine Understanding in Marguerite d’Oingt.” *Mystics Quarterly* 33.1-2 (2007): 27-52.

Under Review:

“Reading Women Writing Death: Beatrice of Nazareth and the Nuns of Helfta.” Proceedings of the conference *Frauen Lesen. Anders?*, under consideration for the series Transatlantic Studies on Medieval and Early Modern Literature and Culture (Leiden: Brill).

Book Reviews:

- Cate Gunn, Liz Herbert McAvoy and Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa, eds. *Women and Devotional Literature in the Middle Ages: Giving Voice to Silence. Essays in Honour of Catherine Innes-Parker*. Gender in the Middle Ages 21. Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2023. *English Historical Review* (2025).
- Counet, Jean-Michel, ed. *A Question of Life and Death. Living and Dying in Medieval Philosophy: Acts of the XXIII Annual Colloquium of the Société Internationale pour l'Étude de la Philosophie Médiévale*. Rencontres de la Philosophie Médiévale 26. Turnhout: Brepols, 2022. *The Medieval Review* 24.10.13 (2024).
- Harrison, Anna. *Thousands and Thousands of Lovers: Sense of Community among the Nuns of Helfta*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2022. *Speculum* 99.2 (2024): 578-80.
- Campion, Louise. *Cushions, Kitchens and Christ: Mapping the Domestic in Late Medieval Religious Writing*. Religion and Culture in the Middle Ages. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2022. *Church History* 91.4 (2022): 923-25.
- Verini, Alexandra. *English Women's Spiritual Utopias, 1400-1700: New Kingdoms of Womanhood*. The New Middle Ages. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2022. *The Medieval Review* 23.03.06 (2023).
- Johnson, Ella. *This Is My Body: Eucharistic Theology and Anthropology in the Writings of Gertrude the Great of Helfta*. Cistercian Studies 280. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press, 2020. *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality* 57.2 (2022): 212-15.
- McCann, Daniel. *Soul-Health: Therapeutic Reading in Later Medieval England*. Religion and Culture in the Middle Ages. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2018. *The Medieval Review* 21.01.13 (2021).
- Solberg, Emma Maggie. *Virgin Whore*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1093/jaarel/lfz042>
- Cooper, Patrick and Satoshi Kikuchi, Eds. *Commitments to Medieval Mysticism within Contemporary Contexts*. Bibliotheca Ephemeridum Theologicarum Lovaniensium. Leuven: Peeters, 2017. *Medieavistik* 31 (2019): 265-69.
- Edwards, Suzanne. *The Afterlives of Rape in Medieval English Literature*. The New Middle Ages. Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. *Medieavistik* 30 (2018): 272-74.
- Spencer-Hall, Alicia. *Medieval Saints and Modern Screens: Divine Visions as Cinematic Experience*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2017. *The Medieval Review* 18.09.34 (2018).
- Maillet, Helga. *Les échos bibliques dans Piers the Plowman*. Aachen: Shaker Verlag, 2014. *The Medieval Review* 16.08.14 (2016).
- Walter, Katie L., Ed. *Reading Skin in Medieval Literature and Culture*. The New Middle Ages. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. *Medieavistik* 28 (2015): 451-453.
- Cervone, Maria Cristina. *Poetics of the Incarnation: Middle English Writing and the Leap of Love*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012. *The Medieval Review* 13.07.02 (2013).
- Licence, Tom. *Hermits and Recluses in English Society 950-1200*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. *Speculum* 87.3 (2012): 897-98.
- Fanous, Samuel and Vincent Gillespie, Eds. *The Cambridge Companion to Medieval English Mysticism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2011. *The Medieval Review* 12.05.16 (2012).

- Minnis, Alastair and Rosalynn Voaden, Eds. *Medieval Holy Women in the Christian Tradition c. 1100- c. 1500*. Brepols Collected Essays in European Culture. Turnhout: Brepols, 2010. *The Medieval Review* 11.10.01 (2011).
- Adams, Gwenfair Walters. *Visions in Late Medieval England: Lay Spirituality and Sacred Glimpses of the Hidden Worlds of Faith*. Leiden: Brill, 2007. *Mystics Quarterly* 34.3-4 (2008): 86-88.
- Demkovich, Michael. *Introducing Meister Eckhart*. Ottawa: Novalis, 2005. *Mystics Quarterly* 34.1-2 (2008): 73-75.
- McAvoy, Liz Herbert and Mari Hughes-Edwards, Eds. *Anchorites, Wombs and Tombs: Intersections of Gender and Enclosure in the Middle Ages*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2005. *Mystics Quarterly* 33.1-2 (2007): 56-59.

Other Publications:

- “*Lectio non-divina*: An Ignorant Reading of *The Heart Sutra*.” In *Illegitibilities Reflecting Reading*, ed. Barbara Bausch. con·stel·la·tions series. Berlin: Textem Verlag, 2025. 37-44.
- “Fifty Years of the Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures.” Co-authored with Barbara Zimbalist. *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 50.1 (2024): 1-9.
- “Marguerite d’Oingt.” *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Women’s Writing in the Global Middle Ages*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-76219-3_97-1.
- “Julian of Norwich.” *Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*. Ed. Sian Echard and Robert Rouse. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.
- “Margery Kempe.” *Encyclopedia of Medieval British Literature*. Ed. Sian Echard and Robert Rouse. West Sussex, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.
- “Later Medieval: Chaucer.” *Year’s Work in English Studies* 92 (2011). Ed. Elaine Treharne. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013. Co-authored with Katharine Jager. 284-306.
- “Later Medieval: Chaucer.” *Year’s Work in English Studies* 91 (2010). Ed. Mary Swan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. Co-authored with Katharine Jager. 281-311.
- “Later Medieval: Chaucer.” *Year’s Work in English Studies* 90 (2009). Ed. Mary Swan. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011. Co-authored with Katharine Jager. 264-279.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Reading Women Writing Death: Beatrice of Nazareth and the Nuns of Helfta.” Invited talk at the conference “Frauen Lesen. Anders? Internationale Tagung zur literarischen Tätigkeit von Klosterfrauen im 13.-15. Jahrhundert.” University of Freiburg, March 2023.
- “Louer la tristesse : le deuil d’après Augustin, Bernard et les moniales d’Helfta.” Invited lecture for the CELAR research group, University of Strasbourg, France, December 8, 2022.
- “Jessica Barr on Gertrude of Helfta.” Interview. *My Favourite Mystic* with A. J. Langley, episode 25. January 20, 2022. <https://anchor.fm/myfavouritemystic>
- “The Dark Side of Fairy Tales.” Public lecture. South Hadley Public Library, July 2020.

“Reading Annihilation in Marguerite Porete’s *Mirror of Simple Souls*.” Plenary presentation at the conference on Women’s Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon, University of Bergen, Norway, June 2017.

Panel Respondent, “Borders of Female Spirituality.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, March 2017.

“How to Read a Vita: Exemplary Reading and Medieval Sanctity.” Five College Medieval Studies Seminar, March 2016.

“You Must Change Your Life.” Opening Convocation Address, Eureka College, August 26, 2014.

“The Wounded Text: Word and Image in a Fourteenth-Century Codex.” Eureka College Faculty Colloquium, December 2011.

“Divine, Demonic, or Misunderstood: Visions of God in the Middle Ages.” Clarence R. Noë Dean’s Lecture, Eureka College, October 13, 2009.

“Sustainability and the Liberal Arts.” Faculty Lecture, Eureka College, April 2009.

“Travel Literature.” Lifetime Learning Institute, Bard College, January 2006.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Girl’s Guide to Loving Death: Scripting Desire.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, April 2024.

“To Mourn and Rejoice Together: Visions of Gertrude of Hackeborn’s Death.” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2022.

“Contemplative Pedagogy and the Problem of God (in the Classroom).” Roundtable on Teaching the Saints through Comparative Pedagogy. Meeting of the American Academy of Religion, San Antonio, TX, November 2021.

“Contemplative Approaches to Teaching Medieval Mystics.” 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2021.

“Gender, Status, and Exemplary Mysticism in Three Lives by Goswin of Bossut.” Gender in Global Medieval Mysticism. Ashoka University, Sonapat, India, March 2020. Conference canceled due to Covid-19; rescheduled as an online panel, March 1, 2021.

“Death and Detachment in the Helfta Literature.” Love in Religion: Helfta Visionaries Conference. Oxford University, Oxford, UK, September 2020. Conference canceled due to Covid-19.

“A Way Out of the World: Desiring Death in the Thirteenth Century.” Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association. University of North Carolina at Greensboro, November 2019.

“Inviting the Reader in: Dialogue in Mystical and Devotional Literature.” 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2019.

“How Long, O Lord? Mystical Impatience and the Will of God.” Biennial International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Toronto, Canada, July 2018.

“Silence in the Wilderness: Gender and Landscape in the *Roman de Silence*.” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, April 2018.

- “Annihilating Love: Mystical Erotics, Medieval Romance, and the Twenty-First Century Classroom,” for the seminar “Romantic Love in (Post)Medieval Contexts.” Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association, Utrecht, Netherlands, July 2017.
- “Wondering at the Saints: Gendered Admirations in Medieval Hagiography.” Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Hofstra University, June 2017.
- “God in the Book: Rethinking Corporeality in the Helfta Mystics.” 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2017.
- “Teaching by Example: Julian of Norwich’s Devotional Hermeneutics.” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2016.
- “Reading Sanctity: Hagiographic Rhetoric and the Holy Women of Liège.” 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2015.
- “Thinking Critically about Our Critical Thinking.” Allerton English Articulation Conference, April 2014. Participant in a panel on Eureka College’s first-year/junior composition sequence.
- “Reading Wounds: Embodied Mysticism in a Fourteenth-Century Codex.” 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2013.
- “Inimitable Exemplars: Gertrude of Helfta and the Problem of Writing.” Meeting of the Modern Language Association, January 2012.
- “Body Language: The Semiotics of Sainly Bodies in Medieval Women’s Hagiography.” Seeing, Hearing, Reading and Believing: Authorities in the Middle Ages, Helsinki, Finland, September 2010.
- “Holy Women and Devout Readers: Modeling Interpretive Practice in Beatrice of Nazareth and Margery Kempe.” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2009.
- “Resisting Reason: Authority and Desire in *The Romance of the Rose* and *Piers Plowman*.” 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2009.
- “Devout, Virtuous, and Sane: Constructions of the Reader in Late Medieval Mysticism.” Meeting of the Midwest Modern Language Association, November 2007.
- “The Future of the Text: Visions, the Reader, and *The House of Fame*.” London Chaucer Conference, University of London, April 2007.
- “The Meaning of the Word: Language and Understanding in Marguerite d’Oingt.” 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2005.
- “‘La verté ne doi taisir’: Nature, Nurture and Literary Creation in the *Roman de Silence*.” 39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2004.
- “Mother, Lover, Virgin, Wife: Images of the Soul in Meister Eckhart and Gertrude of Helfta.” Vagantes Graduate Student Conference on the Middle Ages, Cornell University, March 2004.
- “The Burden of Revelation: Body as Medium in the Medieval Vision.” 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University, May 2003.

OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Chair and co-organizer of the roundtable “New Methodologies in Medieval Religious Studies,” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2025 (forthcoming).

Roundtable participant, “Creating Feminist Spaces in Medieval Studies,” 59th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2025 (forthcoming).

Chair of the panel “Women and Devotion,” 100th Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, March 2025 (forthcoming).

Chair and co-organizer of the roundtable “New Directions in Medieval Religious Studies,” 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2024.

Co-organizer of and speaker on the roundtable “Publishing New Work in Religious Studies,” 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2024.

Chair and co-organizer of the panel “New Work in Religious Studies,” 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2023.

Chair of the panels “In Honor of Bonnie Wheeler I: Women in/and Authority in Medieval Literature and Culture” and “In Honor of Bonnie Wheeler II: Medieval Foremothers and Their Afterlives (A Roundtable),” 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2023.

Chair and co-organizer of the panel “New Work in Religious Studies,” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2022.

Organizer and chair of the panel “Death in the Holy Life,” 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2021 (rescheduled from 2020).

Chair of the panel “Medieval Hagiography,” Southeastern Medieval Association Annual Conference, November 2019.

Chair of the panel “Sanctity in the Middle Ages,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2018.

Chair and co-organizer (with Barbara Zimbalist, University of Texas-El Paso) of the panel “The Order of Devotion,” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, April 2018..

Chair of the panel “Julian, Margery, and Their Reception,” 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, May 2017.

SEMINAR PARTICIPATION

Kahn Institute for the Liberal Arts, “Putting Pen to Palm Leaf: Buddhism and Contemporary Literature.” Smith College. 2018-19.

Mellon-Sawyer Seminar, “Beyond Medieval and Modern: Rethinking Global Paradigms of Political Economy and Culture.” University of Massachusetts, Amherst. 2015-2016.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Scholarly Writing Fellow, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Fall 2024.

Faculty Research/Healey Endowment Grant (\$16,064) to support the project *Death and the Holy Woman: Bodily Finitude, Christian Theology, and Medieval Women's Mysticism*. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2022.

Nominated for College of the Humanities and Fine Arts Outstanding Teaching Award. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2020.

TIDE Ambassador (Teaching for Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Equity), Center for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2018-19.

Flex Grant to support *mOthertongue* and to help bring a guest speaker to an undergraduate Comparative Literature class. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2018-19.

MSP Grant for Research to support travel to the 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies, The Medieval Institute of Western Michigan University. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2018-19, 2022-23, 2023-24.

Flex Grant to support *mOthertongue* and to bring guest speakers to two undergraduate Comparative Literature classes. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2017-18.

SPIRE Grant (Strategic Programme for International Research and Education), for "Assessing Paths to Power: Continental Visionary Women in Medieval England." With Laura Saetveit Miles (University of Bergen, project leader), Catherine Batt (University of Leeds), Steve Rozenski (University of Rochester), and Brandon Alakas (University of Alberta). University of Bergen, Norway, 2016-2017.

Flex Grant to support *mOthertongue* and to help bring a guest speaker to an undergraduate Comparative Literature class. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2016-17, 2023-24.

Mutual Mentoring Grant for "Future Fulls: Moving Past Mid-Career." With Rebecca Dingo, Kiran Asher, and Stephen Miller (all of the University of Massachusetts Amherst). Institute for Teaching Excellence and Faculty Development, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015-16.

Flex Grant to support development of a graduate class in Comparative Literature, Medieval Women Writers. University of Massachusetts Amherst, 2015-16.

Helen Cleaver Distinguished Teaching Award 2013-14. Eureka College. Eureka College's highest teaching award; recipients are nominated and selected by committee.

President's Fund Summer Research Grant. Eureka College, Summer 2010. Funding to support archival research at the Bibliothèque Royale in Brussels. Faculty-wide competition.

President's Fund Development Grant. Eureka College, Spring 2010. Course release for research. Faculty-wide competition.

Cogut Center for the Humanities Graduate Fellowship. Brown University, 2006-2007.

Schallek Dissertation Award. The Medieval Academy of America and the Richard III Society, 2006. Support for completion of my dissertation. National competition.

Oberlin College Alumni Fellowship. Oberlin College, 2006. Support for completion of my dissertation.

Brown-Wheaton Faculty Fellowship. Brown University and Wheaton College, 2006 (declined).

Dean's Graduate Dissertation Fellowship. Brown University, 2005-2006. Campus-wide competition.

Albert Spaulding Cook Prize in Comparative Literature. Department of Comparative Literature, Brown University, 2005. Annual award for the best comparative paper written by a graduate student.

University Fellowship. Brown University, 2000-2001.

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Comparative Literature

Writing Death in the Middle Ages (Graduate Seminar)
The Idea of Writing in the Middle Ages (Graduate Seminar)
Medieval Women Writers (Graduate Seminar)
The Legends of King Arthur
Dreams, Visions, and the Supernatural
Mystical Literature
Gender and the Body in the Middle Ages
Spiritual Autobiography
Traversing Differences through Critical and Creative Thinking: Local Questions
International Short Story
Writing the Self (First-Year Seminar)
Finding Yourself in Literature (First-Year Seminar)

Eureka College, Department of English

Gender and the Body in the Middle Ages
Literature and the Technologies of Textual Production
Feminism and Literature: Theory, Reflection, Practice
Chaucer
The Medieval Romances of Chrétien de Troyes
The Legends of King Arthur
Shakespeare
Shakespeare's London (week-long study trip to London)
The Uncanny in European Literature
Classical Literature
The European *Bildungsroman*
Writing under the Influence: The Poetics of Inspiration (Honors Seminar)
British Literature I: Anglo-Saxon through Neoclassical
British Literature II: Romanticism to the Present
First-Year Seminar
Academic Writing and Research (first-year composition)
Advanced Academic Writing and Research (junior-level composition)
Developmental Writing

GRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEES (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Gennifer Dorgan, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2023-present. Director.

Xu Li, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2018-present. Director.

Rafael Freire, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2021-present. Director.

Kate Edwards, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2022-present. Committee member.

Juan Carlos Cabrera Pons, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2021-present. Committee member.

Rebecca Maillet, doctoral candidate in English, 2016-present. Committee member.

Kristin Harrell, doctoral candidate in English, University of South Carolina, 2019-present. Committee member.

Daniel Armenti, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2020. "Moralizing the Rape of Philomela in Late Medieval Commentary." Co-director (with Michael Papio).

Sandra Joy Russell, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2022. "Embodiment and Gendered Subjectivity in Ukrainian Women's Film, Poetry, and Prose during Perestroika (1985-1991)." Committee member.

Fan Wang, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2019. "Agency in the Margins: Readers and Book-Collectors in Late Imperial China (1368-1911)." Committee member.

Sara Ceroni, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2019. "The Matrix of Imperial Rome in Modernist and Postcolonial Literature." Committee member.

Lara Matta, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2018. Dissertation: "The Texture of Reading/Reading Textures: Poetic, Visual, Material, and Inter-medial Dimensions of Textuality in Arabic Poetry, French Picturebooks, and North American Bookarts." Committee member.

Andrés Amitai Wilson, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2018. Dissertation: "'A Page from the Song of Songs': Etudes in Allegoresis." Committee member.

Michelle Brooks, Ph.D. in English, 2022. Dissertation: "Literary Negation and Materialism in Chaucer." Committee member.

Rachael A. Salyer, Ph.D. in German and Scandinavian Studies, 2018. Dissertation: "Epic and Identity: Exploring Genre and Understanding the Self in the Middle High German *Spielmannsepen*." Committee member.

Madalina Meirosu, Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, 2017. Dissertation: "The Eloquence of Automata: Socio-Political Commentary in Nineteenth-Century Literature on Artificial Humanoids." Committee member.

Kenneth Scriboni, M.A. in Comparative Literature, 2022. "Translating Calvino's Dialectical Style." Committee member.

Robert Canning, M.A. in Chinese Literature, 2020. "Literary Portrayals of Religious Awakening through Suffering and Loss: Buddhist, Daoist, and Christian Perspectives." Committee member.

Steven Davis, M.A. in French, 2017. Thesis: "Les Corps Démoniaques dans *la Démonomanie des Soricers*: Un Examen Ontologique." Committee member.

William Ollayos, M.A. in Comparative Literature, 2017. Thesis: "Women on Trial: Translating Femininity through Journalism." Committee member.

GRADUATE EXAM COMMITTEES (University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Gennifer Dorgan, Comparative Literature comprehensive exams, 2022-2023. Director.

Rob Louis, Comparative Literature comprehensive exams, 2023-present. Committee member.

Rafael Freire, Comparative Literature comprehensive exams, 2021. Committee member.

Juan Carlos Cabrera y Pons, Comparative Literature comprehensive exams, 2021. Committee member.

Xu Li, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2018. Director.

Sandra Joy Russell, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2018. Committee member.

Sara Ceroni, doctoral candidate in Comparative Literature, 2016. Committee member.

Michelle Brooks, doctoral candidate in English, 2015. Committee member.

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Editor, *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*, 2020-present.

Associate Editor, *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Society*, 2019-present.

Grant reviewer for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of the Canadian Government, 2021-22.

Grant reviewer for the American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant competition, 2018-2019, 2023-24.

Advisory Board, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS), 2016-2019.

Conference committee (co-chair, 2017-2018).

Mentoring program committee (2016-2018). Designed and implemented a new mentoring group program for SMFS members; coordinator of mentoring partnerships (an ongoing program).

Judge, SMFS first book prize (2017-18).

Judge, SMFS graduate student essay award (2016-17 and 2019-20).

Article reviewer for *PMLA* (2023), *postmedieval* (2022, 2023), *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* (2021), *Viator* (2020), *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* (2020), *Enarratio* (2018), *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* (2016, 2018), *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality* (2016, 2018, 2019), *The Chaucer Review* (2014), *Exemplaria* (2014, 2017).

Conference Committee, the 22nd Annual Southern New England Graduate Student Conference in Medieval Studies, Brown University, October 2004.

Co-organizer of the first annual Comparative Literature/Art History Graduate Student Symposium, "Issues of Representation," Brown University, March 2003.

SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

To the Program and Department

Director of the Program in Comparative Literature, 2023-present.

LLC Executive Committee, 2018-2019 and 2023-present.

Personnel Committee of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures (LLC), 2020-2022
Chair, 2021-2022

Associate Chair, 2020-2021

Personnel Committee of the Program in Comparative Literature, Chair, 2020-2022.

Undergraduate Studies Committee in Comparative Literature, 2021-2022.

Undergraduate Program Director in Comparative Literature, 2016-2021.

Co-director Spring 2016.

Undergraduate Studies Committee, Chair, Program in Comparative Literature, 2016-2021.

LLC Antiracism Committee, 2020-2021.

Comparative Literature mentoring committee, 2020-present.

LLC Curriculum Committee, 2017-2021.

Faculty advisor, *mOthertongue: a multilingual journal of the arts*, 2017-2019.

Editorial Board, *Writing the World: A Journal of Undergraduate Writing in Comparative Literature*, 2017-2020.

Graduate Studies Committee, Program in Comparative Literature, Fall 2015, Fall 2017, 2018-19,
2023-present.

Member of the following Undergraduate Honors Thesis committees:

Nina Jones, completion of an original graphic novel ("Exit"), 2022

Tara Dugan, completion an original novel ("The Lady Comes Undone"), 2020

Len Bittenson, "Trilingual, Tri-genre Translations: An Exploration of Lesser Respected Literary
Genres," 2019

Lillian Sickler, poetry chapbook, 2018

To the College and University

General Education Variance Committee, Co-Chair, 2019-present.

General Education Council, 2017-present.

University Writing Committee, 2018-2020.

College of Humanities and Fine Arts Curriculum Committee, 2017-2019.

Interim Director of the Five College Medieval Studies Seminar, 2019-2020.

Medieval Studies Certificate Steering Committee, 2018-present.

Thatcher House Working Group, 2017-2019.

Technical reviewer for Faculty Research/Healy Endowment Grants Competition, 2018.

Respondent at the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies
Research Colloquium, Spring 2016.

Lectures and presentations organized:

Kersti Francis (Boston University), "Race and Magic in Partonope of Blois," April 24, 2024
(forthcoming)

Roundtable on "Teaching the Middle Ages," with Nancy Bradbury (Smith College), Anne Broadbridge

(UMass Amherst), Michael Davis (Mt. Holyoke College), Michael Papio (UMass Amherst), and Deven Valliere (undergraduate student at Hampshire College), February 11, 2020

Adam Franklin-Lyons (Marlboro College), "Demand and Distribution of Timely Information: News in the Fourteenth Century - Projects from the Travelers Lab," Five College Medieval Studies seminar, November 18, 2019

Barbara Zimbalist (University of Texas-El Paso), "Talk to God and Write It Down: Visionary Translation in the Late Middle Ages," February 15, 2018.

Garry Sparks (George Mason University), "Translating God(s): Intertextuality between Missionary and Maya Literature in Colonial Guatemala," September 28, 2017.

SERVICE TO EUREKA COLLEGE

Chair of the Humanities Division, 2013-2015.

Search Committee Chair, Assistant Professor of Spanish, Fall 2014.

Sustainability Committee, 2014-2015.

Director of the Honors Program, 2008-2014.

Search Committee Chair, Visiting Assistant Professor of Spanish, Spring 2014.

Curriculum Committee, Chair, 2010-2013.

Search Committee, Athletic Director, Fall 2013.

White Paper Committee on Excellence in Learning at 2012-2013.

Faculty Advisor, *Impressions* literary magazine, 2012-2014.

Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta (The International English Honor Society), Theta Lambda Chapter, 2007-2012.

Search Committee, Generalist Visiting Assistant Professor, Spring 2011.

New Program Development Working Group, 2010.

Search Committee, Assistant Professor of European History, 2009-10.

Teacher Education Committee, 2008-2010.

Author, Academic Dishonesty Statement, 2009.

Ad Hoc Committee to Revise the Faculty Handbook, 2008-2009.

Honors Thesis Advisor for Angela Barry, "A Gnashing of Bloody Teeth: The Zombie as Metaphor," 2009.

Search Committee, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, Spring 2008.

Judge, Eureka College High School Writing Competition, 2008 and 2009.

LANGUAGES

French: near-native

German: proficient

Middle English: reading proficiency

Reading proficiency in Latin, Old French, and Middle High German

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Pelham (MA) Sustainability Committee, 2023-present.

Pelham Sustainability Working Group member, 2022-23. The Working Group became a Committee in 2023.

Search committee, Pelham town clerk, 2023.

Sexuality and Gender Empowerment and Education curriculum Advisory Board member, Pelham Elementary School, Pelham, MA, 2018-2020.

Instructor of “Medieval Women Mystics,” a four-week course open to the public, at the Church of Christ Congregational, Granby, MA, February 2020.

Mindfulness Meditation Group coordinator, Eureka, IL, 2014-2015.

Woodford County (IL) Heartline and Heart House, Board Member, 2008-2015; Board Vice President, 2010-2014. Heartline provides emergency relief to families in need; Heart House is a shelter for women and children who are homeless or victims of domestic violence.

Volunteer, Eureka Public Library, 2014.

Taught two four-week courses at Eureka Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Eureka, IL:

A Reflection on *Pearl*, February 2013.

Medieval Mysticism, September 2011.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Medieval Academy of America

American Comparative Literature Association

The Modern Language Association

The Hagiography Society

The Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship