

Rebecca F. McNamara

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EDUCATION

- 2010 D.Phil., University of Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature
2006 M.St., University of Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature
2005 B.A., *magna cum laude*, Baylor University (English major, Linguistics minor, Religion minor)

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 Assistant Professor of English, tenure-track, Department of English, Westmont College.
2016 Lecturer, fixed-term, Department of English, University of California Los Angeles.
2014 Associate Lecturer, fixed-term, Department of English, University of Sydney.
2011-2014 Postdoctoral Research Associate: Australian Research Council, Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, Europe 1100-1800 ("CHE"). Medieval and Early Modern Centre, University of Sydney.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles and Chapters in Edited Volumes

- "Emotion," in Richard Newhauser, ed., *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, Wiley Blackwell, forthcoming.
- "Female Consent and Affective Resistance in Romance: Medieval Pedagogy and #MeToo," *New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy and Profession 2* (forthcoming 2021), (with Sara V. Torres).
- "Teaching Courtly Love in the Medieval Literature Classroom: Desire, Consent, and the #MeToo Movement," in Heather Hewett and Mary Holland, eds., *#MeToo and Literary Studies: Reading, Writing, and Teaching about Sexual Assault and Rape Culture*, Bloomsbury, forthcoming 2021 (with Sara V. Torres).
- "The Emotional Body in European Religious Belief and Practice," in Susan Broomhall and Andrew Lynch, eds., *History Handbook to Emotions in Europe, 1100-1700*. Routledge, 2019.
- "A is for *Affecioun*: Strategies for the History of Emotions in the Classroom," *The Once and Future Classroom* 13.1 (2016), 1-22.
- "The History of Emotions and Middle English Literature," *Literature Compass* 13.6 (2016), 444-56 (with Stephanie Downes).
- "Wearing your Heart on your Face: Reading Lovesickness and the Suicidal Impulse in Chaucer," *Literature and Medicine* 33.2 (2015), 235-55.
- "The Sorrow of Soreness: Infirmary and Suicide in Medieval England," *Parergon* 31.2 (2014), 11-34.
- "Emotional Responses to Death and Dying in Medieval and Early Modern Europe," *Parergon* 31.2 (2014), 1-10 (with Una McIlvenna).
- "Unlocking the Silences of the Self-Murdered: Textual Approaches to Suicidal Emotions in the Middle Ages," *Exemplaria* 26.1 (2014), 58-80 (with Juanita Feros Ruys).
- "'Diversity in setting of words makes diversity in understanding': Bureaucratic and Political Language in Thomas Usk's *Testament of Love*," *New Medieval Literatures* 14 (2012), 165-199.

Edited Volumes

Rebecca F. McNamara, curriculum vitae

Medieval and Early Modern Emotional Responses to Death and Dying, special issue of *Parergon* 31.2 (2014) (co-edited with Una McIlvenna).

Selected Book Reviews

Review of Jean-François Vernay, *The Seduction of Fiction: A Plea for Putting Emotions Back into Literary Interpretation*, trans. Carolyne Lee, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016; *Emotions: History, Culture, Society* 2.2 (2018), 360-61.

Review of Andreea D. Boboc, ed., *Theorizing Legal Personhood in Late Medieval England*, Brill, 2015; *Speculum* 92.1 (2017), 219-220.

Review of Judith Jefferson and Ad Putter, eds., *Multilingualism in Medieval Britain (c. 1066-1520): Sources and Analysis*, Brepols, 2013; *Parergon* 30.2 (2013), 200-201.

Review of Elisabeth Salter and Helen Wicker, eds., *Vernacularity in England and Wales, c.1300-1550* *Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy*, 17 (Brepols, 2011); *Parergon* 29.2 (2012), 336-337.

[Fields, Rebecca], Review of J. J. Anderson, *Language and Imagination in the Gawain-Poems*, Manchester U P, 2005; *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, 2008.

[Fields, Rebecca], Review of Alan T. Gaylord, *The Art of Chaucer's Verse*, Routledge, 2001; *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, 2008.

Selected Non-Academic Publications

2021 ["Care in Times of Crisis: Suicide and Emotions in Medieval England" – published title TBD], *Psyche*, forthcoming March 11, <https://psyche.co>.

2014 McNamara's research profiled in Ceridwen Dovey, "Intent Unknown," *The Monthly*, Sept. <http://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2014/september/1409493600/ceridwen-dovey/intent-unknown>

2013 "Emotional Communities and Literary Genre," available via the post "Literary Emotions Methodologies II," *Histories of Emotion: CHE Researcher Blog*, Nov 22. <http://historiesofemotion.com/2013/11/22/literary-emotions-methodologies-ii/>

2013 "Digital Humanities for the History of Emotions: Broadside Ballads and Beyond," *Histories of Emotion: CHE Researcher Blog*, Aug 2. <http://historiesofemotion.com/2013/08/02/digital-humanities-for-the-history-of-emotions-broadside-ballads-beyond/>

2013 "Bodies in Distress" documentary, Feb 21. <http://vimeo.com/60215240>. Documentary of the *Bodies in Distress* collaborative research and art installation project, filmed by Cassie Charlton.

2012 "History of suicide is worthwhile, whatever the Coalition says," *The Conversation*, Nov 9. <http://theconversation.com/history-of-suicide-is-worthwhile-whatever-the-coalition-says-10635>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Westmont College, 2017-Present

Chaucer and Medieval Literature (upper-level unit). English Department.

Studies in Classic Literature: Medieval Dream Visions (lower-level unit). English Department.

Studies in Classic Literature: The Arthurian Tradition (lower-level unit). English Department.

Fist Year Seminar: Living our Stories at Westmont (lower-level unit). Interdisciplinary Studies.

Studies in Literature: The Arthurian Tradition (lower-level general education unit). English Department.

Topics in World Literature: 21st-Century Anglophone Literatures of Displacement (upper-level unit). English Department.

Writers in Conversation: Literature and Emotions (lower-level unit). English Department.

Composition (lower-level general education unit). English Department.

Survey of British Literature to 1800 (lower-level unit). English Department.

Internship (for English majors) (upper-level unit). English Department.

University of California Los Angeles, 2016-2017

Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales* and Chaucer: *Troilus and Criseyde* and Minor Poems (upper-level undergrad units). English Department. Lecturer. As Lecturer I designed and sole taught these courses.

Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales* (upper-level undergrad unit). English Department. Lecturer. As Lecturer I designed and sole taught this course.

University of Sydney, 2013-2014

The Canterbury Tales (upper-level undergrad unit). English Department. Unit Coordinator. As Unit Coordinator I designed and sole taught this course.

Language, Texts and Time (first-year undergrad unit). English Department. Unit Teacher.

Life and Literature in the Age of Chaucer (undergrad Honors and graduate Masters unit). English Department. Unit Coordinator. As Unit Coordinator I designed and sole taught this course.

Deceit and Disguise in Medieval Narrative (mid-level undergrad unit). English Department. Unit Teacher.

Sex and Sin in the Middle Ages (mid-level undergrad unit). Medieval & Early Modern Centre. Unit Teacher.

University of Oxford, 2008-2011

(as Tutor I designed and sole taught all undergraduate courses listed below)

J. R. R. Tolkien's Fiction, Hertford College, University of Oxford. Tutor.

Introduction to Medieval English Literature (Old and Middle English literature), Oriel College, University of Oxford. Tutor.

General Linguistics and Special Topics in Sociolinguistics; Finals Revision for Linguistic Theory. Exeter College, University of Oxford. Tutor.

English Literature from 1100-1509, Magdalen College, University of Oxford. Tutor.

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

2018	Professional Development Grant, Westmont College
2015-Present	Honorary Research Fellowship, University of Western Australia
2015-2016	Mayers Fellowship, The Huntington Library
2015-2016	Honorary Research Associate, Medieval and Early Modern Centre, University of Sydney
2011-2014	Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
2010	New Chaucer Society Travel Grant
2008, 2010	Exeter College, Oxford, Academic Travel Grant
2008, 2010	Meyerstein and Maxwell Fund, Oxford English Faculty, Travel Grant
2003-2004	John L. Howard Scholarship for English Studies, Baylor University
2001-2005	Baylor University Dean's List

2001-2005 Baylor University Presidential Scholarship

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 “The Emotional Language of the Law in Chaucer’s Poetry,” Department of English, University of California Santa Barbara, November 18.
- 2016 “The Hidden History of Emotions at Law in Late Medieval England,” Medieval Emotions & Contemporary Methodologies: A Research Workshop, Birkbeck University of London, July 8.
- 2015 “Anatomizing the Suicidal Impulse in *The Book of the Duchess* and *The Knight’s Tale*,” Medieval Renaissance Research Seminar, Baylor University, Waco, TX, February 13.
- 2014 “Wearing Your Heart on Your Face: Reading Lovesickness and Suicide in Chaucer,” History of Emotions Seminar, University of Adelaide, 5 Sept.
- 2013 “Medieval Suicide in Life and Art,” Texas A&M University Medieval Studies Group, College Station, TX, April 1.
- 2012 “Emotions and the Suicidal Impulse in Medieval England,” Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group, Sydney, NSW. Feb 8.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 “Student Professional Development and the Liberal Arts,” for The Gaede Institute Conversation on the Liberal Arts: High Anxiety: Liberal Arts and the Road to Success, Westmont College, March 21-23.
- 2018 with Matthew Fisher, Research Expo for the New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Toronto, July 11-15.
- 2014 with Sarah McNamer and Sarah Kelen, “The Sense of Emotion: A Roundtable,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, July 16-19.
- 2013 “Finding Emotions in Bureaucratic Texts,” Sourcing Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World Conference, Centre for the History of Emotions, University of Western Australia, June 27-29.
- 2012 “Reading Emotions in Public Documents,” Australian Historical Association Conference, University of Adelaide, July 9-13.

Papers Presented

- 2022 (Postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19) “Womanly Feelings and the Suicidal Impulse in Chaucer,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Durham, UK. July.
- 2018 “Impending Death, Experience, and Authority in Chaucer,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Toronto, Canada. July 11-15.
- 2018 “Teaching Literature and Emotions in the Undergraduate Classroom,” The Conference on the History of Emotions, George Mason University & the Society for the History of Emotions, Fairfax, VA, June 1-2.
- 2016 “The Emotional Language of the Law: A Case study of *Anelida and Arcite*,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, London, July 10-15.
- 2015 “A is for *Affeccioun*: Strategies for the History of Emotions in the Classroom,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 13-17.

- 2014 “The History of Emotions and Middle English Literature” (with Stephanie Downes), *Discourses of Passion, Politics, Nurture, and Feeling: Emotions in Middle English Literature III*, CHE, University of Melbourne, Sept 19.
- 2014 “Governing and Emotions in Late Medieval Law,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Iceland, Reykjavik, July 16-19.
- 2014 “Weapons of Self-Destruction: Materiality and Suicide in the Middle Ages,” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11.
- 2014 “Feel the Pain: Medieval Trauma,” MLA Convention, Chicago, IL, Jan 9-12.
- 2013 “Emotional Communities and Literary Genre,” Literary Emotions Methodologies Study Day, CHE, University of Melbourne, Oct 11.
- 2013 “A Lesser Evil? The Violence of War and Suicide in the Middle Ages,” Representing War and Violence in the Pre-Modern World Conference, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, Sept 22-23.
- 2013 “The Law on Feeling: Finding Emotions in Medieval Legal Texts,” Sourcing Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World Conference, CHE, University of Western Australia, Perth, June 27-29.
- 2013 “Dying on the Edge: The Suicides of Criminals in Medieval England,” Medieval Academy of America Annual General Meeting, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, April 4-7.
- 2013 “*Pro timore*: Criminal Suicide in the Middle Ages” and “Academic Border-Crossing: A Roundtable on International Career Opportunities,” Australia and New Zealand Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Conference, Monash University, Melbourne, Feb 11-16.
- 2012 “The Sorrow of Soreness: Infirmary and Suicide in the Middle Ages,” *Danse Macabre: Emotional Responses to Death and Dying from Medieval to Contemporary Times*, University of Sydney, Sept 21.
- 2012 “Fever, Madness, Anguish: Suicide and Emotions in Thirteenth-Century English Legal Records,” Society for the Social History of Medicine and Queen Mary Centre for the History of Emotions Conference, Queen Mary, University of London, Sept 10-12.
- 2012 “Afterlives of the Self-Murdered: Imagining Suicide and Emotions in England’s Medieval Legal Records,” South African Society of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Stellenbosch, Aug 30-Sept 2.
- 2012 “Infirmary and Compassion: Emotions of Suicide Case Petitions to the English Crown, 1200-1400,” Australian Historical Association Conference, University of Adelaide, July 9-13.
- 2011 “Literary Devices and Late Fourteenth-Century Governmental Texts,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 11-14.
- 2010 “Code-Switching in the Linguistic Hierarchy: Three Bureaucrats and their Texts,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, Università per Stranieri, Siena, July 15-19.
- 2008 “Negotiating Linguistic Domains: Register Switching in Chaucer and Usk,” New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Wales, Swansea, July 18-22.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2020 Contributing speaker (and co-organizer with Felicia Song and Alistair Chapman) for Faculty Forum on “Doing Better with Race and Diversity in the Classroom,” Aug 27.
- 2020 Contributing speaker for session on “Inclusive Teaching and Learning” for The Gaede Institute’s Conversation on the Liberal Arts: Still Dreaming: Race, Ethnicity, and the Liberal Arts, Feb 28.

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- 2020 “The heart of the matter: Reflections on the philosophy of Christian liberal arts education,” talk for Faculty Forum panel on Christian faith and the liberal arts, Feb 20.
- 2018 “Lessons Learned About Teaching During my First Years in the Classroom,” Lilly Graduate Fellows Retreat, Westmont, Aug 7.
- 2017 *Helvetica* Reel Talk panel discussant, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts, Westmont, Nov 16.
- 2017 Invited and interviewed Laura Youngkin, theatrical producer and creative consultant, for Campus Life Leadership Lunch, Westmont, Oct 17.
- 2012 with Juanita Feros Ruys, “Unlocking the Silences of the Self-Murdered: Approaches to Medieval Suicide and Public Engagement,” Medieval and Early Modern Centre Annual General Meeting, University of Sydney, Nov 29.
- 2011 “Emotions and Suicide in Medieval England: Problems and Approaches,” Medieval and Early Modern Centre Annual General Meeting, University of Sydney, Nov 17.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE AT WESTMONT COLLEGE

- 2020-Present Off-Campus Programs Committee member
- Nov-Dec 2020 Teaching for Racial Equity Workshop participant (hosted by Provost’s Office)
- Feb 2020 Augustinian Scholars Weekend: Academic Breakout Session Leader
- Feb 2020 Guest speaker on integrating faith and learning for Wayfinding (new faculty development)
- 2019-Present Welfare Unit Leader, Westmont Emergency Response Team
- 2018-2020 Budget and Salary Committee member
- Mar-Apr 2019 Faculty Reading Group member for Jemar Tisby, *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church’s Complicity in Racism*
- 2018, 2020 Interviewer for ENG 192 Capstone student mock interviews
- Nov-Dec 2018 Advisor for Sociology interns: managed coordination of students’ Spring 2019 internships
- 2017, 2019 Pathways for English Majors & Minors (career development event organized with Career Center)
- 2017-Present E.P.I.C. Mentor, Westmont Residence Life (support for students in college conduct process)
- Oct-Nov 2017 Diversity Reading Group member for Ta-Nehisi Coates, *Between the World and Me*
- Oct 2017 Communication Institutional Learning Outcome seminar participant
- 2017, 2018 Faculty Junction for International Student Orientation
- May 2017 Information Literacy Workshop participant (co-hosted by English Department and the Library)

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer reviewer for scholarly journals *Emotions: History, Culture, Society*; *Viator*; *Cultural Studies Review*; *Scandinavian Studies*; *Thanatos*.

ACADEMIC WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

- 2013 *Death(cha) Kucha*. Public *pecha kucha* presentations by Rebecca McNamara and other CHE postdocs, based on research on the history of emotions related to death and dying from the Middle Ages to the Present. Part of the program for Performance Space’s “Matters of Life & Death,” Sydney, March 8.

- 2012 *Bodies in Distress*. Collaborative research and art installation project on medieval and early modern bodies in distress, with CHE postdocs Rebecca McNamara and Una McIlvenna and artists Mimi Kelley, Carolyn McKay, and Grace Turner; administered by Gabriel Watts, documentary filmed by Cassie Charlton. The *Bodies in Distress* project was exhibited at the “Critical Animals” Creative Research Symposium, part of the “This is Not Art” Festival, Newcastle, NSW, Sept 27-30.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2007- 2010 Junior Dean, Exeter College, University of Oxford. Responsible for discipline and welfare of Exeter’s 500 students; key member of College staff and active participant in College administration and culture. In this role I worked on a range of student-central issues, such as promoting academic excellence and mental and physical wellbeing, coordinating care during emergency situations, providing support during bereavements and trauma, as well as helping to build constructive communities within the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. I liaised regularly with other College staff, including the Rector (Head of College), Sub-Rector, Senior Tutor (Academic Dean), College Chaplain, and undergraduate and graduate student welfare officers. As Junior Dean I sat on a number of College governing committees, and I represented Exeter in Oxford Proctors’ meetings with College Deans. I also maintained a close working relationship with students and faculty advisors of Exeter’s visiting student program with Williams College, USA. In preparation for this post, I undertook Oxford University Counseling Service’s Peer Support Training Program. I held this position alongside my last three years of doctoral study.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association, New Chaucer Society, Society for the History of Emotions, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship

REFEREES

Details of referees available upon request.