

## SARAH WILMA WATSON

Department of English  
University of Pennsylvania  
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### EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in English Literature, May 2018

M.A. in English Literature, December 2014

Fordham University

M.A. in Medieval Studies, 2012

University of Rochester

B.A. in English and History, summa cum laude, 2010

### DISSERTATION

“Women, Reading, and Literary Culture: The Reception of Christine de Pizan in Fifteenth-Century England”

*Committee:* David Wallace (chair), Emily Steiner, and Kevin Brownlee

This project investigates the circulation of works by Christine de Pizan, a prolific Parisian author, in fifteenth-century England. The project challenges the concept of literary communities defined by national boundaries, arguing that men and women in England imagined themselves as members of a transcontinental, multilingual reading community.

### TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medieval Literature and Culture; Medieval and Early Modern Women Writers and Readers; Chaucer; Medieval and Renaissance Drama and its Modern Revival; Gender and Sexuality Studies; History of the Book; Anglo-French Literary Culture.

### PUBLICATIONS

“Another Woman Reader of John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*: Jacquetta of Luxembourg and Cambridge, Pembroke College MS 307.” *The Journal of the Early Book Society*, vol. 21 (forthcoming).

“Chaste Reading: Diana, Mary, and Christine de Pizan.” *Le Moyen Français*, vol. 78-79 (2016), pp. 297-309 (peer-reviewed).

“Grace holds the ‘cliket’ to the heavenly ‘wiket’: *Piers Plowman*, the *Roman de la Rose*, and the Poetics of Penetration.” *The Yearbook of Langland Studies*, Vol. 30 (2016), pp. 207-226 (peer-reviewed).

“Jacquetta of Luxembourg: A Female Reader of Christine de Pizan in England.” Posted February 27, 2017 on *Women’s Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon* (online).

<https://blogs.surrey.ac.uk/medievalwomen/2017/02/27/jacquetta-of-luxembourg-a-female-reader-of-christine-de-pizan-in-england/>

## **DIGITAL PROJECT**

[Women Book Owners in Late-Medieval Francophone Europe: 1350-1500](#) - a digital humanities project which aims to collect and organize data related to medieval laywomen and their books. Currently preparing this project in collaboration with S.C. Kaplan (Rice University).

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2017/18.  
Schallek Award, Medieval Academy of America and Richard III Society, 2017.  
King's College Fellowship in London, University of Pennsylvania, 2015.  
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2012.  
Joseph O'Callaghan Graduate Essay Prize in Medieval Studies, Fordham University, 2011.  
Graduate Assistantship, Center for Medieval Studies, Fordham University, 2010/11.  
Presidential Scholarship, Fordham University, 2010/11.  
Joseph O'Connor Graduate Study Prize, University of Rochester, 2010.  
Dorothy D. Schimmel Memorial Award, University of Rochester, 2010.  
Inducted Phi Beta Kappa, University of Rochester, 2009.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Instructor*, University of Pennsylvania, English Department  
ENGL 021.301: Medieval Literature and Culture – Body Talk (Fall 2018)  
ENGL 020.301: [Literature Before 1660](#) (Fall 2017).  
ENGL 200.303: Junior Research Seminar: English Drama - Then and Now (Spring 2016).  
*Instructor*, University of Pennsylvania, College of Liberal and Professional Studies  
ENGL 103.601: [Chick Lit](#) (Fall 2018).  
ENGL 103.900: [Chick Lit](#) (Summer 2017).  
*Teaching Assistant*, University of Pennsylvania, English Department  
ENGL 101.401: Jane Austen and Adaptation, Prof. Michael Gamer (Spring 2014).  
*Grader*, University of Pennsylvania, English Department  
ENGL 104.401: The Twentieth Century, Prof. Josephine Park (Fall 2013).

## **ADDITIONAL TRAINING**

Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) Teaching Certificate, October 2017.  
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS) Graduate Certificate, May 2018.  
Graduate Certificate in Global Medieval and Renaissance Studies, May 2018.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*Editorial Committee Member*, [EuropeNow](#), The Council for European Studies, 2017-2018.  
*Organizer*, Penn Paleography Group, University of Pennsylvania, 2017.  
*Co-organizer*, Medievalists@Penn, an interdisciplinary reading group, University of Pennsylvania, 2015-17.  
*Graduate Assistant*, Penn in London Study Abroad program in association with King's College London, 2015.  
*Co-coordinator*, Medieval-Renaissance Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-15.  
*Graduate Assistant*, Fordham University Center for Medieval Studies, 2010-11.

### **CONFERENCES ORGANIZED**

- “Auctoritas,” 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Medievalists @ Penn Graduate Conference, University of Pennsylvania, March 17, 2017. Co-organized with Anna Lyman (University of Pennsylvania).
- “Method and the Middle English Text,” Graduate Conference, University of Virginia, April 8-9, 2016. Co-organized with Daniel Davies (UPenn), Zach Stone, Casey Ireland (UVA), R. D. Perry, Michelle Ripplinger and Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley).
- “Performance,” 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Medievalists @ Penn Graduate Conference, University of Pennsylvania, March 18, 2016. Co-organized with Mariah Min, Daniel Davies, Samantha Pious and Erika Smith (University of Pennsylvania).

### **CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED**

- “Langland’s Women.” International Congress of Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2017 (with Matthew Irvin and Elizabeth Robertson). Sponsored by The International Piers Plowman Society & The Gender Medieval Studies Group.
- “Maternity and Paternity – Theories of Authorship.” International Congress of Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2017 (with Elizaveta Strakhov). Sponsored by the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship.
- “Unhappy Families: Literary Inheritance in the Fifteenth Century,” Roundtable. International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2016 (with Daniel Davies).
- “Surrounding Medieval Women: Female Occupation of Secular Architecture and Landscape.” International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2016 (with Scott Miller).

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS**

- “‘A little bell makes a great sound:’ Re-voicing Christine de Pizan in Fifteenth-Century England.” 9th International Women in French Conference « Le bruit des femmes », The Winthrop-King Institute, Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida, February 8-10, 2018.
- “Writing Mothers and Reading Daughters: Christine de Pizan and Jacquetta of Luxembourg.” International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2016.
- “English Drama Then and Now,” Seminar: Medieval and Modern in the Classroom. Twentieth Biennial International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Queen Mary University, London, UK. July 2016.
- “Sexual-Salvific Poetics in *Piers Plowman B. V.*” International Piers Plowman Society Conference. University of Washington, Seattle, WA. July 2015.
- “Regulated Reading & Chaste Authorship in Christine de Pizan’s *Livre de la Cité des Dames.*” IXe Colloque International Christine de Pizan. Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. July 2015.

“‘Enter the City’: Crossing Linguistic Boundaries and Forming Social Bonds in a Fifteenth-Century Sermon.” International Congress of Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. May 2015.

“‘And every word [she] gan up and down to wynde’”: Cognition and the Female Reader in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*.” Nineteenth Biennial International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Reykjavik, Iceland. July 2014.

"A Disobedient Reader: Using the Medieval Table of Content in Taylor MS 5." The Third International Congress of the John Gower Society: John Gower: Language, Cognition, and Performance. University of Rochester, Rochester, NY. July 2014.

“The Forbidden Fruit and the Salvific Fruit: Tasting as a Way of Knowing in Clemence of Barking’s *Life of Saint Catherine* and the *Jeu d’Adam*,” Sensing the Sacred: Religion and the Senses, 1300-1800, University of York, York UK. June 2013.

“Illustrating Social Status: Fashion in the Marginal Drawings of a Fourteenth-Century Breviary from Tavistock, Devonshire,” 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Saint Louis Conference on Manuscript Studies, Saint Louis University, St. Louis, MO. October 2011.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Medieval Academy of America (MAA)

New Chaucer Society (NCS)

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship (SMFS)

Delaware Valley Medieval Association (DVMA)

Modern Language Association (MLA)

Women in French (WiF)

### **LANGUAGES**

Middle English; French - Modern, Middle, and Anglo-Norman; Latin.

### **REFERENCES**

David Wallace

Judith Rodin Professor of English

University of Pennsylvania

[dwallace@english.upenn.edu](mailto:dwallace@english.upenn.edu)

Emily Steiner

Professor of English & Associate Chair

University of Pennsylvania

[steinere@english.upenn.edu](mailto:steinere@english.upenn.edu)

Kevin Brownlee

Professor of Romance Languages

University of Pennsylvania

[kbrownle@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:kbrownle@sas.upenn.edu)