

HELEN CUSHMAN

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Education

Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)
Ph.D. English, ABD, expected May 2018

University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA)
B.A. Classics and English with Highest Honors, May 2012

Dissertation

“Producing Knowledge in the Middle English Mystery Plays “
Directed by Nicholas Watson (chair), James Simpson, and Amy Appleford (Boston University).

Publications

“Handling Knowledge: Holy Bodies in the Middle English Mystery Plays.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. 47.2 (Forthcoming 2017).

Academic Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

External

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2017-18
Alexandra Johnston Prize (for best conference paper), Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society, 2017
Schallek Award (for research), Medieval Academy of America, 2016
Donald Howard Scholar (for travel), New Chaucer Society, 2016

Internal

Dexter Term-time Fellowship (one semester teaching relief), Harvard University, 2016
Dexter Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2016
English Prize Fellowship, Harvard University, 2012-17
Echols Scholar, University of Virginia, 2009-12

Conference Papers

“*Curiositas* in Middle English Drama.” New Chaucer Society Congress (London, England), July 2016.

“Producing Knowledge in the Chester and N-Town Cycles.” International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

With Daniel Donoghue (Harvard) and A.J. McMullen (Centenary College), "Teaching Chaucer Online: The Future of Larry Benson's Geoffrey Chaucer Website." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

"The Digital Margin." Method and the Middle English Text (Charlottesville, VA), April 2016.

"The Grave as Aesthetic Domain in Late Medieval Lyric." Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), April 2016.

"Marginal Readers and the Digital Humanities." Digital Britain (Cambridge, MA), March 2016.

"Marcolf's Biological Warfare." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2015.

"The Eternity Effect: Liquefied Time and Revenge in the *Carmina Burana* Christmas Play." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2014.

"False Confession and the Lollardization of Saint Marina." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2013.

"Reforming Confession: Ritual Disruption in Caxton's *Golden Legend*." Re:form (Berkeley, CA), February 2013.

Invited Talks

"Handling Knowledge: Drama and Authority in Late Medieval England." Yale Medieval Lunch Series (New Haven, CT), April 2017.

"Pedagogical Theater in the Plays of Christ and the Doctors." Harvard Medieval Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), March 2017.

"The Spectacle of Testimony in the Middle English Mystery Plays." Harvard Drama Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), November 2016.

Conference Panels Organized

With Patricia Dailey (Columbia) and Erica Weaver (Harvard): "Affective Transformations." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2017. Scheduled.

With Jessica Brantley (Yale) and Erica Weaver (Harvard): "Devotional Luxury, Literary Necessity." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2017. Scheduled.

With Emma Maggie Solberg (Bowdoin College): "Medieval Drama and Its Afterlives," MLA Annual Convention (Philadelphia, PA), January 2017.

With Nicholas Watson (Harvard) and Taylor Cowdery (Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): "Middle Time: Past, Present, and Future." International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

With Emily Thornbury (Univ. of California, Berkeley) and Taylor Cowdery (Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill): “Dark Age Classicisms.” International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

With Emma Maggie Solberg (Bowdoin College): “Medieval Drama and Its Early Modern Afterlives.” Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), April 2016.

Teaching Experience

Sole Instructor, Junior Tutorial, “Tragic Flaws: Crippling Western Drama” (Fall 2016)

Head Teaching Fellow, Culture and Belief 45, “History of the English Language” (Fall 2016)

Head Teaching Fellow, Culture and Belief 51, “Making the Middle Ages” (Spring 2016)

Guest workshop: “Medieval Objects at the Harvard Art Museum”

Guest lecture: “Reject or Reconstruct? A Literary History of Misogyny”

Head Teaching Fellow, Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 64, “Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*” (Fall 2015)

Guest lecture: “The Grief of Melibee”

Teaching Fellow, Humanities 10b, “The Humanities Colloquium” (Spring 2015)

Guest workshop: “Medievalisms: from *King Lear* to *The Seventh Seal*”

Guest presentation: *To the Lighthouse*

Guest presentation: *King Lear*

Guest presentation: Augustine’s *Confessions*

Head Teaching Fellow, English 115b, “Chaucer: *The Canterbury Tales*” (Fall 2014)

Guest presentation: “Medieval Drama and ‘The Miller’s Tale’”

Teaching Awards

Four-time winner of the Harvard Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching. The Bok Certificate is awarded to teaching fellows who receive above a 4.5 (out of 5) on their quantitative end-of-semester teaching evaluations with five or more participants:

Fall 2016: Culture and Belief 45

Fall 2015: Aesthetic and Interpretive Understanding 64

Spring 2015: Humanities 10b

Fall 2014: English 115b

Academic Service

Coordinator, Harvard Department of English Medieval Colloquium, 2014 – 2016

Steering committee, Harvard Graduate Student Symposium, fall 2015

Digital assistant for the Harvard Chaucer Page: <http://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu>, summer 2015

Research and editorial assistant for Nicholas Watson (Harvard), spring 2015

Languages

Research and teaching languages: Middle English, Old English

Other languages: Latin (reading knowledge), Italian (reading knowledge), French (reading knowledge)

Professional Affiliations

Modern Language Association

New Chaucer Society

Medieval Academy of America

Early English Text Society

Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society

Renaissance Society of America

References

Available upon request.