

# Jennifer L. Sisk

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## EDUCATION

Yale University

Ph.D. 2008, English Language and Literature

Dissertation: "Forms of Speculation: Religious Genres and Religious Inquiry in Late Medieval England." (Lee Patterson, director)

M.Phil. 2004, Medieval Studies

University of California at Berkeley

B.A. 2000, English

highest honors in the major; highest distinction in general scholarship

Antelope Valley College

A.A. 1998

*summa cum laude*

## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, University of Vermont, 2015-

Assistant Professor, University of Vermont, 2008-2015

Part-Time Acting Instructor, Yale University, 2007-2008

Teaching Fellow, Yale University, 2004-2006

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

"'Grace is a gras': Theological Uses of Metaphor in *Piers Plowman*." *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 34 (2020): 203-210.

"Unauthorized Desire: Audience and Affect in *St. Erkenwald* and Lydgate's *St. Austin at Compton*." *Religion and Literature* 46.1 (2014). [Published in 2015.]

“Chaucer and Hagiographic Authority.” In *Sanctity as Literature in Late Medieval Britain*, ed. Anke Bernau and Eva von Contzen, 116-133. Manchester University Press (2015). [By invitation.]

“‘We must be trefable’: Law and Affect in Lydgate’s *St. Austin at Compton*.” *Modern Philology* 112 (2014): 76-96.

“Paul’s Rapture and Will’s Vision: The Problem of Imagination in Langland’s *Life of Christ*.” *Chaucer Review* 48 (2014): 395-412. [By invitation.]

“Religion, Alchemy, and Nostalgic Idealism in Fragment VIII of the *Canterbury Tales*.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 32 (2010): 151-77.

“Lydgate’s Problematic Commission: A Legend of St. Edmund for Henry VI.” *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 109 (2010): 349-75.

“The Uneasy Orthodoxy of *St. Erkenwald*.” *English Literary History* 74 (2007): 89-115.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“*The Canon’s Yeoman’s Prologue and Tale*.” Forthcoming in the *Chaucer Encyclopedia*. Edited by Richard Newhauser. Wiley-Blackwell.

“Boghtoun under Blee (Boughton under Blean).” Forthcoming in the *Chaucer Encyclopedia*. Edited by Richard Newhauser. Wiley-Blackwell.

“Senior (alchemical treatise).” Forthcoming in the *Chaucer Encyclopedia*. Edited by Richard Newhauser. Wiley-Blackwell.

Book Review. *Approaches to Teaching Langland’s “Piers Plowman.”* Edited by Thomas A. Goodmann. New York: The Modern Language Association, 2018. *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 34 (2020): 239-42.

Book Review. *Medieval Affect, Feeling, and Emotion*. Edited by Glenn D. Burger and Holly A. Crocker. Cambridge Studies in Medieval Literature 107. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019. *Arthuriana* 30:2 (2020): 1-2.

Book Review. “*Piers Plowman*” and the Poetics of Enigma: Riddles, Rhetoric, and Theology. By Curtis A. Gruenler. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press, 2017. *Modern Philology* 116.3 (2018): E147-E150.

Book Review. *The Gnostic Paradigm: Forms of Knowing in English Literature of the Late Middle Ages*. By Natanela Elias. New York: Palgrave, 2015. *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 32 (2018): 438-442.

Book Review. *An Introduction to "Piers Plowman."* By Michael Calabrese. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2016. *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 39 (2017): 309–312.

Book Review. *The Cult of St. Edmund in Medieval East Anglia.* By Rebecca Pinner. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2015. *The Heroic Age* 17 (2017). Published online 19 April 2017.

Book Review. *The Cambridge Companion to "Piers Plowman."* Edited by Andrew Cole and Andrew Galloway. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014. *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 115 (2016): 505–508.

Book Review. *Gender and Power in Medieval Exegesis.* By Theresa Tinkle. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 34 (2012): 438–441.

"A History Book for Schoolboys? (MS 956)." In *New Studies on Yale Manuscripts from the Late Antique to the Early Modern Period*, edited by Robert G. Babcock. *Yale University Library Gazette*, Occasional Supplement 7. New Haven, 2005. 82–90.

Book Review. *Anglo-Saxon Audiences.* By Eugene Green. New York: Peter Lang, 2001. *Interdisciplinary Journal for Germanic Linguistics and Semiotic Analysis* 7, no. 2 (Fall 2002): 233–38.

## PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS

"Refuge and Risk in Langland's Barn of Unity." (Scheduled)  
22<sup>nd</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Durham, England, July 2022  
(Rescheduled from 2020)

"'Grace is a grasse': Theological Uses of Metaphor in *Piers Plowman*."  
Seventh International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Miami, FL, April 2019.

"Clergie, Kynde Knowyng, and the Teaching of *Piers Plowman*."  
21<sup>st</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Toronto, Canada, July 2018.

"*Piers Plowman* and the End of Knowing."  
51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017.

"Langland's Curious God."  
20<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, London, England, July 2016.

"Discerning Virtue in a World of Seeming: *Piers Plowman* and Late Medieval Moral Theology."  
Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Boston, MA, February 2016.

- “False Habits; Cloaked Truth: Disguise and Ambiguous Form in *Piers Plowman*.”  
Sixth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Seattle, WA, July 2015.
- “The Hagiographic Construction of Secular Sin in Chaucer’s *Physician’s Tale*.”  
19<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Reykjavík, Iceland, July 2014.
- “Feeling Doubt.”  
48<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2013.
- “Affect and Law in Lydgate’s *St. Austin at Compton*.”  
18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Portland, OR, July 2012.
- “Hagiography and the Invention of the Author.”  
17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Siena, Italy, July 2010.
- “Langland’s Life of Christ and the Pseudo-Bonaventuran Tradition.”  
Mapping Late Medieval Lives of Christ, Belfast, Northern Ireland, June 2010.
- “Reconcilable Differences? HEL and the Literature Curriculum on the Rocks.”  
45<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010.
- “Lydgate’s *Saint Austin at Compton* and the Mystery of Mercy.”  
44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009.
- “Lydgate’s Problematic Commission: The Legend of St. Edmund in a Time of War.”  
16<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Swansea, Wales, July 2008.
- “The World in Decline: Chaucer, Alchemy, and the Problem of Progress.”  
International Medieval Congress, Leeds, England, July 2008.
- “‘*Audivi archana verba que non licet homini loqui*’: What Has Paul’s Rapture to Do with Will?”  
Fourth International *Piers Plowman* Conference, Philadelphia, PA, May 2007.
- “Contradictory Providence: Lydgate’s *St. Edmund and St. Fremund* and Henry VI.”  
Fifteenth-Century Conference, Urbana-Champaign, IL, May 2007.
- “Christ’s Life in *Piers Plowman*: The Gospel according to Will?”  
41<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2006.
- “Lollardy, Not Lollardy: The Case of *St. Erkenwald*.”  
40<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2005.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

*The Reformation: This Changed Everything* (panel discussion).  
Saint Michael's College, Colchester, VT, January 2018.

"Teaching Hagiography as Narrative Theology" (roundtable).  
44<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009.

"Negotiating the Past with Lee Patterson" (roundtable).  
43<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2008.

## OTHER PRESENTATIONS

"Christ's Life in *Piers Plowman*: Liturgy, Memory, and the Construction of Narrative."  
Medieval Lunch Colloquium, Yale University, April 2006.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Medieval Short Story	freshman TAP seminar
English Language Politics	freshman TAP seminar
The Pursuit of Knowledge	HCOL freshman gateway course
The Pursuit of Knowledge: Pandemics, Culture, and Society	HCOL freshman gateway course
Introduction to Literary Studies	lower level seminar in the English major
Seminar in British Literature: Beginnings to the Late Eighteenth Century	lower level seminar in the English major
British Literature to 1700	upper-level lecture/discussion
Chaucer	upper-level lecture/discussion
Medieval Dreams and Visions	upper-level lecture/discussion
<i>Piers Plowman</i>	upper-level lecture/discussion
Hagiography and the Cult of Saints	senior seminar
Malory	senior seminar
Doubt and Knowledge	senior seminar
The <i>Canterbury Tales</i>	graduate seminar

## SERVICE

To the English Department:  
Member, Personnel Committee

Fall 2020-present

Director of Graduate Studies	July 2014-Dec 2015, July 2016-July 2020
Member, Executive Committee	2013-Dec 2015, July 2016-Spring 2020
Member, Personnel Committee	Fall 2015
Member, Graduate Studies Committee	2011-Dec 2015
Member, Chair Search Committee	fall 2011
Coordinator of annual performance by actors from The American Shakespeare Center	2009-2012
Member, Personnel Committee	2010-2011
Member, Curriculum Committee	2009-2010
Member, Search Committee, 19th C. British Novel	2009-2010
Member, Resources Committee	2008-2009
To the College of Arts and Sciences:	
Member, IHP Steering Committee	2016-2017
Member, Academic Studies Committee	2012-2015
Member, Honors Committee	spring 2012
Member, English Department Chair Search Committee	fall 2011
New Students' Day 1 June Orientation	2010-2015
US-Sino Pathway Program Student Orientation	2010
English Department Representative, CAS Open House, Admitted Students Day	2010
English Department Representative, CAS Open House, Homecoming and Family Weekend	2009
To the University:	
Member, Faculty Library Advisory Committee	Fall 2019-present
Member, Search Committee for Directory of Acquisitions and Collections Development, UVM Libraries	June 2020-January 2021
Chair, Library Advisory Committee	2016-Spring 2019
Member, Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee	July 2016-present
Member, Phi Beta Kappa Committee	May 2014-2017
Member, Kroepsch-Maurice Award Committee	2009-2016
Co-chair, Library Advisory Committee	2012-2014
Member, Instructional Incentive Grant Committee	2009-2012
To the Profession:	
Member, International <i>Piers Plowman</i> Society Editions Committee	January 2021-present
Session organizer for the International <i>Piers Plowman</i> Society in preparation for the annual International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI	2014, 2015
Member, New England Medieval Conference Steering Committee	2012-2015

Peer Reviewer, <i>Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures</i>	2010
Peer Reviewer, <i>Chaucer Review</i>	2008, 2012, 2013, 2018
Peer Reviewer, <i>Yearbook of Langland Studies</i>	2015
Peer Reviewer, <i>Studies in the Age of Chaucer</i>	2016
Peer Reviewer, University of Notre Dame Press	2016

## HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2018	Coor Collaborative Fellowship
2014	Lattie F. Coor International Travel Award
2010	Nominated for Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award (declined nomination)
2010	Lattie F. Coor International Travel Award
2009	Nominated for Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award (declined nomination)
2006-2007	Yale University Dissertation Fellowship
2003-2004	M.Phil. Fellowship in Medieval Studies, Yale University
2001-2003	Graduate Fellowship, Yale University
2001-2002	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies, Yale University
2000	Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha of California

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association  
 Medieval Academy of America  
 New Chaucer Society  
 International *Piers Plowman* Society  
 Hagiography Society

[updated 2/2021]