

Christopher Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Senior Lecturer (English Language and Literature, GSWS, and Medieval Studies Faculty)
302 Old Mill
University of Vermont
94 University Place
Burlington, VT 05405

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

University of Vermont (Burlington, VT): Senior Lecturer. Department of English. 1999-Present

EDUCATION

City University of New York Graduate School

Degree: Ph.D., English (May 2003)

Specialization: Old English literature and language

Secondary Areas: Middle English literature and language, sex/gender studies, Latin and Old English hagiography and devotional anthologies

Dissertation: *Crux Christi/Cristes Rod: Interpreting the Anglo-Saxon Cross*

Director: E. Gordon Whatley

Dissertation Committee: Steven Kruger and Pamela Sheingorn

Oral Exam Subjects: Old English literature and language, Chaucer, queer theory

Binghamton University

Degree: M.A., English. (May 1994)

Specialization: Old English literature and language, Chaucer, cultural studies, gender studies

Director: Marilyn Desmond

Hartwick College

Degree: B.A., English, *magna cum laude*. (June 1991)

Emphasis: Old English literature and language, Chaucer, Arthuriana

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, September 1999–Present

Burlington College, Burlington, VT, September 1999-May 2000

Baruch College, New York, NY, February 1996–December 1998

Binghamton University (SUNY), Binghamton, NY, September 1992–May 1995

ACADEMIC AND GRANT AWARDS

Nomination -Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award (2010)

Humanities Center Coor Programming Grant Awards (For Tolkien Conferences)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Vaccaro, ed. *Painful Pleasures: Sadomasochism in Medieval Cultures* (Manchester University Press, 2022)

Vaccaro and Yvette Kisor, eds. *Tolkien and Alterity*. Palgrave, 2017.

Vaccaro, ed. *The Body in Tolkien's Legendarium*. McFarland Press, 2013.

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Peer-reviewed Articles

“‘Dyrne Langað’: Secret Longing and Homo-amory in *Beowulf* and J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*”
Journal of Tolkien Research Vol. 6: Issue 1, Article 6 (August, 2018):
<https://scholar.valpo.edu/journaloftolkienresearch/vol6/iss1/6>

“‘Morning Stars of a Setting World’: Alain de Lille’s *De Planctu Naturæ* and Tolkien’s *Legendarium* as Neo-Platonic Mythopoeia” *Mythlore* 36.1 Fall/Winter (2017): 81-102.

“‘Inbryrded Breostsefa’: Compunction in l. 841a of Cynewulf’s *Elene*.” *Notes and Queries* (June 2005): 160-61.

“‘And One White Tree’: The Cosmological Cross and the *Arbor Vitae* in J.R.R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*,” *Mallorn: The Journal of the Tolkien Society* 42 (August 2004): 23-28.

Chapters

“‘My warlike grip broke his beating heart’: Masochism and the deadly embrace in *Beowulf* ll. 2501-2508a.” In *Painful Pleasures*. Edited by Christopher Vaccaro. (Manchester University Press, 2022).

“Contexts and Comrades: Teaching Homo-eroticism and Homo-amory in *Beowulf*.” In *Teaching Beowulf: Practical Approaches*. Edited by Aaron Hostetter and Larry Swain. (Medieval Institute Publications, fall 2022).

“Difference and Otherness.” In *A Companion to J.R.R. Tolkien*. Second Edition. Edited by Stuart Lee (Wiley/Blackwell, 2022)

“Saruman’s Sodomitic Resonances: Alain de Lille’s *De Planctu Naturæ* and J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*.” In *Tolkien and Alterity* (Palgrave, 2017): 123-47.

“Tolkien’s Whimsical Mode: Physicalities in *The Hobbit*.” In *The Body in Tolkien’s Legendarium* (McFarland Press, 2013): 170-86.

Articles

“‘Hel-heime!’: The Daring Love Between Men in Karukoski’s Tolkien.” *Journal of Tolkien Research*. Vol: 6 Issue 2, Article 11 (April 2019): <https://scholar.valpo.edu/journaloftolkienresearch/vol6/iss2/11/>

Book Reviews

“Teaching *Beowulf* in the Twenty-first Century.” *Speculum* 91 (July 2016): 766-68.

Additional Publications

Contributor. *The J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia*. Ed. by Michael C. Drout. Routledge, 2007.

Poetry

“Blow Off,” “Ode to a Beer-soaked Muscle Cub,” “Sauna Sex,” “The Zen of Sadism.” In *Hibernation, and Other Poems by Bear Bards*. Ed. Ron Suresha. Bear Bones Press, 2014.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Books

Vaccaro. *Sadomasochistic Beowulf: Desire and Dispersal in Old English Literature* (Under contract for Medieval Institute Publication’s New Queer Medievalisms series)

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Vaccaro. *Homo-amory in Beowulf: A Queer Touch on Old English Literature*
(Under contract for Routledge's Studies in Medieval Literature and Culture series)

Vaccaro, Robin Reid, and Stephen Yandell, eds. *Queer Tolkien: Critical Essays*

POETRY IN PROGRESS

High Mimesis: ekphrastic poems on queer erotic photography. (In progress)

White Towels and Stained Sheets: poems on the urban gay culture of Montreal. (In progress)

INVITED LECTURES

Homo-amory, Tolkien's *Beowulf* and *The Lord of the Rings*

Tolkien and Inspiration: A Multidisciplinary Symposium. Morgan Library's Tolkien Exhibit and Symposium. New York City. March, 16th 2019

From the Scop to the Stage: *Beowulf* and the Transmission of Story

Flynn Center for the Performing Arts, Burlington, VT. March 2004

'And One White Tree': The Cosmological Cross and the *Arbor Vitae* in J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion*

Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT. January 2004

Is There Such a Thing as a Modern Queer Mysticism?

Unitarian Universalist Society, Burlington, VT. June 2001

DETAILED TEACHING EXPERIENCE (UVM, semesters)

Old English Language and Literature

ENGS 134 Introduction to Old English (Spring 15; Falls 06 – 09, 13, 19, 21)

ENGS 134 *Beowulf* (Springs 08, 09, 14, Falls 15, 18, 22)

Linguistics/History of the English Language

ENGS 102 History of the English Language (Springs 08, 10, 11, 18; Fall 14)

British Literature Surveys/Seminars

ENGS 021 British Literature Survey I (Spring 13; Falls 99 – 02, 04, 08, 09, 11, 13, 15 – 22)

ENGS 022 British Literature Survey II (Springs 00 – 02, 05-07, 09, 10, 12, 15, 19-21; Fall 12)

ENGS 140 Survey of British Literature to 1700 (Fall 09)

ENGS 330 Literary London. Teaching Assistant. (Summer 17)

Sex and Gender Identity Studies

GSWS 075 Introduction to Sex and Gender Identity Studies (Spring 07; Falls 05 – 08)

ENGS 110/ GSWS 96 Masculinities in Text / On Screen (Summer 15)

ENGS 110 Contemporary Queer Literature (Fall 12)

ENGS 110 Queers of Color (Fall 05)

ENGS 110 This Queer Class (Spring 05)

ENGS 110 Gender, Sex and the Body (Summer 06)

Medieval Literature (with sex and gender emphasis)

ENGS 110/GSWS 096 Queering the Middle Ages (Summer 17)

ENGS 134 Women in Medieval Literature (Summer 07)

Tolkien Studies

ENG 040 Race and Gender in Tolkien's Middle-earth (Summer 2021)

ENG 040 Fantasy Before Tolkien (Springs 06, 10, 11; Falls 06 – 08, 11, 12 – 14)

ENG 095 Tolkien's *The Hobbit* Online (Winters 06–12, 14 –16; Summers 12–18)

ENG 095/040 Tolkien's Middle-earth (Springs 06 – 10, 12 – 14, 16, 18-21)

ENG 095/040 Tolkien's Middle-earth Online (Summers 05 – 17)

ENG 095 Tolkien's Cosmos (Springs 04, 05; Fall 04; Summer 04)

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Science Fiction & Fantasy

ENG 040 Beyond the Human (Springs 04, 05; Fall 03)

ENG 040 Fantasy Literature (Spring 02; Fall 01)

ENG 040 Fantasy Online (Summer 03)

ENG 040 Fantasy and Medievalism (Spring 03, Fall 04)

Composition/Rhetoric

ENG 001/002 Written Expression (Spring 03, 16; Falls 02, 06, 16, 17, 20; Summers 19, 20)

CONFERENCE PAPERS (29)

(Trans)lating Love and Loss in Guthlac B and Felix's Vita S. Guthlaci

Leeds, England. 28th International Medieval Studies Conference, July 2021

"Sadistic Queens of the Hrolf saga Kraka"

Kalamazoo, Michigan 55th International Medieval Studies Conference, May 2021.

"Luf-tacen": Emotions, Material Culture and Hrothgar's Gifts of Love to Beowulf

(Paper accepted by ISAS) Leeds, England. 26th International Medieval Studies Conference, July 2019

"Luf-tacen": Emotions, Material Culture and Hrothgar's Gifts of Love to Beowulf

Kalamazoo, Michigan 54th International Medieval Studies Conference, May 2019.

"Queering Tolkien: A Roundtable"

New York City, New York Tolkien Club Proceedings, March 2019.

Veteran's Inciting Queerness: The Spectre of the Dead in Beowulf

Kalamazoo, Michigan 53rd International Medieval Studies Conference, May 2018

Veteran's Inciting Queerness: The Spectre of the Dead in Beowulf

Leeds, England. 25th International Medieval Studies Conference, July 2018

'Like Yet Unlike': The Sodomitic and Uncanny in Tolkien's Saruman

Tolkien Seminar, Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 2018

'Secret Longing': Homo-amory in Tolkien's Beowulf and The Lord of the Rings

Leeds, England, 23rd International Medieval Congress, July 2016.

"Tolkien's 'Freawaru and Ingeld': A Love Story?"

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 51st International Medieval Studies Conference, May 2016.

"O Mundanae Regionis Regina!": Alain de Lille's De Planctu Naturae and Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings

Pittsburgh, International Society of Medievalism Conference, October 2015.

"Dyrne Longað": Secret Longing in Tolkien's Beowulf and his The Lord of the Rings"

New York City, Tolkien Society Conference, June 2015

Sado-Masochistic Pleasure in the Medieval Penitentials: Sex and Shame and the Anglo-Saxon Baedling

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 50th International Medieval Studies Conference, May 2015

Manufacturing Queer Pleasure in Anglo-Saxon England: The Penitential of Theodore, Bædtings, and Beowulf

Leeds, England, 20th International Medieval Congress, July 2013.

Following Saruman: Desire, Arousal, and the Unsublimated Anus in Tolkien's LotR"

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 48th International Medieval Congress, May 2013.

Tolkien, Beowulf and the Old English Apollonius of Tyre: Medieval and Modern Constructions of Masculinity

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 47th International Medieval Congress, May 2012.

A Hobbit Hole of One's Own: Identity, Gender, and Difference in Tolkien Studies

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 46th International Medieval Congress, May 2011.

Queer Theory and Tolkien's Middle-earth: A Review of the Scholarship

Burlington, Vermont, 6th Annual Tolkien at UVM Conference, April 2009

The Whimsical Mode of The Hobbit: Comedic and Horrific Physicality

Burlington, Vermont, 5th Annual Tolkien at UVM Conference, April 2008

Exposing the Bourgeois Body in Tolkien's The Hobbit

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 41st International Medieval Congress, May 2006

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Feminism, Queer Theory, and Medieval Studies

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 40th International Medieval Congress, May 2005

The Apotropaic Cross in the Tiberius A. iii *St. Margaret*

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 38th International Medieval Congress, May 2003

The Cross in Tiberius A. iii

Leeds, England, 9th International Medieval Congress, May 2002

Fecundity and The Anglo-Saxon Cross: Riddles & Remedies

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 37th International Medieval Congress, May 2001

The Sexual/Mystical Body in the Old English *Guthlac*

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 36th International Medieval Congress, May 2000

Homo-eroticism in the Old English *Apollonius of Tyre*

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 32nd International Medieval Congress, May 1997

The Love of Saints: Sodomy, Secrets and the Discourse of Homosexuality

Forms of Desire Conference, Center for Lesbian & Gay Studies, NY, NY, April 1997

Christine de Pizan and the Discourse of Cultivation

Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CEMERS), October 1996

Living the Life of Angels: The Monastic Body in Antique & Anglo-Saxon Hagiography

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 31st International Medieval Congress, May 1996

Queering the Middle Ages: A Panel Discussion

Binghamton University, Binghamton, NY, Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies (CEMERS), October 1995

The Traffic in Virgins: The Hetero-normative Impulse of the *Sponsa Christi Motif* in the Hali Meidhad,

Kalamazoo, Michigan, 29th International Medieval Congress, May 1994

EVENT ORGANIZING

English Department Symposium, April 4th 2019

Medieval

ISSEME (International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England, Biennial Conference, Montreal, June, 28th 2021

Gender and Sexuality Studies

Jack Halberstam, April 2018 (for ENGS 100 and FTS 134 and English majors)

Mark Doty, October 2012 (for ENGS 110)

Queer Middle Ages Conference, CUNY Graduate School, November 1998

Tolkien Studies (See <https://www.tolkienvt.org>)

Tolkien at UVM, 2021 Tolkien and the Classics, April 8th. Keynote John Houghton

Tolkien at UVM, 2019 Tolkien and Horror. April 5-6th. Keynote: Dr. Yvette Kisor (Ramapo College)

Tolkien at UVM, 2018 Languages and Etymologies. April 6-7th. Keynote: Dr. Andrew Higgins (Metropolitan University, Cardiff)

Tolkien at UVM, 2017 Romance and Middle-earth. April 7-8th. Keynote: Dr. Corey Olsen (Signum University)

Tolkien at UVM, 2016 Tolkien and Popular Culture. April 8-9th. Keynote: Dr. Robin Reid (Texas A&M University)

Tolkien at UVM, 2015 Tolkien and Medieval Verse Narrative. April 10-12th. Keynote Dr. Michael Drout (Wheaton College)

Tolkien at UVM, 2014 Bombadil and Other Mysteries. April 11-12th. Keynote: Dr. Kristine Larsen (Central Connecticut State University)

Tolkien at UVM, 2013 UVM Moves to Middle-earth due to Lack of Funding. April 5-7th. Keynote: None

Tolkien at UVM, 2012 Tolkien's Bestiary. April 13-15th. Keynote Dr. Jonathan Evans (University of Georgia)

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

Tolkien at UVM, 2011 Nature and the Environment. April 8-9th. Keynote: Dr. Matthew Dickerson (Middlebury College)

Tolkien at UVM, 2010 Tolkien in the Classroom. April 9-10th. Keynote: Dr. Leslie Donovan (University of New Mexico)

Tolkien at UVM, 2009 Sex and Gender in Middle-earth. April 10-11th. Keynote: Dr. Jane Chance (Rice University)

Tolkien at UVM, 2008 Tolkien and Celtic/Norse Influences. April 11-12th. Keynote: Dr. Marjorie Burns (Portland State University)

Tolkien at UVM, 2007 Fantasy Before Tolkien. April 13-15th. Keynote: Douglas Anderson (Independent Scholar)

Tolkien at UVM, 2006 Past, History, and Memory. April 7-8th. Keynote: Dr. Verlyn Flieger (University of Maryland, College Park)

Tolkien at UVM, 2005. Fiftieth Anniversary of The Lord of the Rings. April 1-2nd. Keynote: Dr. Tom Shippey (Saint Louis University)

Tolkien at UVM, April 2004. Symposium. Guest Speakers: Michael Drout (Wheaton College), Jane Chance (Rice University), Matthew Dickerson (Middlebury College)

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

English, UVM

United Academics Representative (2021-)

Curriculum Committee, University of Vermont (2002-2011, Fall 2015- Present)

Executive Committee, English Department, University of Vermont (Fall 2009, Spring 2016)

Independent Studies Director (Richard Fahey, Spring 2008; Brendan Anderson, Spring 2015;

Briggs Heffernan 2019; 10-student course 2019)

First-year Orientation Guide (Summer 2018)

Student Engagement Committee including English Symposium Organizer (Fall and Spring 2018-19)

Gender, Sexuality, Women's Studies, UVM

Race, Gender, and Sexuality Student Conference Committee (2019)

Women and Gender Studies Program Steering Committee (2002-2012)

SAGIS Three-day major curriculum development workshop (Summer 2007)

Gender, Sexuality, and Woman Studies Steering Committee (Fall 2012-Present)

First-year Orientation Guide (Summer 2018)

Medieval Studies, UVM

Faculty committee, 2015-Present

Interpreting the Handwritten Book: Medieval Manuscripts at UVM (Colloquium, November 8-9th 2019)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

New England Medieval Studies Consortium, Board Member 2016-2018

Tolkien at Kalamazoo, Coordinator 2018 - Present

Journal of Tolkien Research, Editorial Board 2017- Present

Mythlore, Editorial Board, 2017-Present

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

ISAS, International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, 2001-Present

MLA, 2003-Present

SSHMA, Society for the Study of Homosexuality in the Middle Ages, 1996-Present

Tolkien at Kalamazoo, 2002-Present (Organizer as of Spring 2018)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Advisor, UVM Tolkien Club. Fall 2005-Spring 2014

Advisor, Science Fiction and Fantasy Residential Program of Living and Learning Center. Fall 2005-Fall 2012

Curriculum Vitae
Christopher T. Vaccaro, Ph.D.

LOCAL / REGIONAL SERVICE

Coordinator for Pride Center of Vermont events and charity fundraisers (2004-Present)