

SARAH WILMA WATSON, Ph.D. | (585) 813-6808 | [swatson@haverford.edu](mailto:swatson@haverford.edu)

Department of English  
Haverford College  
370 Lancaster Avenue  
Haverford, PA 19041

4217 Pine Street, Apt. 2  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
[sarahwilmawatson.com](http://sarahwilmawatson.com)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Haverford College, 2018-2020

## EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in English Literature, May 2018

**Dissertation Title:** Women, Reading, and Literary Culture: The Reception of Christine de Pizan in Fifteenth-Century England

**Dissertation Committee:** David Wallace, Emily Steiner, Kevin Brownlee

M.A. in English Literature, December 2014

Fordham University

M.A. in Medieval Studies, 2012

**Thesis Advisor:** Jocelyn Wogan-Browne

University of Rochester

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

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*Reading Across the Channel: Christine de Pizan in England, France, and Burgundy*

This project challenges narratives of national literary history by investigating the cross-channel circulation of works by Christine de Pizan (1364-c.1430). Focusing on the diverse reading practices of late-medieval women, I argue that gender is a crucial but overlooked heuristic for understanding transnational literary culture.

## TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

## PUBLICATIONS

“Books of Duchesses: Women Book Owners in Late-Medieval Francophone Europe, 1350-1500.” Co-author, S.C Kaplan. *The Journal of the Early Book Society*, vol. 23. Under review.

“Treasuring Medieval Manuscripts Then and Now.” *EuropeNow – a journal of research and art*. September 10, 2019.

Review of Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Thelma Fenster, and Delbert Russell, *Vernacular Literary Theory from the French of Medieval England: Texts and Translations, c.1120-c.1450*. *H-France Review*, Vol. 19 (January 2019), No. 19.

“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 (2018).

“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 PROJECTS**

[Women Book Owners in Late-Medieval Francophone Europe: 1350-1500](#) – an open-access digital humanities project that aims to collect, organize, and present data related to medieval laywomen and their books. Currently preparing this project in collaboration with Dr. S.C. Kaplan (Rice University) and the Haverford Digital Scholarship Team.

[Haver Tales & Bryn Marvels: Bi-Co Adaptations of Geoffrey Chaucer’s \*The Canterbury Tales\*](#) – an ongoing digital project created in collaboration with the students of my ENG 201 Chaucer class. The project aims to collect and share student adaptations of *The Canterbury Tales*.

[Slavery and Abolition: A Look into Haverford’s Special Collections](#) – an online exhibition prepared by the Crossing Borders Freshman Writing Seminar (Spring 2019)

## **AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Mellon-CES Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2017-2018.

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, 2010-2011.

Presidential Scholarship, Fordham University, 2010-2011.

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**

*Visiting Assistant Professor of English*, Haverford College, Department of English

Topics in Middle English – Body Talk (Fall 2018)

Contemporary Women Writers – Popular Fiction & the Woman Writer (Fall 2018)

Shakespeare and the Middle Ages (Spring 2019)

Crossing Borders – Freshman Writing Seminar (Spring 2019 & Fall 2019)

Chaucer – *The Canterbury Tales* (Spring 2019 & Spring 2020)

Premodern Women Writers 1100-1700 (Fall 2019)

Shakespeare's Game of Thrones – The English History Plays (Spring 2020)

*Instructor*, University of Pennsylvania, Department of English

[Literature Before 1660](#) (Fall 2017)

English Drama Then and Now - Junior Research Seminar (Spring 2016)

*Instructor*, University of Pennsylvania, College of Liberal and Professional Studies

[Chick Lit](#) (Summer 2017)

*Teaching Assistant*, University of Pennsylvania, Department of English

Jane Austen & Adaptation (Spring 2014)

### **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**

“The State of the Margins.” Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America. Philadelphia. April 2020 (with Melissa Reynolds)

“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**

“Westminster MS 21: A Material Node in a Social Network.” Co-presenter, Elizaveta Strakhov (Marquette University). Early Book Society Sixteenth Biennial Conference. University College Dublin. July 2019

“Women Book Owners in Medieval Francophone Europe: Initial Findings.” *Speaking Internationally Conference*. Bangor University, Wales. June 2019.

- “Women Book Owners in Medieval Francophone Europe 1350-1500: A Digital Humanities Project.” Co-presenter, S.C. Kaplan (Rice University). 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Philadelphia, PA. March 2019.
- “*Mon seul desir*: French Mottos and Self-Fashioning in Fifteenth-Century England.” International Congress of the New Chaucer Society. Toronto, Ontario. July 2018.
- “Moving Manuscripts: French Books and English Identity during the Hundred Years War.” 25th International Conference of Europeanists. Chicago, IL. March 2018.
- “‘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 2018.
- “Women Readers of John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*.” International Congress of the John Gower Society and the Early Book Society. Durham, UK. July 2017.
- “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.

### **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, 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.

### **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)

Lori Walters  
Harry F. Williams Professor of French  
Florida State University  
[lwalters@fsu.edu](mailto:lwalters@fsu.edu)

Maud McInerney  
Laurie Ann Levin Professor of Comp. Lit.  
Professor of English  
Haverford College  
[mmcinern@haverford.edu](mailto:mmcinern@haverford.edu)

Stephen Finley  
Professor of English  
Department Chair, 2018-2019  
Haverford College  
[sfinley@haverford.edu](mailto:sfinley@haverford.edu)