

THOMAS O'DONNELL

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Academic Appointments:

- 2018-Present: Co-Director of the Comparative Literature Program, Fordham University
- 2017-Present: Associate Professor of English, Comparative Literature and Medieval Studies, Fordham University
- 2011-2017: Assistant Professor of English, Comparative Literature and Medieval Studies, Fordham University
- 2009-2011: Lecturer in Medieval Literature, University of York, UK.

Education:

- 2002-2009: University of California, Los Angeles: M.A. May 2005 (English), Ph.D. June 2009 (English).
- 1998-2002: University of Pittsburgh: B.A. *Summa cum Laude* April 2002 (History, Linguistics, Certificate in Medieval and Renaissance Studies).

Honors and Fellowships:

- 2017, 2013: Fordham Faculty Research Grant.
- 2016: Visiting Scholar in the Centre for Medieval Literature at the University of York, UK, and Southern Denmark University, Odense, Denmark.
- 2015: ACLS Fellow.
- 2014-2015: Stanford Humanities Center Fellow.
- 2012: First Year at Fordham Grant.
- 2008-2009: Rosenfield-Abrams Fellow, UCLA.
- 2007-2008: Fulbright Fellow to France, Université de Paris-VII.

Book in Progress:

“Theoretical Lives: the Common Life and the Literature of Community in England, 1000-1200.”

This book explores the medieval common life as a way to understand the relationship between community and literature at several English monasteries during the central Middle Ages: Worcester Cathedral Priory, Durham Cathedral Priory, Barking Abbey, and St Albans Abbey. The book offers a detailed picture of the relational and affective features of central medieval discourse of monastic community. This discourse of the common life was based on contemporary ideas of hierarchy, poverty, controlled disagreement, and peace. Its embrace of contingency, accommodation and the imaginative exploration of other psychologies gives the lie to current critical concepts of monastic identity and practice, which reduce a monastic desire for harmony to the imposition of uniformity. Writing played a large role in producing and maintaining the common life and, in turn, the common life shaped literary thought and expression. The book contributes to our understandings of the continuity between the Anglo-Saxon and Anglo-Norman periods, of aesthetics as a social practice, and of medieval theories of self, society, and belonging.

Peer-Reviewed Edited Books:

Whose Middle Ages?: Teachable Moments for an Ill-Used Past, co-edited with Andrew J. Albin, Mary C. Erler, Nicholas L. Paul, and Nina Rowe, with an Introduction by David Perry and an Afterword by Geraldine Heng (New York: Fordham University Press, forthcoming in Oct, 2019).

Featured in: Jennifer Schuessler, “Medieval Scholars Joust with White Nationalists. And One Another,” *The New York Times*, online ed., 5 May 2019, nyti.ms/2JhMAO4.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

- “Community beyond Identity: Literary Culture and Memory at Worcester,” *Constructing History through the Conquest, Worcester c.1050-c.1150*, eds. Francesca Tinti and David Woodman (York: York Medieval Press, forthcoming in 2020).
- “Talking to the Neighbours: Language Contact,” *High Medieval: Literary Cultures in England*, ed. Jocelyn Wogan-Browne and Elizabeth M. Tyler, Oxford Twenty-First Century Approaches (Oxford, forthcoming in 2020).
- “A Poem on Man and Woman by Jean Gerson,” in *Christine de Pizan’s God of Love’s Letter and Tale of the Rose*, ed., trans., and intro. by Thelma S. Fenster and Christine Reno, with Jean Gerson’s “A Poem on Man and Women,” trans. by Thomas O’Donnell. With a preface by Jocelyn Wogan-Browne. *The Other Voice* (Tempe, AZ: ACMRS, forthcoming).
- “Monastic History and Memory,” *Cambridge History of Medieval Historical Writing*, ed. Emily Steiner, Jennifer Jahner, and Elizabeth M. Tyler (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2019): 35-50.
- “Monastic History-Writing and Memory in Britain and Ireland: A Methodological Reassessment,” *New Medieval Literatures* 19 (2019): 43-88.
- “The Gloss to Philippe de Thaon’s *Comput* and the French of England’s Beginnings,” *The French of Medieval England: Essays in Honour of Jocelyn Wogan-Browne*, ed. Thelma S. Fenster and Carolyn Collette (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2017), pp. 13-37.
- “*Carmen de Hastingae proelio* and the Poetics of 1067,” *Anglo-Norman Studies* 39 (2017 for 2016): 151-165.
- “Meanders, Loops, and Dead Ends: Literary Form and the Common Life in Orderic’s *Historia ecclesiastica*,” in *Orderic Vitalis: Life, Works and Interpretations*, ed. C. C. Rozier, D. A. Roach et al. (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2016), pp. 298-323.
- “The *Old English Durham*, the *Historia de Sancto Cuthberto* and the Unreformed in Late Anglo-Saxon Literature,” *JEGP* 113 (2014): 131-155.
- “European Literature and Eleventh-Century England,” in *The Cambridge History of Early Medieval English Literature, 500-1150*, ed. Clare Lees (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013), pp. 607-636. [with Matthew Townend and Elizabeth Tyler]
- “‘The ladies have made me quite fat’: Authors and Patrons at Barking Abbey,” in *Barking Abbey and Medieval Literary Culture*, ed. Donna A. Bussell and Jennifer N. Brown (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2012), pp. 94-114.
- “Anglo-Norman Multilingualism and Continental Standards in Guernes de Pont-Sainte-Maxence’s *Vie de Saint Thomas*,” in *Conceptualizing Multilingualism in England, 800-1250*, ed. Elizabeth M. Tyler (Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2011), pp. 337-356.
- “The Passion of Saint Alban by William of St. Albans,” in *The Life of Saint Alban by Matthew Paris*, trans. and introd. Jocelyn Wogan-Browne and Thelma S. Fenster, French of England Translation Series 2 (Tempe, Arizona: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2010), pp. 133-165. [with Margaret Lamont]

Book Reviews:

- “Sara Harris, *The Linguistic Past in Twelfth-Century Britain*,” *Speculum* 94.2 (2019): 538-540.
- “*Bury St Edmunds and the Norman Conquest*. Edited by Tom Licence,” *JEGP* 117 (2018): 396-398.
- “Ian Short, trans., *A Life of Thomas Becket in Verse: La Vie de saint Thomas Becket by Guernes de Pont-Sainte-Maxence*,” *Speculum* 91 (2016): 503-505.

Contributions to Encyclopedias and Gallery Catalogues:

- “The Women of *The Cambridge Songs*,” *Anglo-Saxon Women: A Florilegium*, ed. Emily Butler, Irina Dumitrescu, and Hilary E. Fox. [submitted to publishers in Jul, 2019]

Sonic Youth, Etc.: Sensational Fix, ed. Sonic Youth et al., Cologne: Walter Konig, 2009. [transcriptions and biographical notes for an art catalogue of an international exhibition on New York City musicians and artists during the 1980s, curated by Christophe Wavelet and Corinne Desirens at LeLiFE, Saint-Nazaire, France]

“Thomas Hoccleve, English poet, clerk, 1368-1426,” *International Encyclopaedia for the Middle Ages-Online*, ed., Patrick Geary (Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2006).

“Thomas of Hales, English Franciscan, poet, and scholar, fl. 1250s,” *International Encyclopaedia for the Middle Ages-Online*, ed., Patrick Geary (Turnhout: Brepols Publishers, 2006).

Select Invited Lectures:

“Of Miraculous Cloaks and Mystical Cats: Community Reform and Fiction at St Albans,” NYU MARC Distinguished Lecture, New York, NY, Nov 2018.

“Burying Bodies and Digging Up Languages in Symeon of Durham’s *Libellus de exordio*,” Stanford Primary Sources Conference, Stanford, CA, Nov 2018.

“William the Conqueror and his Life in Verse: Politics and Poetics in the High Middle Ages,” Thirty-Ninth Battle Conference of Anglo-Norman Studies, Battle, UK, Aug 2016.

“Saxons and Seduction: the Middle English History of English,” the Rhode Island Medieval Circle (Brown University), Providence, RI, Mar 2016.

“Monastic History and Memory,” University of Pennsylvania Medieval Seminar, Philadelphia, PA, Jan 2016.

“Community Beyond Identity: English Literature and Togetherness in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries,” Columbia Medieval Studies Seminar, New York, NY, Sep 2015.

“Medieval Distortions,” Stanford Text Collegium 2015, Stanford, CA, May 2015. [with Elizabeth Tyler]

“Some Unexamined Geographies and Social Networks of English Literary Culture,” Harvard University Medieval Colloquium, Cambridge, MA, Feb 2015.

“The Common Life and English Literature,” Stanford Humanities Center Fellows Talk, Stanford, CA, Feb 3, 2015.

“Valenciennes 150 – Between Barcelona, Speyer, and Paris,” *Interfaces 7*, New York, NY, Oct 2014. [with Elizabeth Tyler]

French Outside of France Roundtable, *Repensant la littérature européenne: 1100-1400*, Fondation des Treilles, Tourtour, France, Apr 2014.

Select Conference Presentations:

“What ‘Trilingual England’ Misses,” *Languages in Contact: Multilingual Medieval Britain*, 54th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019.

“*Sulunc le tens bien ordené*: Ancient Books and the new Thirteenth-Century Vernaculars,” Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, Mar 2019.

“Old Books and *Diss Boc*: Thirteenth-Century Anglophones Mythologizing Themselves,” *Language Myths in Europe c.400-1400* Conference, Oslo, Norway, Aug 2017.

“English is a Trap: Myths, Languages and Politics around 1200,” Making Early Middle English Conference, Victoria, BC, Sep 2016.

“Ascesis and Fictions of Community in the *Passio Sancti Albani*,” *Conceptualizing Community in High Medieval Literature*, International Medieval Congress 2016, Leeds, UK, Jul 2016.

“Ambushed by English: Myths of Language in *Lazamon’s Brut*,” *Myth, Language, and Literature from Iceland to Constantinople*, Oslo, Norway, Oct 2015.

“The Mystical Tibbert: Allegory, Faction, and Reform at St Albans, c. 1200,” Learning and Monastic Reform, II: Intellectual Culture and Institutional Change, International Medieval Congress 2015, Leeds, UK, Jul 2015.

“Networks and Orderic Vitalis’ Literary Style,” The Impact of Empire on Anglo-Norman Monasticism: Cultural Encounters in the Work of Orderic Vitalis, Medieval Academy of America Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Apr 2014.

Conferences Co-Organized:

“Medieval French without Borders” (scheduled for March, 2020, Fordham University). Co-organized with Jane Gilbert, Sarah Kay, Maryanne Kowaleski, Brian Reilly, and Elizabeth Tyler, with funding from Fordham Center for Medieval Studies; the Centre for Medieval Literature (York and Southern Denmark University); Fordham Program in Comparative Literature; and NYU Department of French Literature, Thought, and Culture.

“Anthologizing Poetry 2: Peopling Anthologies” (February 16-17, 2018, St Johns College, Cambridge). Co-organized with Máire Ní Mhaonaigh, Elizabeth M. Tyler, and Wim Verbaal, with funding from the Centre for Medieval Literature (York and Southern Denmark University) and St Johns College, Cambridge.

“Anthologizing Poetry in the Western Middle Ages: Methods, Approaches, Comparisons” (November 22-23, 2016, Ghent University). Co-organized with Elizabeth M. Tyler and Wim Verbaal, with funding from the Centre for Medieval Literature (York and Southern Denmark University) and the Henri Pirenne Institute for Medieval Studies (Ghent).

“Seventh Interfaces Workshop: International Networks and National Frameworks of Medieval Studies” (October 25-26, 2014, Fordham University). Co-organized with Lars Boje Mortensen and Elizabeth M. Tyler, with funding from the Centre for Medieval Literature (York and Southern Denmark University) and support from the Center for Medieval Studies (Fordham).

“Putting England in its Place: Cultural Production and Cultural Relations in the High Middle Ages” (March 5-6, 2013, Fordham University). Co-organized with Nicholas Paul, Nina Rowe, and Jocelyn Wogan-Browne.

Panels Organized and Co-Organized:

Whose Middle Ages? Confronting Claims to the Past Beyond Medievalism (A Roundtable), 54th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2019 [with Nicholas Paul].

What is it to Compare? Workshop, Fordham Comparative Literature, New York, NY, Oct 2017.

Clear Thinking in a Crisis? Central Medieval British and Irish Historical Writing in Context, Haskins Society Annual Conference 2017, Chapel Hill, NC, Nov 2017.

Conceptualizing Community in High Medieval Literature, International Medieval Congress 2016, Leeds, UK, Jul 2016.

The Impact of Empire on Anglo-Norman Monasticism: Cultural Encounters in the Work of Orderic Vitalis, Medieval Academy of America Conference, Los Angeles, CA, Apr 2014 [with Jennifer Paxton and Véronique Gazeau].

Old French in England Panel, Medieval Association of the Pacific Annual Conference, Los Angeles, CA, 2007 [with Margaret Lamont].

Speaker Events Organized and Co-Organized:

Anne Anlin Cheng, Fordham Comparative Literature May Colloquium, New York, NY, May, 2020 [with Shonni Enelow].

Hannah Weaver, Medieval British History-Writing Seminar, New York, NY, Dec, 2019.

Lauren Mancia, Cord J. Whitaker, and Maggie Williams, *Whose Middle Ages?* Book Launch, New York, NY, Dec, 2019.

Sebastian Sobacki, Fordham English and Medieval Studies Lecture, New York, NY, Sep, 2019.

Fred Moten, Fordham Comparative Literature May Colloquium, New York, NY, May, 2019 [with Shonni Enelow].

Christopher GoGwilt and Tim Noens, What is it to Compare? Workshop, New York, NY, Oct, 2018.

Susan Boynton, Medieval Studies Lecture, New York, NY, Feb, 2018 [with Nicholas Paul].

Languages: Spoken: Modern French (fluent), Classical and Medieval Latin, Modern Irish, Modern German; Research: Old English, Middle English, Old French, Old Occitan, Old Irish, Middle Welsh.

Research Groups: Fordham Comparative Literature Faculty Research Group; New York Early and High Medieval Workshop; Centre for Medieval Literature (Southern Denmark University and York); CML Fictionality Working Group (Southern Denmark University); Columbia Medieval Studies Seminar; Orderic Vitalis Research Group; Interfaces: Literary History and European Identity, c.900-c.1400.

PhD Dissertations Supervised:

Elizabeth Carolyn Cargile (Fordham English, completion expected in Spring 2021)

David Smigen Rothkopf (Fordham English, completion expected in Spring 2021)

Robert Byers (Fordham English, completion expected in Spring 2020)

Joseph Rudolph (Fordham English, completion expected in Spring 2020)

Felisa Baynes-Ross (Fordham English, with Mary Erler, Spring 2017)

Masters Theses Supervised:

Jacob Prescott (Fordham Medieval Studies, Summer 2018)

Michael Diaz de la Portilla (Fordham Medieval Studies, Spring 2014)

Kylie Norman (York Medieval Studies, Fall 2011)

Amanda Bohne (York Medieval Studies, Fall 2010)

Benjamin Poore (York Medieval Studies, Fall 2010)

Aled Roberts (York Medieval Studies, Fall 2010)

Undergraduate Honors Theses:

Sarah Elizabeth Lahoud (Fordham English, Spring 2012)

Select Teaching:

Postgraduate Teaching at Fordham University: “Anthologizing Poetry in the Middle Ages,” “Occitania: Language and Power,” “Medieval Communities and Modern Thought,” “Medieval British Historical Writing,” “Middle Welsh Language,” “European Writing and Twelfth-Century England,” “Theoretical Life: Monastic Literature in England, 973-1250.”

Undergraduate Teaching at Fordham University: “Chaucer,” “Irish and British Medieval Literature: Connections and Comparisons,” “Medieval Love in Comparison: Christian, Jewish, and Muslim Perspectives,” “Medieval Romance,” “Honors Medieval Literature/Art,” “Texts and Contexts: Bad Examples,” “Poetry, Feeling, Madness.”

Reading Groups at Fordham University: Fordham Comparative Literature Reading Group; Anglo-Norman Reading Group (organizer in 2014, with Brian Reilly); Medieval Latin Reading Group; Law of Outremer Translation Group, Fordham Reads Dante.

Select Professional Service:

- 2014-Present: Member of the Editorial Board, *Studies in the Early Middle Ages* (ed. T. Pickles).
2010-Present: Member of the Editorial Board, *Viator*.
2004-2006: Member of the Editorial Board, *Comitatus* (as Editor, 2005-2006).

Select Administration:

- 2019-Present: Member of the Executive Committee, Ctr for Medieval Studies (Fordham).
2018-Present: Co-Director of Comparative Literature Program (Fordham).
2018-Present: Member of the Merit Committee, English (Fordham).
2016-Present: Member of Diversity and Social Justice Committee, English (Fordham).
2017-2019: Member of the Arts and Science Faculty Evaluation Committee (Fordham).
2016-2019: Member of the Faculty Senate Faculty Life Committee (Fordham).
2016-2019: Member of the Faculty Senate Salary and Benefits Committee (Fordham).
2016-2018: Member of the Executive Committee, Comparative Literature (Fordham).
2014: Graduate Admissions Committee, English (Fordham). [Again in 2016, 2019.]

Membership in Professional Organizations:

Medieval Academy of America, Early English Text Society, Anglo-Norman Text Society, the Society formerly known as "ISAS."

Other Experience and Volunteer Work:

- 2016-Present: Thought-Action-Circle, informal social action group with fellow Fordham community members.
2016-Present: Member, AAUP.
2003-2009: Member volunteer for UAW Local 2865, the UC Academic Student-Workers Union.