

ELLIS LIGHT

Department of English
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EDUCATION

Fordham University, Ph.D., Department of English, 2015–present

Dissertation: “Bodily Fluids and Forms of Community in Medieval Devotional Literature”

Fordham University, M.A., Department of English, 2014

Thesis: “‘Benighted in these Woods’: Darkness and Queer Sexuality in Milton’s *Comus*”

Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts at The New School, B.A., Department of Literary Studies, 2011

Thesis: “Allegory and the Divine in *Pearl*”

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Late medieval English literature; devotional literature; embodiment; bodily fluids; mysticism; gender; saints’ lives; monsters and the supernatural.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, Department of English, Fordham University, 2017–present

Composition/Rhetoric II is Fordham’s intensive undergraduate course in expository writing. The course helps students to develop an arsenal of logical, rhetorical, and grammatical skills designed towards interdisciplinary application.

Lecturer, Department of English, Purchase College (SUNY), Fall 2018

Visiting lecturer to teach *Monsters of the High to Late Middle Ages* at SUNY Purchase, an upper-level seminar course designed as an introduction to the study of medieval literature, as well as a theoretical introduction to monster studies, supernatural studies, and concepts of alterity. The syllabus spans from the *Beowulf* manuscript up to the fourteenth century, with a

focus in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.

Director, Rose Hill Writing Center, 2019

Writing Tutor, Rose Hill Writing Center, Fordham University, 2012–2014

As Director, duties included overseeing day-to-day operation of the writing center; tutoring undergrads in writing and composition; scheduling the writing center; and updating the center's social media. Tutor duties included instructing undergraduate and graduate students, including ESL students, in one-on-one tutoring sessions, as well as classroom workshops, at Fordham's Rose Hill campus. Worked with all levels of Fordham students to hone skills in developing their academic voices, including grammar, voice, style, analysis, and argument.

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Fordham University, 2017

Intensive TAship for undergraduate course on literary theory from classical to contemporary. Graded weekly quizzes, journal entries, and writing assignments; prepared teaching materials; provided extensive feedback for student writing; one-on-one tutoring as well as group revising workshops. First point of contact for student support.

Adjunct Instructor, Department of English, Sacred Heart University, 2014–2015

Instructor for SHU's core literature class, *Literary Expressions of the Human Journey*. Developed diverse, inclusive, and multi-genre literature survey syllabus for multiple sections of freshman and sophomore students. Attention to literary analysis, composition, close reading, the art of the college essay, critical thinking, and social consciousness for non-English majors.

PEDAGOGY TRAINING

Teaching Literature Tutorial, Fordham University, 2018

Intensive summer training program designed around the practical application of literary studies in the undergraduate classroom, tailored towards medieval and early modern literature.

Colloquium in Pedagogy Theory and Practicum, Fordham University, 2017–2018

Year-long pedagogy training through Fordham's Department of English. The practicum is designed to instruct Ph.D candidates in pedagogical theory as well as practical class design and approaches to learning. Syllabus and course design, intensive lesson planning workshops, and discussions of both traditional and innovative teaching strategies and pedagogical issues.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Damsels, Dragons, and Death-girls: Married and Unmarried Foreign Women in *The Book of John Mandeville*.” *Supernatural Studies* 4.1 (2017), 69–87.

“‘That she schulde not etyn alone’: Food, Community, and Authority in *The Book of Margery Kempe*.” *Comitatus* 48.1 (2017), 73–93.

“*Musterai i mun livre*: Monastery History and Practices of Seeing in Matthew Paris's *Vie de seint Auban*.” *Hortulus* 13.2 (2017).

Book Review

Review of Kathleen T. Talvacchia, Michael F. Pettinger, and Mark Larrimore, eds., *Queer Christianities: Lived Religion in Transgressive Forms* (New York: NYU Press, 2014), *The Committee on LGBT History Newsletter* (Fall 2017).

Poetry

Poems appearing in *Academy of American Poets* (poets.org), *Wilderness House*, *Amethyst Arsenic*, *Ginosko*, *Literary Orphans*, *Columbia College Literary Review*, *Driftwood* (Kenai Peninsula College), *What You Do / Eat a Peach*, and elsewhere.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Academy of American Poets Award, Fordham University, 2018

The Charles J. Donahue Prize in English, Fordham University, 2017

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

GSAS Dissertation Research Fellowship, Fordham University, 2019–2020

Graduate Student Support Grant, Fordham University, 2019

Student Engagement Grant, SUNY Purchase, 2018

Trans Travel Fund, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, 2018

Summer Professional Development Grant, Fordham University, 2018

Summer Research Fellowship, Fordham University, 2017

Graduate Student Support Grant, Fordham University, 2017

Fordham/York University Exchange Bursary (Medieval Women Revisited), 2016
 Graduate Research Assistantship, Fordham University, 2015
 Graduate Assistantship, Rose Hill Writing Center, Fordham University, 2012–2014
 Presidential Scholarship, Eugene Lang College, 2007–2011
 Research Assistantship, Eugene Lang College, 2010

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

“Sisters of the Risen: The Difficult Holiness of Christina the Astonishing, 1150–2017,” International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2019.

“Teaching Medieval Monsters,” Supernatural Studies Annual Conference, College of Mount St. Vincent, March 2019.

“Opposing Sexual/Political Violence — Margaret of Antioch and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford: 1,700 Years of Women’s Resistance,” Feminine Power and Medieval Modes of Resistance, Women’s HERstory Month Panel, Borough of Manhattan Community College, March 2019.

“Deathbed Biopolitics: Power, Care, and Otherworldly Visions in Julian of Norwich,” New Chaucer Society, University of Toronto, July 2018.

“Queer Kids and Animal Kinships in *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*,” Northeast Popular/American Culture Association (NEPCA) 2017, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, October 2017.

“Blood, Tears, and Queer Reading Practices in Richard Crashaw’s Passion Poems,” Body Language, Bawdy Talk Conference, Early Modern Colloquium, University of Michigan, March 2017.

“Women and Multilingualism in Late Medieval England.” Panel Respondent. Graduate English Association Annual Roundtable, Fordham University, November 2016.

“Eating with the Holy Family in *The Book of Margery Kempe*,” Religious Studies Roundtable, Eugene Lang College, November 2015.

“Teleology, Social Life, and Writing: Two Religious Figures in the Dissolution -- A Response to Mary C. Erler,” Graduate English Association Annual Roundtable, Fordham University, October 2015.

Panels Organized

LGBTQ+ Lives, Tabletop RPGs, and Geek Culture. Hudson Valley Pride, Hudson Valley LGBTQ+ Community Center, June 2019.

Feminine Power and Medieval Modes of Resistance. Women's HERstory Month, Borough of Manhattan Community College, March 2019.

Invited Talks

"Graduate/Renaissance/Queer Publishing and Editing," Graduate English Association Publication Lecture Series, Fordham University, November 2018.

"Queer, Marxist, and Critical Race Theory in Literary Studies," Theory for English Majors, Fordham University, April 2017 and April 2018.

"Calling, Career, and Commitment in Religious Studies and Beyond," Religious Studies Roundtable, Eugene Lang College, April 2017.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Director, Rose Hill Writing Center, Fordham University, 2019

Co-Organizer, New Chaucer Society LGBTQIA+ Meetup, NCS Durham, 2020 (upcoming)

Reader, *Hortulus*, the Online Graduate Journal of Medieval Studies, 2015–present

Board Member, Professional Development Grant, Fordham University, 2016–2018

Co-President, Fordham Graduate Film Studies Group, 2015–2018

Co-President, Fordham LGBTQIA+ Graduate Charter Group, 2016–2018

Vice President, Graduate English Association, Fordham University, 2016–2017

Panel Moderator, Ethics Bowl, Sacred Heart University, 2015

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Copyeditor, *Renaissance Quarterly*, 2018–present

Editor, *Rhetorikos*, Fordham's Journal for Excellence in Student Writing, 2018–present

Graduate Assistant (editorial), Fordham University, 2015–2016

Copyeditor / Transcriptionist, Babbletype Inc., 2016

Editorial Board, *Rhetorikos*, Fordham's Journal for Excellence in Student Writing, 2015–2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Academy of American Poets

Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History

Hagiography Society

Modern Language Association

New Chaucer Society

Renaissance Society of America

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship