

AMY APPLEFORD

English Department
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citizenship: Canada/USA

EDUCATION

Ph.D., English, University of Western Ontario, Canada
M.A., English, University of Guelph, Canada
B.A. (with honors), English, University of Guelph, Canada

EMPLOYMENT

Boston University, Chair, Department of English,
2022 – 2025
Oxford University, Visiting Researcher, Faculty of English
Fall 2024
Boston University, Department of English, Associate Professor
2015 – present (Assistant Professor, 2008-2015)
Boston University, Director, Global Medieval Studies Program
2017 – 2022
Boston University, Associate Chair, English Department
2017 – 2020
Boston University, Associate Director, Core Curriculum
2015 – 2017
Oxford University, Visiting Professor, Faculty of English
2016-2017
Harvard University, English Department, Lecturer
2005-2008
University of Toronto, Mississauga and St George, English Department, Lecturer
2004-2005

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External:

American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, \$50 000 USD
2020-2021
Leverhulme International Network Grant: “Women’s Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon”
(network member; Network Lead, Diane Watt, University of Surrey, UK), £64 401 (\$80 000
USD) 2015-2018
Stanford Humanities Center External Faculty Fellowship, Stanford University \$82 000 USD
2010-2011

Internal:

Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship (declined)

2020-2021

Boston University Center for the Humanities Junior Fellowship, \$72 000

2012-2013

Boston University Center for the Humanities Junior Fellowship (declined)

2010-11

Graduate:

SSHRC, Doctoral Fellowship

2001-2003

Visiting Graduate Student Fellowship, Harvard University

2001-2002

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

1999, 2000

President's Scholarship, University of Western Ontario

1998-2001

HONORS AND AWARDS

Boston University, Frank and Lynn Wisneski Award for Excellence in Teaching

College of Arts and Sciences, 2016

Harvard University, Derek Bok Award for Excellence in Teaching/Certificate
of Teaching Excellence, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

"Shining Face: Asceticism and the Imagination of Illness and Disability in Medieval England,"
[under contract, Middle Ages Series, UPenn, forthcoming 2027]

Learning to Die in London, 1380-1540. Middle Ages Series, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2015. [x + 320 pp.] Reviewed in: *Choice*, A. L. Kaufman, 52.08 (2015); *Journal of British Studies*, B. Hanawalt, 54.4 (2015): 999-1001; *Journal of Ecclesiastical History*, G. Raeburn, 68.3 (2017): 616-618; *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, N. Rice, 116.2 (2017): 242-245; *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*, J. Macgugan, 41.2 (2015) 238-244; *Journal of Religious History*, M. James, 40.1 (2016):146-147; *Urban History*, D. Harry, 42.4 (2015): 689-691; *Medieval Review*, I. Forrest, 10.06.26; *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality*, W. Matlock, 52.2 (2017): 169-171; *Modern Philology*, H. Swift, 113.4 (2016): E228-E230; *Parergon*, M. Firth, 33.1 (2016): 258-258; *Renaissance Quarterly*, R.

Horrox, 69.2 (2016): 731-732; *Sixteenth-Century Journal*, S. McSheffrey, 46.3 (2015): 804-805; *Speculum*, E. Hubbard, 90.4 (2015):1082-83; *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, S. Sweetinburgh, 39.1 (2017): 301-304; *The Middle Ground Journal: World History and Global Studies*, K. Pierpont, 21 (Spring 2021); *Yearbook of Langland Studies*, L. Cooper, 29 (2015): 180-184. In German: *Sehepunkt*, Jens Röhrkasten, 16 (2016), 6 [<http://www.sehepunkte.de/2016/06/26376.html>]

Journal Articles and Book Chapters:

“The Body.” *The Cambridge Companion to The Book of Margery Kempe*, edited by Laura Kalas (volume under contract; forthcoming 2027)

“Earthly Matters,” *The Cambridge Companion to Julian of Norwich*, edited by Amy Laura Hall and Ayoush Lazikani (volume under contract; forthcoming 2027)

“Thomas Hoccleve.” *The Oxford Handbook of Disability and Literatures in English, c. 700-1500*, edited by Richard H. Godden, Leah Pope Parker and Tory V. Pearman (volume under contract; forthcoming 2027)

“Ritual-Symbolic Performance.” *Medieval Worlds, 800-1450*, edited by Ashby Kinch. Vol.2 of *A Cultural History of Death*, edited by Douglas Davies. London: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2023, pp. 79-93.

“Ascetic Reading.” *The Practice and Politics of Reading, 650-11500*, edited by Daniel Donoghue, James Simpson, Nicholas Watson, and Anna Wilson. Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2022, pp. 110-135.

“Reading Women in the Medieval Information Age: *The Life of Elizabeth of Spalbeek* and *The Book of Margery Kempe*.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 42 (2020), pp. 253-281. [with Corinne Saunders]

“Singing the Dirige: Lyric and Vernacular Liturgy in Fifteenth-Century England.” *The Urban Church in Late Medieval England: Essays in Honour of Clive Burgess*, Proceedings of the 2017 Harlaxton Symposium, edited by David Harry and Christian Steer. Donington, UK: Shaun Tyas Publications, 2019, pp. 432-448.

“Asceticism, Dissent, and the Tudor State: Richard Whitford’s Rule for Lay Householders.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, 46.2 (Summer 2016), pp. 381-404.

“Into the Sea Ground and the London Street: The Limits of the Ascetic Body in Julian of

Norwich and Thomas Hoccleve.” Special issue on “Women’s Literary Culture and Middle English Texts,” edited by Liz Herbert McAvoy and Diane Watt. *The Chaucer Review* 51.1 (January 2016), pp. 49-67.

“Performance in Households and Merchant Halls.” *Tudor Drama: Oxford Handbooks Online*.

Oxford UP, March 2016. Available at:

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199935338.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199935338-e-93?rskey=QRzmJT&result=1>

“The Good Death of Richard Whittington: Corpse to Corporation.” *The Ends of the Body: Identity and Community in Medieval Culture*, edited by Suzanne Conklin Akbari and Jill Ross. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2013, pp. 86-112.

“Julian of Norwich.” *History of British Women’s Writing*. Vol. 1: 1350-1500, edited by Liz Herbert McAvoy and Diane Watt. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012, pp. 223-232.

“Merchant Religion in Fifteenth-Century London: The Writings of William Litchfield.” *The Chaucer Review*, 46.1 and 2 (January and April 2011), pp. 203-222. Reprinted in *Chaucer, Langland, & Company: Studies in Middle English Literature in Honor of C. David Benson*, edited by Daniel Donoghue et al. University Park: Pennsylvania State UP, 2012, pp. 203-222. [with Nicholas Watson]

“Shakespeare’s Katherine of Aragon: Last Medieval Queen, First Recusant Martyr.” Special Issue on “Premodern Shakespeares,” edited by Sarah Beckwith and James Simpson.

Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, 40.1 (Winter 2010), pp. 149-172. “The Dance of Death in London: John Lydgate, John Carpenter, and the *Daunce of Poulys*.” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, 38.2 (Summer 2008), pp. 285-314.

“The ‘Comene Course of Prayer’: Julian of Norwich and Late Medieval Death Culture.” *Journal Of English and Germanic Philology*, 107.2 (April 2008), pp. 190-214.

“Annotated bibliography.” *The Writings of Julian of Norwich: ‘A Vision Showed to a Devout Woman’ and ‘A Revelation of Love,’* edited by Nicholas Watson and Jacqueline Jenkins, Pennsylvania State UP, 2006, pp. 457-74.

Book Reviews:

D. Vance Smith, *Arts of Dying: Literature and Finitude in Medieval England*, *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 36 (2022), pp. 138-42.

Kenneth Rooney, *Mortality and Imagination: The Life of the Dead in Medieval English Literature, Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, 35 (2013), pp. 430-32.

Nicole Rice, *Lay Piety and Religious Discipline in Middle English Literature, Yearbook of Langland Studies*, 24 (2010), pp. 219-222.

INVITED LECTURES AND SEMINARS

“Shining Face: Asceticism and the Imagination of Illness and Disability in Medieval England,” Works in Progress Workshop, Global Medieval Studies, November 12, 2025, CAS Boston University.

“Introduction; Premodern Disability Studies,” NEHC Midcareer Working Group, November 8, 2025, Colby College, Waterville, Maine

“The Medieval Arts of Dying,” invited lecture, *Death and Immortality* (Kecia Ali), October 29, 2025, CAS Boston University.

“Death and Dying: Global Medieval Perspectives,” Graduate Training Day, Medieval Academy of America, March 19, 2025, Boston College.

“Peter Damian, Richard Rolle, and Julian of Norwich: Asceticism and the Impaired Christ,” Oxford English Faculty Medieval Seminar, October 15, 2024, Oxford UK.

“Human Variance, Impairment and Disability in Middle English Religious Writing,” Oxford English Faculty, February 20, 2024, Oxford UK.

“Learning to Die: Men’s Care, Women's Work and the *Ars Moriendi* in Late Medieval England,” *Dying Well: Religion, Health and Healing*, Ohio State University’s Center for Studies in Religion, Columbus, OH, April 22, 2022.

“Ascetic Bodies: Imagining Illness and Disability in Medieval English Writing,” Department of English and Center for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, February 9, 2022.

“In Dialogue on Hoccleve and Disability Studies,” with Christopher Baswell (Columbia University and Barnard College), moderated by Ruen-chuan Ma, *Hoccleve at Home*, November 1st, 2021.

“Ascetic Reading,” Plenary lecture, *Reading Then, Reading Now*, Bloomfield Conference, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, April 20, 2019.

“Ascetic Ritual, Prayer, and Poetry,” English Department Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University,
Cambridge MA, November 29, 2018.

“Governing Bodies in Late Medieval London,” Plenary Lecture, *Government in Reality and Representation from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance*, New England Medieval Consortium, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH, November 17, 2018.

“Extraordinary Bodies,” Plenary lecture, *The Making of Thomas Hocccleve*, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, July 6, 2018.

“Dying Daily: The Vernacular Office of the Dead in Late Medieval England,” *Medieval Studies Lecture Series*, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, April 21, 2018.

“Job’s Failing Body,” *Last Things: Luxury Goods and Memento Mori Culture in Europe, c. 1400 -1550*,
Symposium, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, November 4, 2017.

“Liturgy, Translation, and the Middle English Lyric,” *Church and City in the Middle Ages*, Harlaxton Medieval Symposium, Harlaxton, U.K, July 17, 2017.

“Conversions: Body, Form and Voice,” Medieval English Research Seminar, Oxford University, U.K.,
February 8, 2017.

“Syon Nuns and City Fathers,” *Women’s Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon: Gender and Genre Workshop*, Leverhulme International Networks Project, Boston MA, July 27, 2016.

“‘How lonely sits the city’: Practicing Ascetic Solitude in Late Medieval London,” Public Keynote Address, *Outreach Workshop for Massachusetts Teachers of English and History, K-12*, Fitchburg State University Center for Professional Studies, Fitchburg MA, April 8, 2016.

“Lucid Bodies: The Ascetic Ground of Writing,” *Lectures in Criticism*, Boston University, Boston MA,
December 4th, 2014.

“Thomas Hocccleve and the Ascetic Voice,” Medieval English Research Seminar, Oxford University, January 30, 2013.

“Lay Asceticism in Fifteenth Century London: Reading William Baron's Book (Bodleian Library Douce MS 322),” Yale Medieval English Colloquium, New Haven CT, Nov. 9, 2013.

“Thomas Hoccleve and the Ascetic Voice,” Medieval English Research Seminar, Oxford University, January 30, 2013.

“Household Management and Soul Making in Fifteenth-Century London,” *Mixed Media: Rethinking the Archive in Medieval England*, University of Michigan Annual Medieval Seminar, September 15, 2012.

“Suffering and Soul Making in Pre-Reformation London,” English Department Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge MA, March 22, 2012.

“Learning to Die in London,” *Mellon Symposium on Medieval Subjectivity*, Northwestern University, July 29, 2011.

“The Gift of Death, London 1442,” Plenary lecture, *New England Medieval Studies Consortium Graduate Student Conference*, University of Connecticut at Storrs, April 10, 2010.

“Death in the Medieval City,” *Medieval Research Group and Performance Studies Speaker Series*, University of Calgary, Canada, March 2008.

“This Corruptible Body,” English Department Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University, November 2006.

“The Dance of Death: John Lydgate, John Carpenter, and *The Daunce of Poulys*,” University of Connecticut Medieval Studies Colloquium, November 2006.

CONFERENCES: PAPERS PRESENTED

“Who are the Devil's Contemplatives in the *Cloud of Unknowing*? 'Re-Configuring the Apophatic Tradition,” University of Lausanne, Switzerland, September 11, 2025.

“Learning to Die, Once Again,” Harlaxton Symposium, *Death and Dying*, Harlaxton, UK, Thursday, August 18, 2022.

“Cultural Locations of Disability: Thomas Hoccleve's London,” New Chaucer Society, Durham University, Durham, U.K., July 14, 2022.

“Women’s Work: Networks of Care and the Predicament of Lay Asceticism in *The Book of Margery Kempe*,” 97th Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, March 10-13, 2022.

“Asceticism, Obedience, and the Problem of Community,” *The Political Theory of Habit: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives*, Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, Nov 11, 2021.

“Thomas Hoccleve and the Middle English Poetics of Pandemic,” *Poetry and Pandemic: Medieval English Perspectives*, Modern Language Association Annual Convention, Sunday, 10 January 2021.

“Figures of Disability in *The Book of Margery Kempe*: Richard the ‘Broken-Backed Man,’” *Rethinking the Body: Humanity and its Discontents in Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages*, New England Medieval Conference, Brown University, Providence Rhode Island, November 2, 2019.

“Strategies for Control” at *Death and Dying Symposium: A Population Health Perspective*, Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA, February 12, 2019.

<https://www.bu.edu/sph/conversations/uncategorized/death-and-dying-a-population-health-perspective/> (view at 6:00 minute)

“Behold, my life is but distraction,” *Forms of Middle English Prayer*, New Chaucer Society, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, July 13, 2018.

“Exemplary Image: The Ascetic Work of Elizabeth of Spalbeek,” *Women's Literary Culture and Medieval Canon Conference*, Leverhulme International Networks Project, Bergen, Norway, June 23, 2017.

“Singing the Dirige: Job and Imaginative Ascetic Practice,” *Beyond the Imagetext*, New Chaucer Society, London, U.K., July 13, 2016.

“Merchant Hall Moralities and the Early Tudor State,” *Afterlives of Medieval Drama, Renaissance*
Society of America Annual Meeting, Boston MA, April 2, 2016.

“Mortification and Secular Governance,” *Medieval Governmentalities*, New Chaucer Society, Reykjavik, Iceland, July 17, 2014.

“Care of the Self at the End of the Middle Ages.” 48th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 9-12, 2013.

“Public Interiorities: Voice and Personae in Late Medieval London,” *Voice and Voicelessness in Medieval Europe and Beyond*, Boston MA, March 2, 2013.

“Radical Catechesis: The Middle English Visitation of the Sick Manuscript Context,” *Fifteenth-Century Books*, Lollard Society, 45th International Congress of Medieval Studies, May 2010.

“Urban Living and the Craft of Dying,” *The City in Medieval Life and Culture*, 36th Sewanee Medieval Conference, April 4, 2009.

“Timor Mortis,” *Religion and Affect*, New Chaucer Society, Swansea, U.K., July 20, 2008.

“Apocryphal Journeys: Otherworld Visions at the End of the Fifteenth Century,” *At the End of the Fifteenth Century*, 41st International Congress of Medieval Studies, May 2007.

“Founding Bodies: Corpse and Corporation in Fifteenth-Century London,” *The Body in Medieval Culture*, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto, March 2006.

“The ‘Comene Course of Prayer’: Julian of Norwich and Late Medieval Death Culture,” New Chaucer Society, July 2006.

“Literary Networks and the Ars Moriendi,” *Devotional Readers, Reading and Reception II: Texts and Contexts*, 39th International Congress of Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo MI, May 2005.

OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Moderator, *Humanities Approaches to the Opioid Crisis*, Boston University Center for the Humanities and Boston University School of Public Health, Boston MA, October 13, 2018.

Conference Panel Organizer and Chair, *Arts and Dying I and Arts of Dying II*, New Chaucer Society, London, UK, 2016.

Conference Panel Organizer (with Catherine Sanok, UMI) and Chair: *Literature at Sea: Hanseatic Textual Networks*. New Chaucer Society, Reykjavik, Iceland, 2014.

New England Medieval Conference Steering Committee Member, 2012-2015; Local organizer, Boston meeting fall 2015.

TEACHING: GRADUATE SEMINARS

Medieval Performance: Theory, History, Practice [2021; 2016: introduction to late medieval performance culture in England; reads modern and contemporary theories of language and performance alongside a wide variety of medieval performance and dramatic texts written and acted in England between 1200 and 1550]

Medieval Things: Materiality, Objects, and Literary Practice [2023; 2018: works of medieval English literature alongside contemporary theoretical writing that shares an interest in things, objects, and the non-human]

Race-Thinking in the Middle Ages [2020: examines the locations of medieval race, and the institutions and discourses (religious, economic, political, and literary) that support the concepts and practices of race in the medieval period, as well as the survival of medieval thinking about race in postmedieval eras]

Introduction to Disability Studies [recurring guest lecturer for magazine-style course,
Introduction to Recent Critical Theory and Method]

TEACHING: UNDERGRADUATE

General Education courses for non-majors

Medieval Worlds (EN 122 – lecture course, enrollment 45)

Major Authors (EN 221 – foundational canon texts in translation, enrollment 25)

Required courses for the English major

Innocence (EN 220 – sophomore seminar, required for the major, enrollment 12)

British Literature I (EN 322 – early British literature to 1660; survey required course for the major, enrollment 25)

Encounters: Reading across Space and Time (EN 101 – team-taught early British and early American literature, required introduction to the major)

Upper Level English:

History of the English Language I (EN 515)

American English (EN 516)

Medieval Romance: The Origin of Love (EN 521)

Global Medieval Romance: Mapping the World (EN 574)

The Canterbury Tales (EN 324)
Shakespeare I and Shakespeare II (EN 363/364)
British Drama to 1590 (EN 511)
Sex, Gender, and the Body in Medieval Literature (EN 476)
Narratives of Illness: Medieval to Modern (EN 473)
The Earliest Women Writers (EN 473)
Disability Voices (EN 560 – senior seminar, enrollment 12)

Undergraduate, Core Curriculum

Core Humanities I: Antiquity and the Medieval World (CC 102)
Core Humanities II: The Renaissance (CC 201)

UNDERGRADUATE THESES SUPERVISION

Priyanka Ray, “Intersections of Race, Gender, and Disability” May 2020
Leighton Foster-Gorbach, “Disruptive Visions: Reconfiguring the Marginalized Identity and the Extrapolative Future through the Speculative Fiction Model,” May 2019
Alexa Ray Corriea, “J.R.R Tolkien and the Tradition of Medieval Romance,” May 2010

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD Dissertation Supervision

First Reader

Jake Hertz, “The Broken Book: Reading and the Materializing Middle English Literature” (f2023)
Liam Cruz Kelly, “How the Plowman Taught his ‘Pater Noster:’ Agricultural Labor and the Cure of Souls in the *Piers Plowman* Tradition” (s24)
Megan Bowman, “Spectacular Violence and Early Modern English Medicine in Tudor Romance” (expected f24)

Second Reader:

Dan Salerno, “‘More Strict Restraint:’ Ascetic Discourse and the Rhetoric of Renunciation in Early Modern England” (Assistant Professor, Bergen Community College)
Devin Byker, “Glimmering Appearances: Last Words and Inner Worlds in Early Modern Drama” (Assistant Professor of English, College of Charleston)

Third Reader

Helen Cushman (English Department, Harvard University) “Producing Knowledge in the Middle English Mystery Cycles” (Assistant Professor, English and Comparative Literature, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Qualifying Exam Committees: Emily Griffiths Jones; Carolyn Wilson; Emily Gruber Keck; Melissa Schoenburger; Devin Byker; Alex MacConochie; Julia Mix Barrington; Jake Hertz; Liam Cruz Kelly; Megan Bowman; Johanna Alder (Boston College); Meredith Santaus

Dissertation defense (reader) committee: Emily Gruber Keck; Theresa Cooney (BU Religion); Alex MacConochie; Julia Mix Barrington; Frederick Morgan (Oxford University)

REFeree FOR JOURNALS AND FELLOWSHIP AGENCIES

Journals

Journal of Ecclesiastical History; Speculum; Medievalia; Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures; Journal of Religion and Literature; Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies; Studies in the Age of Chaucer

Fellowship Agencies

Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Innovation Fellowships, review panel
ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships, review panel
Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowships, review panel
NEH Fellowship Competition: Medieval and Renaissance Studies review panel
Stanford Center for the Humanities, external faculty fellowship review panel
Leverhulme Trust (U.K)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Boston University, English Department

Chair, Department of English, 2022-present
Director of Graduate Admissions, 2021-22
Associate Chair, English Department, 2017-2020
Director (Acting) of Undergraduate Studies, 2015-2016
Curriculum Review Committee, Chair, Fall 2013; 2014-15; Spring 2016
Curriculum Review Committee Member, 2009-2010; 2011-12; 2012-13
Merit Committee, April 2015, April 2016, April 2018, April 2020.
Graduate Committee, 2012-13; 2014-15

Boston University College of Arts and Sciences

Director, Global Medieval Studies Program, 2017-2020; 2021-2022

General Education Curriculum Committee, 2017-2018

Core Curriculum: Associate Director, 2015-2017

Program for Scripture and the Arts, Boston University, Faculty Coordinator, Spring 2015

Program for Scripture in the Arts, Boston University, Planning Committee, 2011-16

Academic Conduct Committee, 2009-2010; 2011-12; 2012-13

Boston University Provost's Office

University Council Committee on Graduate Academic Programs & Policies, 2021-2022

Trustee Scholars Selection Committee, 2015-2019

External Service:

Assistant Professor Anna Wilson, English Department, Harvard University, mentoring workshop, 2020

New England Medieval Conference Steering Committee Member, 2012-2015 and Local organizer, Boston meeting fall, 2015; International Piers Plowman Society organizing committee 2027 meeting.

Board Member, "Mapping Medieval Women," Women's Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon An International Network Funded by the Leverhulme Trust, Funded by ESRC Impact Acceleration Fund

Tenure reviews: redacted

LANGUAGES

Old English, Latin, Old French (reading), French (intermediate), German (reading, basic speaking)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Medieval Academy of America

New Chaucer Society

International Piers Plowman Society

International Hoccleve Society

Renaissance Society of America

Modern Language Association