

## TAYLOR COWDERY

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Associate Professor of English and Robert M. Lumiansky Scholar, UNC-Chapel Hill  
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### EDUCATION

**Harvard University** (Cambridge, MA)

Ph.D. English, May 2016

Dissertation: "The Premodern Literary: Matter and Form in English Poetry, 1400-1547"

Committee: Nicholas Watson, James Simpson, Stephen Greenblatt

**Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin** (Berlin, Germany)

Visiting DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) Scholar, 2009-2010

**Columbia University** (New York, NY)

B.A. (major in English, concentration in Classics), *summa cum laude*, May 2009

### ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Chapel Hill, NC)

July 2023-present Associate Professor of English and Robert M. Lumiansky Fellow

July 2018-June 2023 Assistant Professor of English and Robert M. Lumiansky Fellow

July 2016-June 2023 Assistant Professor of English

### BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*Matter and Making in Early English Poetry: Literary Production from Chaucer to Sidney*. Cambridge University Press, 2023.

### ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS (PEER-REVIEWED)

"Common Style and the Bourgeois Ethos in Lydgate's *Dietary*." Forthcoming in *Literary Forms and Cultural Power in Medieval and Early Modern Literature: A Book for James Simpson*, ed. Daniel Donoghue, Sebastian Sobiecki, and Nicholas Watson (Cambridge: Boydell & Brewer).

"Hoccleve's *Formulary* and the Matter of Everyday Life." In *Thomas Hoccleve: New Approaches*, ed. Jenni Nuttall and David Watt (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2022), 167-96.

"Lydgate and the Surplus of History." *ELH* 85.3 (Fall 2018): 567-98.

"Translation for 'Sentence' in Middle English Poetry: the Case of John Walton." In *The Legacy of Boethius in Medieval England*, ed. A.J. McMullen and Erica Weaver (Tempe, AZ: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, 2018), 193-214.

"Hoccleve's Poetics of Matter." *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 38 (2016): 133-64.

“Humanist Styles of Reading in the Prologues and Epilogues of William Caxton.” In *The Dark Side of Knowledge: Histories of Ignorance, 1400-1800*, ed. Cornel Zwierlein (Leiden: Brill, 2016), 197-224.

## OTHER WRITING (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

### *Reference Articles:*

“Aristotelianism.” Forthcoming in *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, ed. Richard Neuhauser, Vincent Gillespie, Jessica Rosenfeld, and Katie Walker (London: Wiley-Blackwell). 650 words.

### *Interviews:*

“The Reformation of Pedagogy: A Conversation with James Simpson.” *Reformation* 18.1 (December 2013): 148-156.

## BOOK REVIEWS

Jan-Peer Hartmann and Andrew James Johnston, eds., *Material Remains: Reading the Past in Medieval and Early Modern British Literature* (The Ohio State University Press, 2021). Review forthcoming in *Arthuriana*.

Katharine Jager, ed., *Vernacular Aesthetics in the Later Middle Ages: Politics, Performativity, and Reception from Literature to Music* (Palgrave, 2019). Reviewed in *Speculum* 96.2 (2020): 515-16.

Thomas A. Prendergast and Jessica Rosenfeld, eds., *Chaucer and the Subversion of Form* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). Reviewed in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 40 (2018): 395-400.

Kellie Robertson, *Nature Speaks: Medieval Literature and Aristotelian Philosophy* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017). Reviewed in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 39 (2017): 378-82.

Ryan McDermott, *Tropologies: Ethics and Invention in England, c. 1350-1600* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2016). Reviewed in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 38 (2016): 342-46.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

### *External Fellowships:*

A.W. Mellon Fellowship in Medieval Studies, University of Notre Dame (2017-18)  
DAAD Fellowship, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (2009-2010)

### *Internal Fellowships:*

Research and Study Leave, UNC-Chapel Hill (Fall 2020)  
GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University (2016, declined)  
English Prize Fellowship, Harvard University (2011-16)  
Dexter Term-Time Fellowship, Harvard University (2015)

### *Awards:*

Junior Faculty Development Award, Provost’s Office, UNC (2023)

Schwab Academic Excellence Award, Institute for the Arts and Humanities, UNC (2020)  
 Howard Scholarship, New Chaucer Society (2016, 2014)  
 Derek Bok Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Harvard University (2015)  
 Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University (2009)

### INVITED LECTURES

“Middlebrow Style and Social Identity in the *Canterbury Tales*.” University of Iowa Department of English (Iowa City, IA), November 2023.

“Middle English Literature and the Middlebrow.” Texas State University (San Marcos, TX), March 2023.

“The Impersonation of Authority in Lydgate’s Italian Poems.” Midwest Middle English Reading Group, University of Chicago (Chicago, IL), May 2018.

“Words and Deeds in Chaucer’s Late Poetry.” Medieval Institute, University of Notre Dame (South Bend, IN), April 2018.

“Two Kinds of Form in Premodern Poetry.” Middle English Working Group, Notre Dame Department of English (South Bend, IN), January 2018.

“Copy and *Copia* in Skelton’s English Poems.” Duke English Department and Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Colloquium (Durham, NC), April 2017.

“Lydgate and the Surplus of History.” Triangle Medieval Studies Seminar (Raleigh, NC), April 2017.

“Lydgate and the Surplus of History.” University of Virginia Interdisciplinary Medieval Colloquium (Charlottesville, VA), November 2016.

“How to Build a Middle English Poem.” Yale Medieval Lunch Series (New Haven, CT), April 2016.

“Translation Theory and Empire in Late Medieval England.” The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University: Cultural Politics Seminar (Cambridge, MA), November 2014.

### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Which Ovid did Gower Use?” Fifth International Conference of the John Gower Society (St. Andrews, UK), July 2023.

“Listening to *Piers Plowman* in Church.” 2023 International Piers Plowman Society Conference (London, UK), July 2023.

“Bourgeois Values the Appeal of Lydgate’s Popular Verse.” 58<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2023.

“One-Liners in *Piers Plowman*.” Forty-Eighth Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium (University of the South; Sewanee, TN), March 2023.

“Common Style in Lydgate.” *Illuminated and Unsettled: Literary Forms and Cultural Power, Medieval to Early Modern* (Harvard University; Cambridge, MA). September 2022.

“Substantial Form as a Tool for Literary Criticism.” 2022 New Chaucer Society Conference (Durham, UK), July 2022.

“Latin Prosimetrum and the Form of Walton’s *Boethius*.” Forty-Fifth Annual Sewanee Medieval Colloquium (University of the South; Sewanee, TN), April 2019.

“False Universals in Chaucer’s *General Prologue*.” 2018 New Chaucer Society Conference (Toronto, Canada), July 2018.

“Hoccleve and the Force of Language.” *The Making of Thomas Hoccleve* (University of Manitoba; Winnipeg, Canada), July 2018.

“Embodied Allegory and Lydgate’s *Dance of Death*.” 53<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2018.

“Funny Money in Hoccleve’s Begging Poems.” 52<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2017.

“Signification and Supposition in Skelton’s *Speke, Parott*.” *Logic and Literary Form*. UC Berkeley (Berkeley, CA), April 2017.

“Mechanical Form in the Medieval *Ballade* and the Modern Ballad.” *Novel Sounds: American Fiction in the Age of Rock and Roll* (National Humanities Center; Durham, NC), March 2017.

“Chaucer’s ‘Petrak’ and Lydgate’s ‘Bochas’: Authorial Bodies in the Middle English *De casibus virorum illustrium*.” 2016 American Boccaccio Association Conference (Duke University; Durham, NC), September 2016.

“‘Laurence’ and ‘Bochas’ in Lydgate’s *Fall of Princes*.” 2016 New Chaucer Society Conference (London, UK), July 2016.

“The Voice of Skelton’s Parrot.” 51<sup>st</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

“Old Materialism, New Materialism: Hoccleve and Form.” *Method and the Middle English Text* (University of Virginia; Charlottesville, VA), April 2016.

“Style and Disguise in Spenser’s *Mother Hubberds Tale*.” 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), March 2016.

“Poetic Matter in Middle English Verse: the Case of Hoccleve’s *Series*.” 2016 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America (Boston, MA), February 2016.

“Fake Books and Hypotactic Space in Later Middle English Writing.” 131<sup>st</sup> MLA Annual Convention (Austin, TX), January 2016.

“Catastrophe and Form in Lydgate’s *Fall of Princes*.” 2015 New England Medieval Conference (Northeastern University, Boston, MA), October 2015.

“Lydgate and Troynovant.” 50<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2015.

“*Terra incognita*: Theories of Reading in William Caxton’s England.” Ignorance, Nescience, Nonknowledge: Late Medieval and Early Modern Coping with Unknowns (Harvard University; Cambridge, MA), February 2015.

“Historical Fiction and Historical Fact in Lydgate’s *Fall of Princes*.” 2014 New Chaucer Society Conference (Reykjavik, Iceland), July 2014.

“Speech, Matter, and Dialogue in Hoccleve’s *Regiment of Princes*.” 49<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2014.

“Bones in Pavia: Translation and Corruption in Walton’s Boethius.” Revisiting the Legacy of Boethius in the Middle Ages (Harvard University; Cambridge, MA), March 2014.

“Fixing Chaucer: William Thynne and the Addition of a Lollard Tract to the 1542 *Canterbury Tales*.” 48<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2013.

## WORKSHOPS

“Writing the First Chapter.” UNC Milestones Meetings. April 2022.

“Navigating the Job Market” (co-panelist with Harry Cushman, Katie Walker, and Julianne Werlin). UNC Med-Ren Colloquium (Chapel Hill, NC), October 2018.

“Ethics (and its Discontents) in Medieval Theories of Language.” University of Virginia (Charlottesville, VA), November 2016.

“On the Archive: Methods for Critical Research.” University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, NC), November 2016.

## ON-CAMPUS TALKS AND OUTREACH

“Traveling to the Celestial Jerusalem.” Carolina Public Humanities Weekend Seminar (Chapel Hill, NC). February 2022.

“John Gower and the Crying Voice.” UNC Med-Ren Colloquium (Chapel Hill, NC). December 2021.

“Old Poetry in New Words: How to Translate Chaucer.” Carolina Public Humanities Weekend Seminar (Chapel Hill, NC). February 2017.

“Copy and *Copia* in the Poetry of John Skelton.” Harvard English Medieval Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), November 2015.

“The Flowers and the Bees: More’s *Utopia* in the Context of Humanist Theories of Reading.” Harvard Renaissance Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), November 2013.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

*At UNC-Chapel Hill:*

ENGL 89: “Apocalypse When?” Spring 2022, Spring 2020.

ENGL 120: “Introduction to British Literature, 800-1800.” Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Spring 2020, Fall 2019, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2016.

ENGL 153: “Gender, Sex, and Sexuality in Premodern Europe.” Fall 2022, Fall 2021.

ENGL 224: “The Ricardian Poets.” Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022.

ENGL 329: “Medieval Feminisms.” Spring 2017, Fall 2019.

ENGL 821: “*Piers Plowman* and Method.” Spring 2023.

ENGL 821: “Feeling in Middle English Literature.” Spring 2021.

ENGL 821: “Premodern Style.” Spring 2019.

*At Harvard University (as sole instructor):*

ENGL 98r: “Medieval Feminisms.” Fall 2015.

*At Harvard University (as teaching assistant):*

ENGL 40: “Arrivals.” Spring 2015, Fall 2013.

AIU 64: “The Canterbury Tales.” Fall 2015.

HUM 10a: “The Humanities Colloquium.” Fall 2014.

ER 37: “Adam and Eve.” Spring 2014.

CB 51: “Making the Middle Ages.” Spring 2014.

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Early English Text Society

International Hoccleve Society

Lydgate Society

Medieval Academy of America

Modern Language Association

New Chaucer Society

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.