# TAYLOR COWDERY

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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 English, minor Classics), *summa cum laude*, May 2009

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** (Chapel Hill, NC)
Assistant Professor of English, July 2016-present

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*Matter and the Making of Early English Literature, 1330-1586*. Five of six chapters complete.

A study of literary attitudes towards language, form, and materiality in the fourteenth, fifteenth, and sixteenth centuries. The goal of the book is to sketch an ontology of poetry in early England—to investigate what premodern poets thought their poems were made of.

## ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

"Lydgate." Forthcoming in *The Oxford History of Poetry in English, Vol. 3: 1400-1500*, ed. Julia Boffey and A.S.G. Edwards (Oxford: OUP).

"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.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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.

## OTHER WRITING

*Reference Articles:*

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

*Interviews:*

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

## 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:*

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University (2016, declined)
English Prize Fellowship, Harvard University (2011-16)
Dexter Term-Time Fellowship, Harvard University (2015)

*Awards:*

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 TALKS

"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

"False Universals in Chaucer's *General Prologue*." 2018 New Chaucer Society Conference (Toronto, Canada), July 2018.

"Hoccleve and the Visual Force of Language." The Making of Thomas Hoccleve, University of Manitoba (Winnipeg, Canada), July 2018.

"Embodied Allegory and Lydgate's *Dance of Death*." 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2018. Scheduled.

"Funny Money in Hoccleve's Begging Poems." 52nd 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 (Durham, NC), September 2016.

"'Laurence' and 'Bochas' in Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*." 2016 New Chaucer Society Conference (London, England), July 2016.

"The Voice of Skelton's Parrot." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016.

"Old Materialism, New Materialism: Hoccleve and Form." Method and the Middle English Text (Charlottesville, VA), April 2016.

"Style and Disguise in Spenser's *Mother Hubberds Tale*." 62nd 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." 131st 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." 50th 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*." 49th 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 (Cambridge, MA), March 2014.

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

## WORKSHOPS

"Navigating the Job Market" (co-panelist with Helen 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

"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 821: "Premodern Style." Spring 2019.

ENGL 120: "Introduction to British Literature, 800-1800." Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Spring 2017, Fall 2016.

HNRS 355: "Medieval Feminisms." Spring 2017.

*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 SERVICE

*Medieval and Early Modern Studies:*

Co-founder and Co-Convener with Helen Cushman (UNC-Chapel Hill) of the UNC-Chapel Hill Med-Ren Colloquium (2018-present). This colloquium, which meets six to eight (6-8) times per semester for scholarly talks delivered both by external speakers and academics from within the UNC community, is generously supported by the UNC College of Arts and Sciences and by MEMS @ UNC.

*Conference Panels Organized:*

"What Was Medieval Style?" 54th International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2019. Co-organized with Helen Cushman (UNC). Scheduled.

"Newer Materialisms." 2018 New Chaucer Society Conference (Toronto, Canada), July 2018.

"Forms of Middle English Prayer." 2018 New Chaucer Society Conference (Toronto, Canada), July 2018. Co-organized with Megan Murton (Catholic University of America).

"Hoccleve, Lydgate, and their Patrons." 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2018.

"Voice, Song, and Silence in Medieval England." 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2017. Co-organized with Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley).

"Rhetoric and Voice Across the Fifteenth Century." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Co-organized with Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley).

"Middle Time: Past, Present, Future." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Co-organized with Helen Cushman (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Nicholas Watson (Harvard).

"Dark Age Classicisms." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Co-organized with Helen Cushman (UNC-Chapel Hill) and Emily Thornbury (UC Berkeley).

"The Domains of English Lyric Before Spenser." 62nd Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), March 2016. Co-organized with Will Rhodes (University of Pittsburgh).

"The Decadent Fifteenth Century." 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2015. Co-organized with Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley).

*Service to the Field:*

Organizing Committee, International Hoccleve Society (Summer 2017)

Co-Founder and Co-Organizer with Helen Cushman (UNC-Chapel Hill), Harvard Open Panels at Kalamazoo (2015-17)

## REFERENCES

Available upon request.

*c.v. last updated:* September 2018