

SPENCER STRUB
McCosh Hall B46
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey 08544
spencer.strub@princeton.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Research Scholar, Humanities Council, Princeton University, July 2021-present.

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Division of Arts and Humanities, UC Berkeley, July 2020-2021.

Preceptor in Expository Writing, Harvard College, July 2018-July 2020.

EDUCATION

PhD in English and Medieval Studies, UC Berkeley, August 2018.

Dissertation: "Disciplining the Tongue: Speech and Emotion in Later Middle English Poetry"

Committee: Maura Nolan (chair), Steven Justice, David Hult

A.B. in English, *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, Harvard College, May 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

Monograph

Scorn, Shame, and the Simple Reader: Lay Piety and Literature in Late-Medieval England (forthcoming in The Middle Ages Series at the University of Pennsylvania Press, 2026)

Edited Issues and Volumes

with Harry Cushman, "The Eco-Marxist Medieval." Colloquium, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 49 (forthcoming 2027)

with Michelle Karnes, *The Literary and Its Others: Essays on Premodern Thought*. Under review at The Ohio State University Press. In progress

with Katharine Jager, "1381 after January 6th." Special issue for *Exemplaria*. In progress

Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

"The Pardoner's Kiss and the Confraternal Heart," accepted, *Chaucer Review*

"The Medieval Prehistory of the Carbon Economy," forthcoming, *Speculum* 100 (2026)

"The Play of Love, 1230-1578: A Case Study and Edition," *The Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 50.2 (2024): 159-83

"The Anchorite as Analysand: Depression and the Uses of Analogy," *Exemplaria* 35.1 (2023): 48-65

“Oaths and Everyday Life in Peter Idley’s *Instructions*,” *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 119.2 (2020): 190-219

“Learning from Shame,” *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 32 (2018): 37-75

“The Idle Readers of *Piers Plowman* in Print,” *New Medieval Literatures* 17 (2017): 201-36

Book Chapters (Peer-Reviewed)

“Medieval Satire and the Canon Law of Clausturation in *The Little Hours* (2017),” in *Law, Justice, and Society: Teaching the Middle Ages through Film*, ed. Christina Bruno, Esther Liberman Cuenca, and Anthony Perron (New York: Fordham University Press, 2025), 195-208

“Proverb and Satirical Time: The Digby Poems and their Fifteenth Century,” in *Form and Power in Medieval and Early Modern Literature: A Book for James Simpson*, ed. Daniel Donoghue, Sebastian Sobocki, and Nicholas Watson (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2024), 201-22

“Hoccleve, Swelling and Bursting,” in *Thomas Hoccleve: New Approaches*, ed. Jenni Nuttall and David Watt (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2022), 124-41

Articles and Chapters Under Review and in Progress

“The Miller and the Flow,” in progress for “The Eco-Marxist Medieval,” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 49

“Dear Sister: Reading Across Gender in Late-Medieval England,” under review for “Identity in Flux” cluster, ed. Harry Cushman and Mariah Min, *Exemplaria*

“Not without Choice: Medieval Dilemmas and Moral Action,” in *The Literary and its Others*, under review at Ohio University Press

Reviews

Review of Manish Sharma, *The Logic of Love in “The Canterbury Tales”* (U of Toronto P, 2022), *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 46 (2024): 365-69

Review of W. Mark Ormrod, “*Winner and Waster*” and *Its Contexts: Chivalry, Law and Economics in Fourteenth-Century England* (D. S. Brewer, 2021), *Speculum* 99.4 (2024): 1326-27

Review of Kathryn Kerby-Fulton, *The Clerical Proletariat and the Resurgence of Medieval English Poetry* (U of Pennsylvania P, 2021), *The Medieval Review*, September 14, 2022

Review of Lee Templeton, ed. *Grief, Gender, and Identity in the Middle Ages: Knowing Sorrow* (Brill, 2021), *The Medieval Review*, May 21, 2022

Review of Rebecca Davis, *‘Piers Plowman’ and the Books of Nature* (Oxford UP, 2016), *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 39 (2017): 326-29

Public Writing

“2,000 Years Later, Christians Are Still Worrying About Sex.” *New York Times Book Review*, April 2025 (print: June 1, 2025)

“Pandemics have long created labor crises. Here’s why.” Made by History, *Washington Post*, June 2021

“Illness and Crisis, from Medieval Plague Tracts to Covid-19.” *New York Review of Books Daily*, March 25, 2020

Reference Works

“*Ancrene Wisse*, Adaptations of,” *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Medieval Women's Writing in the Global Middle Ages*, 2024

“Thomas O’Dullany,” “Ela of Salisbury,” “Stephen of Easton,” *Dictionary of Cistercian Saints*, 2021

TEACHING

Associate Research Scholar, Princeton University

First-Year Seminar (FRS) 187: “Age of Crisis: Life Lessons from Late-Medieval England” (Spring 2025, seminar)

English / Medieval Studies 312: “Chaucer” (Fall 2024, seminar)

English 402 / Medieval Studies 401: “Prehistories of Colonialism” (Spring 2023, seminar)

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Arts and Humanities, UC Berkeley

English 199: “Heroic Literature and Historical Fiction” (Summer 2021, independent study)

English 110: “Love in the Middle Ages” (Spring 2021, lecture course)

English 176: “Medieval Futures” (Spring 2021, lecture course)

English 166: “The Age of Crisis” (Fall 2020, lecture course)

Preceptor, Writing Program, Harvard College

Expository Writing 20: “Ecological Crisis: Witnessing and Planning in the Age of Climate Change” (Engaged Scholarship writing seminar; two sections per term, Fall 2018 to Spring 2020)

Expository Writing Studio 10: “Introduction to Expository Writing” (Two sections, Fall 2019)

Expository Writing 20: “Sin and Virtue” (Spring 2016)

Lecturer, Department of English, Boston University

English 322: “British Literature I” (Spring 2018, lecture survey course)

English 324: “Love in the Middle Ages” (Spring 2018, seminar)

Instructor, Department of English, UC Berkeley

English 166: “Games of Thrones, Medieval to Modern” (Summer 2018, lecture course)

Reading & Composition R1B: “Other Worlds” (Spring 2015, writing seminar)

Reading & Composition R1A: “The First Person” (Fall 2014, writing seminar)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Teaching Grants and Awards

- 2020-21 Chancellor's Public Scholar Faculty Fellowship. American Cultures Program in Engaged Scholarship, UC Berkeley.
- 2020 Special Commendation for Extraordinary Teaching in Extraordinary Times. Office of Undergraduate Education, Harvard University.
- 2016-19 Excellence in Teaching Award (Lecturers and Preceptors). Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University. Received three times.
- 2018 Engaged Scholarship Curricular Innovation Award. Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship, Harvard University.
- 2015 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. Department of English, UC Berkeley.

Grants and Fellowships

- 2017-18 Block Grant Fellowship. Department of English, UC Berkeley.
- 2016-17 Berkeley Connect Fellowship in English. Department of English, UC Berkeley.
- 2015 Graduate Student Summer Research Grant. Berkeley Center for the Study of Religion.
- 2015 Bancroft Library Summer Study Grant. Bancroft Library, UC Berkeley.
- 2014 James D. Hart Summer Grant. UC Berkeley.
- 2011-13 English Department Fellowship. UC Berkeley.

Honors and Awards

- 2017 Schallek Award. Medieval Academy of America and Richard III Society.
- 2016 Benjamin & Barbara Kurtz Dissertation Chapter Prize. Dept. of English, UC Berkeley.
- 2012 Medieval Studies Graduate Student Prize. Program in Medieval Studies, UC Berkeley.
- 2012 Alison Goddard Elliott Award. New England Medieval Studies Consortium.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- 2024 "Dear Sister: Reading Across Gender in Late-Medieval English Christianity." CMEMS Workshop, Stanford University. 3 April.
- 2022 "'Lancelot's Shame' and the Philology of Emotion." Dept. of French, UC Berkeley. 2 May.
- 2020 "The Anchorite and the Strange Situation: Mothers, Children, and God, 1200-1450." Dept. of English, UNC Chapel Hill. 7 October.
- 2019 "Without Tongue or Teeth: Speech, Silence, and Self-Knowledge in Late Medieval England." Dept. of English, Yale University. 2 April.
- "A Critical History of Adventure." Dept. of English, Program in Africana, and Program in Classical and Medieval Studies, Bates College. 21 March.
- 2017 "Merry Tales and the Wicked Tongue: Chaucer's Rules for Speech." Dept. of English, Harvard University. 8 February 2017.
- 2016 "Hard Truths: Speech and Violence in *Mum and the Sothsegger*." Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University. 10 March.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 "Illegitimate Forms: Rumor and Riot." The 50th Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. Sewanee, TN.

- 2024 “Dear Sister: Gender, Vocation, and Asceticism in Late-Medieval England.” North American Conference on British Studies, Denver, CO.
 “Reading by Candlelight.” 23rd Biennial New Chaucer Society Congress, Pasadena, CA.
 “The Confraternal Heart.” The 49th Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. Sewanee, TN.
 “Joanna Russ’s Middle Ages.” PCA/ACA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 “Liflode.” 8th International Piers Plowman Society (IPPS) Conference. London, UK.
 “Dear Sister: Reading across Gender in Late-Medieval English Christianity.” The 48th Sewanee Medieval Colloquium. Sewanee, TN.
 “Migrants and Makers: Urban Migration and Middle English Poetry.” Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America. Washington, DC.
 “Illegitimate Forms: Rumor, Conventicle, Riot.” Modern Language Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA.
- 2022 “Constraint, Danger, and the Limits of Literature.” Illuminated and Unsettled: Literary Forms and Cultural Power, Medieval to Early Modern: A Morton W. Bloomfield Conference in Honor of James Simpson. Cambridge, MA.
 “Risk and Trust in *Aventure*.” 22nd NCS Congress, Durham, UK.
 “‘Skil’ and the Limits of the Aesthetic.” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK.
 “The Smooth, the Rough, and the Scornful: The Emotional Textures of Late-Medieval English Devotion.” Annual Meeting of the MAA, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2021 “The Feeling of Dislocation.” *Piers Expo*, IPPS.
- 2019 “Sores and Salves: Truth and the Body Poetic in *Mum and the Sothsegger*.” 53rd Annual International Congress of Medieval Studies (ICMS), Kalamazoo, MI.
 “Voice without Words: The Case of Anima.” 7th IPPS Conference, Miami, FL.
- 2018 “Thomas Hoccleve, Swelling and Bursting.” The Making of Thomas Hoccleve Conference, Winnipeg, MB, Canada.
 “Process.” 21st NCS Congress, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2017 “Idle’s Oaths and the Remaking of Pastoral Tradition.” Early Book Society and John Gower Society Congress, Durham, UK.
 “Oaths, Plots, and the Memory of 1402 in England.” 52nd Annual ICMS. May.
- 2016 “Sinful Voices.” 51st Annual ICMS.
- 2015 “Robert Doughtie and the Readers of *Piers Plowman* in Print.” 6th IPPS, Seattle, WA.
 “Secularization and Sovereignty in *Mum and the Sothsegger*.” International *Piers Plowman* Society session, “Secular Langland.” 50th Annual ICMS.
- 2014 “The *Dietary* and Lydgate’s Didactic Style.” 19th NCS Congress, Reykjavík, Iceland.
 “‘Al in the glose folk laboure and swete’: Langlandian Doubt in the *Regiment of Princes*.” Hoccleve Society session, “Hoccleve in Dialogue.” 49th Annual ICMS.
- 2013 “‘Right Wiclevian’ or ‘Satyricall Penne’? Interconfessional Polemic and *The Plowman’s Tale*.” Renaissance Conference of Southern California, San Marino, CA.
 “Stock Formulae and Character in Chaucer’s *Troilus*.” 48th Annual ICMS.
- 2012 “The Place of the *Plowman’s Tale* in Milton’s Radical History.” New England Medieval Studies Consortium Graduate Student Conference, New Haven, CT.

Campus Talks

- 2019 “Decision Points: Choice, Constraint, and the Ethics of Romance.” Medieval Colloquium, Harvard University.
- 2015 “The Idle Readers of *Piers Plowman* in Print.” Bancroft Roundtable, UC Berkeley.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conference Organizing

- 2016 “Method and the Middle English Text,” University of Virginia. Organizing committee. April.
2014 “The Material Middle Ages,” UC Berkeley Medieval Studies Conference. Co-chair, organizing committee. Keynote: Professor Cynthia J. Brown (UCSB).

Panel Organizing

- 2025 Co-organizer with Paul Megna (Purchase College), “Politics and the Psyche in the *Piers Plowman* Tradition,” ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI.
Co-organizer with Arwen Taylor (Arkansas Tech), “Expanding Perspectives on Hoccleve and Gender,” ICMS.
Co-organizer with Harry Cushman (UNC), “Forgiveness, Pardon, and Indulgence” (thread), Sewanee Medieval Colloquium.
2024 Co-organizer with Harry Cushman and Adin Lears (VCU), “Ecologies and Consumption” (thread of eight panels). NCS Congress, Pasadena, CA.
2023 Co-organizer with Emily Steiner (University of Pennsylvania), “At Ease” and “Hooked on a Feeling.” IPPS Conference, London.
Co-organizer with R. D. Perry (University of Tennessee), “The Poetic Line” (thread of four panels). Sewanee Medieval Colloquium.
2022 Co-organizer with Anna Kelner (CSU Dominguez Hills), “Devotion and Religious Difference.” NCS Congress, Durham, UK.
2018 Co-organizer with R. D. Perry, “Late Fifteenth-Century Anglo-French,” NCS Congress, Toronto.
Co-organizer with Jasmin Miller (UC Berkeley), “Emotion, Affect, and Feeling in Late Medieval English Devotion,” ICMS, Kalamazoo, MI.
2017 Co-organizer with Taylor Cowdery (UNC), “Voice, Song, and Silence in Medieval England,” roundtable, ICMS.
Co-organizer with Travis Neel (OSU), “Loneliness and Solitude in Late Medieval England,” roundtable, ICMS.
2016 Co-organizer with Taylor Cowdery, “Rhetoric and Voice Across the Fifteenth Century,” roundtable, ICMS.
2015 Co-organizer with Katherine O’Brien O’Keeffe and R. D. Perry, “Post-War Scholarship and the Study of the Middle Ages” (two panels), ICMS.
Co-organizer with Jenny Tan, “Transnationalism before the Nation?” ICMS.
Co-organizer with Taylor Cowdery, “The Decadent Fifteenth Century,” ICMS.

Other Professional Service

- 2024- Member, Executive Board, International Piers Plowman Society.
2021- Session co-facilitator, *Piers Plowman* Reading Group.
2019- Webmaster, International Hoccleve Society.
2018- Reader for *postmedieval*; *The Yearbook of Langland Studies*; *Viator*; *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching*; Trivent Publishing.
2019-20 Member, Harvard College Board of First-Year Advisers Pilot Program.
2018-20 Member, Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship – Expos collaboration team.
2018-19 Assistant Director, Harvard Extension School Writing Center.
2016-17 Fellow and graduate student mentor, Berkeley Connect in English. UC Berkeley.
Co-director with SJ Zhang, Medieval and Early American Working Group. UC Berkeley.

2013-15 Co-chair with Jenny Tan, Graduate Medievalists at Berkeley (GMB). UC Berkeley.
2012-15 Co-director with R. D. Perry, Medieval Philosophy Working Group. UC Berkeley.
2011-13 Co-organizer, English Graduate Association Colloquium Committee. UC Berkeley.

Media

Quoted in *The New York Times* (2024), *The New Yorker* (2022), and *The American Prospect* (2021).

Updated June 2, 2025.