

SPENCER STRUB
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Hunter College, CUNY. August 2026-present.

Associate Research Scholar, Humanities Council, Princeton University, July 2021-August 2026.

Lecturer in the Department of English, Princeton University, July 2023-May 2026.

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.

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. The Middle Ages Series, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2026
Reviewed in *Times Literary Supplement*.

Edited Issues and Volumes

with Michelle Karnes, *Thinking in Premodern Literature*. Forthcoming spring 2027 at The Ohio State University Press

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

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

Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

"The Pardoner's Kiss and the Confraternal Heart," *Chaucer Review* 62.1 (forthcoming 2027)

"Dear Sister: Reading Across Gender in Late-Medieval England," *Exemplaria* 37.4 (2026): 309-24

"The Medieval Prehistory of the Carbon Economy," *Speculum* 101.1 (2026): 51-56

“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)

with Michelle Karnes, “Introduction,” forthcoming in *Thinking in Premodern Literature*

“Not without Choice: Medieval Dilemmas and Moral Action,” forthcoming in *Thinking in Premodern Literature*

“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 (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 Sobecki, and Nicholas Watson (Boydell and Brewer, 2024), 201-22

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

Articles and Chapters Solicited and In Progress

with Katharine Jager, “Introduction” to “1381 after January 6th,” under review, *Exemplaria*

with Jessica Rosenfeld, “Desire and its Discontents,” in *Oxford Handbook of Gender and Sexuality in Late Medieval English Literature*, ed. Holly Crocker

“Writing in Confinement I: From the Fleet to the Tower,” in *The Cambridge History of the Literature of London, Vol. 1: From the Beginnings to 1660*, ed. Stephanie Elsky and Sebastian Sobecki

“Energy,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Medieval Literature and the Environment*, ed. Shannon Gayk

Reviews

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

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

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

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

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

Assistant Professor, Hunter College, CUNY

English 304: "Survey of British Literature I"

English 335: "Chaucer"

Associate Research Scholar, Princeton University

English / Medieval Studies 318: "Love in the Middle Ages"

First-Year Seminar (FRS) 187: "Age of Crisis: Life Lessons from Late-Medieval England"

English / Medieval Studies 312: "Chaucer"

English 402 / Medieval Studies 401: "Prehistories of Colonialism"

Assistant Adjunct Professor, Arts and Humanities, UC Berkeley

English 199: "Heroic Literature and Historical Fiction"

English 110: "Love in the Middle Ages"

English 176: "Medieval Futures"

English 166: "The Age of Crisis"

Preceptor, Writing Program, Harvard College

Expos 20: "Ecological Crisis: Witnessing and Planning in the Age of Climate Change"

Expos Studio 10: "Introduction to Expository Writing"

Expos 20: "Sin and Virtue"

Lecturer, Department of English, Boston University
English 322: “British Literature I”
English 324: “Love in the Middle Ages”

Instructor, Department of English, UC Berkeley
English 166: “Games of Thrones, Medieval to Modern”
Reading & Composition R1B: “Other Worlds”
Reading & Composition R1A: “The First Person”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Teaching Grants and Awards

2025 Course Enhancement Grant. First-Year Seminars Program, Princeton University.
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

2026 “Simple Readers and Shameful Poets: Some Uses of Bad Feelings in the Middle Ages.” Dept. of English, Hunter College, CUNY.
2024 “Dear Sister: Reading Across Gender in Late-Medieval English Christianity.” CMEMS Workshop, Stanford University.
2022 “‘Lancelot’s Shame’ and the Philology of Emotion.” Dept. of French, UC Berkeley.

- 2020 "The Anchorite and the Strange Situation: Mothers, Children, and God, 1200-1450." Dept. of English, UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2019 "Without Tongue or Teeth: Speech, Silence, and Self-Knowledge in Late Medieval England." Dept. of English, Yale University.
"A Critical History of Adventure." Dept. of English, Program in Africana, and Program in Classical and Medieval Studies, Bates College.
- 2017 "Merry Tales and the Wicked Tongue: Chaucer's Rules for Speech." Dept. of English, Harvard.
- 2016 "Hard Truths: Speech and Violence in *Mum and the Sothsegger*." Medieval Colloquium, Harvard.

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

- 2026 “Reading by Candlelight in Late Medieval Britain.” Medieval Faculty Colloquium, Princeton.
- 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 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 Mel 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 Mel 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 Mel Cowdery, “The Decadent Fifteenth Century,” ICMS.

Other Professional Service

- 2024- Member, Executive Board, International Piers Plowman Society.
Chair, selection committee, Derek Pearsall Award, IPPS.
- 2021- Session co-facilitator, *Piers Plowman* Reading Group.
- 2019- Webmaster, International Hoccleve Society.
- 2018- Peer reviewer for Oxford University Press; *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*; *NCS Pedagogy and Profession*; *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.

Doctoral Advisees

Andrew de Carion, University of Houston (outside committee member)

Media

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