

Rebecca F. McNamara

English Department, Westmont College, 955 La Paz Road, Santa Barbara CA, USA 93108
805-565-7179 | rmcnamara@westmont.edu | www.westmont.academia.edu/RebeccaMcNamara

EDUCATION

- 2010 D. Phil., University of Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature
2006 M. St., University of Oxford, Faculty of English Language and Literature
2005 B. A., *magna cum laude*, Baylor University, English major, Linguistics minor, Religion minor

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017 Assistant Professor of English, Department of English, Westmont College.
2016 Lecturer, one-year fixed-term, Department of English, University of California Los Angeles.
2014 Associate Lecturer, fixed-term, Department of English, University of Sydney.
2011-2014 Postdoctoral Research Associate: Australian Research Council, Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, Europe 1100-1800 (“CHE”). Medieval and Early Modern Centre, University of Sydney.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- “A is for *Affeccioun*: Strategies for the History of Emotions in the Classroom,” *The Once and Future Classroom* 13.1 (2016), 1-22.
“The History of Emotions and Middle English Literature,” *Literature Compass* 13.6 (2016), 444-56 (with Stephanie Downes).
“Wearing your Heart on your Face: Reading Lovesickness and the Suicidal Impulse in Chaucer,” *Literature and Medicine* 33.2 (2015), 235-55.
“The Sorrow of Soreness: Infirmary and Suicide in Medieval England,” *Parergon* 31.2 (2014), 11-34.
“Emotional Responses to Death and Dying in Medieval and Early Modern Europe,” *Parergon* 31.2 (2014), 1-10 (with Una McIlvenna).
“Unlocking the Silences of the Self-Murdered: Textual Approaches to Suicidal Emotions in the Middle Ages,” *Exemplaria* 26.1 (2014), 58-80 (with Juanita Feros Ruys).
“ ‘Diversity in setting of words makes diversity in understanding’: Bureaucratic and Political Language in Thomas Usk’s *Testament of Love*,” *New Medieval Literatures* 14 (2012), 165-199.

Edited Volumes

- Medieval and Early Modern Emotional Responses to Death and Dying*, special issue of *Parergon* 31.2 (2014) (co-edited with Una McIlvenna).

Selected Book Reviews

- Review of Andreea D. Boboc, ed., *Theorizing Legal Personhood in Late Medieval England* (Leiden: Brill, 2015); *Speculum* 92.1 (2017), 219-220.
Review of Judith Jefferson and Ad Putter, eds., *Multilingualism in Medieval Britain (c. 1066-1520): Sources and Analysis* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2013); *Parergon* 30.2 (2013), 200-201.

Dr. Rebecca F. McNamara, curriculum vitae

Review of Elisabeth Salter and Helen Wicker, eds., *Vernacularity in England and Wales, c.1300-1550* Utrecht Studies in Medieval Literacy, 17 (Turnhout: Brepols, 2011); *Parergon* 29.2 (2012), 336-337.

[Fields, Rebecca], Review of J. J. Anderson, *Language and Imagination in the Gawain-Poems* (Manchester, 2005); *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, 2008.

[Fields, Rebecca], Review of Alan T. Gaylord, *The Art of Chaucer's Verse* (New York and London, 2001); *Annotated Bibliography of English Studies*, 2008.

Manuscripts in Preparation

“The Emotional Language of Law in Late Medieval Literature: A Case Study of *Anelida and Arcite*” (article).

Beyond Despair: Emotions and the Suicidal Impulse in Medieval English Literature (monograph).

Selected Online Publications

2014 McNamara's research profiled in Ceridwen Dovey, “Intent Unknown”, *The Monthly*, Sept. <http://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2014/september/1409493600/ceridwen-dovey/intent-unknown>

2013 “Emotional Communities and Literary Genre”, available via the post “Literary Emotions Methodologies II”, *Histories of Emotion: CHE Researcher Blog*, Nov 22. <http://historiesofemotion.com/2013/11/22/literary-emotions-methodologies-ii/>

2013 “Digital Humanities for the History of Emotions: Broadside Ballads and Beyond”, *Histories of Emotion: CHE Researcher Blog*, Aug 2. <http://historiesofemotion.com/2013/08/02/digital-humanities-for-the-history-of-emotions-broadside-ballads-beyond/>

2013 “Bodies in Distress” documentary, Feb 21. <http://vimeo.com/60215240>. Documentary of the *Bodies in Distress* collaborative research and art installation project, filmed by Cassie Charlton.

2012 “History of suicide is worthwhile, whatever the Coalition says”, *The Conversation*, Nov 9. <http://theconversation.com/history-of-suicide-is-worthwhile-whatever-the-coalition-says-10635>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Westmont College

2016 “Composition” (first-year general education unit). English Department. Assistant Professor.

2016 “Survey of British Literature to 1800” (lower-level unit). English Department. Assistant Professor.

2016 “Internship” (for English majors). (upper-level unit). English Department. Assistant Professor.

University of California Los Angeles

2017 “Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales*” and “Chaucer: *Troilus and Criseyde* and Minor Poems” (upper-level undergraduate unit). English Department. Lecturer. As Lecturer I designed and sole taught these courses.

2016 “Chaucer: *Canterbury Tales*” (upper-level undergraduate unit). English Department. Lecturer. As Lecturer I designed and sole taught this course.

University of Sydney

2014 “The *Canterbury Tales*” (upper-level undergraduate unit). English Department. Unit Coordinator. As Unit Coordinator I designed and sole taught this course.

2014 “Language, Texts and Time” (first-year undergraduate unit). English Department. Unit Teacher.

- 2014 “Life and Literature in the Age of Chaucer” (undergraduate Honors and graduate Masters unit). English Department. Unit Coordinator. As Unit Coordinator I designed and sole taught this course.
- 2013 “Deceit and Disguise in Medieval Narrative” (mid-level undergraduate unit). English Department. Unit Teacher.
- 2013 “Sex and Sin in the Middle Ages” (mid-level undergraduate unit). Medieval & Early Modern Centre. Unit Teacher.

University of Oxford (as Tutor I designed and sole taught all undergraduate courses listed below)

- 2011 “J. R. R. Tolkien’s Fiction”, Hertford College, University of Oxford. Tutor.
- 2010-2011 “Introduction to Medieval English Literature” (Old and Middle English literature), Oriel College, University of Oxford. Tutor.
- 2009 “General Linguistics” and “Special Topics in Sociolinguistics”; Finals Revision for “Linguistic Theory”. Exeter College, University of Oxford. Tutor.
- 2008-2009 “English Literature from 1100-1509”, Magdalen College, University of Oxford, Tutor.

TEACHING AREAS

- Medieval Literature (especially Chaucer, Malory, Langland, Gawain-Poet, Hoccleve, Kempe)
- History of the English Language
- The History of Emotions in Literature and Culture
- Gender in Literature and History
- Medievalism and Fantasy Literature
- Law, Politics, and Religion in Literature
- Research and Writing Skills
- Literature Surveys (especially English Literature to 1700)

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

- 2015-2016 Mayers Fellowship, The Huntington Library
- 2015-Present Honorary Research Associate, Australian Research Council Centre for the History of Emotions
- 2015-2016 Honorary Research Associate, Medieval and Early Modern Centre, University of Sydney
- 2011-2014 Australian Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellowship
- 2010 New Chaucer Society Travel Grant
- 2008, 2010 Exeter College, Oxford, Academic Travel Grant
- 2008, 2010 Meyerstein and Maxwell Fund, Oxford English Faculty, Travel Grant
- 2003-2004 John L. Howard Scholarship for English Studies, Baylor University
- 2001-2005 Baylor University Dean’s List
- 2001-2005 Baylor University Presidential Scholarship

INVITED TALKS

- 2016 “The Emotional Language of the Law in Chaucer’s Poetry”, Department of English, University of California Santa Barbara, November 18.
- 2016 “The Hidden History of Emotions at Law in Late Medieval England”, Medieval Emotions & Contemporary Methodologies: A Research Workshop, Birkbeck University of London, July 8.
- 2015 “Anatomizing the Suicidal Impulse in *The Book of the Duchess* and *The Knight’s Tale*”, Medieval Renaissance Research Seminar, Baylor University, Waco, TX, February 13.
- 2014 “Wearing Your Heart on Your Face: Reading Lovesickness and Suicide in Chaucer”, History of Emotions Seminar, University of Adelaide, 5 Sept.

- 2013 “Medieval Suicide in Life and Art”, Texas A&M University Medieval Studies Group, College Station, TX, April 1.
- 2012 “Emotions and the Suicidal Impulse in Medieval England”, Sydney Medieval and Renaissance Group, Sydney, NSW. Feb 8.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2018 with Matthew Fisher, Research Expo for the New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Toronto, *forthcoming July 2018*.
- 2014 with Sarah McNamer and Sarah Kelen, “The Sense of Emotion: A Roundtable”, New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Iceland, Reykjavík, July 16-19.
- 2013 “Finding Emotions in Bureaucratic Texts”, Sourcing Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World Conference, Centre for the History of Emotions, University of Western Australia, June 27-29.
- 2012 “Reading Emotions in Public Documents”, Australian Historical Association Conference, University of Adelaide, July 9-13.

Papers Presented

- 2016 “The Emotional Language of the Law: A Case study of *Anelida and Arcite*”, New Chaucer Society International Congress, London, July 10-15.
- 2015 “A is for *Affeccion*: Strategies for the History of Emotions in the Classroom”, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 13-17.
- 2014 “The History of Emotions and Middle English Literature” (with Stephanie Downes), *Discourses of Passion, Politics, Nurture, and Feeling: Emotions in Middle English Literature III*, CHE, University of Melbourne, Sept 19.
- 2014 “Governing and Emotions in Late Medieval Law”, New Chaucer Society International Congress. University of Iceland, Reykjavík, July 16-19.
- 2014 “Weapons of Self-Destruction: Materiality and Suicide in the Middle Ages”, International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-11.
- 2014 “Feel the Pain: Medieval Trauma”, MLA Convention, Chicago, IL, Jan 9-12.
- 2013 “Emotional Communities and Literary Genre”, Literary Emotions Methodologies Study Day, CHE, University of Melbourne, Oct 11.
- 2013 “A Lesser Evil? The Violence of War and Suicide in the Middle Ages”, Representing War and Violence in the Pre-Modern World Conference, Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, Sept 22-23.
- 2013 “The Law on Feeling: Finding Emotions in Medieval Legal Texts”, Sourcing Emotions in the Medieval and Early Modern World Conference, CHE, University of Western Australia, Perth, June 27-29.
- 2013 “Dying on the Edge: The Suicides of Criminals in Medieval England”, Medieval Academy of America Annual General Meeting, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, April 4-7.
- 2013 “*Pro timore*: Criminal Suicide in the Middle Ages” and “Academic Border-Crossing: A Roundtable on International Career Opportunities”, Australia and New Zealand Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies Conference, Monash University, Melbourne, Feb 11-16.

- 2012 “The Sorrow of Soreness: Infirmary and Suicide in the Middle Ages”, *Danse Macabre: Emotional Responses to Death and Dying from Medieval to Contemporary Times*, University of Sydney, Sept 21.
- 2012 “Fever, Madness, Anguish: Suicide and Emotions in Thirteenth-Century English Legal Records”, Society for the Social History of Medicine and Queen Mary Centre for the History of Emotions Conference, Queen Mary, University of London, Sept 10-12.
- 2012 “Afterlives of the Self-Murdered: Imagining Suicide and Emotions in England’s Medieval Legal Records”, South African Society of Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Stellenbosch, Aug 30-Sept 2.
- 2012 “Infirmary and Compassion: Emotions of Suicide Case Petitions to the English Crown, 1200-1400”, Australian Historical Association Conference, University of Adelaide, July 9-13.
- 2011 “Literary Devices and Late Fourteenth-Century Governmental Texts”, International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 11-14.
- 2010 “Code-Switching in the Linguistic Hierarchy: Three Bureaucrats and their Texts”, New Chaucer Society International Congress, Università per Stranieri, Siena, July 15-19.
- 2008 “Negotiating Linguistic Domains: Register Switching in Chaucer and Usk”, New Chaucer Society International Congress, University of Wales, Swansea, July 18-22.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2012 with Juanita Feros Ruys, “Unlocking the Silences of the Self-Murdered: Approaches to Medieval Suicide and Public Engagement”, Medieval and Early Modern Centre Annual General Meeting, Nov 29.
- 2011 “Emotions and Suicide in Medieval England: Problems and Approaches”, Medieval and Early Modern Centre Annual General Meeting, Nov 17.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Peer reviewer for journals *Cultural Studies Review*, *Scandinavian Studies*, *Thanatos*.

ACADEMIC WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

- 2013 *Death(cha) Kucha*. Public *pecha kucha* presentations by Rebecca McNamara and other CHE postdocs, based on research on the history of emotions related to death and dying from the Middle Ages to the Present. Part of the program for Performance Space’s “Matters of Life & Death”, Sydney, March 8.
- 2012 *Bodies in Distress*. Collaborative research and art installation project on medieval and early modern bodies in distress, with CHE postdocs Rebecca McNamara and Una McIlvenna and artists Mimi Kelley, Carolyn McKay, and Grace Turner; administered by Gabriel Watts, documentary filmed by Cassie Charlton. The *Bodies in Distress* project was exhibited at the “Critical Animals” Creative Research Symposium, part of the “This is Not Art” Festival, Newcastle, NSW, Sept 27-30.

NON-ACADEMIC WORK IN HIGHER EDUCATION

- 2007-2010 Junior Dean, Exeter College, University of Oxford. Responsible for discipline and welfare of Exeter’s 500 students; key member of College staff and active participant in College administration and culture. In this role I worked on a range of student-central issues, such as promoting academic excellence and mental and physical wellbeing, coordinating care during emergency situations, providing support during bereavements and trauma, as well as helping to build constructive communities within the undergraduate and graduate student bodies. I liaised regularly with other College staff, including the Rector (Head of College), Sub-Rector, Senior Tutor (Academic Dean), College Chaplain, and undergraduate and graduate student welfare officers. As Junior Dean I sat on a number of College governing committees, and I represented Exeter in Oxford Proctors’ meetings with College Deans. I also maintained a close working relationship with students and faculty advisors of Exeter’s visiting student program with Williams

Dr. Rebecca F. McNamara, curriculum vitae

College, USA. In preparation for this post, I undertook Oxford University Counseling Service's Peer Support Training Program. I held this position alongside my last three years of doctoral study.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association, New Chaucer Society, The Medieval Academy of America

CHURCH AFFILIATION

December 2015 – Present

Ecclesia Hollywood, 5419 Hollywood Blvd, #303 Hollywood, CA 90027, 323-464-8455

Lead Pastor Jon Ritner, jon@churchinhollywood.com

REFEREES

Professor Simon Horobin
Professor of English Language and Literature
Magdalen College
University of Oxford
High Street
Oxford, UK OX1 4AU
+44 1865276090
simon.horobin@magd.ox.ac.uk

Professor Stephanie Trigg
Professor of English
School of Culture and Communication
University of Melbourne
Melbourne, VIC, Australia 3010
+61 38445504
sjtrigg@unimelb.edu.au

Dr. Juanita Ruys
Director, Sydney Node of the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions
Medieval and Early Modern Centre
John Woolley Building A20
University of Sydney
Camperdown, NSW Australia 2006
+61 293514149
juanita.ruys@sydney.edu.au

Dr. Jan Shaw
Senior Lecturer, English Department
John Woolley Building A20
University of Sydney
Camperdown, NSW Australia 2006
+61 293517413
jan.shaw@sydney.edu.au