

John T. Sebastian, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Medieval Literature

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Medieval Studies, Cornell University, 2004

Major field: Middle English literature; minor fields: Old English literature, medieval music
Dissertation: *Lewd Imaginings: Pedagogy, Piety, and Performance in Late Medieval East Anglia*
(Andrew Galloway, adviser)

M.A., Medieval Studies, Cornell University, 2003

M.A., English (concentration: medieval and Renaissance literature), Georgetown University, 1999

A.B. *magna cum laude*, Medieval Studies and English, Georgetown University, 1998

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Loyola University New Orleans, 2004-present

Deputy Director, University Honors Program, 2007-present

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of English and Medieval Studies Program, Georgetown University, Spring 2006

Visiting Scholar, Amherst College, Fall 2005

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University, 2000-2003

PUBLICATIONS

Work in progress

Editor, *The Croxton Play of the Sacrament* (Kalamazoo: Medieval Institute Publications).

“Behind the Music: Processional Singing and the York *Assumption of the Virgin*.”

Editor, *An Anthology of Medieval English Mysticism* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).

Articles and encyclopedia entries

“Albas,” “Andreas Capellanus,” “Arthurian Legend,” “Bieiris de Romans,” “Frigg/Freya,” “Saga Literature.”

In *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Love, Courtship, and Sexuality Through History, Volume 2: The Medieval Era*, ed. William Burns, pp. 11-12, 15-16, 18-19, 26-27, 78-79, 207-208. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2008.

“Chaucer and the Theory Wars: Attack of the New Historicists? The Psychoanalysts Strike Back? Or A New Hope?,” *Literature Compass* 3:4 (2006): 767-777. <www.literature-compass.com>

“Teaching Undergraduates How to Read Arthurian Texts,” *Arthuriana* 15:4 (2005): 6-13.

Reviews

- Brenda Rickman Vantrease, *The Illuminator* (novel), *The New Orleans Review* 32:1 (2006): 179-182.
- John H. Arnold and Katherine J. Lewis, eds., *A Companion to The Book of Margery Kempe*, *The Medieval Review* (2005). <<http://www.hti.umich.edu/t/tmr/>>
- Thorlac Turville-Petre and Hoyt Duggan, eds., *The Piers Plowman Electronic Archive, Volume 2: Cambridge, Trinity College, MS B.15.17 (W)*, CD ROM, *Yearbook of Langland Studies* 15 (2001): 219-227.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures

- “French Kings and Fairy Queens: Aliens, Outsiders, and Other Others at the Anglo-Norman Court”
The Round Table Club of New Orleans, October 4, 2007
- “Women Behaving Badly (That Is, Like Men): Gender and Law in the Old Norse *Saga of the People of Laxardal*”
Focus on Faculty Research in Women’s Studies Forum, Loyola University New Orleans, March 21, 2007
- “Saints Lives and Their Lewd Readers: Heresy, Patronage, and the Poetry of John Lydgate (ca. 1370 – ca. 1449)”
Georgetown University, March 30, 2006
- “The Myth of *Everyman*: Reflections on Teaching the Quintessential(?) Medieval(?) English(?) Morality(?) Play(?)”
38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 8-11, 2003 (invited paper for the special session “Persistent Myths and Contested Ground” sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society)

Selected conference papers

- “Aliens Among Us: Hybrid Identities in Marie’s *Lais*”
2008 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Vancouver, British Columbia, April 3-5, 2008
- “‘Lyuynge aftur letrure’: Learning to be Saved in Langland and Hilton”
4th International Langland Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 17-19, 2007
- “Apocalyptic Beginnings and Indeterminate Verdicts: Judgment in *Wynnere and Wastoure*”
32nd Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association, “Beginnings and Endings,” The University of Mississippi, October 12-14, 2006
- “Patronage at the Periphery”
15th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, New York City, July 27-31, 2006
- “Women Behaving Badly (That Is, Like Men): Law and Gender in *Laxdæla saga*”
24th Annual International Conference of the Charles Homer Haskins Society for Viking, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman, and Angevin History, Georgetown University, November 4-6, 2005
- “‘Fette out of fygure’: John Lydgate’s Poetics of Figuration”
40th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 5-8, 2005
- “On the Margins of Margery Kempe: The Afterlife of the Text”
39th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 6-9, 2004

- “*A book to þe lewyd peple*’: Lay Readers Imagining God at the End of the Middle Ages”
2004 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, University of Washington, April 1-3, 2004
- “*Magis risum quam devocionem?*: Sinful Conversion in Early English Drama”
Bodies in Space: Performance in the Middle Ages, Columbia University, April 26, 2003
- “Of Weavers, Angels, and the Blind Minstrel of God: Exploring Contexts for Musical Performance in the York Corpus Christi Plays”
Vagantes 2nd Annual Conference, University of Toronto, March 20-23, 2003
- “The Birth, Death, and Afterlife of the Author: The Case of the Wakefield Master”
37th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Medieval Institute, Western Michigan University, May 2-5, 2002
- “(Re-)Enacting the Sacred: The Croxton *Play of the Sacrament* and Franciscan Spirituality”
Vagantes 1st Annual Conference, Harvard University, March 7-10, 2002
- “Margery’s Lynn: Representing the Town in *The Book of Margery Kempe*”
20th International Conference of the Charles Homer Haskins Society for Viking, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman, and Angevin History, Cornell University, October 28-30, 2001

WORKSHOPS

- “Chaucer: Past, Present and Future,” National Humanities Center, Summer Institute in Literary Studies, July 7-11, 2008 (dir. Seth Lehrer)
- “Things To Do with Old Poems: Interpretation and Anglo-Saxon Culture,” West Virginia University Summer Seminar, June 1-4, 2006 (dir. Clare Lees)

OTHER SCHOLARLY PROJECTS

- Historical Consultant, *Excalibur! The Story of Young King Arthur*, play produced by the Loyola University New Orleans Department of Drama, Spring 2007
- Reader, “William Langland’s *Piers Plowman* at the Kelly Writers House,” PENNSound: Center for Programs in Contemporary Writing at the University of Pennsylvania, 2007,
<http://writing.upenn.edu/pennsound/x/Piers-Plowman.html>

TEACHING

At Loyola University New Orleans

ENGL A316	Medieval Survey	ENGL H295	Dante’s “Beautiful Lies”: Allegory and Interpretation (Honors)
ENGL A340	Chaucer: <i>Canterbury Tales</i>		
ENGL A341	Chaucer: Love Poems		
ENGL A388	Grammar & Language	ENGL T125	The Emerging Self
ENGL A424	Medieval Drama	ENGL U187	Martyrs, Minstrels, Mystics
ENGL A499	Independent Study (Honors Thesis; Old Norse literature in translation; religious literature)	ENGL U188	The World of the Vikings
		ENGL U195	Legend of Robin Hood
		ENGL U197	Heroes and Monsters
		ENGL U199	Arthurian Legend

At Georgetown University

ENGL 040 Gateway: Medieval and Renaissance Literature and Culture (The Literature of Chivalry)
MVST 222 The World of the Vikings
HUMW 011 Critical Reading and Writing: Spy Stories

At Cornell University

MEDVL 101 Aspects of Medieval Culture: Dramas of the Diabolical and the Divine
MEDVL 102 The Literature of Chivalry: Love, Sex, and Gender
MEDVL 103 Legend, Fantasy, Vision: *Braveheart*

ACADEMIC HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Research Awards and Fellowships

National Humanities Center, Summer Institute in Literary Studies, "Chaucer: Past, Present and Future," 2008 (\$1500.00)
Course Development Grant, Loyola University New Orleans Course Development/Faculty Development Committee, 2007 (funding to attend "The *Second Shepherds' Play* and Early Drama Studies: A Folger Institute Workshop," \$750.41)
Bobet Fellowship, Loyola University New Orleans, College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, 2007 (\$7000.00)
Research Grant, Loyola University New Orleans Committee on Grants and Leaves, 2007 (declined)
Visiting Scholarship, Amherst College, 2005 (\$5000.00)
Mellon Graduate Fellow, Cornell University Society for the Humanities, 2004
Graduate School Research Travel Grant, Cornell University, 2004
Graduate School Conference Travel Grants, Cornell University, 2000-2004
Sage Continuing Fellowship, Cornell University, 2003
Mellon Foundation-Institute of Historical Research Pre-Dissertation Research Fellowship to England, 2003
William B. Schallek Memorial Graduate Fellowship Award, Richard III Society, American Branch, 2002
Avalon Foundation Fellowship, Cornell University, 2002
Prescott Townsend Memorial Scholarship, Cornell University, 2000
Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 1999-2000

Teaching Awards

Stephen and Margery Russell Award for Distinguished Teaching, Cornell University, 2003
Clark Distinguished Teaching Award nomination, Cornell University, 2002

Other Awards

Katherine Kraft Medal, Georgetown University
Phi Beta Kappa
Alpha Sigma Nu (national Jesuit honor society)
Phi Alpha Theta (national history honor society)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE
At Loyola University New Orleans

Deputy Director, University Honors Program, 20007-present
 University Honors Advisory Board, 2006-present (*ex officio* 2007-present)
 Medieval Studies Minor Steering Committee, 2004-present
 Chair, 2007-present
 Webmaster, 2006-present
 Search Committee, Vice President of Enrollment Management, 2007-2008
 Common Curriculum Committee, Spring 2007
 Jesuit Center Advisory Board, 2008-present
 Phi Beta Kappa Committee, 2004-present
 Judge, Phi Beta Kappa Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis Award, 2005
 Women's Studies Committee, Associate Member, 2006-2007; Full Member, 2007-2008
 Women's Studies Curriculum Subcommittee, 2006-2008
 Living Learning Communities Leadership Team, 2007-2008
 College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Curriculum Committee, Fall 2007
 College of Humanities and Natural Sciences Strategic Planning Committee, Spring 2007
 Adviser, Sigma Tau Delta (Omega Upsilon chapter), the International English Honor Society, 2006-2007
 Departmental Liaison to the Library, 2006-present

At Cornell University (selected)

Library and Related Information Services (LARIS) Workforce Planning Committee, 2003-2004
 Academic Integrity Hearing Board of the Graduate School, 2000-2002
 General Committee of the Graduate School, 2000-2002

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Reviewer for articles submitted to *Literature Compass*

Organizer, Annual Meeting of the Louisiana Consortium of Medieval and Renaissance Scholars, Loyola University New Orleans, 2007
 Organizer, 3rd Annual Vagantes Graduate Student Conference on Medieval Studies, Cornell University, 2004
 Conference Coordinator, Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, Georgetown University, 1999

Session organizer, "Crossing Boundaries: The Dramatic Tradition(s) of Medieval Britain"
 16th Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Swansea, Wales, July 2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Medieval Academy of America
 Modern Language Association

New Chaucer Society
Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society
International *Piers Plowman* Society
International Arthur Society

L A N G U A G E S

Fluent reading knowledge: Middle English, Spanish

Some reading knowledge: Latin (classical and medieval), German, French, Italian, Old English, Old Norse-Icelandic, Middle High German, Old French

Passed University of Toronto's master's level medieval Latin examination, 2000