

Adin E. Lears
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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Virginia Commonwealth University (August, 2018-present)

Assistant Professor, Department of English and Creative Writing, SUNY Oswego (July, 2015- July, 2018)

Joseph F. Martino Lecturer, Department of English, Cornell University (2014-15)

Education

Cornell University, PhD January, 2015—English Language and Literature with a graduate minor in Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Queens College, CUNY, MA, 2009—English Literature

Vassar College, BA, 2005—Medieval & Renaissance Studies with honors

Book Manuscript (under preliminary contract at Cornell University Press): *World of Echo: Noise and Knowing in Late-Medieval England*

World of Echo examines what it means to experience language as noise, showing how medieval thinkers recognized such experience as an important aspect of lay literacy and voice—one that resisted the power hierarchies between clergy and laity imposed through language.

Teaching and Research Interests

Old and Middle English literature and culture

Medieval cultural and intellectual history

Feminist, gender, and sexuality theory and studies

Sound studies

History of science and technology

British and American modernism and medievalism

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Noise, Sound-Play, and Langland’s Poetics of Lolling in the Time of Wyclif” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* (2016) 165-200.

“Soð and Sense: Language Problems and Affective Solutions in Anglo-Saxon Treatments of the Guthlac Legend” *Viator* 44 no. 3 (2013) 63-84.

“Something from Nothing: Melancholy, Gossip, and Chaucer’s Poetics of Idling in the *Book of the Duchess*” *The Chaucer Review* 48 no. 2 (2013) 205-221.

Invited Contributions

“On Bells and Rebellion: The Auditory Imagination and Social Reform, Medieval and Modern” in *Vernacular Aesthetics in the Later Middle Ages: Politics, Performativity, and Reception from Literature to Music*, ed. Katharine Jager (forthcoming from Palgrave, 2019).

"Malencolie (melancholy)" *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, ed. Vincent Gillespie, Richard Newhauser, Jessica Rosenfeld, and Katie Walter (forthcoming from Wiley-Blackwell, 2019)

Book Reviews

The Spenser Review (2019)—Review of Gianni Guastella, *Word of Mouth: Fama and its Personifications in Art and Literature from Ancient Rome to the Middle Ages* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

The Medieval Review (2018)—Review of David Lawton, *Voice in Later Medieval England: Public Interiorities* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017)

Yearbook of Langland Studies (2017)—Review of Michael Calabrese, *An Introduction to Piers Plowman* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2016).

Speculum (April, 2017)—Review of Kathryn A. Duys, Elizabeth Emery and Laurie Postlewaite, eds. *Telling the Story in the Middle Ages: Essays in Honor of Evelyn Birge Vitz* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 2015).

Selected Awards and Honors: Research and Writing

Provost Faculty Research Grant, SUNY Oswego (Spring, 2018 for 2018-2019 academic year, declined)

Early Start Program Summer Research Grant for New Faculty, SUNY Oswego (Spring, 2015)

Guilford Essay Prize—Given to the doctoral student in any field whose thesis is judged to display the highest excellence in English prose, Cornell University (Spring, 2015)

Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson Fellowship Foundation (Spring, 2014)

Biddy Martin Graduate Essay Prize—For work on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer studies, Cornell University (Spring, 2013)

Research Travel Grant, Cornell Society for the Humanities (Spring, 2013)

Selected Conference Presentations

“Nimrod’s Legacy? Craft, Noise, and Chaucer’s Medieval Modernity”—panel presentation, *MLA Annual Convention*, New York, NY (Winter, 2018)

“World of Echo: Noise and Knowing in Late-Medieval England”—roundtable presentation, *MLA Annual Convention*, New York, NY (Winter, 2018)

“Medieval Sound and Radical Poetics at the Turn of the 20th C.”— panel presentation, *New Chaucer Society Conference*, London, England (Summer, 2016)

“Listening to the *Vox Confusa*: Poetic Noise in Chaucer’s *House of Fame*”—*International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Kalamazoo, MI (Spring, 2016)

“Nonsense and Stuff: Noise, Alliteration and Material Culture in 15th C. East Anglia”— panel presentation, *Renaissance Society of America Conference*, Boston, MA (Spring, 2016)

“Words that Quicken and Grow: Feeling, Fellowship, and Langland’s Political Afterlives”— panel presentation, *International Piers Plowman Society Conference*, Seattle WA (Summer, 2015)

“‘So mery a belle’: Wyclif, Chaucer, and the ‘Voices of Words’”— panel presentation, *New Chaucer Society Conference*, Reykjavik, Iceland (Summer, 2014)

“Teaching Gender, Echo, and Reflection in Gower’s *Tale of Narcissus*”— panel presentation, *International Congress of the John Gower Society*, Rochester, NY (Summer, 2014)

“Sprawling Steps, Slumping Tongues: Sound, Movement, and Langland’s Poetics of Lolling in *Piers Plowman*”—panel presentation, *International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Kalamazoo, MI (Spring, 2013)

“‘Clamor Iste Canor Est’: Margery Kempe’s mystical bellows and manuscript echoes”—panel presentation, *Association of Art Historians Annual Conference*, Reading, UK (Spring, 2013)

Selected Conference and Panel Organization

Co-Organizer, Panel Session, “Toward a Poetics of Noise: Literary Form and the Long History of the Techno-Soundscape”—*MLA Annual Convention*, New York, NY (Winter, 2018)

Co-Organizer, Panel Session, “The Senses of Early English Literary Form”—*Renaissance Society of America Conference* (Spring, 2016)

Co-organizer, Panel Session, “Political Langland: 1381”—*International Piers Plowman Society Conference*, Seattle Washington (Summer, 2015)

Co-organizer, Panel Session, “Medieval Soundscapes”—*New Chaucer Society Conference*, Reykjavik, Iceland (Summer, 2014)

Co-organizer and Presider, Sponsored Session, “Fame! Exploring Reputation, Rumor, and Historical Legacy in the Middle Ages,”—*International Congress on Medieval Studies*, Kalamazoo, MI (Spring, 2012)

Organizer and Presider, “Queer Temporality/Queer Amateurism: A Roundtable Discussion” in conjunction with Cornell’s Gottschalk lecturer, Professor Carolyn Dinshaw, Ithaca, NY (Fall, 2011)

Languages

Old and Middle English (reading proficiency)
Latin (reading proficiency)
French (reading proficiency)
Spanish (reading proficiency)

Courses Taught:

Virginia Commonwealth University

ENGL. 203-001: British Literature I (survey from the 8th through the 18th C.)
ENGL. 402-901: Chaucer

SUNY Oswego

ENG. 265: Satire and its Satellites (sophomore seminar in genre)
ENG. 310: Literature of Medieval Britain
ENG. 325: Chaucer
ENG. 365: William Langland (junior author seminar, cross-listed with graduate independent study)
ENG. 373/ 573: Theories of Language (advanced undergraduate cross-listed with graduate class)
ENG. 374: History and Development of the English Language
ENG. 599 Violence and Lay Piety in the Middle Ages (graduate independent study)
ENG. 599 Theories of Knowledge in the Middle Ages (graduate independent study)

Cornell University

ENG. 11XX: First-year writing seminar (taught multiple sections between fall 2010 and spring 2015)
ENG. 2010: The English Literary Tradition from *Beowulf* to Milton (TA-ed, fall 2011 and fall 2014)

Cornell Prison Education Program (Auburn Penitentiary, Auburn, NY)

What is Literature and Why Should We Read It? (English methods course, co-taught, fall 2013)
The Reading of Literature: Poetry, Fiction, & Drama (English methods course, TA-ed, fall 2011)

Awards and Honors: Teaching

Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies First Year Writing Seminar Award (Fall, 2013)

Gertrude Spencer Prize, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University (Spring, 2012)—*won jointly with student in First Year Writing Seminar for work together that led to the student's finished essay, "Painting the Lion: The Futility of Advocating Feminism in an Antifeminist Society."*

NB: Under my mentorship, two other students have won writing awards at SUNY Oswego

Supervision of Student Research and Projects:

Supervisor, Graduate Assistantships (Spring, 2017- present)—*oversee graduate student contributions to an annotated bibliography on craft, science, and technology, contributing to ongoing projects by the students and myself, as well as to literature and technology initiatives emerging at Oswego*

Supervisor, SUNY Oswego undergraduate honors thesis, “Literary Truth and Ellis’s *American Psycho*” (Fall, 2017)

Co-Organizer and Presider, “Books: What are they Good For?” SUNY Oswego Department of English and Creative Writing, Literary Studies Program QUEST panel (Spring, 2017)—*co-organized and coached students in close-reading presentations exploring the purpose and importance of literary study for Oswego’s annual presentation of undergraduate research.*

Academic and Other Services

Director, SUNY Oswego Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program (Spring, 2017-present).

Graduate admissions committee, SUNY Oswego Department of English and Creative Writing (Summer, 2017-present)

Student needs working group, SUNY Oswego Department of English and Creative Writing (Spring, 2017-present)

Linguistics advisory group, SUNY Oswego (Spring, 2017-present)

Curriculum committee, SUNY Oswego Department of English and Creative Writing, Literary Studies Program (Fall, 2015- present).

Professional References

Professor Andrew Galloway, Department of English, Cornell University, 250 Goldwin Smith Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3201. Email: asg6@cornell.edu.

Associate Professor Masha Raskolnikov, Department of English, Cornell University, 250 Goldwin Smith Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3201. Email: mr283@cornell.edu.

Professor Nick Salvato, Department of Performing and Media Arts, Cornell University, 430 College Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. Email: ngs9@cornell.edu.

Professor Samantha Zacher, Department of English, Cornell University, 250 Goldwin Smith Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853-3201. Email: sz66@cornell.edu.

Professor Gordon Whatley, Department of English, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave. Room 4409, New York, NY 10016. Email: E.Whatley@qc.cuny.edu.

Professor Steven Kruger, Department of English, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Ave. Room 4409, New York, NY 10016. Email: skruger@gc.cuny.edu.