

Stephen C. E. Hopkins

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ACADMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Virginia, 2023-Present
Assistant Professor, English Department, University of Central Florida, 2019-2023

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Indiana University, Bloomington, English Language and Literature (2019)

Dissertation: “The Infernal Laboratory: Apocryphal Hermeneutics and Hell in the Medieval North Sea”

Advisors: R. D. Fulk (Chair), Patricia Clare Ingham, Shannon Gayk, Kari Ellen Gade

Certificate: Germanic Philology

M.A., Indiana University, Bloomington, English Language and Literature (2015)

Post-Baccalaureate Program, University of Pennsylvania, Classical Studies (2012)

B.A., Miami University, Linguistics & Anthropology, cum laude (2011)

(*Fieldwork:* Institute for Buddhist Dialectics, Sarah, India, 2009)

PUBLICATIONS

Book Projects

Translating Hell: Vernacular Theology and Apocrypha in the Medieval North Sea (Under Contract, Manchester University Press)

In the Middle Ages, hell could be useful because it was vaguely defined. The canonical scriptures only mention the concept a handful of times, leaving much to the imaginations of early Christians, who used the space to work out who did and did not belong to the faith. This book tells the story of how hell was used in the Middle Ages to experiment with local issues in theology and identity across the North Sea region. Examining vernacular translations of two popular apocryphal hell texts, the book argues that they were often used as experimental spaces because of their liminal textual authority. Since apocrypha are noncanonical scriptures, the genre allowed medieval writers to revise their hells (since they were not actually scripture), while also encouraging later readers to revere those experimental hells as valid (since they *seemed* like scripture). The book studies adaptations and experiments from early Medieval England, Iceland, Ireland, and Wales, placing the vernacular theologies of the North Sea in comparative conversation, and highlighting how Northern Europe contributed to the evolution of hell as much as did regions to the south and east.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“Udhacht Mhuire: the Weirdness of the Medieval,” in *B-Sides: Non-Canonical Medieval Texts and Why We Love Them*, ed. Melissa Ridley Elmes (Santa Barbara, CA: Punctum Books, forthcoming)

“A Glimpse of Hell: Artistic Inspiration and *The Penitence of Jamnes and Mambres* in Old English,” in *The Material of Christian Apocrypha*, ed. Janet E. Spittler (Equinox). (Forthcoming)

“The Questions of John,” ed. and trans., in *New Testament Apocrypha: More Noncanonical Scriptures*, v. III, ed. Tony Burke (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans). (In Press)

“Adventures in the Past: *Skyrim* and Role-Playing Games in the Medievalist’s Classroom,” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 29 (2022): 75-94.

“Of *Scopas* and Scribes: Reshaping Oral-Formulaic Theory in Old English Literary Studies,” in *Weathered Words: Formulaic Language and Verbal Art*, ed. Frog and William Lamb (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2022): 49-79.

“A New Revelation: the Middle Welsh *Erythraean Sibyl*,” *North American Journal of Celtic Studies* 5 (2021): 30-48.

“The Legend of the Holy Rood,” ed. and trans., in *New Testament Apocrypha: More Noncanonical Scriptures*, v. II, ed. Tony Burke and Brent Landau (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2020): 145-159.

“An Old English Prose Fragment of *Christ’s Letter to Abgar* in the Lilly Library,” *Notes and Queries* 66 (2019): 173-176.

“Snared by the Beasts of Battle: Fear as Hermeneutic Guide in the Old English *Exodus*,” *Philological Quarterly* 97.1 (2018): 1-25.

“Heaven and Hell in the Garden of Eden: the Transmissions of the *Ystoria Adda* in Wales,” *Proceedings of the Harvard Celtic Colloquium* 37 (2017): 105-123.

“The Manuscript of M.R. James’s ‘The Ash-Tree,’” (with Patrick J. Murphy and Frederick Porcheddu) *Notes and Queries* 61 (2014): 583-585.

Book Reviews

The Etiquette of Early Northern Verse, Roberta Frank, University of Notre Dame Press, 2022. Pp. xiii + 265. \$52. in *The Medieval Review* (forthcoming).

Apocrypha Hiberniae II: Apocalypтика 2, eds. McNamara, Breatnach, Breatnach, Carey, Herbert, Mac Gearailt, Ó Dochartaigh, Poppe, Wright, Brepols, 2019. Pp. xxiv + 589. \$402. in *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology*.

Preaching Apocrypha in Anglo-Saxon England, Brandon W. Hawk, Toronto Anglo-Saxon Series, 30. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2018. Pp. xviii + 271. \$69. in *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*.

The Ever-New Tongue: The Text in the Book of Lismore, trans. John Carey, Turnhout, Brepols, 2018, XII+192 pages, ISBN 978-2-503-57929-0, 35 €. in *Memini: Travaux et documents*.

DIGITAL SCHOLARSHIP (Peer Reviewed)

Entries in *e-Clavis: Christian Apocrypha*, a dictionary for the North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature: *The Two Sorrows of the Kingdom of Heaven*, *Death of Pilate*, *Questions of John*, *The Vengeance of the Savior*, *The Legend of the Holy Rood*, *Legenda Hibernica*, and *The Acts of Pilate/The Gospel of Nicodemus*.

Entries in *Manuscripta Apocryphorum*, an online bibliographic database for manuscripts of apocrypha found in digital facsimile for NASSCAL: manuscripts held by the National Library of Wales and the Arnamagnæan Institute in Copenhagen.

Contributions in *The Old English Homily Project*, an online open-access collection of translations of Old English homilies, hosted by Rutgers University as part of the *Anglo-Saxon Narrative Poetry Project*. Translations: Blickling Homily VII (On Easter Day)

“Medieval English Literature,” *The Teacher’s Toolbox*. <https://www.easternct.edu/speichera/understanding-literary-history-all/medieval-english-literature.html> (9/26/15).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Legend of the Holy Rood,” “The Gospel of Nicodemus,” “Vindicta Salvatoris,” and “The Letter of Christ to Abgar” in *Sources of Old English and Anglo-Latin Literary Culture: The Apocrypha*, (ed.) Brandon Hawk (Amsterdam: Amsterdam Univ. Press, Under Review).

“What has Gondor to do with *Exodus*? Tolkien, Allegory, and Landlocked Ships,” (In Preparation)

“The Franks Casket, the Siege of Jerusalem, and Supersessionary Thought in Early Medieval England,” (In Preparation)

“*Ofskamt eða Oflangt*: The Changing Size of the Legend of the Holy Rood in Iceland,” in *Proceedings of Norse Apocrypha Conference*. (Invited Contribution; in Preparation)

“A Passion for *Some* of God’s Word: On Medieval Regional Emphases in Vernacular Scriptures” (In Preparation)

“A Haunted Scholar: M. R. James, Ghost Stories, and Apocrypha,” (In Preparation)

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Fellowships

NEH Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities, 2023-2024

Mellon Foundation/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2018-19

American Scandinavian Foundation Grant for Summer manuscript research at U. of Copenhagen, 2017

U.S. Fulbright Grant (alternate), Denmark, 2016

Research Awards

Franklin Research Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2022-23

ER 1 SEED Funding Grant, UCF Office of Research, 2022

The Lorraine Kochanske Stock Endowment for Innovation in Medieval Studies, Southeastern Medieval Association, 2021

UCF Faculty Technology Fee Proposal Grant, 2020, for purchasing the *Patrologia Latina*

McRobbie Fellowship, MVP award from IU Medieval Studies Inst., 2019

William Riley Parker Prize for “Best Student in Brit. Lit.,” Indiana Univ. Dept. of English, 2018

College Arts and Humanities Institute Travel Grant, IU, 2018

Cox Travel Award, IU Medieval Studies Institute, 2018

Carnegie Travel Grant, IU, 2017

Clifford Flanigan Memorial Travel Award, IU Medieval Studies Inst. 2015-17 (3 times)

Graduate and Professional Student Gov. Research Grant, 2016

Distinction, Ph.D. Qualifying Exam, Dept. of English, IU, 2015

First Year Fellowship, Dept. of English, IU, 2012-13

Teaching Awards

Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award, UCF CAH, 2023 (1 of 4 in the entire College)

Knighted Faculty Cohort Program, UCF Faculty Center for Teaching & Learning, 2021-22

Telly Award (Silver for Online Education), for *Vikings: Myths and Sagas* course videos, 2020

UCF Office of Research, Faculty Mentor Program, 2020

First Year Teaching Award, Indiana Univ. Dept. of English, IU, 2013-14

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Papers Given

“*Ofskamt eða Oflangt: The Changing Size of the Legend of the Holy Rood in Iceland*,” Norse Apocrypha Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI, (invited)

“At Home in Hell: Exile and Hell in Old English Poetry,” 58th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2023

“Teaching Old English Literary Culture via the History of Books,” Whitworth University, April 2022, (invited pedagogical lecture)

“Touching Hell’s Borders: Exoticizing Hell in the Old English *Penitence of Jamnes & Mambres*,” Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, Sewanee, TN, April 2022

“A Passion for *some* of God’s Word: On Regional Emphases in Vernacular Scriptures,” Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, Wofford College, Spartanburg, SC, Nov 2021

“Anxious Bones: The Franks Casket and Northumbrian Supersessionism,” 56th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2021 (virtual)

“Anxious Bones: The Franks Casket and Northumbrian Supersessionism,” 55th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2020 (cancelled due to COVID-19)

“The Fate of *Physiologus* in the North: Old English and Old Norse Receptions,” Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, Nov 2019 (invited)

“A Haunted Scholar: M.R. James and the Apocryphal Impulse,” Society of Biblical Literature, San Diego, CA, Nov 2019 (invited)

“Leveraging Perplexity in Old English Critical Editions,” 12th Annual Studies in the History of the English Language Conference, hosted by Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, May 2019

“Bringing Life from a Whale Bone: The Franks Casket, *Vindicta Salvatoris*, and Anglo-Saxon Supersessionary Hermeneutics,” Meeting of the North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, November 2018

“Plundering Barrows and Plagiarizing the Past: Creating the Illusion of Depth in Videogames,” *Eowgamen gefylleth: Medievalism in Contemporary Games*, a Public-Outreach Panel sponsored by Medieval Studies Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, October 2018

“Revising Hell: the Changes in *Niðrstigningar saga* Over Time,” 13th Fiske Conference on Medieval Icelandic Studies at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, June 2018

“When the Bough Breaks: How the Forks in *Niðrstigningar saga*’s Transmission History Rock the Image of Iceland as Cradle of Democracy,” Special Session: ‘Redefining the Nation and Nationalism,’ 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018

“An Archive is an Ogre... I mean, an Onion,” roundtable session: “What is an Archive?,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018

“Heaven and Hell in the Garden of Eden: Typological Imagery in the *Ystoria Adda*,” 37th Annual Harvard Celtic Colloquium, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, October 2017

“Infernal Logic: Making Soteriology in The Old English *Vision of St. Paul* and *The Descent into Hell*,” New Voices in Anglo-Saxon Studies, ISAS, 52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2017

“Raiders of the Lost Archive: How to Prepare for Your First Archival Adventures,” Medieval Studies Institute Roundtable, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, April 2017

“Of the *Burel* Man and the Borderland: Celticisms and the Cosmopolitan Countryside in *The Franklin’s Tale*,” The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 4th Annual Intersectionality Symposium, October 2016

“*Locus Infernus* to Local Hell: Translation, Localization, and the *Gospel of Nicodemus*,” papers presented in honor of R.D. Fulk, 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016

“Woven from Snake Spines: Hell as a Figure in the Old Norse *Völuspá*,” Societas Daemonetica, 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2015

“Here Be Vikings’: Literary Vikings and Nostalgia for the Medieval,” Indiana University Medieval Studies Symposium, Bloomington, IN, April 2013

“The Old English *Exodus*: A Master Riddler Playing on Popular Expectations,” Southeastern Medieval Association Conference, Agnes Scott College, Decatur, GA, October 2011

TEACHING ACTIVITY

Courses taught at the University of Virginia

ENGL 3010 History of the English Language
ENGL 5100 Introduction to Old English

Courses taught at University of Central Florida

Face to Face Courses Taught

LIT 6216 Old English Language & Culture
LIN 4105 History of the English Language
LIN 3010 Principles of Linguistics
ENG 6801 Texts and Technology in History: The History of the Book

Online Courses Taught

LIT 3931 Celtic Myth and Legend
ENL 3451 Vikings: Myths and Sagas
LIN 4105 History of the English Language

Courses taught at Indiana University

ENG W170 *Slaying Dragons for Pleasure and Profit: Dragons in Popular Fantasy Literature*.
ENG 310 *British Literature I: Beginnings to 1700 (Beowulf to Milton)*.
ENG W170 *Shore Raids and Shield-Maids: Representations of Vikings in Popular Culture*.
ENG W131-ML *Navigating Linguistic Currents: Introduction to Composition*, (Multilingual).
ENG W131 *Monsters and Modernity: Introduction to Composition*.

Graduate Thesis Committees

“The Trilingual Book: Manuscripts, Multilingualism, and the Shaping of Post-Conquest British Literary Culture, ca. 1155—ca.1340.” UVA PhD Dissertation. Austin Benson.

“Women Artist-Engravers of the Wood Engraving Revival: A Feminist Media Analysis of the Lives and Artwork of Vivien Gribble, Gwen Raverat, and Joan Hassall.” Texts & Technology PhD Dissertation. Abigail Moreshead.

“Remediating *Magic: the Gathering*.” Texts & Technology PhD Dissertation. Jack Murray.

“Medievalism and Russian Politics.” Texts & Technology PhD Dissertation. Evan Wallace.

“Odin, Lord of the Dead: Religious Legitimization for Social and Political Change in Late Iron Age and Early Medieval Scandinavia.” History MA Thesis. Ty Karnitz, 2022.

“Resurrecting an American Archive: A Mid-20th-Century Case Study of Louise Amory (1892-1979).” English Undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Thesis. Bobbie Marquis, December 2021.

“Hermeneutics of Hate: How Martin Luther’s Misreading of the Greek Bible Led to his Anti-Judaic Treatise, *On the Jews and their Lies*.” English MA Thesis. Michael Parrish, 2021.

Undergraduate Theses Directed

“Political Bodies in the Ulster Myth Cycle: Conflict and *Scéla Mucce Meic Da Thó*.” English Undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Thesis. Glenn Ritchey III, April 2023.

“Where Joy and Sorrow are One: the Eucatastrophic Nature of Tolkien’s Middle Earth.” English Undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Thesis. Grant Glavin, April 2022.

“A Literary Analysis of Magic: a Dissection of Medieval Icelandic Literature.” English Undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Thesis. Jordan Williams, April 2021.

“A Transnational Look at the Modern Woman.” English Undergraduate Honors-in-the-Major Thesis. Isabella Hardesty, April 2020.

Independent Studies Directed

“Introduction to the Old Irish Language.” SURF Program Mentor, Glenn Ritchey, Summer 2022.

“Tolkien and the Welsh Language.” SURF Program Mentor, Natalie Wells, Summer 2021.

RAMP-T Faculty Mentor, Natalie Wells, 2021.

“Learning and Lore of Late Antiquity.” Nicholas Odom, Spring 2021.

“Early Evidence for Icelandic Runes.” SURF Program Mentor, Jordan Williams, Summer 2020.

“Runes as Evidence for Early Germanic Phonology.” Jordan Williams, Spring 2020.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

National Service

MLA Celtic Forum Executive Committee (2023-2028)

Editorial Boards

Old English Homiliarum Project, editorial board, hosted by Rutgers University (2020-present)

NASSCAL’s *e-Clavis*, an electronic dictionary of apocrypha (2019-present)

Sources of Old English and Anglo-Latin Literary Culture, Contributor (2017-present)

Article Peer Reviewer

The Medieval Globe

University Service (UCE)

College Level

College of Arts and Humanities Scholarships and Awards Committee (2021-22)

College of Arts and Humanities Research Incentive Awards Committee (2021-22)

Admissions Committee, Texts & Technology Program (2020-2021)

Awards Committee, Texts & Technology Program (2021-present)

Department Level

Graduate Studies Committee, English Dept. (2019-present)

Advisor, Linguistics Minor, English Dept. (2019-present)

Hiring Committee, South Asian Literature Tenure-Track position (2021-2022)

Public Outreach

Orange County Public Library: Southwest Film Club, *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (March 2023); *The Seventh Seal: Medieval Sources and Analogues in a time of Plague* (May 2022); *The Professor and the Madman: the History behind the OED* (January 2021).

University Service (Indiana University)

Publicity and Public Outreach Officer, Medieval Studies Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Indiana University, 2016-17

Organizer and *Goði*, Old Norse Saga Reading Group, Dept. of Germanic Studies, Indiana University, 2016-17

English Dept. Community Service and Public Outreach Committee, Indiana University, 2016-17

English Dept. Graduate Policies and Curriculum Committee, Indiana University, 2015-16

Medieval Studies Institute, Symposium Readers Circle Committee Member and Leader, 2015-17

Mentor for incoming Graduate Students, Dept. of English, Indiana University, 2014-18

Medieval Studies Graduate Student Advisory Committee Member, 2014

Miscellaneous Activities

(Session Organizer) “The Scriptur-esque Middle Ages: Uses/Reception of Apocrypha along the North Sea,” Special Session, 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Mich. Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, May 2018

Research Assistant: Latin consultant and translator on *Arma Christi* Hymns and Charms, translations appear in Shannon Gayk, “By Provocative Means’: Power, Protection, and Reproduction in Prince Henry’s Prayer Roll,” *Exemplaria* (2018)

LANGUAGES

Advanced Reading Proficiency: Classical and Medieval Latin, Old English, Middle English, Old Norse, Middle Welsh, Old Irish, Old Saxon, German, Ancient Greek, French, Spanish

Reading/Beginning Proficiency: Mandarin, Gothic, Arabic, Icelandic, Danish, Czech

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Modern Language Association, American Council of Learned Societies, Medieval Academy of America, Society of Biblical Literature, Early English Text Society, North American Society for the Study of Christian Apocryphal Literature, Sources of Old English and Anglo-Latin Literary Culture, American Scandinavian Foundation, American Society for Irish Medieval Studies, Southeastern Medieval Association, Norse Hagiography Network