

# **Sonja Drimmer**

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## **UNIVERSITY EMPLOYMENT**

2019- Associate Professor  
Department of the History of Art and Architecture  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2013-2019 Assistant Professor  
Department of the History of Art and Architecture  
University of Massachusetts Amherst

2012-2013 Postdoctoral Lecturer  
Department of the History of Art and Archaeology  
Columbia University

2011 Visiting Lecturer  
Department of the History of Art  
University of Nottingham, UK

## **EDUCATION**

2011 PhD (with distinction), Columbia University, History of Art  
2007 MPhil, Columbia University, History of Art  
2004 MA, University of York, History of Art  
2003 BA (magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa), Brown University  
History of Art (Honors) & Medieval Cultures

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **Book**

1. *The Art of Allusion: Illuminators and the Making of English Literature, 1403-1476* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018).
  - Recipient of an ICMA-Kress Research and Publication Grant
  - Recipient of a Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Publication Grant
  - Recipient of a College Art Association Millard Meiss Publication Fund Grant

### **Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals and Book Chapters**

1. “The Manuscript as an Ambigraphic Medium: Hoccleve’s Scribes, Illuminators, and Their

Problems,” *Exemplaria* 29.3 (2017): 175-94.

2. “Unnoticed and Unusual: An Illustration in a Manuscript of John Lydgate’s *Fall of Princes*,” *Journal of the Early Book Society* 20 (2017): 209-18.
3. “The Painters of Late Medieval London and Westminster,” *Burlington Magazine* CLIX (2017): 445-49.
4. “The Disorder of Operations: Illuminators, Scribes, and John Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*” *Lias: Journal of Early Modern Intellectual Culture and Its Sources*. Special Issue on Critical Bibliography, ed. Vera Keller 44.1 (2017): 5-28.
5. “The Hieroglyphs of Kingship: Italy’s Egypt in Early Tudor England and the Manuscript as Monument,” *The Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome* 59/60 (2014/15): 255-83.
6. “Failure before Print (The Case of Stephen Scrope),” *Viator* 46.3 (2015): 343-72.
7. “Questionable Contexts: A Pedigree Book and Queen Elizabeth’s Teeth,” in *Scholars and Poets Talk About Queens*, ed. Carole Levin and Christine Stewart-Nuñez (New York: Palgrave, 2015), 203-24.
8. “Beyond Private Matter: A Prayer Roll for Queen Margaret of Anjou,” *Gesta* 53.1 (2014): 95-120.
  - Awarded the Richard III & Yorkist History Trust History Prize, 2015.
9. “A Medieval Psalter ‘Perfected’: Eighteenth-Century Conservationism and an Early (Female) Restorer of Rare Books and Manuscripts,” *The British Library Journal* (2013): 1-38.
10. “Picturing the King or Picturing the Saint: Two Miniature Programmes for Lydgate’s *Lives of Saints Edmund and Fremund*,” in *Manuscripts and Printed Books in Europe, 1350-1550: Packaging, Presentation and Consumption*, ed. Sue Powell & Emma Cayley (Liverpool: University of Liverpool Press, 2013), 48-67.
11. “Visualizing Intertextuality: Conflating Forms of Creativity in Late Medieval ‘Author Portraits,’” in *Citation, Intertextuality and Memory in the Middle Ages and Renaissance vol. 2: Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Medieval Culture*, ed. Yolanda Plumley and Giuliano Di Bacco (Liverpool: University of Liverpool Press, 2013), 82-101.
12. with R.I. Vane-Wright, “Elizabeth Denyer’s Paintings of William Jones’s British Butterflies: Their Discovery and Significance,” *Antenna: The Bulletin of the Royal Entomological Society* 36 (2012): 239-46.
13. “Illuminating Remediation: Recapturing Medieval Modes of Reading and Looking in the Classroom,” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Teaching* 17 (2010): 47-64.

## Catalogue Essays

1. *Royal Manuscripts: The Genius of Illumination*, ed. Scot McKendrick, John Lowden, and Kathleen Doyle (London: British Library, 2011), nos. 21, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, 43, 44, 73, 109, 110, 111, 115, 119, 133, 136, 146 (approx. 750 words each).
  - short-listed for the William M.B. Berger Prize for British Art History, 2012

## Reviews

1. Review [Kathleen E. Kennedy, *The Courtly and Commercial Art of the Wycliffite Bible* (Turnhout: Brepols, 2014)], *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 116 (2017): 382-85.
2. Review [Kathryn M. Rudy, *Postcards on Parchment: The Social Lives of Medieval Books* [New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2015], *College Art Association Reviews* (January 2017).
3. Review [Rosemarie McGerr, *A Lancastrian Mirror for Princes: The Yale Law School New Statutes of England* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2011)], *The Medieval Review* (September, 2012).

## Forthcoming

1. “The Severed Head as Public Sculpture in Late Medieval England” *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (accepted for publication in the May 2020 issue).
2. “The Shapes of History: Houghton Library, Richardson MS 35 and Chronicles of England in Codex and Roll,” in *Beyond Words: Illuminated Manuscripts in Boston Collections. Proceedings of the International Conference, November 3-5, 2016, Houghton Library, Harvard University, McMullen Museum of Art, Boston College, and the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston*, ed. Lisa Fagin Davis, Anne-Marie Eze, Jeffrey F. Hamburger, Nancy Netzer and William Stoneman (Toronto: PIMS, expected publication 2020).
3. “A Political Poster in Late Medieval England: British Library, Harley MS 7353,” in *Performance, Ceremony and Display in Late medieval Britain: Proceedings of the 2018 Harlaxton Symposium*, ed. Julia Boffey (Donington: Shaun Tyas, forthcoming).

## EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS SINCE 2013

1. National Humanities Center, Carl and Lily Pforzheimer Foundation Fellowship (2019-2020); in residence in spring 2020
2. Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Mid-Career Fellowship (2019-2020; declined)
3. Medieval Academy of America/CARA Award for Excellence in Teaching (2019)
4. Senior Fellow, The Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography (2017-present)
5. Kress Research and Publication Grant, International Center of Medieval Art (2017)
6. Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art Publication Grant (2017)
7. College Art Association Millard Meiss Publication Fund Grant (2017)
8. Neil Ker Memorial Fund Grant, British Academy (2016)
9. ICMA Travel Funding to present at the symposium *Beyond Words* (2016)
10. Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship of Scholars in Critical Bibliography, Rare Book School,

University of Virginia (2015-2017)

11. National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend (2015)
12. Richard III & Yorkist History Trust History Prize (2015)
13. Short-Term Fellowship, Bibliographical Society of America (2014)
14. Erika and Kenneth Riley Fellowship, The Huntington Library (2014)

## **INTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS SINCE 2013**

1. College Outstanding Teacher Award, UMass Amherst (2019)
2. Faculty Research Grant/Healey Endowment Grant, UMass Amherst (2017-2018)
3. Flex Grants for Teaching and Faculty Development, UMass Amherst (2015, '16, '17, '18)
4. MSP Research Support Funds, UMass Amherst (2014, '15, '16, '17, '18, '19)
5. New Faculty Start-Up Research Grant, UMass Amherst (2013-2016)

## **CONFERENCES, PANELS, AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED SINCE 2013**

1. Co-organized with Benjamin Tilghman, Assistant Professor, Washington College, and Lynley Ann Herbert, Associate Curator, Walters Art Museum, “Seeing Codicologically: New Explorations in the Technology of the Book,” A Workshop Hosted by the Walters Art Museum and Johns Hopkins University, with support from the Rare Book School Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography  
Baltimore, MD, October 4-5, 2019 [forthcoming]
2. “Canons and Contingence: Art Histories of the Book in England and America”  
Symposium supported by the Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship for Scholars in Critical Bibliography at the Rare Book School; UMass Amherst Faculty Support Conference Grant; UMass Amherst Graduate School, UMass Amherst History of Art and Architecture Dept.; Mount Holyoke College Art History Dept.; Smith College Art Dept.; Smith College Provost’s Office; Amherst College Archives and Special Collections; Amherst College English Dept.; Amherst College Art and The History of Art Dept.; Five Colleges, Inc.  
Amherst, MA, March 4, 2017  
<http://www.canonsandcontingence.com/>
3. “Medieval Remediations: Aesthetic, Ideology, and Praxis” Conference Session  
Organized, Association of Art Historians, Reading, UK, April 11-13, 2013

## **INVITED LECTURES, SEMINARS, AND WORKSHOP LEADERSHIP SINCE 2013**

1. “On the Threshold: Heads, Monuments, and Memory in Late Medieval England”  
Plenary Lecture  
2019 Southeastern Medieval Association Conference  
University of North Carolina, Greensboro, November 14-16, 2019 [forthcoming]
2. “Provisional Vision: Posters and Politics in Fifteenth-century England”  
Invited Lecture

Virginia Fox Stern Center for History of the Book, Johns Hopkins University  
October 22, 2019 [forthcoming]

3. "Scribal Illuminators and the Making of Middle English Literature"  
Invited lecture  
Princeton University, April 16, 2019
4. "The Art and Politics of the 'Midel Weie'"  
Keynote Lecture  
Medievalists at Penn 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: "Mediocrity in the Middle Ages: Finding the Middle Ground"  
University of Pennsylvania, February 22, 2019
5. "Bootstrap Bibliography: Building a Teaching Collection"  
Invited Presentation and Panel Discussion  
Bibliographical Society of America Annual Meeting  
New York City January 25, 2019
6. "Illumination as Thought"  
Invited Panel Presentation  
Lecture Series in Medieval Studies. Panel Discussion. "Visual-Textual Encounters"  
Yale University, December 7, 2018
7. Translating Panofsky's "Das Problem des Stils in der bildenden Kunst"  
Invited Workshop on Translation and Erwin Panofsky's Early Scholarship  
University of Pittsburgh, November 2, 2018
8. "Illumination"  
Invited workshop leadership for the New Chaucer Society Graduate Student Workshop  
University of Toronto, July 10, 2018
9. "Medieval Manuscripts at UMass Amherst"  
Invited workshop leadership for the Five College Medieval Studies Seminar  
UMass Amherst, Special Collections and University Archives, March 22, 2018
10. "Enframing Fragments: A COSI Workshop on Manuscripts at the Art Institute of Chicago"  
Invited workshop leadership for the Mellon funded Chicago Object Studies Initiative  
Art Institute of Chicago, January 19, 2018
11. "Highly Visible, Hardly Seen: The Object of Politics in Late Medieval England"  
Invited lecture for the Smart Lecture Series  
University of Chicago, January 18, 2018
12. "The Campaign Poster in Late Medieval England"  
Invited lecture, Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia, May 26, 2017
13. "Illuminating Chaucer When He Was Obscure"

Invited lecture for the Harvard University Medieval Colloquium  
Harvard University, Boston, MA March 23, 2017

14. “A City Full of Walls You Can Post Complaints at”  
Invited lecture for the Branner Forum for Medieval Art  
Columbia University, New York, April 6, 2016
15. “Limners and the Making of Medieval English Literature”  
Invited lecture for the Medieval Circle Lecture Series  
Brown University, Providence, RI, November 18, 2015
16. “Fake It till You Make It: A Modern Medievalist Meets Renaissance Pseudo-hieroglyphs”  
Invited Lecture for the Massachusetts Center for Interdisciplinary Renaissance Studies  
UMass Amherst, October 28, 2015
17. “The Art of Persuasion in Late Medieval England, or, How to Succeed in Warfare without Really Dying” Invited Lecture for the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Forum  
Yale University, New Haven, CT February 18, 2015
18. “The Unintended Consequences of Stephen Scrope’s Books”  
Invited lecture for the Five College Medieval Studies Colloquium  
UMass Amherst, October 7, 2014
19. “The Professional Networks of Manuscript Illuminators in Late Medieval London”  
Invited lecture for the Five College Book History Symposium  
UMass Amherst, October 18, 2014
20. “From Hieroglyph to Cartouche: Horapollo, Alberici, and King Henry VII”  
Invited lecture for the Director’s Work in Progress Seminar  
Warburg Institute, London, May 22, 2013

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS SINCE 2013**

1. “Off the Wall: The Circulation of St. Paul’s *Tabula Chronicle* in Manuscript”  
Early Book Society Conference  
Dublin, Ireland, July 7-11, 2019
2. “Political Instability and the Badge as Unstable Object”  
Invited conference paper for the session, “Moving Images: The Badge in Medieval Christendom”  
International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 8-12, 2019
3. “When an English Manuscript Is an Italian Printed Book”  
Invited paper for the 11th Annual Lawrence J. Schoenberg Symposium on Manuscript Studies in the Digital Age: “Illuminations: Manuscript, Medium, Message”  
Philadelphia, November 15-17, 2018

4. “Political Impiety? Displaying the Life of Edward IV”  
Invited paper for the Harlaxton Medieval Symposium  
Harlaxton Manor, UK, July 17-20, 2018
5. “‘A Connoisseurship of Words’: Paleography, Art History, & Manuscripts of Middle English Verse”  
New Chaucer Society Conference, Toronto, Canada, July 10-15, 2018
6. “Undeciding the Author in the Illuminated Manuscript of Middle English Verse”  
Bibliography among the Disciplines  
Philadelphia, PA, October 12-15, 2017
7. “Anticipation, Indecision, and Hesitation: Making the Illuminated Manuscript of Middle English Literature”  
Invited conference paper for the conference “Making the English Book”  
Beinecke Library, Yale University, New Haven, CT, Oct 6-7, 2017
8. “The Whole Fragment of Illuminated Middle English Verse”  
Invited paper for the symposium, “Valuing the Premodern Fragment”  
Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, September 22-23, 2017
9. “Anticipation, Indecision, and Hesitation: Making the Illuminated Manuscript of Middle English Literature”  
Invited conference paper for the session on “Making the English Book”  
Early Book Society Biennial Conference, Durham, England, July 9-15, 2017
10. “Political Posters in Late Medieval England: An Archaeology of Form”  
Invited conference paper for the session, “Conflicting Forms: Europe 1300-1500”  
International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 11-14 2017
11. “The Poster Bible and the Wars of the Roses”  
Invited paper for the symposium, “Bible Craft: Making and Re-Making Scripture in Premodern Europe” [presented remotely]  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, April 7, 2017
12. “The Shape of History”  
Invited paper for the symposium “Beyond Words”  
Boston College, Boston, MA, November 3-5, 2016
13. “Against ‘Visual Translation’: Illuminating Gower’s *Confessio Amantis*”  
Invited conference paper for the CEMERS conference, “The Pre-Modern Book in a Global Context: Materiality and Visuality”  
Binghamton University, NY, October 21-22, 2016
14. “Autographs, Allographs, and the Imagetext in Manuscript Culture”  
Presentation for the Roundtable, “Beyond the Imagetext” at the New Chaucer Society Congress  
London, July 10-15, 2016

15. "Beyond Dullness: Varieties of Lydgatean Experience"  
Invited Symposium Paper and Roundtable Presentation for "Varieties of Textual Experience"  
Colby College, Waterville, Maine, April 1, 2016
16. "Late Medieval Posters and the Practicalities of Political Display"  
Fordham University, New York, Conference on the "Manuscript as Medium," March 5-6, 2016
17. "How to Make a Merchant in Manuscript and Print"  
Presentation for the Rare Book School Course, "Book Production and Social Practice in Early Modern Europe and America"  
Harvard University, Houghton Library, December 11, 2015
18. "The Severed Head as Public Sculpture in Late Medieval England"  
Invited conference paper for "The Art of War: Imagery, Ideology, Impact"  
Brown University, Providence, RI, November 6-8, 2015
19. Invited Roundtable Participant  
16th Annual Mark Roskill Symposium, "Plugged In: Art in the Digital Age"  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, September 25, 2015
20. "Stephen Scrope's Thrice-Told Fail"  
Fourteenth Biennial Conference for the Early Book Society  
Oxford, UK, July 2-5, 2015
21. "Invisible Objects"  
50<sup>th</sup> Annual Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo  
May 14-17, 2015 [pre-recorded presentation]
22. Roundtable moderator following the UMCA exhibition on the Grotesque  
University of Massachusetts Amherst, April 17, 2015
23. "Ovid's Monsters into Men in Late Medieval London"  
UMass Colloquium on "Classical Monsters and Their Afterlife"  
UMass Amherst, November 8, 2014
24. "What to Do with Medieval Ephemera?"  
49th Annual Medieval Congress at Kalamazoo  
May 8-11, 2014
25. "Questionable Contexts: Queen Elizabeth's Pedigree Book"  
60th Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America  
New York, March 27, 2014
26. "From Egypt to England, via Manuscript and Print: An Illustrated Hieroglyphica"  
Thirteenth Biennial Conference for the Early Book Society  
University of St. Andrews, Scotland, July 7, 2013

27. "Hieroglyphic Remediations, from Inscription to Illumination"  
 Conference in Early Modern Studies  
 University of Reading, July 11, 2013

28. "Restoring Manuscripts for Pleasure, Not Profit: The Discovery of an 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Conservator" International Medieval Congress  
 Leeds, UK, July 1-4, 2013

## CURATORIAL AND MUSEUM POSITIONS

2012 British Library, London  
 Department of Medieval and Earlier Manuscripts  
 Research Associate

2010 British Library, London  
 American Trust for the British Library Funded Curatorial and Research Intern  
 Exhibition, *Royal Manuscripts: The Genius of Illumination*

## COURSES TAUGHT

Art-Hist 115	Introduction to the Visual Arts	(F13)
Art-Hist 305/605	Early Medieval Art	(F13, F14, F15, F16, F17, F18)
Art-Hist 307/607	Romanesque and Gothic Art	(S14, S15, S17, S18, S19)
Art-Hist 392m	The Medieval Art of Death	(S15)
Art-Hist 392m	The Medieval Art of the Book	(F18)
Art-Hist 396	Independent Study: Art and Technology in Medieval Europe	(S17)
Art-Hist 397p/697p	The Portrait in Medieval Europe	(S18, S19)
Art-Hist 697	Independent Study: Polychromy and Alabaster Sculpture	(F17)
Art-Hist 705	The Lost Art of Medieval Britain: Absence and Recovery	(S14)
Art-Hist 705	The Art of the Book	(S17)
Art-Hist 781	Graduate Methods of Art History	(F14, F15, F16, F17)

## LANGUAGES

Native: English  
 Fluent heritage speaker: Spanish  
 Reading and conversational speaking: German, French  
 Reading: Middle English, Anglo-Norman, Latin  
 Medieval and Early Modern paleography

## DEPARTMENTAL, UMASS AMHERST, AND FIVE COLLEGE SERVICE

2018-2019 Department Scheduling Officer  
 2018-2019 Committee Member: Graduate Admissions, Dept. of the Hist. of Art & Architecture

2018-2019	Chair, Five College Medieval Studies Seminar
2018	Committee Member: Graduate Objectives, Dept. of the Hist. of Art & Architecture
2017	Committee Member: Departmental Merit
2017	Committee Member: Ad-hoc Committee on Merit Procedures
2016-	Special Collections and University Archives, Du Bois Library: collaborating on the development of a new collection: "Medieval and Early Print Studies"
2016-17	Co-Chair of the Five College Art History Faculty Seminar
2016	Committee Member: Interviews for Clerk IV Position
2014-16	Department Scheduling Officer
2015	Organizing Faculty Member for the Dept. of the History of Art Spring Roundtable
2014	Representative and Speaker, Visual Literacy Faculty Forum
2013-14	Member, Sub-Committee for the Creative Economy
2013-	Department Personnel Committee
2013-	German, Spanish, French Language exam grader
2013-	Advising for BA and MA majors, committee member for graduate (MA, MFA, PhD) and undergraduate theses and dissertations

## EDITORIAL POSITIONS AND SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

2018-	<i>Journal of the Early Book Society</i> Co-editor, Nota Bene
2018-	Bibliographical Society of America Chair, Program Committee
2016-19	Bibliographical Society of America Council Member
2015-Present	Ad-hoc peer reviewer for: <i>Speculum</i> , Courtauld Books, <i>The Medieval Globe</i> , <i>Gardner's Art History</i>
2014-17	International Center of Medieval Art Membership committee

## SCHOLARLY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

Bibliographical Society of America  
 College Art Association  
 Early Book Society  
 International Center of Medieval Art  
 John Gower Society  
 Medieval Academy of America  
 New Chaucer Society