

Kisha G. Tracy

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. Candidate, Medieval Studies; University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (Major Emphasis: English Literature; Minor Emphases: French Literature and Latin)
Dissertation: *Writing Memory: Reinvention and the Tradition of Confession in Middle English Literature*
Committee: C. David Benson (director), Anne Berthelot, Robert Hasenfratz, Sara Johnson;
Outside Reader: James Simpson, Harvard University

In my dissertation, I argue that the traditional medieval relationship between memory and confession provides a valuable framework for understanding the employment of recollection in various Middle English literary texts, such as *Piers Plowman*, the works of Chaucer, and Julian of Norwich's *Shewings* as well as saints' lives and both penitential and secular romances. It is my contention that the most dynamic reason that recollection is used by authors is to emphasize changes in the emotional or intellectual identities of certain narrative subjects.

M.A., Medieval Studies; August 2004; University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT (Major Emphasis: French Literature; Minor Emphases: English Literature and Latin)

B.A., English Literature; May 2002; *Summa cum Laude*; University of Evansville, Evansville, IN (Minors: French and History)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

Articles

"Defining the Medieval City through Death: A Case Study." Forthcoming in *Fundamentals of Medieval and Early Modern Culture*, ed. Albrecht Classen (New York: DeGruyter, 2009). MS 22 pp.

"Disability in the Medieval Literary Tradition of the Fisher King." Forthcoming in *A World of Difference: Essays on Disability in the Middle Ages*, ed. Joshua R. Eyler (London: Ashgate, 2009). MS 26 pp.

"Character Memory and Reinvention of the Past in Bérout's *Roman de Tristan*." *Tristania* 24 (2006): 1-15.

"Un Héritage vertueux: présence, capacités, et caractère de la mère de Merlin." *L'Esplumeoir* n° 3 (2004): 45-54.

"The Rules of Courtly Love: Andreas Capellanus and Malory's *Tristram*." *Proceedings, National Conference on Undergraduate Research* 15 (2001): CD-ROM. MS 12 pp.

Article Under Review

"Medieval Social Perceptions of Physical Impairment and Lydgate's *Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*." Currently under revise and resubmit. MS 18 pp.

Book Review

Sacred and Secular in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures: New Essays. Ed. Lawrence Besserman. New York: Palgrave, 2006. *Mystics Quarterly* 33 (2007): 49-52.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Henry II,” “Tristan.” Forthcoming in *The Early Peoples of Britain and Ireland: An Encyclopedia*, ed. Christopher A. Snyder (Oxford: Greenwood, 2008). MS 5 pp.; MS 3 pp.

Works in Progress

“Chaucerian Romance and the Temporality of Confession.” MS 25 pp. (awarded First Prize, Aetna Critical Essay Contest, November 2008)

“Intentional Ambiguity in *Beowulf's Gifstol* Passage.” MS 7 pp.

“A Reading of the Latin in *Piers Plowman*.” In progress.

“Lydgate’s Rhetorical Repentance.” In progress.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS:

Selected Papers Presented

“Remembering the Body of the King in *Robert of Cisyle*”; Southeastern Medieval Association, 34th Annual Meeting; Saint Louis University, Saint Louis, MO; October 2008

“Translation and Manipulation: Understanding the Latin in *Piers Plowman*”; Sponsor: Medieval and Renaissance Research Group, University of Washington, *Yearbook of Langland Studies*, Lollard Society; 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2008

“Defining the Medieval City through Death”; 6th International Symposium: “Urban Space: The Experience of Urban Life in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Age”; University of Arizona, Tucson; May 2008

“Rhetorical Repentance: Lydgate’s Prologue to *The Lyfe of Seynt Margarete*”; 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2007

“Sins of the Past: Chaucer and the Temporality of Confession”; 3rd London Chaucer Conference: “Chaucer and Time”; University of London, Bloomsbury; April 2007

“*Memoria* and *Anima*: The Personal History of the Soul and the Performance of Confession”; 36th University of British Columbia Medieval Workshop; Vancouver, Canada; October 2006

“Mary, Memory, and Understanding the Crucifixion in the Middle English *The Dispute between Mary and the Cross*”; Sponsor: Northwestern Medieval Colloquium; 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2006

“Reinvention of the Past: Character Memory in Bérout’s *Roman de Tristan*”; Sponsor: Tristan Society; 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2005

“Folklore and Romance: The Double Journey of Sir Degaré,” 22nd New England Medieval Studies Consortium (NEMSC) Graduate Conference; Brown University, Providence, RI; October 2004

“Through the Eyes of Troilus: A Figure of Fate in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*”; 21st NEMSC Graduate Conference; University of Connecticut; October 2003

“The Image of a Hero: The African *Soundjata* and the Old French *Énéas*”; Colloquium on Western Francophone Literature; Evansville, IN; April 2001

Conferences Organized

Co-Organizer, “The Medieval World: From the Secular to the Spiritual,” 24th NEMSC Graduate Conference; University of Connecticut; February 24, 2007

Financial Coordinator and Organizing Committee, “Cultures and Contexts of the Middle Ages,” 21st NEMSC Graduate Conference; University of Connecticut; October 18, 2003

Sessions and Business Meetings Organized and Moderated

- Organizer and Moderator, Session; “Traces of Recollection: Memory in Medieval Literary Texts”; 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2008
- Co-Organizer, Session; “Ironic Sin: Unexpected Characterizations of Spiritual Offenses”; 43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2008
- Organizer, Business Meeting; Sponsor: *Hortulus: The Online Graduate Journal of Medieval Studies*; 42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2007
- Moderator, Session; “Blaise, Merlin’s Scribe and Master”; Sponsor: Société Internationale des Amis de Merlin; 41st International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2006
- Moderator, Session; “Church, Mission, Enculturation, and Conversion in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages”; Sponsor: Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Saint Louis University; 40th International Congress on Medieval Studies; Kalamazoo, MI; May 2005

Colloquia

- Invited Lecturer, Colloquia on Medieval Studies; “Remembering and Forgetting in the Confessions of *Piers Plowman*”; Harvard University; December 4, 2008
- Guest Speaker, English Graduate Student Association Lecture Series; “What’s Memory Got to Do with It?: Confession and Chaucer’s Romances”; University of Connecticut; October 23, 2007
- Guest Panelist, INTD 220 – Studies in the Culture of the Middle Ages: Interpreting King Arthur; “Merlin”; University of Connecticut; April 1, 2003

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Courses Designed and Taught/Instructor of Record; University of Connecticut

- Classical and Mediterranean Studies 1122: Elementary Latin II; sixteen students (1 section)
- English 3693: Foreign Study – In Search of the Vikings – Study Abroad Component to Honors ENGL 4600W; twelve students (1 section)
- English 1011: Seminar in Writing through Literature; twenty students (4 sections)
- English 1010: Seminar in Academic Writing; twenty students (1 section)

Course Assisted; University of Connecticut

- English 1101: Classical and Medieval Western Literature; 109 students; assistant lecturer to Professor C. David Benson (1 section)

Adjunct Instructor; Eastern Connecticut State University

- English 200: Reading and Writing Argument; twelve students (1 section)
- English 125: Introduction to Literature; thirty-five students (1 section)
- English 100: College Writing; twenty students (1 section)

Adjunct Instructor; Southeastern Illinois College

- English 122: Rhetoric and Composition II; nine students (1 section)

Other Teaching Experience

- Co-Designer, Experimental Writing Program: Human Rights (participation by multiple sections of writing courses; online components); Eastern Connecticut State University; Fall 2008
- Latin Instructor, Medieval Studies M.A. Workshop Series; University of Connecticut; Fall 2007

Instructor Training

Instructor Mentor, Freshman English Program; University of Connecticut; August 2003-Present
 Implementation Sub-Committee Member, Freshman English Teaching Assistant Orientation
 Committee; University of Connecticut; August 2005

SELECTED RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS:

Medieval and Renaissance British Literature; Chaucerian and Middle English Literature; History of the English Language; Old English and *Beowulf*; Penitential Literature and History; European (especially French) Medieval Literature 400-1450; Norse Literature; Rhetoric and Composition; Classical Literature; Latin; Film Studies

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS:

Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut; August 2002-Present (awarded annually)
 First Prize, Aetna Critical Essay Contest, University of Connecticut; November 2008
 Doctoral Fellowship for Advanced Graduate Students; University of Connecticut; Summer 2008, 2009
 Heckman Scholar, Hill Museum & Manuscript Library, St. John's University; December 2007
 Research Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, University of Connecticut; July 2007
 Summer Doctoral Fellowship, University of Connecticut; Summer 2005-2007 (awarded annually)
 Finalist, Aetna English Instructor Teaching Award, University of Connecticut; Spring 2007
 Conference Fellowship, 36th University of British Columbia Medieval Workshop; October 2006
 National Merit Scholar and Scholarship; August 1998-May 2002
 Mabel D. Nenneker Outstanding Senior of the Year Award, University of Evansville; May 2002
 Paul Grabill Memorial Award for Excellence in English, University of Evansville; Fall 2000, 2001

EDITING EXPERIENCE:

Latin Consultant; Eric Rice, *Musical and Ritual in Charlemagne's Marienkirche in Aachen, Beitrage zur Rheinischen Musikgeschichte* (Kassel, Germany: Merseburger Verlag, forthcoming 2009)
 Submissions Editor, *Hortulus: The Online Graduate Journal of Medieval Studies*; July 2006-June 2007
 Manuscript Editing Assistant; William Baer, *Elia Kazan: Interviews, Conversations with Filmmakers Series* (Jackson: UP of Mississippi, 2000)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE:

Program Assistant, Medieval Studies Program; University of Connecticut; August 2007-Present

- Administrative assistant/graduate coordinator responsible for all aspects of the academic program, including: admissions, financial management, curricula, lecture series logistics, coordination of Charles A. Owen, Jr. Visiting Professor program, etc.

Web Site Coordinator (designed current site at <http://www.medievalstudies.uconn.edu>), Medieval Studies Program; University of Connecticut; July 2005-Present
 Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Hortulus*; June 2007-November 2008
 Organizer (by special request of English Department Head), Connecticut Student and Teacher Writing Conference; University of Connecticut; March 27, 2007
 Graduate Assistant, Connecticut Writing Project (CWP) – National Writing Project Site (project manager, *Connecticut Student Writers* designer, etc.); January 2005-December 2006

Web Site Coordinator, CWP; University of Connecticut; January 2005-August 2007
Summer Institute Assistant, CWP; University of Connecticut; June-July 2005

SERVICE:

Mentor, Medieval Academy of America Graduate Student Mentorship Program; January 2006-Present
Member, University of Connecticut Medieval Studies Graduate Advisory Committee;
January 2007-Present
Graduate Representative, University of Connecticut Provost's Library Advisory Committee;
August 2003-October 2008
Member, NEMSC Alison Goddard Elliott Award Selection Committee; January 2006
Vice-President and Chair, University of Connecticut Graduate Student Senate; August 2003-May 2005
Creator/Organizer, University of Connecticut GSS Lecture Series; January 2004-May 2005
Co-writer, University of Connecticut Center for Off-Campus Services Proposal (center implemented
by university in Fall 2007); August 2004-May 2005
Co-creator/Organizer, University of Connecticut Community Meetings; August 2004-May 2005
Creator/Organizer, University of Connecticut Graduate Life Network; August 2004-May 2005
Graduate Representative, University of Connecticut University Senate; August 2004-May 2005
Co-creator/Organizer, University of Connecticut Graduate Appreciation and Information Night
(GAIN); Summer 2004
Graduate Representative, University of Connecticut Graduate Faculty Council; August 2003-
December 2003
Medieval Studies Senator, University of Connecticut GSS; January 2003-May 2003
Chair, University of Connecticut GSS Housing Committee; January 2003-May 2003

LANGUAGES:

Middle and Old English (prepared to teach Old English language and literature, including *Beowulf*)
Modern and Old French (major emphasis in M.A. and minor emphasis in Ph.D. in French literature
with coursework in modern French; research experience in Old French and Anglo-Norman)
Classical and Medieval Latin (minor emphasis in M.A. and Ph.D. degrees as well as three years of
undergraduate work; teaching and research experience)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:

Early Middle English Society
Medieval Academy of America
Mid-America Medieval Association
Modern Language Association
Pearl-Poet Society
Society for the Study of Disability in the Middle Ages
Southeastern Medieval Association