

**KARL STEEL**

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Brooklyn College and Graduate Center, CUNY  
English Department  
2308 Boylan Hall  
2900 Bedford Avenue  
Brooklyn, New York 11210

### **ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

CUNY Graduate Center Appointment (2015 – present)  
Professor, Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center, New York, NY (2020 – present)  
Associate Professor, Brooklyn College and Graduate Center, New York, NY (2015 – 2020)  
Assistant Professor, Brooklyn College, New York, NY (2008 – 2015)  
Lecturer, Brooklyn College (2007-2008)  
Instructor, Barnard College (2005-2007)  
Instructor, Columbia University (2001-2003; Spring 2004)  
Writing Tutor, Columbia University (2003-2004, Spring 2006)  
Teaching Assistant, Columbia University (Spring 2003, Spring 2004, and Fall 2005)  
Instructor, Western Washington University (1997-1999)

### **EDUCATION**

Ph. D., Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature, October 2007  
*Dissertation*: “Defining the Human: Medieval Discourses and Practices of Animal Subjugation”  
*Committee*: Susan Crane, Paul Strohm, Patricia Dailey  
M. Phil., Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature, 2003  
M. A., Columbia University, English and Comparative Literature, 2000  
M. A., Western Washington University, English Literature, 1999  
B. A., The Evergreen State College, 1993

### **PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Books**

*How Not to Make a Human: Pets, Feral Children, Worms, Sky Burial, Oysters* (University of Minnesota Press, 2019)  
Reviews:  
*Arthuriana* 31.4 (2021): 113-114  
*Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries* 58.1 (2020): 38  
*Clio: Femmes, Genre, Histoire* 44 (2022): 305-308L doi: 10.4000/clio.22055  
*Common Knowledge* 27.2 (2021): 314  
*Environmental History* (2020): doi: 10.1093/envhis/emma072  
*ISLE* (2020): doi:10.1093/isle/isaa163  
*Medium Aevum* 92.2 (2021): 338-39  
*Mediaevistik* 33 (2020): 370-72  
*Somatechnics* (2021): 117-23 + interview: doi: 10.3366/soma.2021.0343  
*Sixteenth-Century Journal* (2021): 1108-1110  
*Studies in the Age of Chaucer* (2023): 409-413  
*Speculum* (2021): 891-92

*How to Make a Human: Animals and Violence in the Middle Ages* (Ohio State University Press, 2011)

[Downloadable PDF](#) through Ohio State University's Knowledge Bank

Reviews:

*Arthuriana* 23 (2013): 125-26

*Cahiers de civilization médiévale* 59 (2016): 533-35

*Comitatus* 43 (2012): 286-88

[Electronic Book Review \(2014\)](#)

*Exemplaria* 30 (2018): 350-52

*Medium Aevum* 82.2 (2013): 318-19

*Mitteilungen des Instituts für Europäische Kulturgeschichte der Universität Augsburg* 22 (2014): 143-46

*Postmedieval* 4 (2013): 112–123

*Society and Animals* 21 (2013): 596-98: doi: 10.1163/15685306-12341250

### Co-Edited Special Journal Issues

"Fabulous Animals," with Holly Dugan, *Early Modern Culture* 11 (2016)

"Pearl," with Nicola Masciandaro, *Glossator* 9 (2015)

"The Animal Turn," with Peggy McCracken. *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 2.1 (2011)

### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

"The Rules of the Game: Wolf-Hunting and the Usefulness of Knights in *Piers Plowman*" *The Yearbook of Langland Studies* 36 (2022): 123-36

"How to Make a Human." *Exemplaria* 20.1 (2008): 3-27

### Other Journal Articles

"Abyss: Everything is Food." *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 4.1 (2013): 93-104

"The Animal Turn: Into the Sea with the Fish Knights of *Perceforest*." *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 2.1 (2011): 88-100 (with Peggy McCracken)

Translation from French, with Christopher Wise. El Hadjj Sekou Tall. "Wanderings: Bamako, Moscow, Delhi." *Journal of African Travel Writing* 8-9 (2000-2001): 77-94

### Chapters in Anthologies

"Human / Animal," in *The Routledge Companion to Medieval English Literature*, ed. Sif Ríkharrðsdóttir and Raluca Radulescu (Routledge, 2023), 436-44

"Nothing to Lose: Logsex and Genital Injury in Peter of Cornwall's *Book of Revelations*," in *The Body Unbound: Literary Approaches to the Classical Corpus*, ed. Katherine Lu Hsu, Brian P. Sowers, and David Schur (Palgrave MacMillan, 2021), 193-214

"Huntings of the Hare: The Medieval and Early Modern Poetry of Imperiled Animals," in *Palgrave Handbook of Literary Animal Studies*, ed. Susan McHugh, Robert R. McKay, and John Miller (Palgrave MacMillan, 2020), 141-52

- "Beasts, Animals, and Animal Metaphor, in Shakespeare and his Fellow Dramatists," in *Routledge Handbook of Shakespeare and Animals*, ed. Holly Dugan and Karen Raber (Routledge, 2020), 61-73
- "Muteness and Disembodied Difference: Three Case Studies," in *Embodied Difference: Monstrosity, Disability, and the Posthuman in the Medieval and Early Modern World*, ed. Richard H. Godden and Asa Simon Mittman (Palgrave MacMillan, 2019), 305-14
- "Animals and Violence: Medieval Humanism, 'Medieval Brutality', and the Carnivorous Vegetarianism of Margery Kempe," in *Routledge Handbook for Human-Animal History*, ed. Hilda Kean and Philip Howell (Routledge, 2018), 499-517
- "Bad Heritage: The American Viking Fantasy, from the Nineteenth Century to Now," in *DEcolonial Heritage: Natures, Cultures, and the Asymmetries of Memory*, ed. Anibal Arregui, Gesa Mackenthun, Stephanie Wodianka (Waxmann, 2018), 75-94
- "The Friar's Tale: Animals and the Question of Human Agency," in *The Open-Access Companion to The Canterbury Tales*, ed. Candace Barrington, Brantley L. Bryant, Richard H. Godden, Daniel T. Kline, Myra Seaman (2017)
- "Medieval," in *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and the Posthuman*, ed. Bruce Clarke and Manuela Rossini (Cambridge University Press, 2017), 3-15
- Edition and translation. "Prologue to Robert of Greatham, *Miroir ou Evangile des domnees*," in *Vernacular Literary Theory from the French of Medieval England: Texts and Translations, c. 1120-c. 1450*, eds. Jocelyn Wogan-Browne, Thelma Fenster, and Delbert Russell (Boydell & Brewer, 2016), 127-35
- "How Delicious We Must Be / Folcuin's Horse and the Dog's Gowther, Beyond Care," in *Fragments towards a History of a Vanishing Humanism*, ed. Eileen Joy and Myra Seaman (The Ohio State University Press, 2016), 175-92
- "Biopolitics in the Forest," in *The Politics of Ecology: Land, Life, and Law in Medieval Britain*, ed. Randy Schiff and Joseph Taylor (The Ohio State University Press, 2016), 33-55
- "Creeping Things, Matter's Endless Generation," in *Elemental Ecocriticism*, ed. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen and Lowell Duckert (University of Minnesota Press, 2015), 209-36
- "Insensate Oysters and Our Nonconsensual Existence," in *Oceanic New York*, ed. Steve Mentz (Punctum Books 2015), 79-91
- "Touching Back: Responding to *Reading Skin*," in *Reading Skin in Medieval Literature and Culture*, ed. Katie Walter (Palgrave, 2013), 183-95
- "A Fourteenth-Century Ecology: 'The Former Age' with Dindimus," in *Rethinking Chaucerian Beasts*, ed. Carolynne van Dyke (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 185-199.
- "With the World, Or Bound to Face the Sky: The Postures of the Wolf-Child of Hesse," in *Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: Ethics and Objects*, ed. Jeffrey Jerome Cohen (Punctum Books, 2012), 9-34

“Kill Me, Save Me, Let Me Go: Custance, Virginia, Emelye,” in *Dark Chaucer*, ed. Eileen A. Joy, Nicola Masciandaro, and Myra Seaman (Punctum Books, 2012), 149-58

“Centaur, Satyr, and Cynocephali: Medieval Scholarly Teratology and the Question of the Human,” in *The Ashgate Research Companion to Monsters and the Monstrous*, ed. Asa Mittman and Peter Dendle (Ashgate, 2012), 257-74

“The Phoenix and the Turtle / Number There in Love Was Slain,” in *Shakesqueer*, ed. Madhavi Menon (Duke University Press, 2011), 271-77

### **Shorter Academic Writing**

“Posthumanism,” in *The Chaucer Encyclopedia*, ed. Richard Newhauser, with Vincent Gillespie, Jessica Rosenfeld, and Katie Walter (Wiley, 2023), 1508-9

“Food,” in *Posthuman Glossary*, ed. Rosi Braidotti and Maria Hlavajova (Bloomsbury, 2018), 160-62

“Beast Fables,” in *The Encyclopedia of British Medieval Literature*, ed. Siân Echard and Robert Rouse (John Wiley & Sons, 2017), DOI: 10.1002/9781118396957.wbemlb462

“Introduction: Fabulous Animals.” *Early Modern Culture* 11 (2016): 46-52 (with Holly Dugan)

“Innoghe': A Preface on Inexhaustibility.” *Glossator* 9 (2015): i-iv

“Ridiculous Mourning: Dead Pets and Lost Humans.” In “Animalia” cluster, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 34 (2012): 345-49

“Two Proposals for Increasing Persistence, Exposure, and Humiliation.” Section in “Why We Blog” article, co-written with Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, Mary Kate Hurley, and Eileen Joy. *Literature Compass* 9.12 (2012): 1016–1018 [of 1016-1032]

“Woofing and Weeping with Animals in the Last Days.” *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 1.1/2 (2010): 187-93

### **Book Review Essays**

“Posthumanism and the Claim to Rational Action,” *postmedieval* 11.1 (2020): 137-48; reprinted in *Contact Zones: Fur, Minerals, Milk, and Other Things*, ed. Elizabeth Leet (Palgrave Macmillan, 2022)

“Race, Travel, Time, Heritage,” with Jeffrey Jerome Cohen, *postmedieval* 6.1 (2015): 98-110

“Against Animal Authenticity, Against the Forced March of the Now: *Nicolle Shukin's Animal Capital: Rendering Life in Biopolitical Times* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009).” *Electronic Book Review* (4325 words) [http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/criticalecologies/animal\\_capital](http://www.electronicbookreview.com/thread/criticalecologies/animal_capital)

“First Space; Then, Maybe, Time: On Laurie Shannon’s *Accommodated Animal* and the Heterogeneous Then.” *Upstart: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies* (November 7, 2013; 4814 words). [http://www.clemson.edu/upstart/Reviews/accomodated\\_animal/accomodated\\_animal.xhtml](http://www.clemson.edu/upstart/Reviews/accomodated_animal/accomodated_animal.xhtml)

## Book Reviews

*Animal Soundscapes in Anglo-Norman Texts*

Liam Lewis

In *French Studies* 77.2 (2023): 466

*Whose Middle Ages?: Teachable Moments for an Ill-Used Past*

ed. Andrew Albin, Mary C. Erler, Thomas O'Donnell, Nicholas L. Paul, and Nina Rowe

In *Speculum* 97.4 (2022): 1148-1150

*Landscape in Middle English Romance: The Medieval Imagination and the Natural World*

Andrew M. Richmond

In *The Medieval Review*, August 2022

*Legions of Pigs in the Early -Medieval West*

Jamie Kreiner

In *American Historical Review* 127.1 (2022): 532-33

*The Thirteenth-Century Animal Turn: Medieval and Twenty-First-Century Perspectives*

Nigel Harris

In *Arthuriana* 31.4 (2021): 108-110

*Beasts, Humans, and Transhumans in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance*

ed. J. Eugene Clay

in *The Medieval Review*, November 2021

*Thinking about Animals in Thirteenth-Century Paris: Theologians on the Boundary between Humans and Animals*

Ian P. Wei

In *The Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 47.2 (2021): 231-34

*Animal Languages in the Middle Ages: Representations of Interspecies Communication* (ed. Alison Langdon); Michael J.

Warren, *Birds in Medieval English Poetry: Metaphors, Realities, Transformations*

In *Speculum* 95.3 (2020) 844-46

*Our Dogs, Our Selves: Dogs in Medieval and Early Modern Art, Literature, and Society*

ed. Laura D. Gelfand

in *The Medieval Review*, June 2017

*L'humain et l'animal dans la France médiévale (XIIe–XVe siècles). Human and Animal in Medieval France (12th–15th c.)*

eds. Irène Fabry-Tehranchi and Anna Russakoff

In *Speculum* 91.1 (2016): 196-97

*From Beasts to Souls: Gender and Embodiment in Medieval Europe*

eds. E. Jane Burns and Peggy McCracken

In *Arthuriana* 24.4 (2014): 127-29

*Medieval Pets*

Kathleen Walker-Meikle

In *The Medieval Review*, September 2013

*Torture and Brutality in Medieval Literature: Negotiations of National Identity.*

Larissa Tracy

In *The Medieval Journal* 3.1 (2013): 153-55

*Monsters, Gender and Sexuality in Medieval English Literature. Gender in the Middle Ages*  
Dana M. Oswald  
In *The Medieval Review*, November 2012

*From Aesop to Reynard: Beast Literature in Medieval Britain*  
Jill Mann  
In *Medium Aevum* 80.2 (2011): 342-43

*Animal Characters: Nonhuman Beings in Early Modern Literature*  
Bruce Thomas Boehrer  
In *Renaissance Quarterly* 64 (2011): 325-26

*Engaging with Nature: Essays on the Natural World in Medieval and Early Modern Europe*  
eds. Lisa Kiser and Barbara Hanawalt.  
In *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology* 110 (2011): 123-26

*The Cambridge History of Literary Criticism: Volume 2, The Middle Ages*  
eds. Alastair Minnis and Ian Johnson.  
In *The Medieval Review*, October 2010

## **IN-PROGRESS**

Book Project: *The Irrational Animal: On the Limits of Humanity and Freedom in the Middle Ages*

Chapter on medieval manuals of sport for the *Oxford Handbook of Middle English Prose*

Chapter on myth, religion, and popular beliefs for *A Cultural History of Nature in the Medieval Era*

Chapter on animals for the *Oxford Handbook of Disability and Literatures in English, c. 700-1500*

## **TALKS**

### **Invited Talks**

2024:

"The Rational Animal: On the Limits of the Human Animal, Largely in the Middle Ages," Columbia University Human-Animal Studies seminar

2023:

"Dependency and Helplessness: Wolf Children and Oysters," "Seeds of Literature" (on ecocriticism), Université de Picardie, Jules Verne, Amiens

"The 'rage of wild beasts' and the 'reasonings of men' (Wisdom 7 : 20): Animal anger in the Middle Ages," opening talk for the conference *Émotions animales : un malentendu ? XIIIe-XVIIIe siècles*, Nantes Université LAMO

"On the Limits of Reason and Freedom: On Boethius's *Consolation of Philosophy*," Tulane Department of French and Italian

2022:

Four talks to EHESS Paris on reason and animality, invited by Pierre-Olivier Dittmar from AHLOMA

(Anthropologie historique du long Moyen Âge). First invited for May 2020, postponed twice because of pandemic.

"Dehumanization, Animality, and Honor: On William Dunbar's Racist Satire," Northwestern Medieval Colloquium

2019:

"Thinking like a Cow: Bestial Reason and Posthumanism in Marguerite Porete's *Mirror of Simple Souls*," Loyola University Chicago Medieval Studies Lectures

"Cuthbert and the Gesturing Geese: Reason, Language, and Accommodation in a Medieval Animal Story," University of Chicago Medieval Studies Workshop

"Be Reasonable: Animality and Personifications of Reason, Loosely through Langland," NYU Medieval Forum

2018:

"Medieval Nonhumanisms: Animal Studies outside the Classroom," Leeds Animal Studies Network, Leeds University

"Crawling Matter: Spontaneous Generation from the Ancients to the Moderns," British Animal Studies Network, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

"Medieval Nonhumanisms: A Sketch of a Nonsystematic Approach to Medieval Animal Studies," Center for the Study of the Middle Ages, University of Birmingham

2017:

"The Prioress and her Pets," Medieval & Literature, Arts and the Environment Colloquia, Yale University

"Sign Language and Community: Jamming the 'Forbidden Experiment' in François Catrou's *Histoire générale de l'empire du Mogol*," Miami University French in Dijon Study Abroad Program

"Feral Founder or Feral Foundling? Wolf Children from the Ancients to the Fourteenth-Century Child of Hesse," MLAC, St Chad's, University of Durham

"Medieval Muteness: Animals, Disability, and Objects." Fourth Annual Medieval Studies Colloquium, University of Wisconsin Madison

2016:

"Animals and Disability: Cuthbert's Ravens, Gesture, and Misfit Environments." University of Pennsylvania Medieval and Renaissance Reading Group and Disability Studies

"Feral and Isolated Children from Herodotus to Akbar to Hesse: Heroes, Thinkers, and Friends of Wolves." Utrecht University Comparative Literature Seminar

"Minimal Animals: Medieval Oysters and Our Nonconsensual Existence." Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture, UCLA English Department/Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

"Food for Worms, or Food for Birds? Sky Burial in Medieval Europe." Distinguished Visiting Scholar Lecture, UCLA Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies

2015:

"Barely Life," for George Washington University Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute *Transition, Scale, Catastrophe* event

"The Bare Life of (Medieval) Oysters," for Quodlibet Medieval Studies Club, Cornell

2014:

"Bad Heritage: The Vikings in North America," "Nature-Culture-Ecologies: Heritage in Transcultural Contexts," Rostock University Symposium, Germany

"Place and Flesh in the *Topographia Hibernica*." St John's University Graduate English Conference, Queens

2013:

"'A Charitable and Pitous Conscience': The Queer Prioress and Her Pets," Nonhumans and Sympathy Symposium, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

"Invertebrate Architecture: Premodern Oysters and New York's Future," Oceanic New York, St. John's University, Queens (Roundtable Discussion)

"Creeping Things, Matter's Own Life," 30th Alabama Symposium on English and American Literature: Elemental Ecocriticism, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa

2012:

"Biopolitics in the Forest: On Lively Deer, Lively Carcasses, and the Appetites of Lepers," New York University Medieval Forum

"How to Make a Human: Animals in the Middle Ages," Miami University French in Dijon Study Abroad Program, Dijon

"A Singular Cat, a Mess of Vermin, and the Appetites of *The Disputation Between the Body and the Worms*." University College London Centre for Early Modern Exchanges

"Everything is Food." Penn State Institute for the Arts and Humanities, Robot Weekend: Being Human Gizmos, State College, Pennsylvania

2011:

"Thanks Unending: Dindimus with the World." George Washington University Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute, *How to Make a Human* Symposium

"Unmaking Humans: Several Medieval Nonhumanisms." Animal Studies Interdisciplinary Workshop at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

"Yvain's Herdsman, A Lion, and Several Dead Dogs: Rules for Being Human, and Some Ways Out." University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Program in Medieval Studies

"With the World, or Bound to Face the Sky: The Postures of the Wolf Child of Hesse," George Washington University Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute: Animal, Vegetable, Mineral: Ethics and Objects



in the Early Modern and Medieval Periods

2010:

"The Wolf-Child of Hesse: Bound to the Sky," The Twenty-Second Barnard Medieval and Renaissance Conference, Barnard College, New York City (Roundtable Discussion)

"The Child of Hesse: On Walking and Not Walking with Wolves," CUNY Grad Center, New Directions in Medieval Scholarship, New York City (Roundtable Discussion)

"On Not Finishing *Erkenwald*." Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium on "Always Historicize?: Historicism, Post-Historicism, and Medieval Studies," NYU, New York City (Roundtable Discussion)

2008:

"Will Wonders Never Cease: *St. Erkenwald* with *Claustrophilia*." George Washington University Medieval and Early Modern Studies Institute Seminar on *Claustrophilia*, Washington, D.C. (Roundtable Discussion)

"Number There in Love was Slain." *Shakespeare* Symposium, Ithaca, NY

"Talking Animals." Robert. L. Hess Scholar-in-Residence Talk with Marc Shell, Brooklyn, NY

2005:

"Meat and the Violence of Reason in the Middle Ages." Animal Studies Group, Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

2024:

"Are Nonhuman Animals "Emotional"? Some Classical and Medieval Answers." (as well as a response for the session "Gendered Animals") International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo

"Does the Rational Soul Think? On the Limits of Personhood." (as well as a response for the session "Frictions of Representation") Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South

2023:

"Middle English Hunting Manuals and Natural History," International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo

"The End of Us: Evangelical Dystopian Eschatology and the Medieval Fifteen Signs of the Last Days," American Comparative Literature Association, Chicago

2022:

"Human Nature: Rational and Mortal," International Congress on the Study of the Middle Ages, Leeds

Response to session "On the Human / Nonhuman / Posthuman in Medieval China I," Medieval Academy of America, Charlottesville, Virginia

2021:

"Landscape and the Rules of the Game, on Wolf-Hunting in C.9," Piers Expo 2021 (two-day online *Piers Plowman* conference)

2019:

"What Hanne Darboven can tell us about the Middle English 'Names of the Hare in English'," international Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, for session on "Posthuman Character"

'Kynes Craft': Animal Labor and Brute Rationality in *Piers Plowman*," International *Piers Plowman* Society Conference, Miami, for session on "Posthuman Piers"

"Middle Scots Misogynoir: On Teaching Dunbar's 'My ladye with the mekle lippis.'" Medieval Academy of America, Philadelphia

2018:

"*Metamorphoses XV* and Truth as a Political Problem," New Chaucer Society, Toronto, for session on "Forming Knowledge"

"Institutional Power, Sexual Harassment, and the Physician's Tale," International Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, for session on "Mood"

"The *Vinland Sagas* and Teaching against White Supremacy," Modern Language Association, New York, for session on "Approaching 1492 from the Middle Ages"

2017:

"Unseasonal," Modern Language Association, Philadelphia, for "Ecological Catastrophe: Past and Present"

2016:

"Logsex in Hell: What a Body Can't Do." The Body Unbound: Literary Approaches to the Classical Corpus, Brooklyn College, New York

"Animals, Gesture, and Communication Despite it All," New Chaucer Society, London, for session on "(Dis)abling the Human/Animal Body"

2015:

"Rigor," Fourth Biennial Babel Working Group Meeting, Toronto

Response to "New Materialisms and the End of Critique," Modern Language Association, Vancouver

2014:

"Our Nonconsensual Existence: Oysters and Us," 42nd Annual University of British Columbia Medieval Workshop

[Paired presentations] "Is a Quantum Mechanics Literary Studies Desirable or Necessary" and "Subatomic," Third Biennial Meeting of the Babel Working Group, Santa Barbara, CA

"Spontaneous Generation and the Problem of 'Automatic' Agency." International Medieval Conference, Kalamazoo, MI [revised and condensed for the New Chaucer Society, Reykjavik, July 2014]

"Satisfaction." International Medieval Conference, Kalamazoo, MI

2013:

"Feeding the Dogs." International Medieval Conference, Kalamazoo, MI

2012:

"Abyss." Second Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group, Boston

"Irrational (Human) Objects of a Rational Law: On Deer Carcasses and the Medieval English Forest," New Chaucer Society, Portland Oregon

"Poachers, Lepers, and the Deer's Lively Carcass." International Medieval Society, Paris

2011:

"Ridiculous Grief: Dead Animals and Lost Humans." Constituting the Human Conference, New York

"Weeping with *Erkenwald*; or, Complicit with Grace." Modern Language Association, Los Angeles

2010:

"The Past as Past is its Disappearance: *Erkenwald* and the Jews." New Chaucer Society Conference, Siena Italy

2009:

"Woofing and Weeping: Mourning with Animals in the Last Days." International Medieval Conference, Kalamazoo, MI

2008:

"The Return of the Pig? Violence and Meat in Resurrection Doctrine." Southeast Medieval Association Conference, St. Louis, MO

"Symphytic Gowther and Other Worldly Animals." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2007:

"How Delicious We Must Be: Anthropophagy Again." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2006:

"Hunting in Chrétien's Yvain: A Reassessment of Le Goff." International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2005:

"'Bestialibus hominibus sumenda sunt': The Regulation of Carrion in the Penitentials." Columbia Medieval Guild Conference, New York City

"The Child Christ and Pigs in the Oven." International Medieval Conference, Leeds, UK

2004:

"Incest, Aristocratic Origins, and Monstrous Identity in *Des Grantz Geanz*." Medieval Academy of America Conference, Seattle, WA

2003:

"Some Considerations on the Author and Jongleurs of the *Roman de Silence*." Conference in Honor of Robert W. Hanning: Past, Present, and Future, New York City

“Robert of Greatham’s Prologue to the *Miroir* or *Évangiles des domnées*.” Third Annual New York Doctoral Consortium in Medieval Studies, New York City

“Cresseid Among the Old Men.” Mid-Atlantic Medieval Association, Kansas City, MO

2002:

“Christina of Markyate’s Spiritual and Political Authority.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI

2000:

“Burning His Laurels: Jean de Meun as Auctor in *La Querelle de la Rose*.” Columbia Medieval Guild Conference, New York City

1999:

“‘The unreasonabilité that cometh of sensualité’: ‘Why I Can’t be a Nun,’ Aristotle, and Medieval Misogyny.” University of Riverside Graduate Student Conference, Riverside, CA

1998:

“‘See if thou canst interpret it to me’: Bunyan’s Coercive Marginalia.” International Bunyan Society Conference, Stirling, UK

### **Talks to the Community, Interviews, and Creative Work (outside CUNY)**

2023:

“What is Posthumanism?, or, The Premodern Challenge to Humanisms, Technological or Otherwise,” for the series “Decolonizing the Earth: Eco-Pedagogy” organized by Chia-Ju Chang, Brooklyn College

2022:

“How Will God Know His Own? Vaccination Worries and Medieval Resurrection Doctrine,” [The Sundial \(online journal for the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies\), February 3, 2022](#)

“That Uncertain Feeling: Plaguetime and Judgment, Medieval to Modern,” [Digital Defoe January 5, 2022](#), “Reflections on Recovery” roundtable

2021:

“The Adapted Words of Memmie le Blanc,” *Lapham’s Quarterly Roundtable* July 6, 2021 [[one of the top 8 original pieces on the Lapham’s Roundtable for 2021](#)]

Philadelphia Free Library, Race and Racism Roundtable (online presentation)

2019:

Panel talk on medieval animal trials at NYU Tisch, pre-performance event for the play *12 Angry Animals*

2015:

Panel talk on oysters to the Columbia Medieval Colloquium on Animal and Environmental Studies

Presentation on medieval monsters, animals, and pets, for Barnard College Medieval and Renaissance Lives

2012:

Video introduction to Critical Animal Theory, for *Itinerations* Journal, “Big Ideas”: <http://itinerations.org/node/12>

2011:

Interview with Kris Coffield on the blog *Fractured Politics*, <http://fracturedpolitics.com/2011/06/10/interview-karl-steel.aspx>

“Meat Me in Paradise” Proteus Gowanus Gallery Paradise Sermons

2010:

“Afterwords: Remy's Open Hand.” *Whiskey & Fox* 4.1 (March, 2010): 36-39

## **WEBLOG**

2018-present

[www.medievalkarl.com](http://www.medievalkarl.com)

2006-2020

In the Middle ([www.inthemedievalmiddle.com](http://www.inthemedievalmiddle.com), a medieval studies group blog founded by Jeffrey Jerome Cohen). Winner of the 2007 Cliopatria Award for Best Group Blog

## **TEACHING (Post-Ph.D.)**

### **Undergraduate**

In addition to English composition and literary survey courses, the following more specialized topics:

Arthurian Literature

The Bible as Literature

*The Canterbury Tales*

History and Literature (Race and Racism from the Middle Ages to the present)

Medieval Comparative Literature (literature of Britain and the British Isles)

Medieval English Literature

Medieval Senior Seminar: Eating in the Middle Ages

Theory of History and Literature (an introduction to literary theory)

### **Graduate**

Introduction to Literary Research

Literary Texts and Critical Methods (critical theory survey)

*The Canterbury Tales*

Chaucer Excluding the *Canterbury Tales*

Race and Racism in Medieval Literature

Saints, Monsters, and Animals in the Middle Ages

Animals and Ecology in the Middle Ages (Doctoral Seminar)

Small Things (Doctoral seminar)

Problems in Posthumanism (Doctoral Seminar: taught twice)

*Canterbury Tales*: Animals, Objects, and Agency (Doctoral Seminar)

Irrational Animals from the Middle Ages to the Present (Doctoral Seminar)

Introduction to Medieval Studies (Doctoral seminar)

Reason, Freedom, and Animality (Doctoral Seminar)

The Limits of the Human (Seminar at Columbia University, Fall 2021)

Little Beasts: Children, Animals, and other Unruly Creatures (Doctoral Seminar)

### **AWARDS AND HONORS (Post-Ph.D.)**

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Mini-Grant, 2013  
Mrs. Giles Whiting Foundation Fellowship for Outstanding Teaching in the Humanities, 2011  
Faculty Fellow Publication Program, 2010  
PSC-CUNY Summer Salary Research Award, 2008, 2009, 2011-2017, 2023  
Brooklyn College New Faculty Fund, 2008-09

### **CLASS VISITS (outside of CUNY)**

Presentation on Medieval Death Poetry, Matthew Harrison's Undergraduate Course on Death and Literature, West Texas A&M, September 1, 2020 -- Virtual  
Presentation on Medieval Literature and Fairy Tales, Patricia Matthew's Intro to Lit Course, Montclair State University, June 23, 2020 -- Virtual

### **PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE**

#### **Departmental Service**

Director of Composition (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)  
Prize Committee, Chair (Fall 2018 – Spring 2022)  
Appointments Committee (Fall 2018 – Spring 2023)  
Assessment Coordinator (Spring 2013 – Fall 2015)  
English Departmental Secretary (Fall 2009 – Spring 2015 [delegated to a colleague in Spring 2012])  
Chair of Comparative Literature ad-hoc committee (2013-2014)  
Departmental Representative for Brooklyn College Professional Staff Congress-CUNY (2009-2011)  
Coorganizer, Undergraduate Research Conference (2007 – 2016)  
Stern Humor Award Committee (2013)  
Corinne Steele Senior Thesis Prize Judge (2010, 2011, 2017, 2018)  
Respondent, Brooklyn College Graduate Student Conference (2010, 2011)  
Himan Brown Playwriting Competition Committee (2012, 2017, 2023)  
Departmental Comparative Literature Representative (2012)  
Departmental Technology Representative (2012)

#### **Brooklyn College Service**

Chair, Subcommittee on Promotion and Tenure for CLTs in Non-Academic Departments (Fall 2022)  
Co-Chair, LAMEM (Late Antique, Medieval, and Early Modern Faculty Working Group) (Fall 2022 – Spring 2023)  
Chair, Course and Standing (Fall 2021)  
Chair, Undergraduate Admissions Faculty Council Committee (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)  
Chair, Academic Foundations (Fall 2015)  
Honors, Citations, and Awards (Fall 2018 – Spring 2019)  
Hess Scholar-in-Residence Committee (Fall 2017 – Spring 2018)  
Whiting Teaching Award Committee (Fall 2016)  
Humanities Divisional Delegate for Faculty Council (2009-Spring 2010; Spring 2011 – Fall 2011, Fall 2012 – Spring 2018)  
Digital Humanities Working Group (Spring 2015 – Fall 2015)  
Executive Board of Local Chapter of Professional Staff Congress-CUNY (2008-Fall 2015)  
Committee Membership: General Education (Fall 2014 – Spring 2015); Core Curriculum (Fall 2012 – Spring 2014); Course and Standing Committee (Fall 2008- Spring 2010, Spring 2020 – Spring 2021); Committee on Committees (Fall 2010)  
New Faculty Fund Committee (2011)

Chair, Wolfe Institute Interdisciplinary Study Group on Jane Bennett, *Vibrant Matter* (Fall 2010)  
Chair, Wolfe Institute Interdisciplinary Study Group on Critical Animal Theory (Fall 2009)  
Co-Chair, Wolfe Institute Interdisciplinary Study Group on Digital Humanities (Fall 2015)

### **CUNY Service**

GC Admissions Committee (Spring 2019 - present)  
GC Curriculum Committee, Chair (Fall 2020 – Spring 2023)  
GC Prize Committee (Spring 2018)  
GC Curriculum Committee (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017 – Spring 2020)  
GC Dissertation Fellowship Competition Review (2015)  
PSC-CUNY Grants Review (2009, 2014, 2015)  
Honors Academy Application Judge (2012)

### **Service to the Field**

Participant, Image du Monde challenge (January 2020 described [here](#); transcribed 7 folios of BnF fr. 2173)  
MLA Prize for First Book Committee (Spring 2020 – Fall 2021: two summers of work)  
President, New York Medieval Club (Fall 2017 – Spring 2021)  
Secretary, New York Medieval Club (Fall 2015-Spring 2017)  
Editorial Board, *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* (2010-2020)  
Editorial Board, Punctum Books (2012-2020)  
Editorial Board, *Medieval Animals* (University of Wales Press) (2018 – present)  
Advisory Board, Palgrave Studies in Animals and Literature (2018-present)  
BABEL Working Group: Core Organizer (2014 – Fall 2015)  
Section Editor, *Glossator* (Online Journal on the Philosophy and History of Commentary, Glossing, and Marginalia) (2010-2015)

### **Session Organizer:**

“A Cross-Cultural Conversation on Wonder Collections” (Medieval Academy of America, 2023)  
“The *Ars Moriendi* and Practices of Care,” with Ashby Kinch (New Chaucer Society, Toronto, 2018)  
“Academic Medievalisms after Conservative Religion” (Kalamazoo Medieval 2018)  
“Extrajudicial,” Fourth Biennial Babel Working Group Meeting (Toronto, 2015)  
Session Chair: “Nature into Culture,” New Chaucer Society (Portland Oregon, 2012)  
Co-Organizer, “Glossing is a Glorious Thing: The Past, Present, and Future of Commentary.” CUNY Graduate Center (April 9-10, 2009)

### **Dissertation Supervision (Completed Dissertations)**

Sandra Moyano Ariza, “Algorithmic Love: Twenty-First Century Organizations of the Romantic,” CUNY Graduate Center, Chair (2024)  
Ellis Amity Light, “Fluxing Fellowship: Bodily Fluids and Forms of Community in Medieval Devotional Literature,” Fordham University, Outside Reader (2023)  
Woo Ree Heor, “Haunting at Troy: Troy Narratives, Trauma, and Desire for the Past in Late Medieval English Literature,” CUNY Graduate Center, Third Reader (2023)  
Emily J. Mahan, “Reading Animals in Medieval Fable,” Notre Dame, Outside Reader (2022)  
Emily J. O’Brook, “‘If Small Things Can Be Compared to Great’: The Symbolic Ecology of the Honeybee in Medieval France,” New York University, Outside Reader (2022)  
Jessica Ann Chace, “‘For semyvif he semed’: Affective Responses to the Half-Alive Human in Middle English Literature, ca. 1350-1450,” New York University, Outside Reader (2020)  
Julie K. Chamberlin, “Foxes, Fables, and Felons: Animals Before the Law in the Middle Ages,” Indiana University,

### Outside Reader (2019)

- Jennifer Alberghini, "Divided Loyalties: Family and Consent to Marriage in Late Middle English Literature, 1300-1500," CUNY Graduate Center, Third Reader (2018)
- Joseph R. Johnson, "Animal Speech and Human Handwriting in the *Ysopet* of Marie and the *Roman de Renart*," New York University, Outside Reader (2017)
- Alex Baldassano, "Bodies of Resistance: On (Not) Naming Gender in the Medieval West," CUNY Graduate Center, Third Reader (2017)
- Arnaud Gerspacher, "Posthumanist Animals in Art—France and Belgium 1972-87," CUNY Graduate Center, Third Reader (2017)
- Noel Blanco Mourelle, "Every Knowable Thing: The Art of Ramon Llull and the Construction of Knowledge," Columbia University, Outside Reader (2017)
- Jo Livingstone, "East of England: Middle English Imperial Romance and the Landscape of British Nationalism," New York University, Outside Reader (2015)

### Manuscript Reviews for the Following Journals, Presses, and Institutions

1. Amsterdam University Press (book manuscript)
2. Brill (two book manuscripts)
3. Catholic University of American Press (book manuscript)
4. Central European University (evaluation of an MA thesis)
5. *Criticism*
6. *Environmental Humanities*
7. *Exemplaria* (4 articles)
8. *Fantastika* (2 articles)
9. *Humanities*
10. *Journal of English and Germanic Philology* (2 articles)
11. *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*
12. *Journal of the Northern Renaissance*
13. Lexington Books
14. *Literature Compass*
15. Medieval Institute Publications (chapter for an edited volume)
16. *Medieval Ecocriticisms*
17. *Mosaic: An Interdisciplinary Critical Journal*
18. *New Medieval Literatures*
19. *Neophilologus*
20. Ohio State University Press (book manuscript)
21. *Parergon: Journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for Medieval and Early Modern Studies*
22. Palgrave Macmillan (2 book proposals)
23. *Parallax*
24. *Philological Quarterly*
25. *Political Theory*
26. *Postmedieval* (2 articles)
27. Punctum Books (book manuscript)
28. *Preternature: Critical and Historical Studies on the Preternatural* (2 manuscripts)
29. *Religions* (2 articles)
30. *Renaissance Quarterly*
31. *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada / Conseil de recherches en sciences humaines du Canada* (grant application)
32. *South Central Review*
33. *Studies in Iconography*
34. *Speculum*
35. *Trace: Finnish Journal for Human-Animal Studies*



36. University of Chicago Press (advance book contract; 2 book manuscripts)
37. University of Minnesota Press (five book manuscripts)
38. University of New South Wales, Graduate Research School (MA thesis outside reader)
39. University of Pennsylvania Press
40. University of Wales Press (book proposal)
41. *Viator*
42. *Yearbook of Langland Studies*