

SHOSHANA ADLER

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., English Literature, University of Pennsylvania, expected May 2023

M.A., English Literature, University of Pennsylvania, 2017

B.A., *summa cum laude*, English Literature and Philosophy, Brooklyn College CUNY, 2015

DISSERTATION

“Tender Flesh: Race and Sensation in Medieval English Literature”

Committee: David Wallace (chair), Rita Copeland, Emily Steiner, Heather Love

This project details the emergence of racial ideologies immanent to late medieval writings on the bodily sensorium. In fourteenth and fifteenth-century England, poets, theologians, natural scientists, and preachers effectuated the experience of morality proper to the good Christian subject. These writers, moving between investigating the physical sensation of sin in one’s own body and prescribing ways of discerning the morality of others in their physical appearance, transform the scene of perception into a charged site for discerning moral truth.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Medieval literature and early modern literature, especially Chaucer, travel writing, pre-modern woman writers, romance, and Jewish and Christian hermeneutics; queer theory; literary theory; cultural histories of racialization; cultural histories of the senses.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapter: “Jewishness and White Supremacy,” forthcoming in *Visible Jews* from the University of Pennsylvania Press, co-edited by Emily Steiner and Samantha Seal, 2024.

Book Chapter: “Race” forthcoming in *The Routledge Companion to Global Chaucer*, co-edited by Craig E. Bertolet and Susan Nakley, 2024.

Article: “Spoiled History: Leprosy and the Lessons of Queer Medieval Historiography” forthcoming in *boundary 2*, summer 2023.

Article: “Claustrophobia, Race, and *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*,” forthcoming in *Exemplaria*, winter 2022.

Book Review: “*The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages* by Geraldine Heng” in *EuropeNow*, 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Bryn Mawr College, Department of English:

EMLY020 “Monsters: First Year Writing Seminar,” Instructor, Fall 2022

EMLY021 “Monsters: First Year Writing Seminar,” Instructor, Fall 2022

University of Pennsylvania, Department of English:

ENGL 200 “Survey of British Literature to 1660,” Instructor, Spring 2022.

ENGL 025 “Chaucer,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2021.

ENG PFP “Pre-Freshman Writing,” Instructor, Summer 2020.

ENGL 225 “Chaucer,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2020.

ENGL 200 “Queer Communities,” Instructor, Spring 2018.

ENGL 102 “Monsters in Film and Literature,” Teaching Assistant, Spring 2017.

ENGL 221 “Premodern Women Writers,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2016.

University of Pennsylvania, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies:

GSWS 003 “Introduction to Queer Theory,” Instructor, Fall 2020.

GSWS 002 “Gender and Society,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017.

University of Pennsylvania, Cinema and Media Studies:

CIMS 102 “World Film History, 1945-Present,” Teaching Assistant, Fall 2021.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

SAS Graduate Funding Fellowship, 2021-2023.

SAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2020-2021.

Certificate in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies, 2021.

Summer Fellowship at the Critical Theory Workshop in Paris, 2020.

SAS-Gov funding for “Queer Urgencies,” University of Pennsylvania, 2019.

Teaching Certificate, Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, 2019.

GAPSA Award supporting “Medieval Vulnerabilities,” University of Pennsylvania, 2018.

London King's College Research Fellowship, 2018.

Benjamin Franklin Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, 2015-2020.

The Kitsch Foundation Award, Brooklyn College CUNY, 2015.

The Rosen Fellowship, Brooklyn College CUNY, 2014.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Jewish Historicity and the History of the Jews," at the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium seminar, March 2023.

"Tacky Racism: Orientalism and Jewelry in *The Prioress's Tale*," at MLA 2023.

"So Tender and Round: Race and Sensation in Medieval Religious Allegory" invited talk at Brooklyn College CUNY Late Antique Medieval Early Modern working group, December 2022.

"Race and Claustrophobia in Lydgate's *The Pilgrimage of the Life of Man*," at New Chaucer Society, Durham UK, July, 2022.

"Claustrophobic Selves," at Sewanee Medieval Colloquium seminar, April 2021.

"Queer Method," at the Penn Gender and Sexuality Working Group, July 2020.

"Eucharist Sensuality in Late Medieval England: Learning How to Feel Race," at Delaware Valley Medieval Association, February 2020.

"'As it was first:' Race and Somatic Cohesion in Mandeville's *Travels*," at the Penn Medieval/Renaissance working group, September 2019.

"Recognitions in *ffleshe*: Race and Phenomenology in Late Medieval France and England," at the Critical Theory Workshop in Paris, France, July 2019.

"The Ears are the Eyes of the Soul: Allegory, Deformity, and the Problem of Observation in *Le pèlerinage de la vie humaine*," at University College London: Permeable Bodies in Medieval Visual Culture, October 2018.

"Categorical Violence: The Trope of Gog Magog and Racialized Formations in Middle English Alexander Literature" at New Chaucer Society, July 2018.

"Sexegesis," on the 'Medievalists After Conservative Religion' panel at the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, May 2018.

"His Owen Marches": Ethnography, Racialization, and Return in the *Book of Marvels and Travels*" at the Berlin ICI: Shape of Medieval Return, September 2017.

"Defective Peters: Castration and Queer Materiality in the High Middle Ages" on the panel "Bodies and Grammar" at the Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, March 2017.

"(Un)holy Terror: Destabilizing Performance and Disability in *Vita Christina Mirabilis*" at M@P Annual Graduate Conference, March 2016.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Organizing:

“Queer Urgencies” University of Pennsylvania, April 2019. Featured speakers and artists include Anjali Arondekar, Kai Davis, Samuel (Chip) Delany, Alison Kafer, Petrus Liu, Eng Beng Lim, Tavia Nyong’o, Raquel Salas Rivera, Juana María Rodríguez, Jules Rosskam, Danez Smith, Michelle Stephens, Kyla Tomkins, and Joshua Whitehead.

“Vulnerability” Medievalists@Penn 10th Annual Graduate Conference, March 2018, keynote speaker Masha Raskolnikov.

Medieval and Renaissance Working Group Coordinator, 2018-2019 [selected]

Organizer, “La Fata Morgana and the Wondrous Temporalities of the Air,” talk by Carolyn Dinshaw, March 2018.

Organizer, “In the Orbit of the Ottomans: English and Malay Literatures of Contact,” talk by Su Fang Ng, September 2018.

Organizer, “Speculation and Patience,” talk by Arthur Bahr, September 2018.

Organizer, “‘Like Crows in New Seeded Gardens’: Female Blackface in Jacobean and Caroline drama,” talk by Noémie Ndiaye, November 2018.

Organizer, “Manuscript Skills Course,” workshop co-hosted with the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies, August 2019.

Organizer, “‘Rime Riche in the Book of the Duchess,” talk by Sarah Novacich, March 2019.

Gender and Sexuality Working Group Coordinator, 2016-2018 [selected]

Organizer, “A Century of Female Orgasm,” talk by Laura Frost, April 2017.

Organizer, “Fatal Sex: On Gay Narcissism, Racial Violence, and the Death of Suicidal Ecstasy,” talk by Bobby Benedicto, March 2017.

Organizer, “The Color of Monogamy: Queer Theology in Renaissance Love Lyrics,” talk by Melissa Sanchez, March 2017.

Organizer, “Boner Killer,” performance by Erin Markey, December 2016.

Organizer, “Felawe Masculinity”: Teaching Rape Culture in Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*,” talk by Carissa Harris, November 2016.

Organizer, “The Political Ethos of Silence: Sonic Action and Inaction During the Early Years of the AIDS Epidemic,” talk by Mariah Murphy, October 2016.

Medievalists@Penn Reading Group Coordinator, 2016-2018 [selected]

Presenter, “The *Fasciculus Morum* in context,” guided reading, September 2019.

Organizer, “Geraldine Heng’s *The Invention of Race*,” roundtable discussion, April 2018.

Organizer, “Mary Carruthers' *The Book of Memory*,” roundtable discussion, February 2017.

Organizer, “Augustine's *City of God* in Latin and English,” roundtable discussion, February 2016.

LANGUAGES

Hebrew (fluent) * Old & Middle English (advanced) * French (advanced) * Latin (advanced)

REFERENCES

Professor David Wallace

University of Pennsylvania

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Professor Rita Copeland

University of Pennsylvania

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Professor Heather Love

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Professor Emily Steiner

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