

ARTHUR BAHR

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LITERATURE FACULTY, 14N-424
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APPOINTMENTS HELD

Associate Professor of Literature, MIT, 2011-present. Tenured 2014.

Assistant Professor of Literature, MIT, 2007-2011.

Visiting Assistant Professor of English, Haverford College, 2006-2007.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Margaret MacVicar Faculty Fellowship, 2015. The MacVicar Fellowship is MIT's highest recognition for contributions to undergraduate education at the Institute.

External Faculty Fellow, Wellesley College Newhouse Center for the Humanities, 2014-15.

Alfred Henry and Jean Morrison Hayes Career Development Chair, MIT, 2012-2015.

James A. and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching, MIT, 2012.

Phi Beta Kappa Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2006-07.

SCHOLARSHIP

BOOKS AND VOLUMES

Chasing the Pearl-Manuscript: Speculation, Shapes, Delight. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2024.

Fragments and Assemblages: Forming Compilations of Medieval London. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013. 285 pages. Paperback edition published 2015.

Co-editor, with Alexandra Gillespie, *Medieval English Manuscripts: Form, Aesthetics, and the Literary Text.* Special issue of *The Chaucer Review* (47.4, April 2013).

ARTICLES AND ESSAYS

"Birdsong, Love, and the House of Lancaster: Gower Reads Chaucer," in *Chaucer and the Subversion of Form*, ed. Thomas Prendergast and Jessica Rosenfeld (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018), 165-181.

“Teaching *Pearl* with *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,” in *Approaches to Teaching the Middle English Pearl*, ed. Jane Beal and Mark Bradshaw Busbee, (New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2018), 131-138.

“Compulsory Figures,” *ELH* 84.2 (2017): 295-314.

“Sex, Plague, and Resonance: Reflections on the BBC *Pardoner’s Tale*,” in *Screening Chaucer: Absence, Presence, and Adapting the Canterbury Tales*, ed. Kathleen Kelly and Tison Pugh, (Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 2016), 230-238.

“The Manifold Singularity of *Pearl*,” *ELH* 82.3 (2015): 729-58.

“On Being a Professor who’s More Teacher than Scholar,” for the In the Middle blog, October 2015. <http://www.inthemedievalmiddle.com/2015/10/on-being-professor-whos-more-teacher.html>

“Translating Sonnets,” in *The Pocket Instructor: Literature*, ed. Diana Fuss and William Gleason (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2015), 204-06

“Miscellaneity and Variance in the Medieval Book,” in *The Medieval Manuscript Book: Cultural Approaches*, ed. Michael Van Dussen and Michael Johnston (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2015), 181-98.

“Fear, Time, and Lack: the *Egesa* of *Beowulf*,” in *Essays on Aesthetics in Old and Middle English in Honor of Howell D. Chickering*, ed. John D. Hill, Bonnie Wheeler, and R. F. Yeager (Toronto: Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies, 2014), 53-66.

“Finding the Forms of *Cleanness*,” *Studies in Philology* 110.3 (2013): 459-481.

Co-author, with Alexandra Gillespie, “Introduction” to *Medieval English Manuscripts: Form, Aesthetics, and the Literary Text*, a special issue of *The Chaucer Review* 47.4 (2013): 346-60.

“Celebrate Fragments,” for the New Chaucer Society blog, December 2013. <http://newchaucersociety.org/blog/entry/celebrate-fragments>

“Reading Codicological Form in John Gower’s Trentham Manuscript.” *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 33 (2011): 219-62.

“The Rhetorical Construction of Narrator and Narrative in Chaucer’s *Book of the Duchess*.” *The Chaucer Review* 35.1 (2000): 43-59.

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Giant. Medievally Speaking* (2016): <http://medievallyspeaking.blogspot.com/2016/05/ishiguro-buried-giant.html>

Review of Corinne Saunders, ed., *A Companion to Medieval Poetry*. *Speculum* 89 (2014): 538–40.

Review of Eleanor Johnson, *Practicing Literary Theory in the Middle Ages: Ethics and the Mixed Form in Chaucer, Gower, Usk, and Hoccleve*. *Speculum* 89 (2014): 496–97.

Review of Alan J. Fletcher, *The Presence of Medieval English Literature*. *Arthuriana* 23 (2013): 114–16.

SELECTED INVITED TALKS

“Speculative Geometry in the Opening Pages of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*,” University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2022.

“What Is a Text in the Pearl-Manuscript?” University of Düsseldorf, 2021

“Teaching Literature through a Pandemic,” New England Medieval Conference, 2021

“Little Lewis’s Astrolabe,” New Chaucer Society Expo, 2021

“The Pearl-Manuscript as Kaleidoscope,” University of Washington, Seattle, 2020; and University of Indiana, Bloomington, 2022.

“*Sir Gawain*, Chaucer’s Squire, and the Ends of Cotton Nero A.x,” Bowdoin College, 2018.

“In Praise of Speculation,” University of Pennsylvania, 2018.

“Teaching Miscellanies,” Renaissance Society of America, 2018.

“Some Temporal Problems with *Patience*,” Harvard University, 2018.

“The Pearl-Manuscript and the Consolations of Geometry,” Rutgers University, 2017.

“Sheets of Parchment, Sheets of Ice: Or, Why Book History and Figure Skating Must Be in Dialogue,” University of Texas, Austin, 2017.

“Mediating Pearls, Manuscript and Maiden,” Concordia University, 2017.

“Against Techno-Utopianism,” Harvard University, 2016.

“Compulsory Figures,” Yale University, 2015.

“Denouement: Speculating on the ‘Endeles Knot’ of *Sir Gawain*,” New York University and Bard College, 2014.

“Miscellany, Compilation, and the Experience of Medieval Literature,” Columbia University, 2013.

“Bits and Pieces: Structures of Meaning in the History of the Book,” Yale University, 2013.

“The Manifold Singularity of *Pearl*,” Plenary speaker, New England Medieval Conference, 2012.

“Scribal Labor, Literary Value, and the Economies of *Pearl*,” University of Rochester and Wellesley College, 2012.

“Beauty, Labor, Pleasure, *Pearl*,” University of Connecticut, 2011.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Interim Director, Ancient and Medieval Studies Program, 2022-present.

Member, MIT Faculty Policy Committee, 2021-22

Chair, MIT Committee on the Undergraduate Program, 2019-21

Member, MIT Academic Policies and Regulations Team (APART; pandemic-related), 2020-21

Member, “MIT 2021 and Beyond” Task Force, 2020-21

Co-Director, MIT Ancient and Medieval Studies Program, 2009-2018

Chair, MIT Literature Curriculum Committee, 2015-2019

President, MIT Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2016-2018

Advisory board member, *Exemplaria*

Peer reviewer/referee for Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Stanford University Press, University of Chicago Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Medieval Institute Publications, Ashgate Publishing, University Press of Florida, Concordia University Press, *PMLA*, *The Chaucer Review*, *Exemplaria*, *Parergon*, *Accessus*, and *Viator* (partial list)

External referee for Canada’s Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and the University of Freiburg’s Institute for Advanced Studies

External examiner, University of Oxford DPhil defense of J.D. Sargan (2018)

Member, Steering/Program Committees of the New England Medieval Consortium (2017-21), New Chaucer Society (2016), Medieval Academy of America (2016), and BABEL (2012, 2015)