

Helene Scheck

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Education

2001 Ph.D. Binghamton University
1989 M.A. State University of New York at Albany
1985 B.A. Harpur College, State University of New York at Binghamton

Academic Experience

Fall 2008-present	Associate Professor, Department of English The University at Albany
Fall 2002-Spring 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of English The University at Albany
Fall 2001-Spring 2002	Fulltime Lecturer/Adviser, Department of English The University at Albany
Fall 1998-Summer 2000 Spring 2001	Academic Adviser, Department of English The University at Albany
Spring 1995-Spring 2001	Instructor/Lecturer, various institutions

Awards

Honorable Mention, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship First book Prize,
May 2010
College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award for Innovation in Teaching,
May 2008
Co-recipient, Institute for Teaching, Learning, and Academic Leadership Grant
for Multimedia Performance Project, April 2008
Faculty Research Award, April 2006
Dr. Nuala McGann Drescher Award, United University Professions,
September 2005

Research Grant, Initiatives for Women, University at Albany, April 2003
Distinguished Dissertation, Department of English, Binghamton University,
March 2001
Distinguished Dissertation, Humanities Division, Binghamton University,
April 2001

Select Publications

Monograph

Reform and Resistance: Formations of Female Subjectivity in Early Medieval Ecclesiastical Culture. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2008.

[A consideration of the relationship between gender and identity in ecclesiastical culture of the early Middle Ages, focusing particularly on the tensions produced during periods of ecclesiastical reform]

Edited Volumes

with Christine Kozikowski. *New Readings on Women in Anglo-Saxon Literature and Culture: Cross-Disciplinary Essays in Honor of Helen Damico*. ARC-Humanities, Amsterdam University Press, 2019.

with Richard Barney. *Rhetorics of Plague, Early and Late*. Special issue of the Journal of Early Modern Cultural Studies. Volume 10, Number 2; Fall/Winter 2010.

with Virginia Blanton. *Intertexts: Studies in Anglo-Saxon Culture Presented to Paul E. Szarmach*. Medieval/Renaissance Texts and Studies, University of Arizona, 2008.

Articles

“A Reconsideration of Female Scribal Activity: Locating the Home of the ab-Scriptorium.” In *Engaging Medieval Women Religious: Studies in Honour of Veronica O’Mara*. Edited by Patricia Stoop & Virginia Blanton. Brepols. Forthcoming 2025.

“Jerome of Strido at Chelles: The Legacy of Quedlinburg Codex 74.” *Studies in Medieval and Renaissance History*. Ser. 3, vol. 18 (March 2024): 33-71.
<https://www.arc-humanities.org/9781802701395/studies-in-medieval-and-renaissance-history-series-3-volume-18/>

“‘*Psallite Sapienter*’: Psalms at the Core of Women's Learning at Early Medieval Quedlinburg.” In *A Companion to the Abbey of Quedlinburg in the Middle Ages*. Edited by Karen Blough. Brill's Companion to the Christian Tradition. Brill, 2023. Pp. 142-80.

with Virginia Blanton. “Leoba and the Iconography of Learning: Effects and Implications in 9th Century Francia.” In *Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe: The Antwerp Dialogue*. Edited by Virginia Blanton, Veronica O'Mara, and Patricia Stoop. Brepols, 2017. Pp. 43-56.

"Future Perfect: Reading Temporalities at the Royal Women's Monastery at Chelles, ca. 660-1050." *Medievalia* 37 (2016): 9-50.

with Virginia Blanton. “Leoba and the Iconography of Learning in the Lives of Anglo-Saxon Women Religious, 650-780.” In *Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe: The Kansas City Dialogue*. Edited by Virginia Blanton, Veronica O'Mara, and Patricia Stoop. Brepols, 2015. Pp. 3-26.

“Reading Women at the Margins of Quedlinburg Codex 74.” In *Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe: The Hull Dialogue*. Edited by Virginia Blanton, Veronica O'Mara, and Patricia Stoop. Brepols, May 2013. Pp. 3-18.

“Being and Abjection: *Imago Dei* in Hrotsvit's Conversion of the Whore Thais.” *Sexuality, Sociality and Cosmology*. Edited by Jennifer Brown and Marla Segol. Palgrave, New Middle Ages Series, 2013. Pp. 7-32.

A consideration of Hrotsvit's Thais as a reformulation of notions of female sensuality and subjectivity with a Boethian Christian cosmology.

“Nuns on Parade: Memorializing Women in *Karolus Magnus et Leo Papa*.” *Reading Memory and Identity in the Texts of Medieval European Holy Women*. Edited by Margaret Cotter-Lynch and Brad Herzog. Palgrave, New Middle Ages. 2012. Pp. 13-38.

This article argues for female authorship of this eccentric and influential 9th-century panegyric.

with Virginia Blanton. “Women.” *A Handbook to Anglo-Saxon Studies*. Edited by Jacqueline A. Stodnick and Renée R. Trilling. Wiley-Blackwell, Critical Theory Handbooks, 2012.

“Queen Mathilda of Saxony and the Founding of Quedlinburg: Women, Power, and Memory.” *Historical Reflections/Réflexions Historiques* 35.3 (Winter 2009): 21-36.

“Seductive Voices: Rethinking Female Subjectivities in the ‘Wife’s Lament’ and ‘Wulf and Eadwacer’.” *Literature Compass* 5 (2008).

Work in Progress

"Sing it, Sister!...." On Song of Songs at the early medieval women's community at Essen, Germany.

"Charlemagne’s Sister: Women’s Intellectual Culture, 780-1080,"

"Alcuin’s Correspondence with Women: A Translation with Introduction, Notes, and Commentary." (Book length)

Select Conference Papers

"Carolingian Women and the Shaping of Knowledge: Epistolary Traces," 57th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2022

“Sing it, Sister! Reading the Song of Songs in Ottonian Women’s Monastic Communities,” Gender, Memory and Documentary Culture, 900-1200, co-sponsored by the John Rylands Research Institute and the Haskins Society. June 28-29, 2019.

Panelist, “Gender and Genealogies: Medieval(ist) Librarians and Archivists,” 53rd International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2018.

“Translating Women in the Age of Bede: The Case of Balthild,” 52d International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2017.

“Sense and Sensibility: Reading and Reciting the Psalter at the Early Medieval Women’s Community at Quedlinburg,” The Pre-Modern Book in a Global Context: Materiality and Visuality, Binghamton University (SUNY), October 20-21, 2016.

"Spinning Apocrypha: Hrotsvit of Gandersheim and the dissemination of apocrypha for court and cloister in Ottonian Saxony," International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 4-7, 2016.

"Ottonian Women Reading Male Scholars: The Example of Hrotsvit of Gandersheim." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2016.

"The lost libraries of the Carolingian royal monastery of Notre Dame de Chelles," part of a panel discussion on Lost Libraries at *Off the Books: Making, Breaking, Binding, Burning, Leaving, Gathering*. The Fourth Biennial Meeting of the BABEL Working Group. University of Toronto, October 9-11, 2015.

"The Sherborne Pontifical, Chelles, and the Question of Women's Literacy and Ecclesiastical Reform." International Medieval Congress. University of Leeds. July 6-9, 2015.

"Considering the Source: Hrotsvit von Gandersheim and Christopher St. John." Hrotsvit 2014: Pageants and Pioneers. University of Hull, England. May 31, 2014.

"Recognizing Women's Cultural Production during the Anglo-Saxon Benedictine Reform: Manuscripts, Mobility, and Memes." 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2014.

Panelist, *New Readings on Women in Old English Literature: A Roundtable Discussion*. 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2014.

"Valenciennes bibliothèque municipale 81: Women's Learning at the Intersection of Frankish, Anglo-Saxon, and Irish Scholarship." International Society of Anglo-Saxonists. Dublin, July 29-August 2, 2013.

"Aristotle at Gandersheim." Third and final symposium on Nuns' Literacies in the Middle Ages. Antwerp, Belgium. June 2013.

With Virginia Blanton, "Leoba and the Iconography of Learning in the Lives of Anglo-Saxon Women Religious II." Third and final symposium on Nuns' Literacies in the Middle Ages. Universiteit Antwerp, Belgium. June 2013.

"Unsettling Categories: Hrotsvit's Revision of the Drusiana Legend through a Latin Epitome of Aristotle's *Categories*." 48th International Congress on Medieval Studies. Western Michigan University. May 2013.

With Virginia Blanton, "Leoba and the Iconography of Learning in the Lives of Anglo-Saxon Women Religious I." Second symposium on Nuns' Literacies in the Middle Ages. University of Missouri, Kansas City. June 2012.

"At the Margins: Women, Texts, and Memory in Ottonian Saxony." First Symposium on Nuns' Literacies in the Middle Ages. University at Hull. UK. June 2011.

"Glosses and Readers' Marks in Halle ULB Quedlinburg Cod. 74: Reading in Female Monastic Communities." Marco Manuscript Workshop. University of Tennessee, Knoxville, February 6, 2010.

Teaching (U Albany)

Graduate

Textual Practices I (ENG 500)

Spring 2008

Body Politics: Uses/Abuses of the Body on the Early English Stage (ENG 581)

Spring 2004, Spring 2015

Medieval Women Writers (ENG 581)

Spring 2009, Fall 2018, Fall 2024

Old English Language, Literature, and Culture (ENG 555)

Fall 2010, Spring 2012, Spring 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023

Race and Romance (ENG 580)

Fall 2020, Fall 2022

Technologies of the Book (ENG 580, Shared Resource)

Summer 2018

Chaucer and His Critics (ENG 681)

Spring 2003, 2005, 2007

Technologies of the Book (ENG 685)

Spring 2014

Teaching Writing and Literature (ENG 770)

Spring 2013

Undergraduate

Honors College

Technologies of the Book, Fall 2014, Spring 2021

Vikings, Fall 2017

Honors English

Thesis Seminar II (ENG 499)

Spring 2007, 2008

Thesis Seminar I (ENG 498)

Fall 2006, 2007

Junior Honors Seminar (ENG 399)

Spring 2007, 2008

Core Courses for English Major/Minor

Introduction to English Studies (ENG 210) (Core Course)

Fall 2004, Fall 2010 (team taught), Fall 2015

Introduction to Writing in English Studies (ENG 205Z)

Fall 2021

Studies in Writing about Texts (ENG 305V)

Spring/Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2019, Spring 2022, Spring 2023

Freshman Level

Reading Drama, Writing Intensive (ENG 123E)

Fall 1997

Sophomore Level

Technologies of the Book (ENG 222) (General Education)

Spring 2018

Middle Ages on Film (ENG 243L) (General Education)

Summer 2004

English Literary Tradition (ENG 291L) (General Education)

Fall 2001

Junior Level

Chaucer (ENG 341)

Spring 2003, 2004, 2005, Fall 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016

Chaucer and Christine (ENG 330)

Spring 2021

Early Works of Shakespeare (ENG 344)

Fall 1996, Spring 1997, Fall 1998, Spring/Fall 1999, Fall 2000, Summer 2001

Imagining Medieval Women (ENG/WSS 362L)

Fall 1999, Fall 2000, Spring 2003, Fall 2006

Later Works of Shakespeare (ENG 345)

Fall 1998, Spring/Fall 1999, Spring 2001

British Drama (ENG 322)

Spring 1998, Spring/Fall 2000

Middle Ages on Film (ENG 355) (Online Course)

Summer 2007, 2008

Senior Level

Arthurian Legends (Eng. 411 (formerly 378Q))

Summer 2001, Spring 2002, Fall 2003, Summer 2007, Fall 2009, Spring 2014,
Spring 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2024

Medieval Sexualities (ENG 416Y)

Spring 2011, Spring 2015

Literature of the Later Renaissance (ENG 423)

Fall 2001

Literature of the Middle Ages (ENG 421)

Spring 2001, 2002, 2003; Fall 2003, 2004, 2008
Technologies of the Book (411)
Summer 2018

Theses and Dissertations

Director, Doctoral Dissertations

“Christ at the Gates of the Minster: Drama and Civic Space in Medieval York,”
Karen Williams, in progress.
(Re)producing (Neo)medievalism, Kelly Ann Fitzpatrick, completed December
2015.

Director, MA Theses (select)

"Alchemical Feminism: The Power and Authority of Women in Shakespeare's
Pericles," 2019
"Poetry in Translation: Natalya Gorbanevskaya and the Multiple Displacements
of Translation," 2019
"Hildegard of Bingen's Rhetoric of Devotion," 2019
"Digital literacies," December 2014.
“Leaving Home: A Creative Memoir,” 2003.

Director, Honors Theses (select)

"Of Forests, Bargains, and Gods" (novella), 2022
"Liberating Grendel's Mother: The Transformation of Grendel's Mother through
Translations and Adaptations of Beowulf," 2020
"Suddenly War became Sweeter: Hybrid approach to Homer's Iliad," 2019
"Authoritative Voice in Black Women's Writing: Body Rights and Literary
Activism," 2019
"A Different Type of Teddy Bear: Looking at Books of Hours and Books
Produced by Ediciones Vigía as Transitional Objects," 2014

Reader on an array of doctoral, MA, and honors thesis committees.

Select Independent Studies

Graduate

Premodern constructions of race	Spring 2024
Medieval Mysticism	Fall 2023
Introduction to Manuscript Studies	Spring 2023
The Tale of Genji, Gender and Sexuality	Spring 2019
Chaucer, Beyond the Canterbury Tales	Spring 2016

Chaucer, Select Readings in the Canterbury Tales	Spring 2016
Old English	Spring 2013, 2014
Medieval Mysticism	Spring 2007
Hrotsvit of Gandersheim	Fall 2002

Undergraduate

Introduction to Manuscript Studies	Spring 2023
Postcolonial structures in the Anglo-Saxon Danelaw (Med/Ren Honors thesis)	Fall 2013-Spring 2014 Completed Spring 2016
John of Gaunt in literary and artistic representations	Fall 2013
Old English	Spring 2012, 2013
Amis and Amiloun	Spring/Fall 2011
Arthurian Legend in Popular Film	Fall 2003
Medieval Women Writers	Spring 2002
History of the English Language	Fall 2001

Service

Administrative Posts—College of Arts and Sciences

Director, Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program, 2003-04, Fall 2006 to Spring 2016

Administrative Posts—Department

Acting Chair, Summer 2019
 Director, MA program, 2015-2016
 Director, Undergraduate Studies, 2008-2012, F2019, 2023-
 Director, English Honors Program, 2006-08
 Department Chair Search Committee, 2004-05
 People Soft Faculty Liaison, Spring 2003-2005

Additional Service Contributions, The University at Albany

Faculty Advisor, Honors College Newsletter, 2018-2022
 Liaison, University in the High School Program, 2008-2012
 Member, subcommittee on educational offerings, Middle States Review, 2008-09
 Senator, University Senate, 2002-05, 2012-2016, 2018/2019
 University Policy and Planning Council, 2012-2013
 Governance Council, 2004-05 and 2013-2016
 Chair, Committee on Assessment, 2004-05
 Chair, ad hoc Senate committee to develop university-wide faculty Survey, 2005
 Member, Ad hoc CAFFECOR committee, 2013/14
 Member, Committee on Assessment, Spring 2013
 Undergraduate Academic Council, 2003-04
 Chair, Curriculum and Honors Committee, 2003-04
 Faculty Contact Person, University in the High School Program, 1998-2003

Additional Service Contributions, College of Arts and Sciences

CAS Faculty Council, 2007-08, Spring 2018

Additional Service Contributions, Department of English

Executive Committee, 2013/14, 2017-2019, 2021-

Chair, Bylaws Committee, 2012/13

Chair, Undergraduate Advisory Committee, 2008-2012, F2019, F2024-

Graduate Advisory Committee, 2012-2016

Ad hoc Committee on Development, Fall 2013

Faculty Advisor, Sigma Tau Delta, 2020-

Faculty mentor, Fall 2013-present

Honors Committee, 2020-21

Tenure review committee, 2011/12

Midtenure review committee, 2021/22; 2023/24

Search Committee, Journalism, Spring 2012

Search Committee, English, Spring 2012

Undergraduate Advisory Committee and its various subcommittees: Honors Committee,

Awards Committee, Commencement Committee, 2003-04, 2006-07

Curriculum Committee, 2003-04

Professionalization Committee, 2002-03

Professional Service

Advisory Board, Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship, 2009-2018

Book Review Editor, *Medieval Feminist Forum*, 2009-2018

Editorial Board, *Medieval Feminist Forum*, 2009-2018

Reader, *Mediaevalia*

Reader, *Speculum*

Reader, *Exemplaria*

Professional Organizations

International Society for the Study of Early Medieval England (ISSEME)

Medieval Academy of America

Modern Language Association

Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship