

**FELISA BAYNES-ROSS**

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**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Lecturer, Yale University, Department of English, July 2017-Present  
Timothy Dwight Fellow, Fall 2017-Present

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. Fordham University, Department of English, August 2017  
Dissertation Title: "Lay Spirituality and Vernacular Theology in Late Medieval Literature"  
Committee: Mary Erler (Chair), Thomas O'Donnell, J. Patrick Hornbeck II  
M.A. Southern Connecticut State University, Department of English, 2011  
B.A. (Hon.) Albertus Magnus College, Department of English, *summa cum laude*, 2008

**PUBLICATIONS**

"The Pearl-poet's Theology of Salvation" (submitted to *The Chaucer Review*, *The Pennsylvania State University Press*)

"Love and Dissent in *Book to a Mother*" (revising for resubmission to the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, Duke University)

"Ambages and Double Visages: Betrayal in Chaucer's Troilus and Criseyde," in *Playing False: Representations of Betrayal. Cultural History and Literary Imagination*, ed. Kristina Mendicino and Betiel Wasihun (Bern, Switzerland: Peter Lang, 2013): 313-36.

**WORKS IN PROGRESS**

**Monographs**

"Vernacular Theology and Dissent in Late Medieval English Literature"

**Articles**

"Torture and Theatricality: Making Spiritual Meaning in the Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*"  
This article considers the Croxton play's depiction of torture as a means of inquiry and spiritual revelation and the ways in which the theological meaning of the play is constructed by its theatrical performance.

"The Black Carib Sublime: Counter-Narratives and Resistance in Alexander Anderson's *Geography and History of St. Vincent*"

This essay focuses on native resistance to colonialism in Alexander Anderson's natural history and reveals how the Black Caribs' desire to maintain control of their lands on St. Vincent disrupts colonial aesthetic discourse.

**EDITORIAL WORK**

Editorial Assistant, *Readings in the Theory of Religion: Map, Text, Body*, ed. Scott S. Elliot and Matthew Waggoner (London: Equinox Publishing, 2009).

**HONORS AND AWARDS****Fordham University**

Teaching Associate, 2016

Teaching Fellowship, 2013-2016

Presidential Scholarship, 2011-2016

Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) Summer Fellowship, 2015

Professional Development Grant, 2015

Fr. John McCloskey Summer Research Grant, 2014

Charles J. Donahue Essay Prize, 2013

Summer Research Assistantship Award, 2012

**Southern Connecticut State University**

Graduate Student Graduate Assistantship Award, 2010-2011

**Albertus Magnus College**

Honors Program Award, 2008

Award for Academic Excellence in English, 2008

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“The *Pearl*-poet and Non-Conformist Religious Ideas in the First Year Seminar.” Is there a class in this text? (Roundtable) 54<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Medieval Studies. Kalamazoo, Michigan. 10 May 2019.

“Pearl and Dissenting Theologies of Salvation.” Yale Medieval Lunch Series. 23 April, 2018.

Resistance and Identity in the British Colonial Narrative.” 5<sup>th</sup> International Garifuna Conference. St. Vincent. 13 March, 2018.

“‘as trewe religioun techip:’ Dissent and Spiritual Autonomy in Religious Manuals.” Heresy, Belief, and Ideology: Dissent in Politics and Religion. International Society for Heresy Studies. New York University. 2 June, 2016.

“‘Also Latin is a langage, as Walsch and Englisch’”: Translating *lectio divina* and the Humanity of Christ for a Widow in *Book to a Mother*.” Travel and Translation in the Middle Ages. New England Medieval Studies Consortium. Yale University. 28 March, 2015.

“Lay Christian Living in *Book to a Mother*.” Change and Its Challenges. Annual Graduate Student Conference. Fordham University. 28 February, 2015.

“Performing Torture: Theological Inquiry and Knowledge in the Croxton *Play of the Sacrament*.” Making Knowledge in Medieval and Early Modern Literary Culture. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. 4 April 2014.

“The Black Carib Sublime: A Discourse of Resistance in Alexander Anderson’s *Geography and History of Saint Vincent*.” Myth, Memory, and History: New Approaches to an Elusive Past. 35th Annual Warren and Beatrice Susman Conference. Rutgers University, NJ. 20 April 2013.

Ambages and Double Visages: The Meaning of Betrayal in Chaucer's *Troilus and Criseyde*." Playing False: Representations of Betrayal. Lincoln College, Oxford University, UK. 17 September 2011.

"Behind the Gloss: Revising the Rubric for Scriptural Interpretation in Chaucer's Wife of Bath." Reading Medieval Landscapes. New England Medieval Studies Consortium. Brown University. 5 March 2011.

"Discord and Dissonance: Chaucer's Wife of Bath and the Institution of Marriage." Graduate Student Conference. Southern Connecticut State University. 24 April 2009.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Yale University

English 120: Reading and Writing the Modern Essay Fall 2018  
Students study the strategies that professional writers use to craft compelling essays of their own.

"English 114: The Sacred and the Secular" Fall 2017-  
Present

This writing seminar explores the relationship between religion and politics. Students consider the role of religion in the public sphere by readings essays in disciplines such as law, medicine, theology, philosophy, and race and gender studies. Students craft persuasive college-level essays with the goal of sharing their ideas with academic audiences and the wider public.

English 114: "Rebels, Outcasts, and Heretics" Fall 2017-  
Present

In this college-level writing seminar, students study discourses of resistance and the constitution of national, racial, sexual, and gender identities. Students develop their own arguments in response to authors such as Albert Camus, Louis Althusser, Judith Butler, Saba Mahmood, among others.

### Fordham University

"Reading Women in Medieval and Early Modern Literature" Summer 2016-Fall 2016  
This online course examines representations of women in literary and religious texts from the medieval to the early modern period. Drawing on theorists such as Butler, Beauvoir, and Irigaray, students examine the representation of women in texts that include Chaucer's *Wife of Bath's Tale* and *Troilus and Criseyde*, selections from *Paradise Lost*, and books of instruction for women, and how those representations relate to ideas about women's social and religious experiences.

Director, Westchester Writing Center, Fordham University 2014-2016  
I developed and presented workshops on writing and research for students at all levels at Fordham's Westchester campus and provided individual tutoring to student writers in the Professional and Continuing Studies program (PCS).

“Play and Performance in the Middle Ages” Spring 2016  
This course examines performance in the literature of the later Middle Ages. Students read mystery and morality plays that include *The Crucifixion* from the York cycle, *Joseph’s Trouble About Mary*, the Croxton *Play of the Sacrament* and explore concepts of performance as they appear in literary, historical, and sociological contexts by reading Chaucer’s *Pardoner’s Tale*, the *Prioress’s Tale*, the *Nun’s Priest’s Tale*, and *Troilus and Criseyde*.

“Rhetoric and Composition” 2013-2016  
This intensive writing course prepares students for writing across the disciplines by focusing on grammar, logic, and rhetoric. There is also a strong emphasis on reading, discussion, and developing research skills.

Writing Center Tutor 2011-2013  
I coached individual students in all disciplines and at various stages of writing and research.

### **Southern Connecticut State University**

“Renaissance in England” (Co-Instructor) Spring 2011  
This course introduces undergraduate students to literature of the early modern period. With readings of works by More, Spenser, Donne, Shakespeare, Marlowe, Jonson, Cary, and Lanyer, it considers the impact of the Renaissance on England and the ways in which these writers use the various forms of literature for self-fashioning.

“Representation and Ethics” (Co-Instructor) Fall 2010  
Drawing from a range of theorists, including Nietzsche, Foucault, Zizek, Lacan, Althusser, Butler, and Fanon, this graduate-level course in literary theory investigates the problem of representation in language and its ethical implications.

### **Albertus Magnus College**

Writing Associate 2005-2008  
I was trained in peer tutoring, and I coached undergraduate and graduate students in all aspects of writing and research.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE**

Sophomore Advisor to Emilie Kilfoil, 2018-Present

Organizer, “Faculty of Color Learning Community.” Fall 2018.

Panelist, “Teaching, Learning, and Advising Committee.” Dec. 7, 2018

Reviewer, Fulbright English Teaching Assistantships Committee, Oct. 2018

Co-organizer and Presenter, “English Department Spring Writing Meeting.” May 2018.

Mentor to first year PhD candidates, Fordham University, 2015-2016

Reviewer, *Hortulus: The Online Graduate Journal of Medieval Studies*, 2015-2017

Editor, *Rhetorikos*, Undergraduate Literary Journal, Fordham University, 2013-2016

Reviewer, Professional Development Grant Committee, Fordham University, 2015

Mentor to an undergraduate student writer with essay published in a Fordham journal. Fordham University, 2015

Graduate Assistant to Web Communications Administrator, Sheila Brisbane, Fordham University, 2014

Moderator, “Remembering, Forgetting, Imagining: The Practices of Memory,” Graduate English Association Conference, Fordham University, 2013

Research Assistant to Professor Mary Erler, Fordham University, 2012

Contributing Writer, *Rose Hill Writing Center Manual*, Fordham University, Spring 2012

Workshop Presenter, “Inside Outlines: Strategies for Organizing College Writing,” Rose Hill Writing Center Workshop, 2011

Copy Editor, *Noctua Review*, Graduate Literary Journal, Southern Connecticut State University, 2009-2010

Co Editor-in-Chief, *Breakwater: A Literary Journal*, Albertus Magnus College, 2007-2008

Creative Advisor, *Breakwater: A Literary Journal*, Albertus Magnus College, 2005-2006

### **Community Service**

Bible Literacy Outreach, 1994-Present

### **OTHER TRAINING**

#### **London Paleography Summer School, June 2015**

“Liturgical and Devotional Manuscripts I,” taught by Jenny Stratford and Rowan Watson

“Writing and Reading Medieval Manuscripts: Folio Layouts in Context,” taught by Anna Somfai

Organizer: Christopher Adams, London International Paleography Summer School

**Early English Text Society, May 2014**

“Textuality in Transmission,” a two-day workshop on the practices of transcribing and editing medieval texts

Organizer: Daniel Wakelin, Oxford University

**LANGUAGES**

French (Reading and Speaking Proficiency)

Latin (Reading Proficiency)

Middle English (Reading Proficiency)

Spanish (Near Fluency)

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

Early English Text Society

Hagiography Society

International Society for Heresy Studies

Modern Language Association

The Medieval Academy of America