

Marcel Elias
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Yale University
Department of English
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (AP2), Department of English, Yale University Core Faculty, Medieval Studies	2025-
Assistant Professor (AP1), Department of English, Yale University Core Faculty, Medieval Studies	2020-
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF), Research Fellow, Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), Honorary Fellow, King's College London	2019-2020
Jeremy Haworth Research Fellow, St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge	2017-2019

EDUCATION

PhD, English Literature, University of Cambridge	2017
MA, English and History, Université de Lausanne (Switzerland)	2013
BA, English, History, and Middle Eastern Studies, Université de Lausanne	2010

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

How Jihād Culture Shaped Europe, 1100-1500 (in progress).

English Literature and the Crusades: Anxieties of Holy War, 1291-1453 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024; pbk 2026).

- Russian translation under contract with Academic Studies Press.
- Reviews: *Times Literary Supplement*, *Choice Magazine*, *Modern Philology*, *Journal of Religious History*, *Studies in the Age of Chaucer*, *Parergon*, *Medium Aevum*, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, *Modern Language Review*, *Mediterranean Studies*.

Edited Volumes

The Oxford Handbook of Chivalric Cultures, ed. Joanna Bellis, Marcel Elias, and Hussein Fancy, proposal commissioned by Oxford University Press (in progress).

New Directions in Medieval Postcolonialism, ed. Marcel Elias, a special issue of *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 55:3 (2025).

Articles and Chapters

- “Resistance Within’: Honorat Bovet on Expansionism and Race,” in *Race and Identity in the Late Medieval World*, ed. Sarah Ifft Decker, a special issue of *Digital Philology* 15:1 (2026) (in press).
- “Second-Wave Medieval Postcolonialism,” in *New Directions in Medieval Postcolonialism*, ed. Marcel Elias, a special issue of *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* 53:3 (2025), 399-418.
- “Unsettling Orientalism: Toward a New History of European Representations of Muslims and Islam, c. 1200-1450,” *Speculum* 100:2 (2025), 466-97.
- “Crusade Romances and the Matter of France,” in *The Oxford History of Poetry in English, vol. 2 (1100-1400)*, ed. Helen Cooper and Robert R. Edwards (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2023), 339-55.
- “Approaches to Teaching the ‘Multicultural Middle Ages,’” co-written with Ardis Butterfield, *New Chaucer Studies: Pedagogy & Profession* 2 (2021), 10-27.
- “Chaucer and Crusader Ethics: Youth, Love, and the Material World,” *Review of English Studies* 70 (2019), 618-39.
- “Rewriting Chivalric Encounters: Cultural Anxieties and Social Critique in the Fourteenth Century,” in *Romance Rewritten: The Evolution of Middle English Romance*, ed. Elizabeth Archibald, Megan Leitch, and Corinne Saunders (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2018), 49-68.
- “Interfaith Empathy and the Formation of Romance,” in *Emotion and Medieval Textual Media*, ed. Mary Flannery (Turnhout: Brepols, 2018), 99-124.
- “Violence, Excess, and the Composite Emotional Rhetoric of *Richard Coeur de Lion*,” *Studies in Philology* 114:1 (2017), 1-38.
- “Mixed Feelings in the Middle English Charlemagne Romances: Emotional Reconfiguration and the Failures of Crusading Practices in the *Otuel* Texts,” *New Medieval Literatures* 16 (2016), 172-212.
- “The Case of Anger in *The Siege of Milan* and *The King of Tars*,” *Comitatus* 43 (2012), 41-56.

Reviews

- Review of Carolyne Larrington, *Approaches to Emotion in Middle English Literature* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2024), *Medium Aevum* 94:1 (2025), 239-40.
- Review of Uri Zvi Shachar, *A Pious Belligerence: Dialogical Warfare and the Rhetoric of Righteousness in the Crusading Near East* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021), *Le Moyen Âge: Revue d'Histoire et de Philologie* 130:2 (2024), 659-61.
- Review of Geoffrey Chaucer, *Le “Livre de la Duchesse” et autres textes. Vol. 1: Œuvres complètes*, trans. Jonathan Fruoco, ed. Candace Barrington, Ardis Butterfield, Susan Crane, and David Wallace (Paris: Garnier, 2021), *Speculum* 99:3 (2024), 882-83.
- Review of Marisa Libbon, *Talk and Textual Production in Medieval England* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2021), *Arthuriana* 32:4 (2023), 155-57.
- Review of Phillipa Hardman and Marianne Ailes, *The Legend of Charlemagne in Medieval England: The Matter of France in Middle English and Anglo-Norman Literature* (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2017), *Review of English Studies* 69 (2018), 971-74.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AWARDS

Whitney Humanities Center Fellow.	2025-2026
Frederick W. Hilles Publication Grant, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University.	2025
Frederick W. Hilles Publication Grant, Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University.	2023
Morse Fellowship, Yale University.	2022-2023
Affiliated Faculty, European Studies Council, MacMillan Center, Yale University.	2020-
Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) Research Fellowship, King's College London. Full funding (declined in 2020-2021).	2019-2021
Council for British Research in the Levant (CBRL), Honorary Fellowship.	2019-2021
Jeremy Haworth Research Fellowship, St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge. Fully funded Junior Research Fellowship (JRF).	2016-2019
Gates Cambridge Scholarship for a PhD, University of Cambridge (Full funding from the Gates Cambridge Trust of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation).	2013-2016
Clarendon Scholarship for a PhD, University of Oxford (Full funding, declined in favor of the Gates Cambridge Scholarship).	2013-2016
Faculty Prize, University of Lausanne, for "exceptional academic achievements culminating in an outstanding dissertation" (highest award given by Swiss universities).	2013

TALKS

Invited Talks

- "Ottoman Affinities." Invited Lecture, Department of English Language and Literature, Erciyes University (Turkey), May 2026.
- "Medieval European-Ottoman Relations." Master Class, Graduate Seminar, Department of English Language and Literature, Erciyes University (Turkey), May 2026.
- "Nūr al-Din's 'Internal Jihad': A Cross-Cultural Literary History." Invited Lecture, Medieval Studies Seminar, Fordham University, April 2026.
- "Second-Wave Medieval Postcolonialism." Master Class, Fordham Medieval Studies Graduate Seminar, April 2026.
- "Traveling Ethics: Ibn 'Asakir, William of Tyre, and the Sunni "Moral Rearmament." Invited Lecture, University Seminar in Medieval Studies, Columbia University, January 2026.
- "Cross-Cultural Romance." Invited Response, Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, University of the South, February 2025.
- "Unsettling Medieval Orientalism." Invited Lecture, Penn State Comparative Literature seminar series, November 2023.
- "Unsettling Medieval Orientalism." Master Class, Penn State Graduate seminar, English Department, November 2023.
- "Analogical Approaches to Islam in Medieval Europe." Invited Lecture, Medieval History seminar series, Freie Universität Berlin, June 2023.

- “The Politics of Sameness: Muslims and Islam in Europe, 1200-1450.” Invited Lecture, Middle English seminar series, University of Cambridge, November 2022.
- “Les Sarrasins critiques des héros chrétiens.” Invited Lecture, Centre d’Études Médiévales et Post-Médiévales, Université de Lausanne, March 2020.
- “Global Developments, Postcolonial Theory, and the Formation of Romance.” Invited Paper, Crossing Borders in the Insular Middle Ages seminar, University of Birmingham, September 2019.
- “The Superior Enemy.” Invited Lecture, Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies seminar series, University of Durham, June 2019.
- “Blasphemy and Apostasy in the Medieval Mediterranean.” Invited Lecture, SELIM (Spanish Society for Medieval English Language and Literature) seminar series, University of Alicante, April 2018.
- “Interfaith Empathy and the Protean Nature of Romance.” Invited Paper, Marginalia Reading Group, University of Cambridge, March 2016.
- “Romance Fluidity, Emotional Interpolations, and Blurring the Christian-Saracen Divide.” Invited Paper, Emotion and Medieval Media workshop, University of Lausanne, June 2015.

Campus Talks (Yale University)

- “Across, Apart, Beyond: Comparing Forms in Premodern Literatures.” Invited Response, workshop for an essay cluster in *Comparative Literature*, Yale Humanities Quadrangle, February 2026.
- “*English Literature and the Crusades*: A Book Launch.” Panelist with Ardis Butterfield, Hussein Fancy, and Stephanie Newell. Medieval Colloquium, January 2025.
- Reading from *English Literature and the Crusades*. English Department Faculty Reading Series, September 2024.
- “Languages.” Invited Panelist, Futures of Medieval Studies workshop, sponsored by the Whitney Humanities Center, November 2021.
- “Recent and Forthcoming Publications.” Invited Panelist, Yale Lectures in Medieval Studies, Yale University, October 2021.
- “Demystifying Academic Publishing.” Invited Panelist, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, September 2021.

Conference Papers

- “John Mandeville and Arabo-Islamic Resistance Culture.” New Chaucer Society Conference, University of Freiburg, July 2026.
- “Some European Manifestations of the Sunni ‘Moral Rearmament.’” Society for the Study of the Crusades and the Latin East, University of Porto, June 2026.
- “Nūr al-Din’s ‘Internal Jihad’: A Cross-Cultural Literary History.” Medieval Academy of America Congress, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College, March 2026.
- “English Literature and the Crusades.” New Scholarship Panel at the Medieval Academy of America Congress, Harvard University, March 2025.
- “Translation as Cultural Resistance: Honorat Bovet’s Anti-Expansionist Views.” New Chaucer Society Conference, Pasadena, July 2024.
- “John Mandeville and Postcolonial Theory.” New Chaucer Society Conference, University of Durham, July 2022.
- “Chaucer, the Crusades, and Chivalric Reform.” New Chaucer Society Conference, University of Toronto, July 2018.
- “God, Women, and Other Chivalric Motives in *Guy of Warwick*.” Romance in Medieval Britain Conference, University of Cardiff, April 2018.
- “Crusade as Therapy and Excessive Violence in *The Siege of Jerusalem*.” Leeds International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2017.

- “Reshaping Cognitive Appraisal from *Chanson de Geste* to Romance.” Medieval Romance Conference, University of Cambridge, September 2016.
- “Blasphemy and Crusading Failures in Middle English Romance.” Romance in Medieval Britain Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, August 2016.
- “Modifying Chivalric Emotions in the Charlemagne Romances.” Gender and Medieval Studies Conference, University of Hull, January 2016.
- “Anger, Sorrow, and Retribution: Christian Solidarity in *The Siege of Milan*.” Leeds International Medieval Congress, University of Leeds, July 2014.
- “Violence and the Composite Emotional Rhetoric of *Richard Coeur de Lion*.” SAUTE (Swiss Association of University Teachers of English) Conference on Emotion, Affect, and Sentiment, University of Lausanne, April 2013.
- “The Manuscript History of *Richard Coeur de Lion*,” Research Day in Medieval Literature with the Universities of Lausanne, Warwick, Padua, and Pázmány Péter Budapest, March 2013.

Panel Chairing and Organizing

- “Multilingualism in Crusade and Pilgrimage Narratives.” Panel Organizer (with Shazia Jagot, University of York) and Chair, New Chaucer Society Conference, University of Freiburg, July 2026.
- “Populations and Prayers in the Holy Land.” Panel Chair, Medieval Academy of America Congress, 2026, University of Massachusetts Amherst and Amherst College, March 2026.
- “New Directions in Medieval Postcolonialism.” Panel Organizer and Chair, Medieval Academy of America Congress, 2024. Longer versions of the papers appear in a special issue of *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies* (September, 2025).

TEACHING

Yale University

Undergraduate

- “Knights, Travelers, and Mystics,” ENGL 3504. Junior seminar offering an introduction to the genres of romance, travel writing, and mystical literature. Spring 2026 (enrollment: 9)
- “Religion, Race, and Empire in Medieval Literatures,” ENGL 4516. Senior Seminar exploring approaches to religion, race, and empire in Middle English, Old French, Latin, and Arabic writings. Spring 2025 (enrollment: 12).
- “Knights, Crusaders, Travelers, and Poets.” ENGL 004. First-Year Seminar exploring the literary worlds and real-life worldviews of medieval knights, crusaders, travelers, and poets. Fall 2024 (enrollment: 4).
- “The Senior Essay.” ENGL 490. Directed workshop for student writing senior essays. Fall 2024 (enrollment: 8); Spring 2025 (enrollment: 11); Fall 2025 (enrollment: 8); Spring 2026 (enrollment: 7).
- “The Multicultural Middle Ages.” ENGL 154 / FREN 216 / HUMS 134. Lecture course with Ardis Butterfield (13 independently designed lectures each). Units on “What is Medieval,” “Travel and Trade,” “Crusades and the Erotic Other,” “The Device of the Foreign Observer,” “Trials of Identity,” “Cultural Confrontations and History.” Fall 2020 (enrollment: 14); Fall 2021 (enrollment: 34); Fall 2023 (enrollment: 23).
- “Readings in English Poetry 1.” ENGL 125. Introductory course on Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*, Shakespeare’s sonnets, and Milton’s *Paradise Lost*, with sessions on Patience Agbabi’s *Telling Tales* and Terrance Hayes’ *American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin*. Fall 2020 (enrollment: 7); Fall 2021 (enrollment: 12); two sections in Spring 2022 (enrollment: 10 in each).

Graduate

- “Postcolonial Middle Ages.” ENGL 535 / CPLT 555 / MDVL 535. Graduate Seminar exploring intersections and points of friction between medieval and postcolonial studies. Critical theories and interventions, by medievalists and modernists, are read alongside romances, epic poems, crusade and jihād lyrics, travel literature, dream allegories, and chronicles. Fall 2023 (enrollment: 8); Fall 2025 (enrollment: 12).

King’s College London

- “Performance in Medieval Culture.” Seminar on a selection of the Towneley, N-Town, Corpus Christi, and Chester plays; sermon, household, and gender performance in Chaucer; female embodiment in the lives of Elizabeth of Spalbeek and Christina Mirabilis; masculine urban performance in Hoccleve. Fall 2019.

University of Cambridge

College Teaching

- “English Literature and its Contexts, 1300-1550.” Supervisions on Chaucer, Gower, Langland, Malory, the Gawain-poet, Margery Kempe, Middle English romance, and the morality plays. Lectures on “Literature and Religion,” “History and Politics,” “Manuscripts and Trilingual Culture,” “Gender and Violence.” 1st and 2nd year BA. Fall 2014, Fall 2015, and Fall 2017.
- “Old English Language and Literature.” Supervisions on *Beowulf* and *The Battle of Maldon*. 1st year BA. Winter 2018.
- “Early Medieval Literature, 1066-1350.” Supervisions and seminars on the *Chanson de Roland*, the romances of Chrétien de Troyes, the *lais* of Marie de France, *Boeve de Hampton*, and *Gui de Warewic*. 3rd year BA. Winter 2019.

Faculty of English

- “The Medieval Supernatural, 1000-1550.” Lecturer, collaborative module. 3rd year BA. Winter 2018.
- “Nature and the Wild, 1300-1550.” Lecturer, collaborative module. 1st year BA. Fall 2018.

ADVISING AND SUPERVISION

Yale University

PhD Dissertation Committees

- Kamila Kaminska-Palarczyk, English, “Prologues: The Language of Medieval Vernacular Theory in Italy and England, c. 1300-1420” (2024-Present).
- Claire Crow, English, “Women and Racial Ambiguity in Middle English Literature” (2024-Present).
- Rachel Wilson, Medieval Studies, “English and Norman Authors of History and Their Autograph Manuscripts, c. 1115-1258” (2021-2025).

First-Year PhD Advisor

- Joshua Kirkhope-Arkley (Medieval Studies, 2025-2026)
- Susanna Mackay, English (English, 2024-2025).
- Claire Crow, English (English, 2021-2022).

Second-Year PhD Advisor

- Fraser Ryan (English, 2025-2026).

PhD Dissertation Evaluator

- Rachel Wilson, “English and Norman Authors of History and their Autograph Manuscripts, c. 1115-1258” (2025).
- Tess Grogan, “The Old Lie: Rhetorics of Heroism in Early Modern England” (2025).
- Shu-han Luo, English, “Didactic Poetry as Formal Experiment in Early Medieval England” (2023).
- Eric Ensley, English, “Troubled Signs: Thomas Hoccleve’s Objects of Absence” (2021).

Senior Essay Advisor

- Sarah Feng, Humanities Program, “The Marvelous, the Monstrous, and the Mechanical: The Emergence and Dissolution of Wonder in Medieval Travel Literature” (Spring 2025).

Senior Essay Reader

- Arushi Dogra, “Emotional and Behavioral Responses During Plague: Using Pandemic Narratives to Understand the Role of Community, Hope, and Writing in Facilitating Humanity and Persistence in Times of Crisis” (Fall 2024).
- Roger Guo, “When Hell Freezes Over: The Nativization of Christian Hell in Early Medieval England” (Fall 2021).
- Bella Back, “The Legend of St. Eustace and Tangible Manifestations of Christian Faith” (Fall 2020).

FGLI (First-Generation and/ or Low-Income) Mentoring

- Devin Wu, Political Science; Crystal Lalor, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology (2024-2025, 2025-2026).
- Patrick Chappel, Political Science (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023).

King’s College London

- MA Final Essay Reader (8 essays), “The Troubadours & Their Legacy” (2020).

University of Cambridge

BA Dissertations Supervised

- “War and Women: Textual Representations of the Other During the Crusades, 1100-1200,” awarded a Prize from the Faculty of Asian & Middle Eastern Studies; revised version published in *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*. Fall 2017 and Winter 2018.
- “Reverse Orientalism in Medieval and Post-9/11 Literature: John Mandeville’s *Travels* and Mohsin Hamid’s *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.” Fall 2018 and Winter 2019.
- “The Monstrous Hero of Middle English Romance.” Fall 2019 and Winter 2020.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

- Interview on *English Literature and the Crusades* by the *New Books Network*, February 2025 <https://newbooksnetwork.com/english-literature-and-the-crusades>
- Interview for *The Common Room*, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Yale Department of English. Season 2, Episode 4, Fall 2021 <https://english.yale.edu/diversity/common-room-podcast>
- Interlocutor for the English Department’s “Diversity Preview Days,” Yale University, Fall 2021.
- Lecture on “Medieval Travel and Geography.” Annual Outreach Residential, Magdalene College, University of Cambridge, Spring 2019.
- Lecture on “Maps and Monsters.” Cambridge Admissions Office (CAO) Master Classes, Summer 2019.
- Member of the Gates Cambridge Ambassador Program, 2014-2015.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Service to the Field

- Peer Reviewer for *Comparative Literature*, *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, *New Medieval Literatures*, *Medium Aevum*, *Al-Masāq: Journal of the Medieval Mediterranean*, *Chaucer Review*, *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures*.
- Member of the Steering Committee, New England Medieval Consortium (NEMC), 2026-2029 (elected for a three-year appointment).
- Review Editor, *The Medieval Review*, 2024-2026 (elected for a two-year appointment).
- Member of the Nominating Committee, New Chaucer Society, 2023-2025 (elected for a two-year appointment).
- Advisory Board Member for the AHRC grant proposal, “North is East: Conflating Muslim and Pagan in Medieval and Early Modern Cultures of British Nationhood” (2025), by Gordon McMullan, Shazia Jagot, and Sarah Salih.
- President of the Magdalene Society of Medievalists, University of Cambridge (organized and chaired 7 talks between 2014 and 2017).
- Issue and Review Editor, *Marginalia*, 2014-2015.

Yale University

English Department

Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies (2024-2025, 2025-2026).
Course Director, The Senior Essay (2024-2025, 2025-2026).
Instructional Faculty Promotion Evaluator (2 cases) (2025).
Member, Creative Writing Concentration Committee (2024-2025).
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee (2024-2025).
Member, Graduate Teaching Committee (2024-2025).
Member, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2021-2022).
Faculty Advisor, Medieval Colloquium (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2024-2025).
Member (elected), Aims and Procedures Committee (2023-2024, 2024-2025).
Member, Honors and Prizes Committee (2021-2022, 2023-2024).
Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2023-2024).
Member, Senior Essays and Special Projects Committee (2020-2021, 2021-2022).
Course Director, Readings in English Poetry 1 (2021-2022).

Program in Medieval Studies

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee (2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2024-2025, 2025-2026).

University

FGLI (First Generation and/or Low-Income) Faculty Mentor (involves meeting with assigned mentees 2-3 times per semester) (2020-2022, 2024-2025, and 2025-2026).
Advisor, Search Committee for Professor of Medieval Studies, Department of Italian (2023).
Member, Hilles/Griswold Faculty Grant Committee, Whitney Humanities Center (2021-2022).

University of Cambridge

Rooms Committee, St Catharine’s College (2018-2019).
Admissions Interviewer, St Catharine’s College (ten days of interviewing, 2016 and 2017).
Open Day Organizer, St Catharine’s College (2017).
Founding Member and Editor of the Medieval Studies Website at Cambridge (2016-2019).

Université de Lausanne

Graduate Assistant, Department of English (2012-2013).

Translator (from French to English) of article and conference abstracts, Department of History (2012-2013).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

New Chaucer Society

Modern Language Association

Medieval Academy of America

Canadian Society of Medievalists

Swiss Association of Medieval and Early Modern Studies

Mediterranean Seminar

Society for the Medieval Mediterranean