

TAYLOR COWDERY

Department of English, Harvard University
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EDUCATION

Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

Ph.D. English, expected May 2016

Matriculated 2011

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Berlin, Germany)

Visiting DAAD Scholar, 2009-2010

Columbia University (New York, NY)

B.A. English, *summa cum laude*, May 2009

Matriculated 2005

DISSERTATION

“Physical Verse: Matter and Form in English Poetry, 1400-1547.”

This dissertation considers shifting attitudes towards poetic form and content, or source matter, from the time of Chaucer to the time of Wyatt. Taking as its starting point the polysemy of the Middle English word “matere”—which denotes at once a writer’s source materials, his subject matter, and physical materiality in general—the dissertation argues that medieval poets prioritized and weighted the relation between matter and form differently than their early modern counterparts. Central to this difference is a shift in historical notions of poetic form, along with shifts in conceptions of materiality and literary technique. Differences in the aesthetics of poetry written in both periods are thus susceptible of historical explanation, and any assumed dominance of form over and above matter is revealed to be an historical construct rather than an aesthetic law. The dissertation includes chapters on the poetry of Thomas Hoccleve, John Lydgate, John Skelton, and Thomas Wyatt.

PUBLICATIONS

“Hoccleve’s Poetics of Matter.” Forthcoming in *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 38 (2016).

“Humanist Styles of Reading in William Caxton’s England.” Forthcoming in *The Dark Side of Knowledge: Histories of Ignorance, 1400-1800*, ed. Cornel Zwierlein (Leiden: Brill).

“Translation for ‘Sentence’ in Middle English Poetry: the Case of John Walton.” Forthcoming in *The Legacy of Boethius in Medieval England*, ed. A.J. McMullen and Erica Weaver (Tempe, AZ: ACMRS).

With James Simpson: "The Reformation of Pedagogy: A Conversation with James Simpson." *Reformation* 18.1 (December 2013): 148-156.

TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"'Laurence' and 'Bochas' in Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*." 2016 New Chaucer Society Conference (London, England), July 2016. Scheduled.

"The Voice of Skelton's Parrot." 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Scheduled.

"Style and Disguise in Spenser's *Mother Hubberds Tale*." 62nd Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), March 2016. Scheduled.

"Poetic Matter in Middle English Verse: the Case of Hoccleve's *Series*." 2016 Annual Meeting of the Medieval Academy of America (Boston, MA), February 2016. Scheduled.

"Fake Books and Hypotactic Space in Later Middle English Writing." 131st MLA Annual Convention (Austin, TX), January 2016. Scheduled.

"Copy and *Copia* in the Poetry of John Skelton." Harvard English Medieval Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), November 2015. Scheduled. Invited talk.

"Catastrophe and Form in Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*." 2015 New England Medieval Conference (Northeastern University, Boston, MA), October 2015. Scheduled.

"Lydgate and Troynovant." 50th International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2015.

"*Terra incognita*: Theories of Reading in William Caxton's England." Ignorance, Nescience, Nonknowledge: Late Medieval and Early Modern Coping with Unknowns (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA), February 2015.

"Translation Theory and Empire in Late Medieval England." The Weatherhead Center for International Affairs at Harvard University: Cultural Politics Seminar (Cambridge, MA), November 2014. Invited talk.

"Historical Fiction and Historical Fact in Lydgate's *Fall of Princes*." 2014 New Chaucer Society Conference (Reykjavik, Iceland), July 2014.

"Speech, Matter, and Dialogue in Hoccleve's *Regiment of Princes*." 49th International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2014.

"Bones in Pavia: Translation and Corruption in Walton's Boethius." Revisiting the Legacy of Boethius in the Middle Ages (Cambridge, MA), March 2014.

“The Flowers and the Bees: More’s *Utopia* in the Context of Humanist Theories of Reading.”
Harvard English Renaissance Colloquium (Cambridge, MA), November 2013. Invited talk.

“Fixing Chaucer: William Thynne and the Addition of a Lollard Tract to the 1542 *Canterbury Tales*.”
48th International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2013.

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

With Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley): “Rhetoric and Voice Across the Fifteenth Century.” 51st
International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Scheduled.

With Helen Cushman (Harvard) and Nicholas Watson (Harvard): “Middle Time: Past, Present,
Future.” 51st International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Scheduled.

With Helen Cushman (Harvard) and Emily Thornbury (UC Berkeley): “Dark Age Classicisms.” 51st
International Congress on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2016. Scheduled.

With Will Rhodes (University of Virginia): “The Domains of English Lyric Before Spenser.” 62nd
Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America (Boston, MA), March 2016. Scheduled.

With Spencer Strub (UC Berkeley): “The Decadent Fifteenth Century.” 50th International Congress
on Medieval Studies (Kalamazoo, MI), May 2015.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor for “Medieval Feminisms,” Fall 2015.

Teaching Fellow for “The Canterbury Tales,” with Professor Nicholas Watson, Fall 2015.

Teaching Fellow for “Arrivals,” with Professor James Simpson, Spring 2015.

Guest lecture: “Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe.”

Teaching Fellow for “The Humanities Colloquium,” with Professors Stephen Greenblatt and
Panagiotis Roilos, Fall 2014.

Guest workshop: “Music and Storytelling in the Nineteenth Century: Richard Wagner,
Edouard Hanslick, and Johannes Brahms.”

Teaching Fellow for “Adam and Eve,” with Professors Stephen Greenblatt and Joseph Koerner,
Spring 2014.

Guest workshop: “Prints by Albrecht Dürer, Lucas Cranach, Hans Baldung Grien, and
Rembrandt van Rijn at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.”

Guest workshop: “The Hildesheim Doors at the Busch-Reisinger Museum.”

Teaching Fellow for “Making the Middle Ages,” with Professor Daniel Smail, Spring 2014.

Guest workshop: “An Introduction to Middle English Paleography.”

Teaching Fellow for “Arrivals,” with Professor Daniel Donoghue, Fall 2013.
 Guest lecture: “Spenser’s *Faerie Queene*, Book 1.”
 Guest workshop: “The Basics of Manuscripts in the Middle Ages.”

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Dexter Term-Time Fellowship, Harvard University (2015)
 Howard Scholar, New Chaucer Society (2014)
 Harvard University English Prize Fellowship (2011-15)
 Harvard Summer School Tuition Fellowship (2011)
 DAAD Fellowship at Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (2009-2010)
 English Department Honors, Columbia University (2009)
 Phi Beta Kappa (2009)
 Richmond B. Williams Traveling Fellowship, Columbia University (2008)

TEACHING PRIZES

Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in the Teaching of Undergraduates (2015): Granted annually to no more than five teachers across all disciplines in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, the Derek Bok Award recognizes graduate students who have consistently distinguished themselves in the classroom.

Five-Time Winner of the Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (2013-15):

2015: “Arrivals”
 2014: “The Humanities Colloquium”
 “Adam and Eve”
 “Making the Middle Ages”
 2013: “Arrivals”

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Digital assistant for Harvard Chaucer Page (<http://chaucer.fas.harvard.edu>), spring 2016.
 Editorial assistant for James Simpson (Harvard), summer 2015.
 Harvard English Medieval Colloquium co-coordinator, fall and spring 2013-14.
 Research and editorial assistant for Nicholas Watson (Harvard), summer 2013.
 Research and editorial assistant for Alan Stewart (Columbia), summer 2008.

LANGUAGES

Latin (very good reading knowledge)
 Old English (good reading knowledge)
 German (very good speaking and reading knowledge)
 French (good reading and speaking knowledge)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Medieval Academy of America
 Renaissance Society of America
 New Chaucer Society
 Modern Language Association

REFERENCES

Professor James Simpson (co-chair)
English, Harvard University
jsimpson@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Stephen Greenblatt (third reader)
English, Harvard University
greenbl@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Nicholas Watson (co-chair)
English, Harvard University
nwatson@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Daniel Donoghue
English, Harvard University
dgd@wjh.harvard.edu

CV last updated: September 2015

dinkins maurianna dinkins dr. taylor cowdery eng 120: introduction to british literature 20 february 2017 my heart will not go on honor, reputation and love.Â Maurianna Dinkins. Dr. Taylor Cowdery. ENG 120: Introduction to British Literature. 20 February 2017. Taylor Cowdery. PhD Candidate, Harvard University. Barker Center, 12 Quincy Street Cambridge, MA, 02138 Contact.Â Cowdery T. "Hoccleve's Poetics of Matter". *Studies in the Age of Chaucer* 38. Forthcoming. Cowdery T. "Humanist Styles of Reading in William Caxton's England.". In: Zwielerlein C *The Dark Side of Knowledge: Histories of Ignorance, 1400-1800*. Leiden: Brill ; Forthcoming. Cowdery T. "Translation for Sentence in Middle English Poetry: The Case of John Walton". Tyler Cowdery is on Facebook. Join Facebook to connect with Tyler Cowdery and others you may know. Facebook gives people the power to share and makes the