

Katayoun Torabi

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Education

Texas A&M University

Doctor of Philosophy in English, 2018

Concentration: Medieval Studies, with Certificate in Digital Humanities

Dissertation: "Purgatory and Prison: Punitive Spaces in Old and Middle English Literature"

Directors: Britt Mize, Nancy Warren, and Laura Mandell

California State University, Northridge

Master of Arts in English, 2011. *Masters with Distinction*

Master's Thesis: "Zoroastrian Dualism in Paradise Lost"

Director: Michael Bryson and Scott Kleinman

California State University, Fresno

Bachelor of Arts, English. *Summa Cum Laude*

Dissertation: My dissertation investigates representations of Purgatory, Limbo, and Hell in Old and Middle English literature. I examine what those penal spaces share in common with earthly carceral spaces, and the ways in which marginal figures, such as dead pagans, excommunicates, restless ghosts, and even devils in medieval narratives engage with those punitive spaces. I argue that understanding the permeable nature of medieval prisons as well as the strong connection between prisons and Purgatory will enable us to perform new readings of texts that engage pre- and post-mortem carceral spaces.

Publications

"if (not "Quantize, Click, and Conclude") { DigitalMethodsInMedievalStudies(); }." *Meeting the Medieval in a Digital World*, ed. Matthew Davis. Amsterdam University Press, forthcoming 2018. MS 20 pp.

"Two New Approaches to Exploring Monstrous Landscapes in *Beowulf* and *Blickling Homily XVII*." *Essays in Medieval Studies*, vol. 31, 2015, pp. 165-181. Project MUSE, doi:10.1353/ems.2015.0009

"Early Modern OCR Project (eMOP) at Texas A&M University: Using Aletheia to Train Tesseract." *ACM Document Engineering Proceedings*, September 2013. 23-26.

Review of *Debates in Digital Humanities*, ed. Matthew K. Gold, in *Information and Culture: A Journal of History*, with Laura Mandell, et al, March 2013.
http://www.infoculturejournal.org/book_reviews/idhmc_gold_DebatesDH.

Works in Progress

"Formulas as a Test for Verse-Medial Extrametrical Syllables in Old English Poetry." Article in progress, co-authoring with Britt Mize.

SPEAR (Syriac Persons, Events, and Relations), contributing author as a part of Syriaca.org: The Syriac Reference Portal <http://syriaca.org>.

Works in Progress Continued

“John of Ephesus’ Lives of the Eastern Saints Digital Network Graph.” *Syriaca.org*. Article to be published in Spring 2019.

Academic Employment

Instructional Assistant Professor of English at Texas A&M University, 2018-present.

Associate Editor, *World Shakespeare Bibliography*, 2018-present.

Center of Digital Humanities Research (CoDHR) Advisory Board Member, 2018-present.

Graduate Assistant – Research, National Endowment for the Humanities, Department of History and The Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture, Texas A&M University, 2015 - 2017.

Graduate Assistant – Teaching, English Department, Texas A&M University, 2014 – 2018.

Graduate Assistant – Research, Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture, Texas A&M University, 2012 – 2014.

Research Assistant, STARTALK, California State University, Northridge, 2011 – 2012.

ESL Instructional Assistant, Los Angeles Mission College, 2011 – 2012.

Student Fellow of the CSUN Center for the Digital Humanities, California State University, Northridge, 2010-2011.

Graduate Assistant, Russian Strategic Language Initiative, California State University, Northridge, 2009 - 2011.

Selected Conference Presentations

“Liminal Bodies in Medieval Communities: Visualizing Space, Place, and Mobility.” Presented at Sewanee Medieval Colloquium, Sewanee, the University of the South, TN, March, 2017.

“Sacred Spaces, Burial and Carceral Locations, and the Formation of Communal Identity.” Presented at Texas Medieval Association Conference, Texas A&M University, TX, September, 2016.

“Diabolical Rhetoric in Old and Middle English Texts.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2016.

“Testing the (In)Visibility of Verse-Medial Extrametrical Syllables in Old English Poetry Using Formulas.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2015.

“*Beowulf* and *Blickling Homily XVII*: Two New Approaches to an Old Problem.” Illinois Medieval Association, St. Louis University, IL, February 2015.

“Mimicking the Medieval Manuscript: What OCRing Early Modern Texts Reveals About the Development and Decline of Blackletter Typeface.” Presented at the Making Sense Symposium, Texas A&M University, October 2014.

“Purgatory and Prison: Punitive Spaces in Medieval English Hagiography.” Presented at Texas Medieval Association Conference, University of North Texas, October, 2014.

“Book History and Software Tools: Examining Typefaces for OCR Training in eMOP.” Presented at Digital Humanities 2014, Lausanne, Switzerland, July 2014.

Selected Conference Presentations Continued

- “‘Nis þæt heoru stow!’ A Lexomic Approach to the Monstrous Places in *Blickling Homily XVII* and *Beowulf*.” Presented at the Presents of the Past Symposium, Texas A&M University, April 2014.
- “Early Modern OCR Project (eMOP) at Texas A&M University: Using Aletheia to Train Tesseract.” Presented at the 13th ACM Symposium on Document Engineering, Florence, Italy, September 2013.
- “Early Modern OCR Project (eMOP) at Texas A&M University: Training Tesseract with Aletheia Desktop.” Presented at the KIAS Around the World Symposium, Online, May 2013.
- “Space, Boundaries, and Apocatastasis in Anglo-Saxon Hagiography.” Presented at the International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2013.
- “Mopping Up With eMOP: Early Modern Optical Character Recognition Project at Texas A&M University.” Presented at The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Cleveland, OH, April 2013.
- “How to Train Tesseract Using Aletheia Desktop Tool.” Presented at the *Creating a Publishable, Digital Textual Edition Workshop* at The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, Cleveland, OH, April 2013.

Workshops Attended / Taught

Texas A&M University, College Station

Mapping the Medieval World with *VisualEyes*, 2018

Instructor: Katayoun Torabi.

Marquette University, Milwaukee

Mapping Ancient Lives and Social Networks, 2017

Instructors: Nathan Gibson, Jeanne-Nicole Mellon Saint-Laurent, David A. Michelson, Dan Schwartz, and Katayoun Torabi

University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), 2017

Course: *Introduction to Javascript and Data Visualization*

Instructors: Harvey Quamen and Jon Bath

University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), 2014

Course: *Visual Design for Digital Humanists*,

Instructors: Milena Radzikowska and Jennifer Windsor

University of California, Berkeley

Summer Latin Language Seminar, 2013

Instructor: Raymond Kania, University of California, Berkeley

Chapman University, Orange, California

THATCamp SoCal, 2011

BootCamp: Collecting, interpreting, analyzing, and manipulating humanities data

Instructor: Scott Kleinman

Competitive Fellowships

National Endowment for the Humanities Research Assistantship

\$19,500, Texas A&M University, Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture, 2015 - 2017.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship

\$950, Texas A&M University, 2017.

Dissertation Enhancement Fellowship – British Library Archival Research

\$2,750, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2016.

Summer Dissertation Fellowship

\$2,500, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2016.

Texas A&M Doctoral Graduate Diversity Fellowship

\$57,000, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2012-2015.

Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Assistantship

\$27,000, Texas A&M University, Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture, 2012-2014.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Technical Assistance Grant Assistantship

\$3,000, Texas A&M University, 2014.

English Department Merit Scholarship for the Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI)

\$250, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2014.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Digital Humanities Summer Institute Scholarship

\$950, Texas A&M University, 2014.

English Department Graduate Grant for the Latin Workshop at UC Berkeley

\$750, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2013.

Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarship

\$3,000, California State University, 2010-2011.

University of California, Santa Barbara, California Pre-Doctoral Internship

\$8,000, California State University Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholarship Program, 2011.

Sigma Tau Delta English Honor Society, Outstanding Leadership Award

California State University, Northridge, 2011.

Center for the Digital Humanities Fellowship

\$800, California State University, Northridge, 2010-2011.

Grants and Awards

English Department Graduate Travel to Conference Grant

\$650, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2017.

English Department Graduate Travel to Conference Grant

\$753, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2016.

English Department Graduate Travel to Conference Grant

\$706, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2015.

Grants and Awards Continued

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Workshop Grant
\$250, Texas A&M University, 2014.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Travel to Conference Grant
\$1,860, Texas A&M University, 2013.

English Department Graduate Travel to Conference Grant
\$700, Texas A&M University, Department of English, 2013.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Travel to Conference Grant
\$1,350, Texas A&M University, 2013.

Courses Taught

Texas A&M University, 2014 – present.

English 330: Arthurian Literature, Instructor of Record
An advanced literature course designed to introduce students to the legend of King Arthur and Arthurian literature from its medieval origins to the present.

English 317: Early British Drama, Instructor of Record
An advanced literature course that explores the history and development of drama in England from the medieval period through the seventeenth century.

English 313: Honors - Medieval English Literature, Instructor of Record
An advanced literature course that focuses on Old and Middle English literature, including such authors and works as *Beowulf*, *The Dream of the Rood*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Piers Plowman*, Sir Thomas Malory, Julian of Norwich, and Margery Kempe.

English/Linguistics 310: History of the English Language, Instructor of Record
A course that focuses on the phonological, grammatical, and lexical history of the English language; includes a discussion of Indo-European languages, as well as principles of linguistic change, as reflected in English.

English 210: Technical and Business Writing, Instructor of Record
A semester-long course that focuses on writing for professional settings; correspondence and researched reports fundamental to the technical and business workplace--memoranda, business letters, research proposals and presentations, and the use of graphical and document design.

English 203: Honors - Writing about Literature, Instructor of Record
A beginning literature course that introduces students to communicating persuasively about literature for the purpose of enhancing skills in academic and professional communication. This particular section focused on constructions of villains and heroes in texts drawn from a range of historical periods and across multiple genres.

English 104: Composition and Rhetoric, Instructor of Record
A beginning writing course that offers instruction in the principles of rhetoric and college writing, providing students with foundational critical thinking, research and writing, skills essential for the completion of persuasive essays in view of multiple audience perspectives, and the academic community.

Courses Taught Continued

Liberal Arts 689: Programming for Humanists – Network Visualization, Instructor of Record
Part of a two-semester course sequence designed to introduce participants to methodologies, coding, and programming languages associated with the Digital Humanities. My section of the course focused on generating network visualizations using Gephi, an open-source interactive platform, which allows users to create maps that highlight relationships and interactions among characters in various literary works.

Professional and University/Departmental Service

Center of Digital Humanities Research (CoDHR) Advisory Board, Texas A&M University,
Board Member, 2018-present.

Initiative for Digital Humanities, Media, and Culture Committee for Planning a Digital Humanities
Major at Texas A&M University, 2016-present.

Search Committee, Early Modern Literature and World Shakespeare Bibliography Editor, 2018-2019.

Texas Medievalist Society, Texas A&M University, Faculty Advisor, 2018-present.

Medieval Studies Working Group, Texas A&M University
Graduate student co-Convener, 2017-2018; Faculty co-Convenor, 2018-present.

Journal Reviewer, *Medieval Perspectives*, 2018.

Texas Medieval Association Conference, Texas A&M University
Organizing Committee and Webmaster, 2015-2016.

“Designing Effective Class Days.” English 697: Pedagogy, Texas A&M University, Invited Panelist,
September 2016.

“Digitizing Medieval Texts.” Programming for Humanists #MYDH Round Table, Texas A&M
University, Invited Panelist, August, 2016.

“What Devils Say.” International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI
Session Organizer, May 2016.

English Department Orientation for Incoming Graduate Students, Texas A&M University
Mentor, 2015-2016.

English Department Graduate Studies Brown Bag Series, “Preparing for Preliminary Examinations,”
Texas A&M University, Invited panelist, 2015.

Texas A&M English Graduate Student Association
Department Technology Committee Representative, 2013-2014.

English Department Orientation for Incoming Graduate Students, Texas A&M University
Mentor, 2013-2014.

THATCamp, Texas A&M University
Organizing Committee, 2014.

Presents of the Past Symposium, Texas A&M University
Technical Committee, 2014.

Professional and University/Departmental Service Continued

English Department Graduate Studies Brown Bag Series, "Applying to Ph.D. Programs,"
Texas A&M University, Invited panelist, 2012.

California State University, Northridge, Sigma Tau Delta
Vice President, 2010-2011.

Languages and Computing Platforms

Farsi, Old English, Spanish, Latin

HTML, CSS, XML, TEI, JavaScript, WordPress, Gephi, VisualEyes

Academic Memberships

Modern Language Association

Medieval Association of the Pacific

Medieval Academy of America

Texas Medieval Association

Medieval and Renaissance Drama Society

Alliance of Digital Humanities Organizations

The American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Shakespeare Association of America

Sigma Tau Delta and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Societies

References

Britt Mize, Associate Professor of English
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Nancy Warren, Professor of English
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Director of the Center of Digital
Humanities Research (CoDHR)
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Laura Estill, Associate Professor of English
Tier 2 Canada Research Chair
Editor, *World Shakespeare Bibliography*
Department of English
St. Francis Xavier University
Nova Scotia, Canada
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Justin Lake, Associate Professor of Classics
Department of European & Classical
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