

BENJAMIN A. SALTZMAN

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University of Chicago
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Chicago

Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and the College (2017-)

California Institute of Technology

Visiting Associate, Division of Humanities and Social Sciences (2017-2018)

Weisman Postdoctoral Instructor in Medieval British Literature (2014-2017)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D., English (2014); Ph.D., Medieval Studies (2014); M.A., English (2010)

Pace University, Pforzheimer Honors College

B.A. *summa cum laude*, English with a minor in Classical and Medieval Studies (2007)

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK PROJECTS

Bonds of Secrecy: The Literary and Cultural Mechanics of Concealment in Early Medieval England

Postwar Scholarship and the Study of the Middle Ages, ed. with R. D. Perry and afterword by Martin E. Jay

ARTICLES

“*Ut hkskdext*: Early Medieval Cryptography, Textual Errors, and Scribal Agency”

Speculum (forthcoming, October 2018)

“Community, Joy, and the Intimacy of Narrative in *Beowulf*” in *Dating Beowulf: New Essays on Intimacy*,

ed. Daniel Remein and Erica Weaver (forthcoming)

“Secrecy and the Hermeneutic Potential in *Beowulf*”

PMLA 133.1 (2018): 36-55

“From Old English to World Englishes” in *Approaches to Teaching the History of the English Language: Pedagogy in Practice*, ed. Mary Hayes and Allison Burkette (Oxford University Press, 2017): 237-52

“The Friar, the Summoner, and their Techniques of Erasure”

The Chaucer Review 52.4 (2017): 363-95

“The Mind, Perception and the Reflexivity of Forgetting in Alfred’s *Pastoral Care*”

Anglo-Saxon England 42 (2013): 147-82

“Towards the Middle Ages to Come: The Temporalities of Walking with W. Morris, H. Adams, and Especially H. D. Thoreau” *postmedieval* 5.2 (2014): 235-52

“William Morris’s ‘Golden Wings’ as a Poetic Response to the ‘Delicate Sentiment’ of Tennyson’s ‘Mariana’” *Victorian Poetry* 49.3 (2011): 285-300

“Writing Friendship, Mourning the Friend in Late Anglo-Saxon *Rules of Confraternity*”

Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies 41.2 (2011): 251-91

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES & BRIEF NOTICES

- “St. Margaret” in *Anglo-Saxon Women: A Florilegium*, ed. Emily Butler, Irina Dumitrescu, Hilary E. Fox (forthcoming)
- “Dunstan,” “Glastonbury Abbey,” and “The Junius Manuscript” in *The Encyclopedia of British Medieval Literature*, ed. Siân Echard and Robert Rouse (Wiley-Blackwell, 2017): 711-13, 867-69, and 1108-10.
- “On the Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium: A Brief Report on a (New) New York Community” *Teachers of Old English in Britain and Ireland Newsletter* 22 (2006): 5-6

REVIEWS

- Patrick P. O'Neill, *Old English Psalms*, Dumbarton Oaks Medieval Library (Harvard, 2016) *Speculum* 92.4 (2017): 1228-30
- Peter Baker, *Introduction to Old English*, Second Edition (Blackwell, 2007) *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 39 (2008): 229-30
- Magnús Fjalldal, *Anglo-Saxon England in Icelandic Medieval Texts* (Toronto, 2005) *Comitatus: A Journal of Medieval and Renaissance Studies* 38 (2007): 222-24

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

FELLOWSHIPS

- NEH Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities (2017-18)
- Distinguished Faculty Fellow of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study (2014) – Declined
- Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, American Council of Learned Societies (2013-14)
- Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley (2013)
- Haas Junior Scholars Fellowship, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley (2011-12 and 2012-13)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate Division & Department of English, UC Berkeley (2011-12)
- Joseph E. Pryor Graduate Fellowship, Alpha Chi National Honor Society (2011)
- Bezell Fellowship, Department of English, UC Berkeley (2008-10)

HONORS & AWARDS

- Best Article Prize (Biennial), Honorable Mention, International Society of Anglo-Saxonists (2013)
- Lynne Grundy Memorial Trust Research Award for Scholars of Old English (2012)
- Barbara H. Kurtz Award for an outstanding academic record, Department of English, UC Berkeley (2010)
- Benjamin Putnam Kurtz Essay Prize, Department of English, UC Berkeley (2010)
- Kirk Underhill Graduate Paper Prize, Center for British Studies, UC Berkeley (2010)
- Founders’ Prize, Medieval Association of the Pacific, Runner-up for best graduate student paper (2007)

TEACHING AWARDS

ASCIT Teaching Award, Academics and Research Committee, Caltech (2016)

Award for Teaching Excellence, Humanities and Social Sciences Division, Caltech (2015)

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Teaching & Resource Center, UC Berkeley (2013)

GRANTS

Summer Research Grant, Graduate Division, UC Berkeley (2013)

Dissertation Research Grant, Center for British Studies, UC Berkeley (2012)

Pre-dissertation Research Grant, Center for British Studies, UC Berkeley (2010)

Paleography Working Group Grant, Institute of European Studies, UC Berkeley (2010-11)

Pre-conference Workshop Travel Grant, International Society of Anglo-Saxonists (2009)

UC Regents' Summer Research Grants, UC Berkeley (2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012)

LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

INVITED LECTURES

“*Alia creatura, ut ukofb*: Riddles, Secrecy, and the Hermeneutics of Humility in Early Medieval England”
University of Wisconsin-Madison (Fall 2018)

“Prudentius’s Psychomachia and the Visuality of Violence”
Borchard Foundation International Colloquium, Château de la Bretesche, France
“Violence and Order in the Premodern World” (24-27 June 2018)

“Of Secrecy, Saints, and Sea Otters: Witnessing the Supernatural in Anglo-Saxon Hagiography”
University of Southern California, IRG Research Workshop (27-28 February 2014)

“Spiritual Secrecy and the Regulation of Secrets in Anglo-Saxon Monasticism”
Columbia University, Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium (12 November 2012)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“The Secret Witness: Anglo-Saxon Hagiography and the Ethics of Concealment”
International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, Biennial Meeting, Honolulu, HI (2017)

“The Place of the Medieval in Modern Hermeneutics: Zumthor, Jauss, and Gadamer”
52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (2017)
Sponsored Session: “Postwar Scholarship and the Study of the Middle Ages”

“St. Margaret and the Refusal to Look”
51st International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (2016)
Sponsored Session: “Anonymous Anglo-Saxon Prose Saints’ Lives”

“The Secret Seized: Political Epistemology in Anglo-Saxon Law”
California Medieval History Seminar, Huntington Library (2015)

“*Et aperti sunt oculi*: Towards an Anglo-Saxon Iconography of Shame in the Book of Genesis”
49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (2014)
Special Session: “In Honor of Katherine O’Brien O’Keefe” (Invited)

- “Unbinding Servants and Solving Riddles in the Old English *Apollonius of Tyre* and the Exeter Book”
Technologies of Knowledge, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley (2013)
- “Imitation and Style: The Promise of Comparison in the Case of Aldhelm, ‘Aldhelm,’ and B.”
48th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (2013)
Special Session: “New Comparative Approaches to Anglo-Saxon Literature”
- “Local Connections: Micro-Comparison and the Imitation of Aldhelm”
Connected Worlds, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley (2013)
- “*Alia creatura, ut ukofb*: Interpreting Riddles with Riddles in CUL Gg. 5. 35”
EGA Colloquium, UC Berkeley (2012)
- “To Erase: The Case of Chaucer’s Friar and Summoner”
Eighteenth Biennial Congress of the New Chaucer Society, Portland, OR (2012)
Special Session: “Filler, Content, and the Interpretation of Medieval Books”
- Opening Remarks: “On Philology and Our Task”
“phi·lol·o·gy,” 8th Annual Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium Conf., UC Berkeley (2012)
- “The Reflexivity of Forgetting in Alfred’s *Pastoral Care*”
46th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI (2011)
Special Session: “Cognitive Approaches to the Middle Ages”
- Opening Remarks: “On Reading in the Present: Sei Shōnagon and the Old English *Deor*”
“Reading the Middle Ages,” International Medieval Studies Conf., UC Berkeley (2011)
- “Thoreau’s ‘Walking’: Towards a New Middle Age”
Berkeley-Stanford Conference, UC Berkeley (2010)
- “Suspicion, Secrecy, and the Hermeneutics of *Elene*”
Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium Conference, Harvard University (2010)
- “IUDEX: Integrating Underlying Digital Editions eXperiment” (Poster)
International Society of Anglo-Saxonists, Memorial University, Newfoundland (2009)
- “Seized Secret: The Silence of the Stolen Slave in Ine’s 53rd Law”
Berkeley-Stanford Conference, Stanford University (2009)
- “The Stolen Being: An Inquiry into Slavery, Theft, and Testimony in Anglo-Saxon Law”
Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conf., ASU (2008)
- “Tracing Goscelin’s Spiritual Friendship: The Legacy of Late Anglo-Saxon Sherborne and Its Subversive Rules of Confraternity,” Medieval Association of the Pacific, UCLA (2007)
- Opening Remarks: “On Friendship and the Study of Anglo-Saxon England”
Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium Conference, Rutgers University (2006)
- “*Cor unum et anima una*: The Symbolic Order of Friendship in Anglo-Saxon Rules of Confraternity”
Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium Conference, Rutgers University (2006)

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS

- “On Riddles, Cryptographic Errors, and Intellectual Humility”
University of Chicago, The Franke Institute for the Humanities (31 October 2018)
- “Reading Hidden Meaning: Between Hermeneutic Pride and Eschatological Humility”
University of Chicago, English Department Workshop (2 February 2017)
- “The Worm and the Philosopher: Riddles, Cryptography, and Pride in one Early Medieval Manuscript”
Caltech, Board of Trustees, HSS Chair’s Council (29 April 2016)

TEACHING

Faculty, University of Chicago, Department of English and the College

- Introduction to Old English – Med. Research Series I – MA Seminar (W. 2019)
- Beowulf* – Med. Research Series II – MA Seminar (S. 2019)
- Poetry and the Human – Humanities Core (W. 2019)

Faculty, California Institute of Technology, Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences

- Old English Literature – Advanced Seminar (F. 2015)
- History of the English Language – Advanced Seminar (F. 2014; S. 2017)
- Witnessing Evil in Early Medieval Literature – Advanced Seminar (F. 2016)
- The Philosophy of Language and Thought – Independent Tutorial (F. 2015)
- Major British Authors – Freshman Survey (F. 2014, F. 2015)
- Medieval Subjectivities – Advanced Seminar (W. 2015)
- Imagining the Medieval in the Nineteenth Century – Advanced Seminar (S. 2016)

Instructor, University of California, Berkeley, Department of English

- Reading & Composition: “Creation and Creativity” (Sp. 2013)
- Reading & Composition: “*Tanto melior*: The Rhetoric of Superiority” (F. 2012)

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Berkeley, Department of English

- Survey: Literature in English through Milton, with Prof. Steven Justice (Sp. 2011)
- Survey: Literature in English through Milton, with Prof. Maura Nolan (F. 2010)

ADVISING

PH.D. DISSERTATIONS

Kevin Jackson, “Beyond Seeing: Sight and Mind in Old English Literature” (external committee member, University of New Mexico, in progress)

B.A. THESES

Sirus Han, “The Measure of Humanity in Richard Jefferies’ England” (Caltech, 2017)

Adrian H. Ray Avalani, “Humor in Ælfric’s *Lives of Saints*” (Caltech, 2017) -- Finalist, Friends of the Caltech Libraries Senior Thesis Prize

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

Violence + Art: Reflections on the Premodern

Caltech-Huntington Humanities Collaboration, Research Workshop, Caltech (2017)

Speakers: Matthew Sergi (Toronto), Heather Badamo (UCSB), Susanna A. Throop (Ursinus)

Pre-Industrial Technologies of Knowledge

Institute of East Asian Studies, International Conference, UC Berkeley (2013)

Keynotes: Lothar von Falkenhausen (UCLA) and Elaine Treharne (Stanford University)

Connected Worlds

Pre-modern studies conference, Institute of East Asian Studies, UC Berkeley (2013)

Keynotes: Kevin van Bladel (USC), Asa Simon Mittman (CSU Chico), Grant

Parker (Stanford University), and Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan (Yale University)

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Eighth Annual Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium Conference, UC Berkeley (2012)

Keynote: Jan Ziolkowski (Harvard University and Dumbarton Oaks)

Reading the Middle Ages

International Graduate Student Conference, UC Berkeley (2011)

Keynote: Rita Copeland (University of Pennsylvania)

Friendship and Community

Second Annual Anglo-Saxon Studies Colloquium, Rutgers University (2006)

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

Post-War Scholarship and the Study of the Middle Ages: I (Curtius) and II (Arendt)

50th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI - with R. D. Perry (2015)

Post-War Scholarship and the Study of the Middle Ages: I (Auerbach) and II (Kantorowicz)

49th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Kalamazoo, MI - with R. D. Perry (2014)

Norse by Way of Normandy, New Chaucer Society, Reykjavík, Iceland - with Jeremy DeAngelo (2014)