



Brandon Alakas

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Education

PhD in the Department of English; Queen's University, Kingston, ON	2009
MA in English Literature; University of Toronto, Toronto, ON	2003
BA in English Language and Literature (Honours; first class); Queen's University, Kingston, ON	2002

Dissertation

“Partners in the same”: Monastic Devotional Culture in Late Medieval English Literature
Dissertation Director: Professor Scott-Morgan Straker, Department of English

Publications

Book

Editor. Richard Whitford. *Dyuers Holy Instrucyons and Teachynges Very Necessary for the Helth of Mannes Soule*. Liverpool: Liverpool UP, 2020. Introduction co-authored with Stephanie Morley.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- “Devotion in Exile: A Looking Glace for the Religious and the Preservation of the Birgittine Community of Syon Abbey.” *Viator* 50:1 (2019; published 2020): 289-315.
- “Francis’s Animal Brotherhood in Thomas of Celano’s *Vita Prima*.” *postmedieval: A Journal of Medieval Cultural Studies* 11.1 (2020): 23-32 Co-authored with Day Bulger.
- “Resignation or Rebuttal?: Three Biblical Exempla in Richard Whitford’s *Dyuers Holy Instrucyons and Teachynges*.” *This tretice, by me compiled: Late Medieval Devotional Compilations in England*. Eds Marleen Cré, Diana Denissen, and Denis Renevey. Brepols, 2020, 271-88.
- “‘In ye secret chambre of the mynde, in the preuy closet of the sowle’: Monastic Discipline and Devotion in More’s *Life of Pico*.” *Moreana* 54.1 (2017): 86-107

- “Scrupulosity and Heresy: William Bonde’s Reply to Evangelical views of Christian Freedom and Salvation in *The Directory of Conscience*.” *Continuity and Change. Papers from the Birgitta Conference at Dartington 2015*. Eds Elin Andersson, Claes Gejrot, Eddie Jones and Mia Åkestam. Kungl. Vitterhets historie och antikvitetsakademien. Konferenser 94, 2017, 251-267
- “‘The very healthy food of monastic life’: John Whethamstede, Monastic Identity, and the Legacy of Claustal Reading.” *The American Benedictine Review* 66.3 (2015): 303-24
- “Shakespeare’s Medievalism and the Life Removed: Depictions of Religious in *Measure for Measure*.” *The Year’s Work in Medievalism* 29 (2014): 2-12
- “‘Closed and kept most surely in religion’: Richard Whitford, Monastic Culture, and the Regulation of Lay Piety.” *Renaissance and Reformation* 36.1 (2013): 95-130
- “A Monastic Reformation of Domestic Space: Richard Whitford’s *Werke for Householders*.” *Fifteenth-Century Studies* 38 (2013): 1-19
- “Seniority and Mastery: The Politics of Ageism in the Coventry Cycle” *Early Theatre* 9.1 (2006): 15-36

Additional Scholarly Publications

- Review of *Reading and Writing during the Dissolution: Monks, Friars, and Nuns 1530-1558*, Mary C. Erler. *British Catholic History* 33.2 (2016): 303-307
- Review of *Becoming Christian: Race, Reformation, and Early Modern English Romance*, Dennis Austin Britton. *Renaissance and Reformation* 39.3 (2017): 167-169
- Review of *The Middle Ages in Children’s Literature*, Clare Bradford. *Bookbird: A Journal of International Children’s Literature* 53.4: 2015, 67-8
- Review of *Singing the New Song: Literacy and Liturgy in Late Medieval England*, Katherine Zieman. *The English Historical Review* 125 (2010): 404-406
- “John Lydgate.” *Companion to Pre-1600 British Poetry*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008. 257-258

Journal Review Activities

Renaissance and Reformation
Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching (CELT)

Non-academic Articles

- “How Hate Groups Misuse Medieval Symbolism to Promote White Supremacy.” *Folio*. 30 January 2020.
- “Diversity in the Middle Ages.” *The Camrose Booster*. 10 December 2019

“Family Matters.” *The Camrose Booster*. 15 December 2015.

Radio Interviews

“630 CHED Afternoons with J’lyn Nye.” *Global News Radio in Edmonton*. 3 February 2020

“Radio Active with Adrienne Pan.” *CBC Radio*. 1 February 2020.

Conferences

Papers Presented at Major Conferences and Symposia, including Notable Invited Lectures:

Invited Talks

“Devotion in Exile: A Looking Glace for the Religious and the Preservation of the Birgittine Community of Syon Abbey.” *Women’s Literary Culture and the Medieval Canon*. 22-24 June 2017: Bergen, Norway.

“Protestant Reform, Catholic Renewal, and the Reimagining of the Household: Richard Whitford’s *Werke for Housholders* (1532).” The Medieval Seminar: A Symposium. 5 February 2014: Kingston, ON.

“Reading Mary: Lydgate’s *Life of Our Lady* and Monastic *Lectio*.” *Medieval English Devotional Literatures: A Symposium*. 10 February 2007: Toronto, ON.

“Lydgate’s *Life of Our Lady* and Monastic Reading Culture at Bury St. Edmunds in the Late Middle Ages.” *The Politics of Culture in Lancastrian England: A Symposium*. 24 November 2006: Ottawa, ON.

Conference Papers (Peer-reviewed Abstracts)

“Delightful Fruits, Bitter Weeds, and Poison Covered with Sugar: Textual Consumption and Spiritual Identity in Birgittine Devotional Literature.” *International Medieval Congress 2019*. 1-4 July 2019: Leeds, UK.

“Syon’s *fruytful orcherd*: Textual Consumption and Spiritual Identity in Birgittine Devotional Literature.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 3-5 June 2019: Vancouver, BC.

“Reading Mary: John Lydgate’s *Lyfe of Our Lady* and Henry Chichele’s Reform of the English Church.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 28 – 30 May 2018: Regina, SK.

“Spiritual Exercises at Syon Abbey: Syon MS 18 and the Emergence of Ignatian Spirituality.” *52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 11-1 May 2017: Kalamazoo, MI.

- “The First Recusant Text?: Richard Whitford’s *Dyuers Holy Instrucyons* to Catholics in the Wake of the Reformation.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 28 – 30 May 2016: Calgary, AB.
- “Resignation or Rebuttal?: Strategic Biblical Exempla in Richard Whitford’s *Dyuers Holy Instrucyons* and *Teachynges*.” “This tretice, by me compiled”: *Late Medieval Devotional Compilations in England*. 31 March – 2 April 2016: Lausanne, Switzerland.
- “‘lyberty to springe as it wolde’: A Reply to Lutheran Views of Holy Living and the Freedom of the Soul in William Bonde’s *Directory of Conscience*.” *Continuity and Change in the Birgittine Order*. 21-24 July 2015: Exeter, UK.
- “‘Good Deuoute Reders’: Whitford’s Imagined Community After The Dissolution.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 29 May – 2 June 2015: Ottawa, ON
- “‘The cause that moved me to wryte’: Radical Reform, Private Devotion, and William Bonde’s *Pylgrimage of Perfection* (1526).” *50th International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 14-17 May 2015: Kalamazoo, MI.
- “‘This naturall inclinacion... callyd melancoly’: William Bonde’s Guidance to Scrupulous Women in *The Directory of Conscience* (1527).” *Syon at 600: Syon Abbey at Syon House*. 7-9 November 2014: London, UK..
- “William Bonde, Orthodox Reformer of Syon Abbey.” *International Medieval Congress 2014*. 7-10 July 2014: Leeds, UK.
- “Scrupulosity and Heresy: William Bonde’s Warnings to Devout Female Readers in the *Directory of Conscience* (1527).” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 24-26 May 2014: St. Catharines, ON.
- “Shakespeare’s Medievalism and the Life Removed: Depictions of Religious in *Measure for Measure*.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 1-3 June 2013: Victoria, BC.
- “Richard Whitford’s *Pype or Tonne of the Life of Perfection*: Responding to English Reformers from within the Cloister.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 27-29 May 2012: Waterloo, ON.
- “Richard Whitford’s *Werke for Householdiers*: A Monastic Reformation of Domestic Space.” *47th International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 10-13 May 2012: Kalamazoo, MI.
- “Thomas More’s *Life of Pico della Mirandola*: A Medieval Refashioning of a Humanist Biography.” *43rd International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 8-11 May 2008: Kalamazoo, MI.

“To pray and rede, that was euere hir lyve’: Monastic Reading in Lydgate’s *Life of Our Lady*.” *42nd International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 10-13 May 2007: Kalamazoo, MI.

“Education and the Good Institutions’ of *Utopia*: Relocating the Origins of More’s Pedagogy within a Monastic Intellectual Tradition.” *Renaissance Medievalisms*. 6-7 October 2006: Toronto, ON.

“John Whethamstede: Monastic and Humanist Reading.” *New Chaucer Society Congress: Chaucer and Fifteenth-Century Humanism*. 27-31 July 2006: New York, NY.

“Abbot John’s Dream and Brother William’s Apostasy: The Persistence of Monastic Reading Practices in John Whethamstede’s Registers.” *Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English*. 27-30 May 2006: Toronto, ON.

Panels Chaired or Organized at Conferences or Symposia:

Co-organizer: “Topical Texts and Their Afterlives in the Later Middle Ages.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 3-5 June 2019: Vancouver, BC.

Chair: “Constructing Medieval Worlds: Building Sustainable Medieval Studies via Immersive Environmental Spaces.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 3-5 June 2019: Vancouver, BC.

Chair: “Medieval Hagiography.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 28 – 30 May 2018: Regina, SK.

Co-organizer: “Syon Abbey and Its Associates.” *52nd International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 11-1 May 2017: Kalamazoo, MI.

Chair: “Approaches to the Vernacular.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 28 – 30 May 2016: Calgary, AB.

Co-organizer: “Reflections on the Sexcentenary of Syon Abbey: Reading, Devotion and Reform.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 29 May – 2 June 2015: Ottawa, ON.

Chair: “Réputation et diffamation.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 29 May – 2 June 2015: Ottawa, ON.

Organizer: “Drawing the Line on Sexual Violence at RMCC.” Royal Military College of Canada. 20 November 2013: Kingston, ON.

Co-organizer: “Representations of Monasticism.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 1-3 June 2013: Victoria, BC.

Organizer: “Monastic Literary Production for Lay Audiences in the Late Middle Ages.” *48th International Congress on Medieval Studies*. 9-12 May 2013: Kalamazoo, MI.

Co-organizer of conference: "International Day of Persons with Disabilities: Removing Barriers to Create an Inclusive and Accessible Society for All." Kingston Garrison Defence Advisory Group. 11 December 2012: Kingston, ON.

Co-organizer: "Enhancing the Quality of Writing at Queen's: A Cross-Curricular Forum." 25 March 2011: Kingston, ON.

Chair: "Literary Form and Manuscript Practice." Panel at the annual *Conference on Editorial Problems: Manuscripts and the Forms of Middle English Literary Texts* hosted by the Pontifical Institute for Medieval Studies. 6-8 November 2009: Toronto, ON.

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, English Program, Department of Fine Arts and Humanities, University of Alberta - Augustana

- AUCLA 294 Selected Topics in Classical Studies Tour
- AUENG 450 The Arthurian Tradition
- AUENG 299: Creatures of Text: Literary Animal Studies
- AUENG 225 The Middle Ages
- AUENG 221/321 Chaucer
- AUENG 213/313 The English Language
- AUENG 212/312 The English Language
- AUENG 211/311 The History of the English Language
- AUENG 220/320 Classical Foundations of Western Literature
- AUENG 104 English Literature from the Middle Ages to the Romantic Period
- AUENG 103 English Literature from the Romantic Period to the Present
- AUIDS 101 The Journey from Platform Nine and Three-Quarters

Assistant Professor, Department of English, Royal Military College of Canada

- English 317 Studies in Medieval English Literature I (2013)
- English 319 Studies in Medieval English Literature II (2014)
- English 210 Reading the Contemporary World: 1900 to the Present (2011-14)
- English 110 Introduction to Literary Studies and University Writing Skills (2013-14)
- Business Administration 220 Introduction to Information Technology [Writing Lab] (2011-2013)
- Business Administration 314 Marketing Fundamentals [Writing Lab] (2011-2013)
- **Aboriginal Leadership Opportunity Year Bridging Programme (2012-2013)**
Responsibilities: delivering five four-hour lectures to students on such topics as active reading and critical thinking skills to organization and time management for a two-week period before the Fall term begins; meeting with each student for one hour per week to discuss particular writing issues they may have with assignments in their courses

- **Writing Centre Professor (2011-2013)**

Responsibilities: meeting with undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines on an hourly basis to help them to improve their own written work and to discuss any aspect of grammar or writing, from ESL issues and research strategies to drafting and final editing; delivering workshops on effective writing to various academic units affiliated with the Royal Military College of Canada

- **Army Technical Warrant Officer Programme: Effective Writing Skills (2012)**

Responsibilities: delivering five four-hour lectures to students on a range of topics designed to hone their writing and critical thinking skills for a two-week period in July

Instructor, Department of English, Queen's University

- English 211 Medieval European Literature (2007-2009)

Teaching Assistant, School of Graduate Studies and Research and Department of Continuing and Distance Studies, Queen's University

- SGS 801 Principles of Academic Writing: Sections A and B (Winter 2011)
- Writing 195*S Modular Writing (Summer 2010; Summer 2011)

Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Queen's University

- English 211 Medieval European Literature (Fall 2006)
- English 112 Introduction to World Literature (2005-2006)
- English 206 The History of the English language (Winter 2011)
- English 211 Medieval British Literature (2004-2005; 2003-2004)

Related Employment

Writing Tutor, Writing Centre, Queen's University (2010-2011)

Responsibilities: meeting with undergraduate and graduate students of all disciplines on an hourly basis to help them to improve their own written work and to discuss any aspect of grammar or writing, from ESL issues and research strategies to drafting and final editing

Commerce Writing Coach, Writing Centre, Queen's University (2010-2011)

Responsibilities: meeting with undergraduate and graduate students in the School of Business on a thirty-minute or hourly basis to help them to improve their own written work. Topics discussed in tutoring sessions include different genres of business writing, grammar and ESL issues, research strategies, and drafting and editing.

Research Assistant, Queen's University, 2004

Responsibilities: assisting Robert Morrison in transcribing, formatting, and annotating a number of Thomas De Quincey's shorter texts for the collection *On Murder* published by Oxford World's Classics

Supervisions

Autumn Reinhardt Simpson – “Authority and Gender in Early Modern English Ritual (1524-1666)

- PhD supervisory committee member

Chelsea Fritz – “Uther Pendragon’s Rapes and Penetrations: An Exploration of Medieval Hypermasculinity in Geoffrey of Monmouth’s *Historia Regum Britanniae*”

- Masters Capstone – University of Alberta

Dana Bulger – ““Why are you torturing my brother lambs?”: A Reappraisal of Anthropocentric Hierarchies in St. Francis’ *Canticle of the Creatures* and Thomas of Celano’s *First Life*”

- Recipient of the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award 2018
- Don Mazankowski Summer Research Assistant 2016

James Hudec – “*From woman firste throuthe moste aryse.*”: *John Lydgate, The Life of Our Lady and the Rehabilitation of Women*”

- Roger Smith Summer Research Assistant 2015

Awards and Grants

- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Strategic Institution Grant (\$5,000.00) 2019
- Provost’s Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Teaching (University of Alberta) (\$1,500.00) 2017
- The Augustana Faculty Early Achievement of Excellence in Teaching Award 2016
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Development Grant (30,409.00) 2016
- Killam Research Fund Cornerstones Grant (\$6,160.00) 2015
- Killam Conference Travel Grant (\$2,800.00) 2015
- Faculty Appreciation Award 2013
- Commandant’s Coin – Recognition for Service to the Royal Military College of Canada 2012
- Dean’s Doctoral Field Travel Grant (\$5,000.00) 2008
- Queen’s Graduate Award 2003, 2004, 2008
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000.00 for each award) 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship (\$40,000.00) 2005-2007
- E.G. Bauman Fellowship (\$1,250.00) 2004
- Dean’s Honour List 2002
- Robert Cumberland Scholarship (\$1,200.00) 2002
- Dean’s Honour List with special distinction 2001

Memberships in Scholarly and Professional Societies

- The New Chaucer Society
- The Canadian Society of Medievalists
- The Medieval Academy of America
- Modern Language Association
- Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English

University Citizenship at University of Alberta

Department:

- Peer Evaluator for Sessional Instructors 2015-present
- Assisted in designing program brochure “English at Augustana” 2016-present
- Work with Dylan Anderson to update English program webpages 2015-present

Augustana Faculty:

- Chair of the Off-Campus Experiential Learning Committee 2019-present
- Member of the Fine Arts and Humanities’ Chair Search Committee 2019-present
- Member of the Committee on the Learning Environment 2015-present
- Member of the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award adjudication committee 2015-present
- Member, Curricular Innovation Coordinating Committee 2018-19
- Participant, *The Humanities Café* 2017-19
- Co-organized Café sessions: “Taking Da Vinci Down” (November 2019), “New Media, New Learning” (November 2018) and “Word & Image in the Age of Trump” (March 2017)
- Member, Curriculum Review Research Committee 2017-18
- Member, Hiring Committee: Assistant Professor of English 2016
- Member, Hiring Committee: Communications Coordinator 2016
- Faculty Cohort Leader: Student Academic Information Launch (SAIL) 2015-17
- Co-organiser with Anne McIntosh “Graduate School Information Night” 2015-present
- Human Book, *Augustana Human Library* 2015-present

Profession:

- Secretary Treasurer of Canadian Society of Medievalists 2019-present
- Public Relations Officer for Canadian Society of Medievalists 2017-19
- Member of Advisory Board for Canadian Society of Medievalists 2017-19
- Augustana’s representative on the Alberta Council on Admissions and Transfers for English 2016-present
- Augustan
- a’s representative on the Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English 2015-17

Community:

- Board member, Camrose Adult Learning Council. 2014-2018
- Lector and Writer of “Universal Prayers”
St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, Camrose 2015-present

University Citizenship at Royal Military College of Canada

Department of English

- Member, Student Travel Committee, Department of English 2012-2014
- Website Coordinator, Department of English 2011-2014

Writing Centre

- Coordinator 2012-2013
- Website Coordinator, Writing Centre 2012-2013
- Online Education Representative (Audio/Visual, Moodle, DCS) 2012-2013
- Workshop Coordinator 2011-2013

College

- Founder and Co-organizer of Peer Assistance Group for Employees 2012-2014
- Health and Welfare Committee 2012-2014
- Civilian PWD Co-chair, Kingston Garrison Diversity Advisory Group 2012-2013

Writing Centre: Duties and Initiatives

- Acting Head, the Writing Centre 2012 [July]
- Developed surveys for faculty and students as part of a larger study on
writing pedagogy at RMCC 2011-12
- Designed and taught training sessions for new tutors 2011

Administration and University Citizenship at Queen’s University

- Canadian Italian Appreciation Organization (CIAO) at Queen’s
Sponsorship Director 2009-10
- ACCUTE Representative for the Graduate English Society
- Graduate English Society Works in Progress Colloquium Coordinator 2003-05
- Graduate English Society Mentoring Program 2004

Foreign Languages

- **Latin:** advanced reading knowledge of Latin
- **Italian:** advanced knowledge of written and spoken Italian
- **French:** advanced knowledge of written and spoken French (CCB Fed. Gov’t Profile)

Second Language Education and Training

- Advanced Conversational French Course. *Alliance Française*
Edmonton, AB 2018-19
- Advanced Conversational French Course. *Centre Francophone*
Queen’s University 2010-11
- PhD requirement: translation abilities in Latin and Italian

Professional Development

- Recipient of Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (\$3,200.00) (Professional Development), University of Alberta New Chaucer Society, Toronto 2018
- Participant in Teaching Square, Augustana Faculty 2015-17
- Social Science and Humanities Grant Assist Program – Peer Reviewer 2017
- My Teaching/My Research/My Project: Paul Harland and Brandon Alakas 2016
Feeling at Home with CASA: Benefits to Regular Cycles of Assessment
- In-class Assessment strategies developed in consultation with Dr. Duston Moore, Educational Developer, Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Alberta 2015-16
- Teaching Square: A Faculty Development Tool at Augustana 2014-15
- My Teaching/My Research/My Project: Brandon Alakas 2015
Storytelling in Camrose: Community Service Learning Partners with the English Program
- Teaching Writing Across the Curriculum: Helping Students Write to Learn and Learn to Write – Royal Military College of Canada 2012
- Introduction to Defence Ethics: Department of National Defence 2012
- Mental Fitness and Suicide Awareness Supervisor Training: CF Health Promotion – Royal Military College of Canada 2012

Current Research and Teaching Interests

Late-medieval and early Modern European literature and culture; devotional literature in the Middle Ages and Renaissance; comparative literature; animal studies; interdisciplinary collaborations in writing and teaching; classical and late antique poetry and prose