



Brandon Alakas

University of Alberta - Augustana
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20 September 2023

EDUCATION

Ph.D in the Department of English; Queen's University, Kingston, ON	2009
M.A. in English Literature; University of Toronto, Toronto, ON	2003
B.A. in English Language and Literature (Honours; first class); Queen's University, Kingston, ON	2002

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of Alberta, Augustana Faculty

Associate Professor of English, Department of Fine Arts and Humanities	2019-present
Assistant Professor of English, Department of Fine Arts and Humanities	2014-2019

Administrative Appointments at Augustana

- Associate Dean, Academic Programs and Campus Registrar's Office 2023-present

Royal Military College of Canada

Sessional Lecturer (full time)	2011-2014
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SELECT AWARDS AND GRANTS

Research (Faculty and Doctoral)

- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Grant (89,978.00) 2022
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Strategic Institution Grant (\$5,000.00) 2019
- Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada Insight Development Grant (30,409.00) 2016
- Killam Small Operating Grant (\$6,160.00) 2015
- Killam Conference Travel Grant (\$2,800.00) 2015
- Dean's Doctoral Field Travel Grant (\$5,000.00) 2008
- Queen's Graduate Award (\$2000.00 each award) 2003, 2004, 2008
- Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15,000.00 each award) 2002, 2003, 2005, 2007
- Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Doctoral Fellowship (\$40,000.00) 2005-2007

Teaching and Service

- Betty Ostenrud Award 2023
(Student Association award for commitment to students and community)
- Provost's Award for Early Achievement of Excellence in Teaching 2017
(University of Alberta) (\$1,500.00)
- The Augustana Faculty Early Achievement of Excellence in Teaching Award 2016
- Royal Military College Faculty Appreciation Award 2013
- Commandant's Coin – Recognition for Service to the 2012
Royal Military College of Canada

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Books

Geoffrey Chaucer, Dream Visions and Lyric Verse. Peterborough: Broadview Press.
Co-edited with Kathy Cawsey, Jessica Lockhart, and David Watt (In progress)

Richard Whitford. *The Pipe or Tun of the Life of Perfection*. Liverpool: Liverpool UP
(in review)

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

Peer-reviewed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“Richard Whitford's Humanism and Monastic Renewal: Birgittine Spirituality and the New Learning in *The Pype, or Tonne, of the Lyfe of Perfection*.” *The Sixteenth Century Journal* (forthcoming)

“Delightful Fruits and Bitter Weeds: Textual Consumption and Spiritual Identity in *The Orchard of Syon*.” *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 48.1 (2022): 45-67.

“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 Instruycions 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 secreet 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 93, 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

Book Reviews, Dictionary Articles, and Miscellanea

Review of *The Birgittines of Syon Abbey: Preaching and Print*, Susan Powell. *Journal of Medieval Religious Cultures* 47.1 (2021): 108-11

Editorial. “How Hate Groups Misuse Medieval Symbolism to Promote White Supremacy.” *Folio*. 30 January 2020.

Review of *Becoming Christian: Race, Reformation, and Early Modern English Romance*, Dennis Austin Britton. *Renaissance and Reformation* 39.3 (2017): 167-169

Report on Reformation 500 events at the Chester Ronning Centre, with Geoff Dipple and Ian Wilson. *Sixteenth Century Journal* 48: 1054.

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 *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

Encyclopedia Entry. “John Lydgate.” *Companion to Pre-1600 British Poetry*. Ed. Michelle M. Sauer. New York: Facts on File, 2008. 257-258

JOURNAL REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Medieval Feminist Forum

Renaissance and Reformation

Collected Essays on Learning and Teaching (CELT)

RADIO INTERVIEWS

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

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

RESEARCH TALKS AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

*Indicates invited talk

“Syon’s Heretical Book: The Reforming Devotion of John Ryckes’s *Ymage of Love*.” *International Medieval Congress 2023*. 3-6 July 2023: Leeds, UK.

*“Heresy in the Abbey?: John Ryckes’s *Ymage of Love* and its Birgittine Readers.” *Medieval Women Workshop V: Writing About, By, and For Women*. Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies. 27-28 January 2023

“With a bible in my hande”: Refoming Devotion in John Ryckes’s *Ymage of Love*. *Sixteenth Century Society and Conference* 27-30 October 2022

“Syon’s *fruytful orcherd*: Textual Consumption and Spiritual Identity in Birgittine Devotional Literature.” *New Chaucer Society Biennial Congress* 11-14 July 2022.

“A Humanist Approach to Religious Reform: Monastic Renewal in Richard Whitford’s *Pype, or Tonne, of the Lyfe of Perfection*.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists* 31 May 2022.

*“Bringing the Middle Ages Out West: Knowledge Mobilization and Medieval Studies.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists* Professional Development Series. 25 August 2021 (Archived Video Conference)

“The Reformation in Alberta: Bringing the Middle Ages Out West.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 7, 14, 21, 28 June 2021 (video conference)

“Rediscovering a lost translation of the *Speculum monachorum* in the Syon Abbey Archive.” *Canadian Society of Medievalists*. 7, 14, 21, 28 June 2021 (video conference)

“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.

*“Resignation or Rebuttal?: *Dyuers Holy Instrucyons* Richard Whitford’s to Catholics in the wake of the Reformation.” *Medieval Miscere Speaker Series*. 18 May 2018, Mount Royal, Calgary, AB

*“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.

“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.

*“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.

“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 Householders*: 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.

*“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.

“‘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.

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate Supervisions

Grace Nicoll – “Papal Authority and Scripture”

- PhD supervisory committee member (2021 – present)

Arwen Thyse – “Intercultural Marriages and Familial Relationships in Medieval Northern Europe”

- PhD supervisory committee member (2020 – present)

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

- PhD supervisory committee member (2020 – present)

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 (2019)

Undergraduate Supervision

Emmarie Brown – “Undergraduate Pedagogy, Undergraduates Instructing”

- Directed Reading 2022

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)
- Directed Reading and 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)

DOCTORAL DEFENCE EXAMINATIONS

James White. “Ring of Flesh: Late Medieval Devotion to the Holy Foreskin” (January 2022)

- External-Internal Examiner

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Associate 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
- AUENG 102 Critical Reading, Critical Writing
- AUIDS 401: Advanced Integration Project
- 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)
- Writing Centre Professor (2011-2013)
- Army Technical Warrant Officer Programme: Effective Writing Skills (2012)

Instructor, Department of English, Queen’s University

- English 211 Medieval European Literature (2007-2009)

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCHOLARLY AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

- Syon Abbey Society
- The New Chaucer Society
- The Canadian Society of Medievalists
- The Medieval Academy of America
- Sixteenth Century Society

University Citizenship at University of Alberta

Department:

- Peer Evaluator for Augustana Instructors 2015-present
- Assisted in designing program brochure “English at Augustana” 2016-2021
- Work with Dylan Anderson to update English program webpages 2015-2020

Augustana Faculty:

- Member of the Dean’s Selection Committee, Campus Saint Jean 2021-2022
- Chair of the Off-Campus Experiential Learning Committee 2019-present
- Member of the Fine Arts and Humanities’ Chair Search Committee 2019-2020
- Member of the Committee on the Learning Environment 2015-2019
- Member of the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award adjudication committee 2015-2019, 2022, 2023
- 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” 2015-2018
- Human Book, *Augustana Human Library* 2015-2018

Profession:

- Director, Syon Abbey Society 2021-present
- Secretary Treasurer of Canadian Society of Medievalists 2019-2021
- 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 2016-2020
- Augustana’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” 2015-present
St Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, Camrose

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 Graduate English Society Mentoring Program	2003-05 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 (C1)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Recipient of Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (\$3,200.00) (Professional Development), University of Alberta 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

My current research focuses on devotional literature written during the first half of the sixteenth century. I am especially interested in the way that various communities used these texts to articulate and promote a distinctive spirituality and corporate identity. I also work on medieval animal studies, Latin literature, and medieval drama.